



Meanings of home and
homelessness for LGBTQ+
young people in Scotland

Hidden Homelessness
Conference

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Outline

- Rationale of this study
- Meanings of Home
- My project
- Questions



LGBTQ+ Homelessness

Research suggest LGBTQ+ youth make up between 20% -40% of youth homeless population.

(Albert Trust, 2015).



A photograph of a person lying on a cot in a shelter, with their head resting on a pillow. The person is wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt and dark pants. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. The image is dimly lit and has a dark overlay.

Specific reasons
for LGBT youth
homelessness...

- Family dispute after disclosure of sexual orientation or gender identity
- Sexual migration
- Gender Based Violence

Studies looking at the health....

High prevalence of negative outcomes:

- poor mental and physical health.
- risky behaviours (drugs, alcohol).
- sexual exploitation.

“minority stress” ... also related to identity concealment and internalized homophobia.

Service providers



Studies looking at Resilience ...



Supportive services (health care settings, schools, employment, religious communities)



Role models (personal and those portrayed in the media)



Access to social networks and relationships



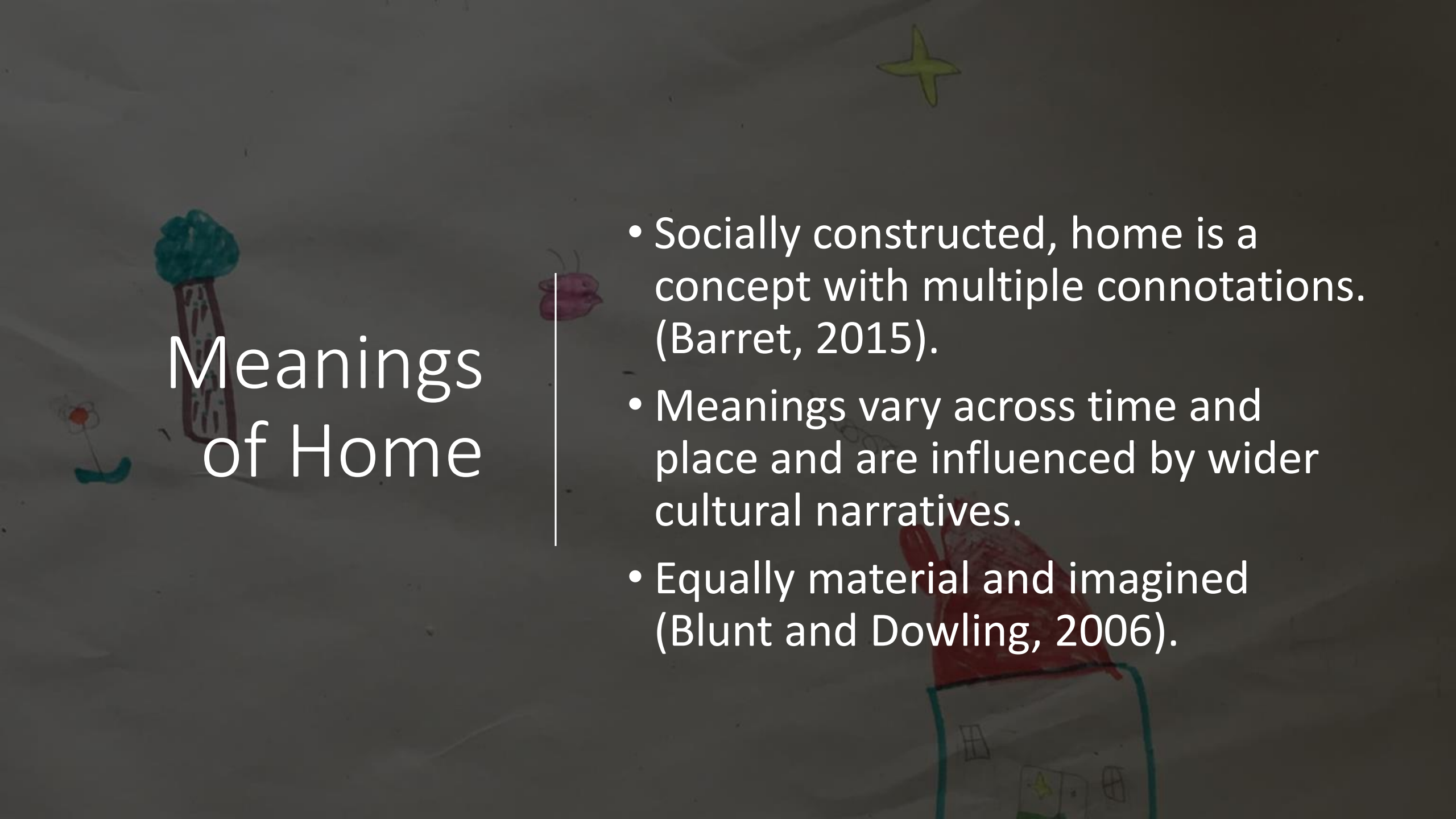
Links with LGBT communities (Russell and Richards, 2003).

