

# CREATIVE INSIGHTS

Exploring young people's perspectives on  
health inequalities




MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences Unit



Economic  
and Social  
Research Council

Arts and  
Humanities  
Research Council





Between October 2020 and April 2021, 21 young people from across Glasgow produced artworks in response to the issue of health inequalities. Health inequalities are the unfair and avoidable differences in health across populations and between population groups. Using drawing, printing, photography and collage, they shared their experiences of lockdown; their understandings of the influence of space, place and communities on health; and their priorities for change in relation to health inequalities.

Creative Insights is a research project conducted at the University of Glasgow, and was supported by the Economic and Social Research Council and the Arts and Humanities Research Council [grant number ES/S001913/1]. The project drew together 39 young people from across the two cities over the course of six online workshops between October 2020 and April 2021.



# EXPERIENCES OF THE PANDEMIC

The Covid-19 pandemic was a prominent topic during these three weeks. We asked young people to share their experiences of lockdown through a series of dialectograms: drawings of the spaces that young people associated with the pandemic.

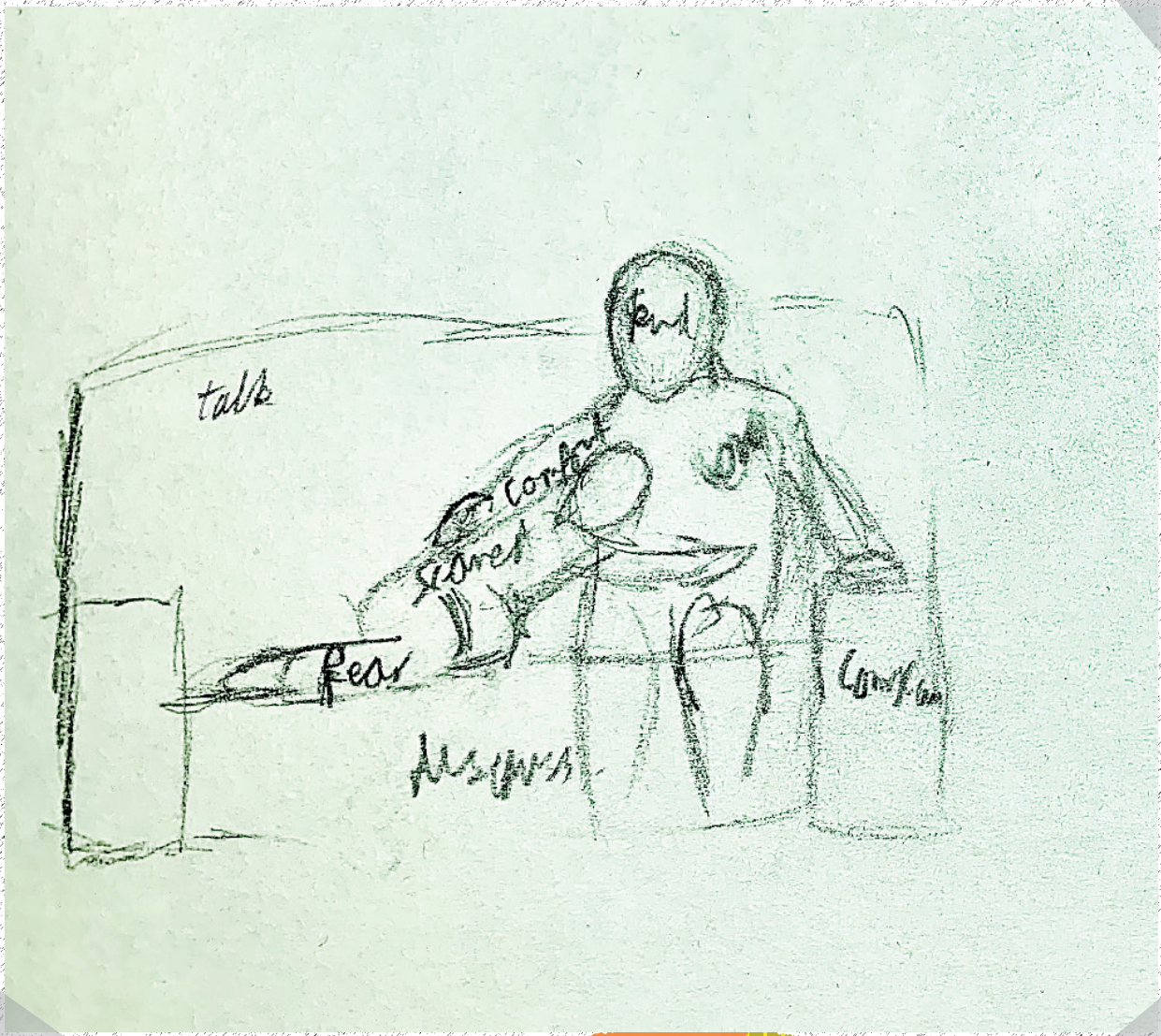
Many of these artworks depict everyday experiences of school closures, home confinement, and the increased importance of phones and the internet as a social connector. Some drawings also revealed the creativity with which young people repurposed the limited personal space they had. Among other things, some of the dialectograms draw attention to a growing appreciation for green spaces, and the joy in engaging in new hobbies.







