

How arts-based methods can help families (parents and children) to articulate the lived experience of multiple insecurities

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How arts-based methods can help families to articulate the lived experience of multiple insecurities

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Children & Young People Influencing Policy (Chip)

‘Multiple insecurity’ is insecurity in **more than one important dimension of life**, such as money, work, housing, food, health or care. It seems possible that one insecurity may lead to another, and that their effects could **combine and multiply**.’ (Weinstein and Stone, 2018)

Theoretical and Policy Contexts: **Un-silencing**

‘We wanted people traditionally with and without power to be ‘naming the world’ together and not ‘on behalf of another’ (Freire 1970: 69–70)

Translating lived experience including ‘**pain into policy**’ language in order to generate and share evidence of what **bureaucracies are not designed to see**’ (Muchecheti, 2025)

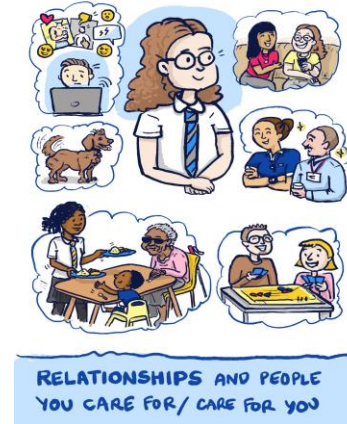
‘We were struck by all the energy in the room (from parents with lived experience of poverty) and we've taken huge amounts from it in terms of our thinking around the (child poverty) strategy’ (*Child Poverty Task Force*, 2025)

‘It’s all integrated. If you’ve got poor mental health your performance in education is going to be poor, and if you’ve got good mental health you’re probably going to do better in school because you’re less miserable all the time.’(Rosie*, Young person, Chip)



**All children’s names are pseudonyms*

Bringing young people's voices into dialogue with decision-makers



‘It might open their mind for them to think about it. And if it’s other people that are then same as them, it might help them to create relationships with them, because they’re like “Oh, I’m not the only one, there are other people out there that experience this too”
(Young Advisor, aged 10)

ROSIE

**THE ROAD
OF MISSED
OPPORTUNITIES**

MONEY WORRIES



**VOLUNTEER
SPOKESPERSON**

"I just want to have
a job where I can
sustain myself."



SOCIAL SERVICES



SCHOOL PRESSURE



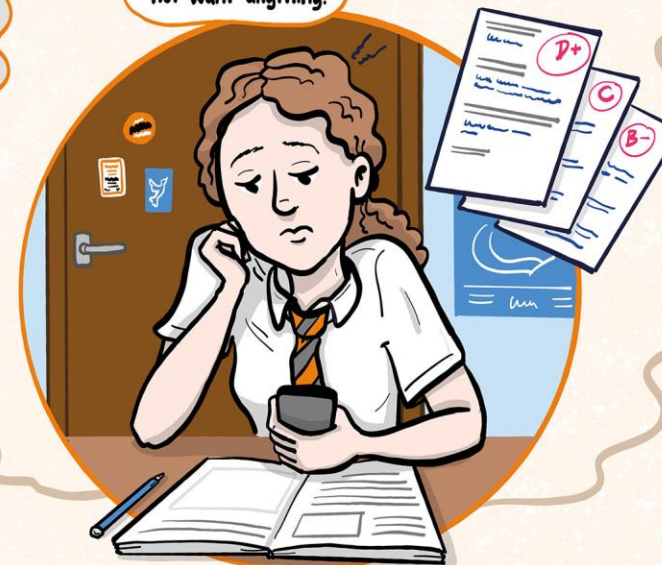
"I've sort of
been conditioned to
not want anything."



UNHELPFUL HEALTHCARE



STRESS AT HOME



WOODY

**THRIVING AND
PLANNING FOR
THE FUTURE**

“The community programme helped me build my confidence back up

COMMUNITY PROGRAMME



BULLYING IN THE PAST



FAMILY SUPPORT



WITH
EXTENDED
FAMILY NEARBY!



“I want to give back what I've been taught so I can help the next generation!

SAFE AND WELL
RESOURCED NEIGHBOURHOOD



LOCAL GREEN SPACE



MY DOG



SUPPORT AT SCHOOL



Children and Young People Influencing Policy (CHIP)

KEY MESSAGES FROM YOUNG PEOPLE AND DECISION-MAKERS IN SOUTH YORKSHIRE

YOUNG PEOPLE
IN DIALOGUE WITH
DECISION-MAKERS
- 23rd MAY 2026 -

WHAT SUPPORTS US



BEING SEEN
AND HEARD
ACROSS SERVICES



YOUTH CLUBS
AND AFTERSCHOOL
ACTIVITIES

COMPASSIONATE
AND CURIOUS
SCHOOLS



SAFE AND
AFFORDABLE
PUBLIC
TRANSPORT



TRUSTED ADULTS

WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN

Actions for us
policymakers!



LISTENING
TO YOUNG PEOPLE
FROM THE START!

CO-DESIGNING
SERVICES
WITH YOUNG PEOPLE!

Who else could
help here...?



Young people are
ambitious for their
lives and futures...



... they need
BETTER LIT
PATHWAYS!

WHAT CHALLENGES US



NOT
KNOWING
WHERE
TO GET
HELP

I wish someone would
notice what's going on...

NOT
BEING
HEARD



MISSED
OPPORTUNITIES
TO HELP!



FINANCIAL
HARDSHIP

SCHOOL MEALS



UNIFORM

FEELING
UNSAFE

PARKS, HIGH STREETS,
PUBLIC TRANSPORT...



POOR
HOUSING



It was good to share our
ideas... the policymakers
really listened!



BETTER
SIGNPOSTING
TO SERVICES

CHECK BACK WITH
YOUNG PEOPLE
ABOUT PLANS!

KEEP THE
CONVERSATION
GOING!

LAURA SORVALA
ILLUSTRATION

Thank you



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Attentive 'playful' methodology and methods



Arts-based methods of seeing and hearing



‘I want to be on top of the world’, Top set for maths, would like to be an accountant, worried about what might ‘go wrong’, Zara, aged 14



My mum and dad support me – I have arthritis and they help me with that as I can’t always do things. Maddie, Aged 10

DAISY

**FINDING MY
VILLAGE**

NEW FRIENDS VIA NURSERY!



"I want to advocate
for people who
have no voice!"

SPENDING PRECIOUS TIME TOGETHER



CHALLENGES

NO TIME FOR
MYSELF AND
LACK OF FAMILY
NEARBY...



"As a SEND parent
your village is
very small."

**FAMILIES
NEED:**

**SAFE OUTDOOR SPACES
TO MEET AND PLAY**



**SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN
WITH SEND**



**TO BE INCLUDED IN
DECISION MAKING**



FINANCIAL SECURITY

Are you sure
we can
afford it?



**PROPERLY RESOURCED
COMMUNITY CENTRES**



REHANA

**FINDING
MYSELF**

"I just forget myself
for 8 years..."



MAKING FRIENDS



LANGUAGE
English Dictionary



ISOLATION

FEELING THREATENED



UNSAFE AREA



ENDLESS DEMANDS

COMMUNITY NURSERY



"This is our country
as well."



"We go buy something
and it's double,
double, double..."

MONEY