Studies on home and homelessness...



The Scottish Context..





Meanings of Home

- Socially constructed, home is a concept with multiple connotations. (Barret, 2015).
- Meanings vary across time and place and are influenced by wider cultural narratives.
- Equally material and imagined (Blunt and Dowling, 2006).

Materiality of home.....

- Certain objects help define the meanings and understandings of home.
- Sensory aspects of home making.
- Consumption practices of home.

Home is a feeling, a state of mind

In Western societies, feelings of home are associated with the ideal home...

it can be experienced outside the home?

At "homeness" feeling through positive relations...

Home and relationships

- Family
- Friends
- School
- Community
- Pets


Homemaking practices..

are constantly constructed through daily routines

that make a home go outside the building ...

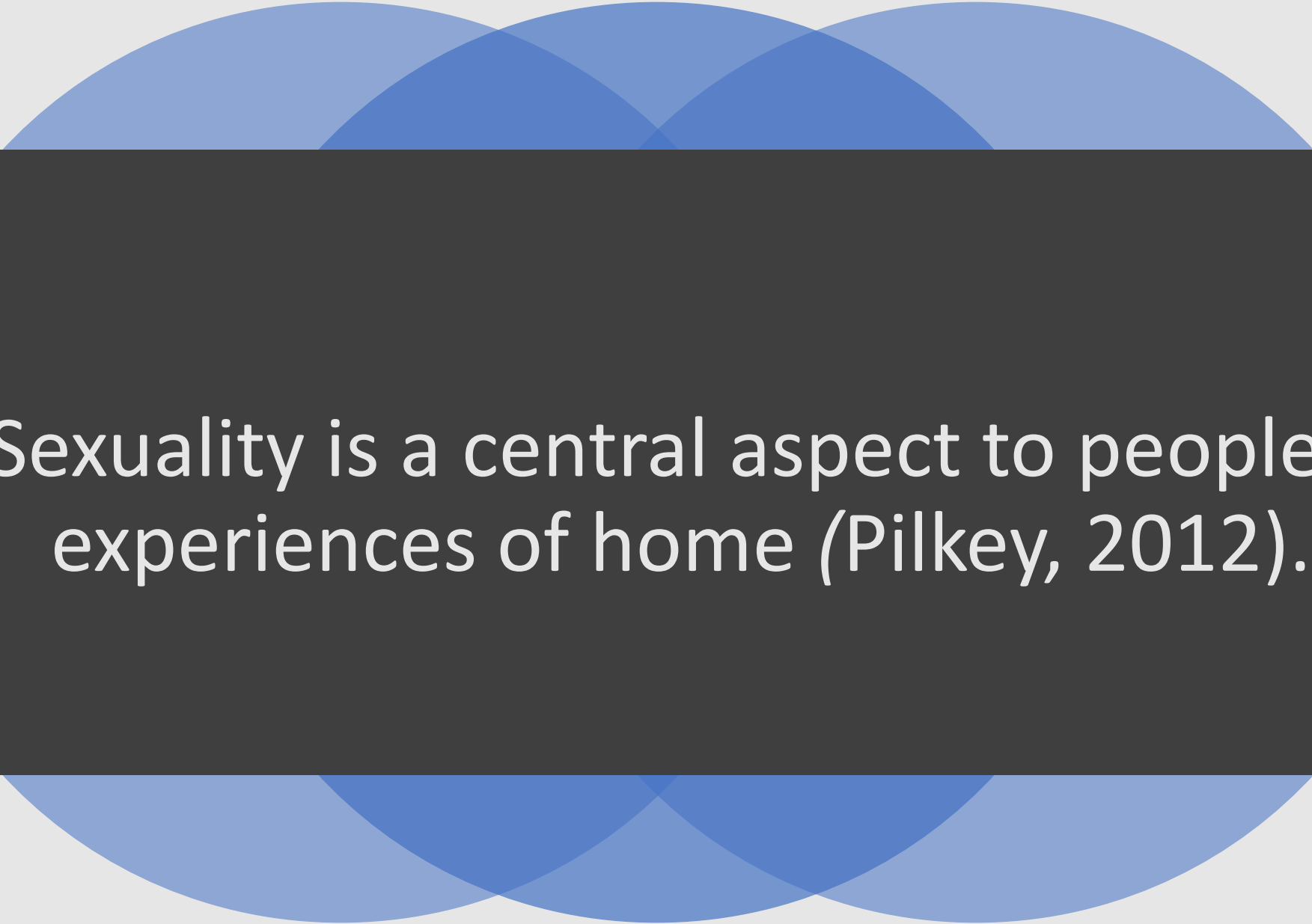
are constant boundary making exercise...