The importance of family relationships was a recurring topic when young people spoke about their experiences of lockdown.



## Lily's Drawing.



# SPACES AND PLACES

With the aid of daily photo prompts, we explored the spaces and places around young people. The photographs depict the spaces where young people found comfort and associated with home. The artworks young people submitted ranged from large landscapes to intimate domestic scenes.



Sunny's Photo of the sky.



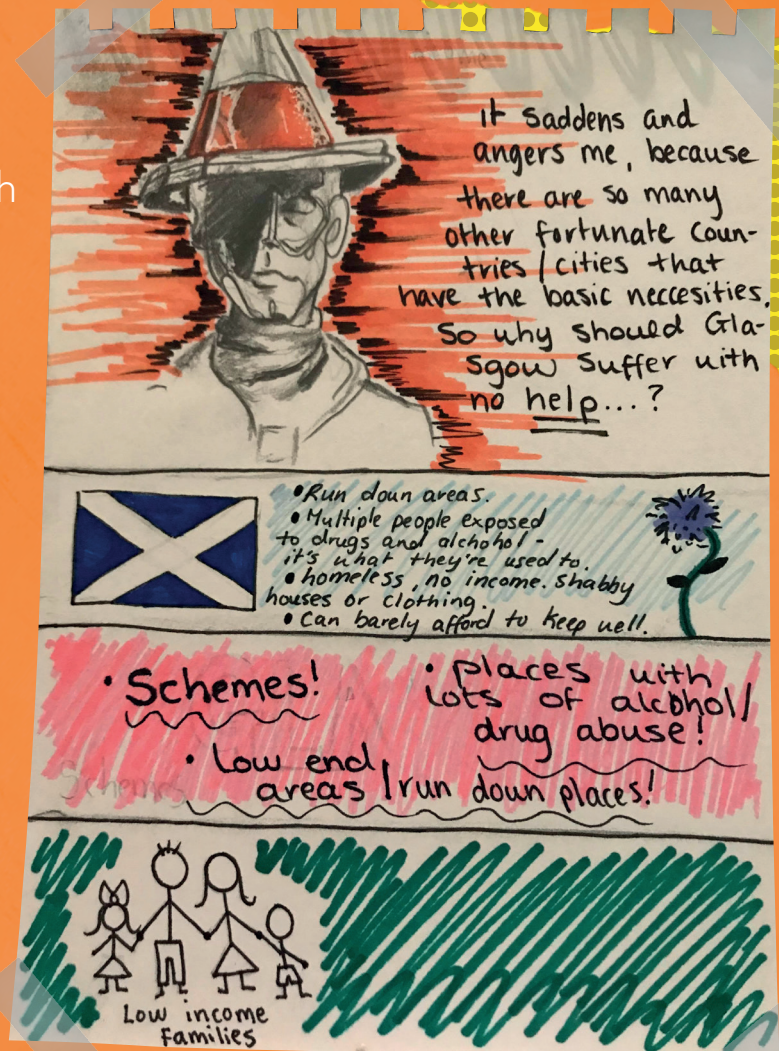
# COMMUNITIES AND BELONGING

We worked together with the young people to explore their relationship with their communities through photography and printmaking.

Sometimes this relationship was complex and ambivalent. Oliwia's photo depicts broken glass on the pavement.



Brooklyn's drawing is a poignant illustration of his relationship with Glasgow.





Some of the artworks spoke to the importance of diversity and inclusivity.