Serve as a way to perform heteronormativity.



So, home is
not just a
physical
structure...

Understandings of home extended beyond its walls, neighborhood, town or city, and can encapsulate both feelings of comfort and relaxation as well as oppression and persecution, can be familiar or strange, fundamental or unnecessary for existence (Mallet, 2004).



Sexuality is a central aspect to people's experiences of home (Pilkey, 2012).

Home and Sexuality

- For some home is a place where they can express their sexual identity without fear of repercussion, a refuge from the outside world of hostility while for others is a site of disapproval and rejection (Schroeder, 2015).
- “Culture of the bedroom” – home as a sanctuary or prison (Gorman Murray, 2008).
- There is multiple sexual identities, and some (bi, trans) need more representation in research. The impact of other aspects of identity (gender, ethnicity, class) also needs to be accounted for (Elwood, 2000).
- Home as a site of political expression, a place to establish a sense of self and political expression, resistance to exclusion .. (Pilkey, 2012).

My study....

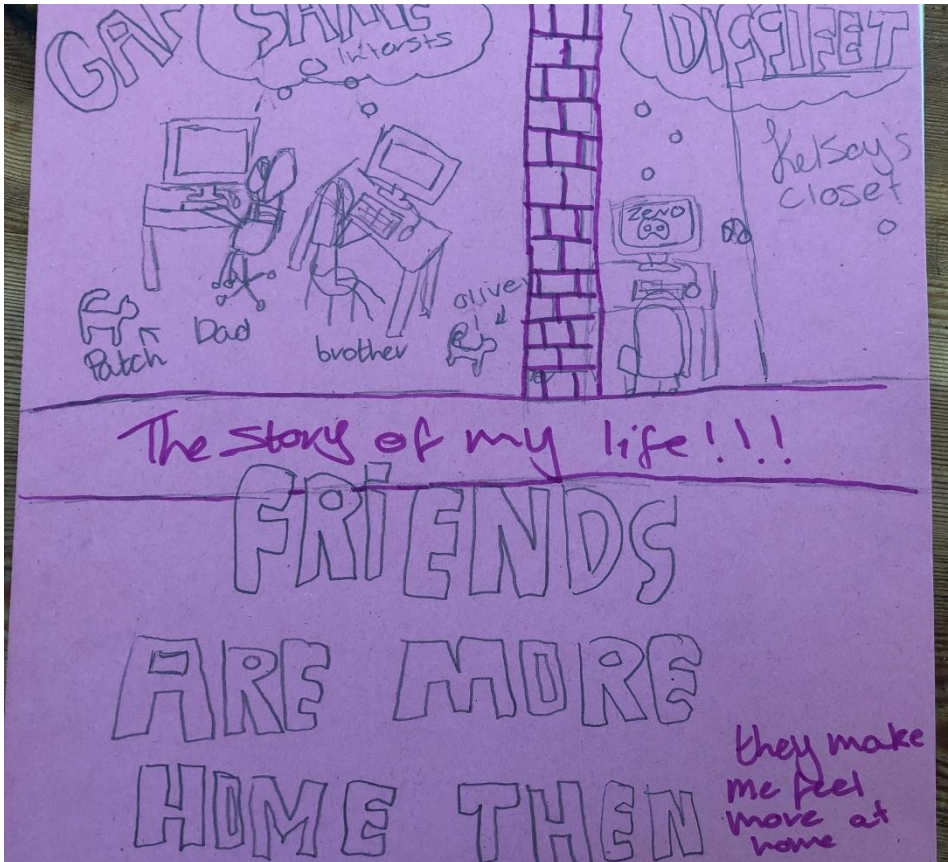
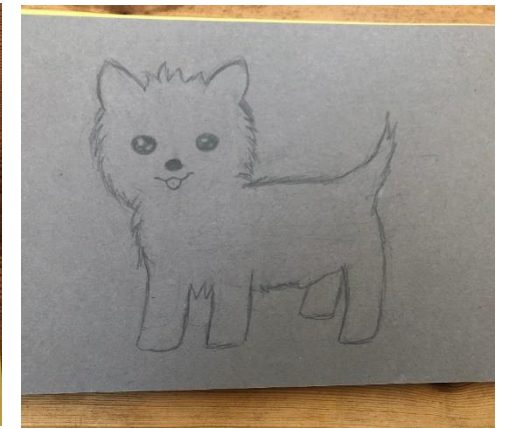
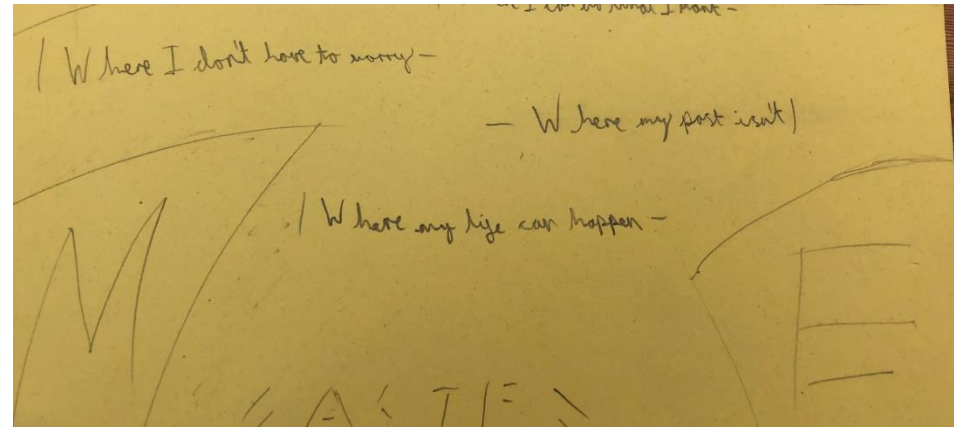
The aim of this study is to explore the meanings of home and homelessness for LGBTQ+ young people in Scotland.