Tamara's Prints



Kara's Prints



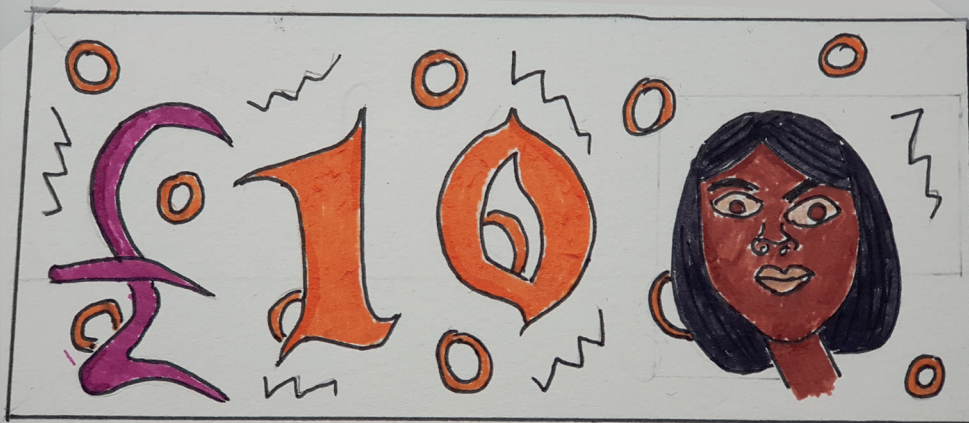
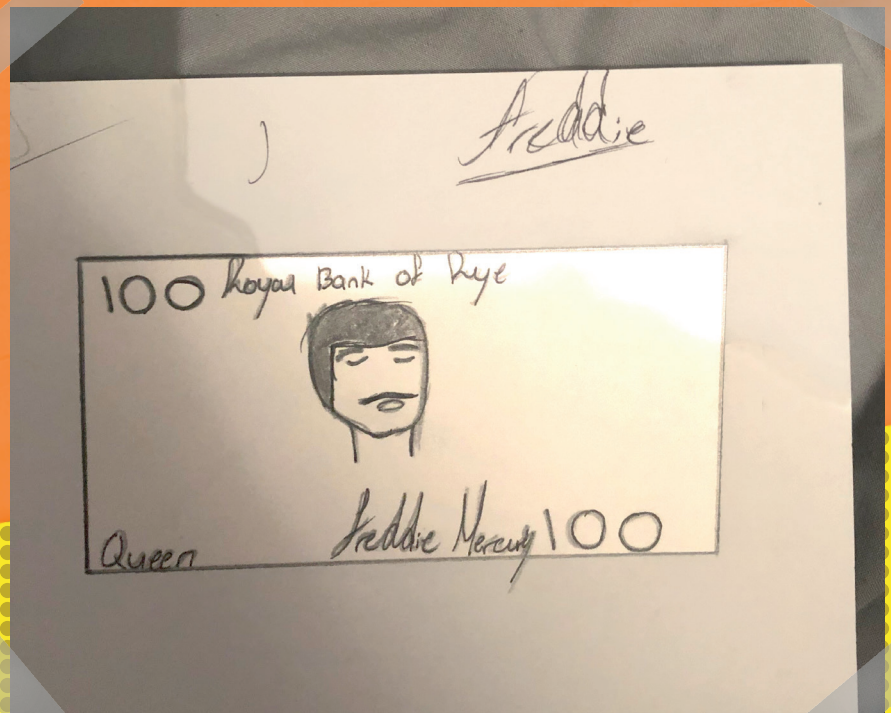
Dys's print combines the colours of Pan-African solidarity with the symbol of the Black Lives Matter movement.





We also spoke with young people about income inequality. We explored young people's thoughts on this issue by asking them to design their own £10 note.

One of the banknotes depicts Freddie Mercury.



Another young person drew herself on the note.



# PRIORITIES FOR CHANGE

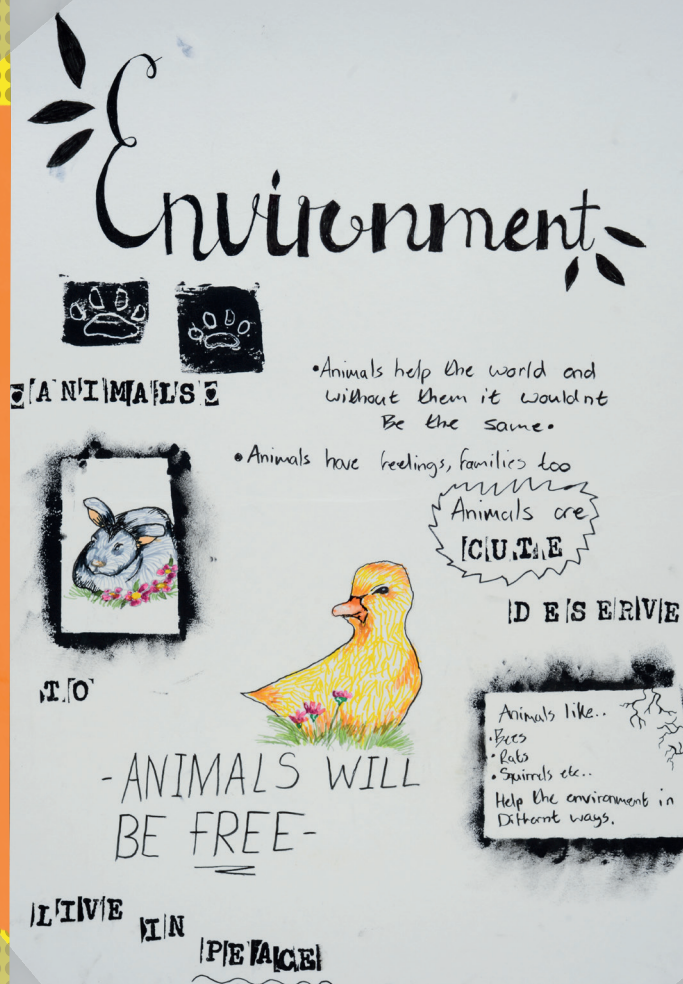
Over the course of the workshops, we worked with young people to outline solutions for health inequalities, using a wide range of mixed-media techniques, including fabric paintings, drawing, and printmaking. The subsequent artworks express some of the young people's demands, call to action, and visions of a utopistic Glasgow.