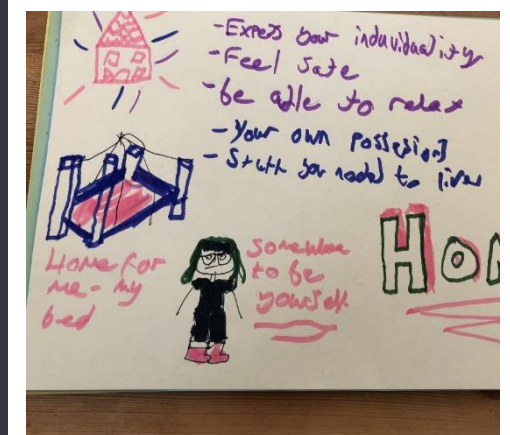
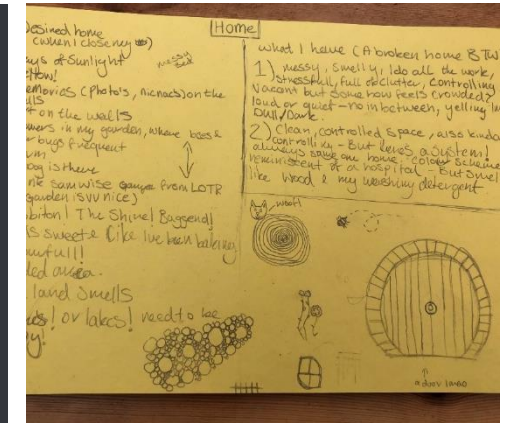
Visual Elicitation...

- A method where people make visuals such as photos, drawings (timelines, relational maps, a sketch, portray) that represent what they think about a topic.
- The things people make are then discussed to explore what these are trying to capture and why.
- This method gives people the chance to show the world as they see it and take part in research in a more active way.

Initial Results...



- Clear divide between ideal home and actual home experiences.
- Relationships with friends and pets foster feelings of home.
- Young people's bedroom is a place where they can be themselves... a sanctuary
- Different worries between younger and oldest groups..



Thank you for listening

Any Questions ?



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