Abby's Tote Bag



Pinko's Drawing



Emma's Poster



# Let US TAKE CHARGE



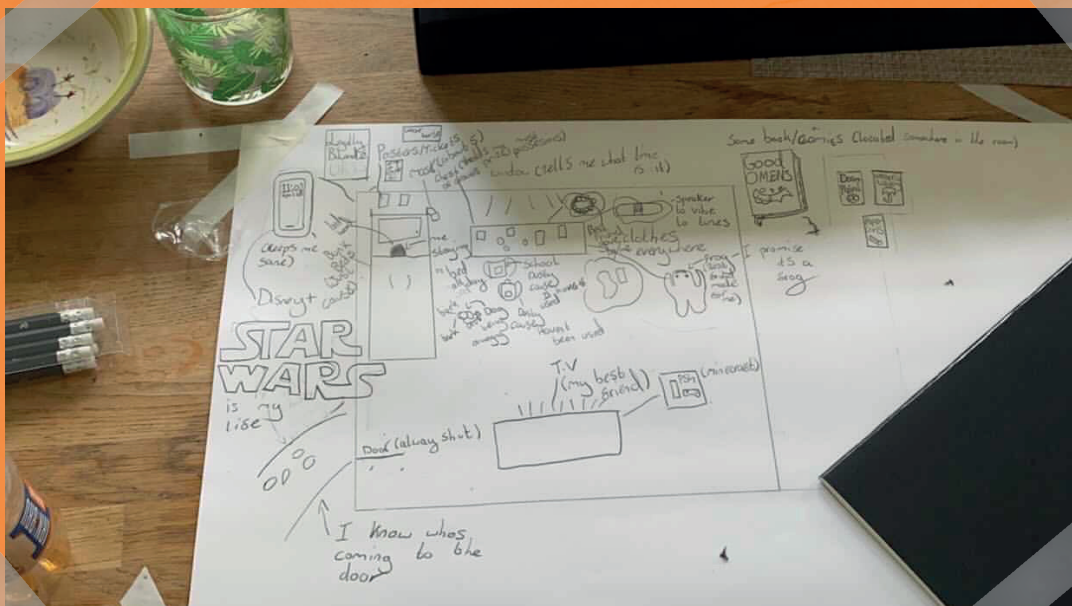


# USING VISUAL ART TO EXPLORE HEALTH INEQUALITIES

The pandemic created a particular setting for the workshops: instead of meeting in person, the workshops took place fully online. This meant that Beth and Jack, the creative facilitators had to find ways to help young people make art remotely. Young people set up their work stations in their rooms using the creative material sent to them through the post.



Musfera's Prints



Work station and a work in progress.



*"Being invited to facilitate this project felt incredibly exciting. As an artist, it is rare to be able to contribute to a formal research process, and the topic of health inequalities is not something I had previously thought about. Therefore, it felt like together with the participants we were all exploring the topic with fresh eyes. It was great to be able to listen to how young people thought and felt about health inequalities. It was enlightening and important to be part of this. I hope that the artworks created in these workshops provide an insight into young people's perspectives and experiences."* - Artist co-facilitator Jack Stancliffe

*"Looking across these artworks, it is clear how important young people voices are in contributing to the debates around how best to respond to the enduring existence of health inequalities in Scotland and the UK. Their thoughtful and creative responses span the public policy landscape and, and we have been extremely lucky to engage with groups of young people around this important topic at this critical time."* - Researcher Gillian Fergie





To find out more about Creative  
Insights, please visit [\[URL to website\]](#).