**Digital Appendix: Transcript with Eclectic Analysis (Sasha)**

Transcription Sasha

Donna Wheeler – Education Welfare officer

Jenny – health visitor

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| Line | Sasha (participant 1) | Sarah (interviewer/ researcher) | Eclectic Analysis |
| 1 |  | Right hello Sasha |  |
| 2 |  | urm, are you happy with the participant information that I’ve given you? |  |
| 3 | Yes |  |  |
| 4 |  | Yep |  |
| 5 |  | And you’re happy to take part? |  |
| 6 |  | Excellent. |  |
| 7 |  | Right in that case, |  |
| 8 |  | it’s up to you to tell your story about your experiences, |  |
| 9 |  | from how you felt, sort of before you found out you where pregnant |  |
| 10 |  | to what kind of happened when you where pregnant |  |
| 11 |  | and Urm and then go on to, to talk about any changes |  |
| 12 |  | and the whole journey you had really, |  |
| 13 |  | from the whole experience of realising you where pregnant to becoming a Mum. |  |
| 14 |  | OK. |  |
|  | Story 1 **The unexpected student experience** |  |  |
| 15 | Urm before urm before I was pregnant |  |  |
| 16 | I was studying my A-levels at [school name] Grammar School. |  |  |
| 17 | Just a school in [City name]. |  |  |
| 18 | Urm I think I was doing chemistry, maths, (pause) business studies and textiles. |  |  |
| 19 | And urm I really hated it, I really hated being, I wasn’t enjoying it at all. | um | repetition - emphasis |
| 20 | That’s not what I thought A-levels where going to be like. |  | expectation |
| 21 | I wasn’t enjoying it |  |  |
| 22 | And urm I just.I wasn’t doing very well either. |  | Failure |
| 23 | I think I had a lot going on at home as well |  | Justification, home life |
| 24 | Because my Mum suffers from depression. |  | Dependent |
| 25 | So I was basically running the household then. |  | Responsibility |
| 26 | I was sixteen then. |  | Too young/ age significant cultural expectation |
| 27 | So there was a lot going on at home. |  |  |
| 28 | And a lot going on, sort of at school. |  |  |
| 29 | And I just wasn’t, my head wasn’t fully there. |  | phrase |
| 30 | And urm I was also working part time. |  | More responsibility/ working identity, earner |
| 31 | I was working at [retail store name]. |  |  |
| 32 | and it just got to the point where I just really really hated going to school. |  | Repetition/ amplifier - emphasis |
| 33 | I got my results from the November exams in January. |  |  |
| 34 | And I did absolutely terrible. |  | Amplifier – failure  ‘absolutely terrible’ (34)  Not use to this |
| 35 | I failed I think I got two ‘U’s and an E. |  | Failure names – impact on identity? |
| 36 | So it was apparent that I was going to have to re-sit the whole year again. |  |  |
| 37 | And I was just thinking actually I don’t want to re-sit the whole year again. |  | Express wish |
| 38 | I don’t want to do it. | Stressful times, |  |
| 39 | Yeah | it sounds like. |  |
| 40 | I don’t want to re-sit the whole year again. |  |  |
| 41 | Maybe I’ll go to college in September and do a completely different course. |  | Reactive decision  Considering option |
| 42 | Because urm, I just felt like the course I was doing. |  |  |
|  | Story 2 **Unsupported by school staff** |  |  |
| 43 | Oh, I don’t know if it was the teachers. |  |  |
| 44 | I use to sort of, (pause) clash with the teachers a lot. |  |  |
| 45 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 46 | Well with one specific teacher, my business studies teacher. |  |  |
| 47 | And that was a subject which I really I wanted to excel in. |  | ‘really’ -Amplifier  ‘excel’ – ambitious, wants to do well |
| 48 | So it really wasn’t very good. |  |  |
| 49 | He was also deputy head of sixth form. |  | Powerful adversary |
| 50 | So he really made my life Hell, at school. |  | Metaphor, negative ‘emotional experience’  Negative relationship |
| 51 | And they weren’t supportive because I had other things going on at home. |  | Lack of support |
| 52 | I did sort of express those things that I’ve got this going on at home. |  | Express – significant language use |
| 53 | I’m basically a young carer. |  | Identity she directly identifies with |
| 54 | Cause urm my brother’s, he was born severely premature. |  |  |
| 55 | And he, I think he’d just been diagnosed with autism then. |  |  |
| 56 | Or this was before? |  |  |
| 57 | He has a series of health issues. |  | Positioned a dependent/ vulnerable |
| 58 | So my Mum sort of lagging behind with the depression. |  | Also positioned so |
| 59 | And I’m also, kept, I’m looking after the both of them. |  | Positioned as responsible/ supportive |
| 60 | And I expressed this to my school. |  | Second use of this term – something more than just told, effortful |
| 61 | And urm he just, the teacher he just didn’t believe me. |  | Challenge to identity as an honest person |
| 62 | And he just, you know, completely dismissed everything I said. |  | Rejected  Went to the effort of asking for help/ worse than ignored  No relationship |
| 63 | And from there on I was like, well, actually I don’t want to stay here. |  | not unsurprising |
| 64 | So I began looking for places at colleges. |  | Reactive decision but reasonable |
| 65 | And just thinking about maybe going on to do an apprenticeship. |  |  |
| 66 | I wasn’t sure what I was going to do. |  | Loss of direction |
| 67 | But I wasn’t going to stay at that Grammar school. |  |  |
|  | Story 3 **Belief that they couldn’t support a pregnancy** |  |  |
| 68 | Urm I found out I was pregnant was it in March? (pause) March or April. |  | Pregnant |
| 69 | And urm and I think we were studying for our second lot of AS exams. |  |  |
| 70 | And I just though well actually I. |  |  |
| 71 | No we’d just finished the exams when I found out I was pregnant. |  |  |
| 72 | And I kept going to school, I kept going. |  | Repetition – in this context suggest plodding meaninglessly on |
| 73 | And I just sort of felt like actually I don’t think that they’d ever be able to support me through having a pregnancy. |  | Expectation/ assumption – school unsupportive |
| 74 | Urm, there was no way that I wasn’t going to go through with the pregnancy. |  | Decision – definitive, strong conviction |
| 75 | I was just, there was just, I wasn’t able to stay at that school. |  |  |
| 76 | They couldn’t support me through being a young carer. |  | Lack of support |
| 77 | There’s no way that they’d support me through being pregnant. |  | Reasonable rationalisation  Implies less likely to support pregnancy than as ‘carer’ |
| 78 | And I just thought well I think it’s time to leave. |  |  |
| 79 | Urm |  |  |
| 80 |  | How did you feel about that? |  |
| 81 | I was really upset about it, I was always upset at school, so I was really upset about it. |  | Miserable  Repetition emphasis |
|  | Story 4 **Plea for help rejected** |  |  |
| 82 | I use to argue with the teachers a lot. |  | Negative relationship |
| 83 | Because I’m sort of saying I don’t understand the work, |  |  |
| 84 | I don’t understand what I’m doing because I’ve missed last week’s lesson. |  | Gaps in knowledge |
| 85 | But I missed that lesson because I had to do this. |  |  |
| 86 | And I was at home and I had to sort this out and my Mum’s this my Mum’s that. |  | Justification of gaps |
| 87 | They didn’t not once contact my Mum or offer any support or. |  | Failure to validate |
| 88 | You hear nowadays there’s like the Banardoes offers support for young carers. |  | Shift of focus from then to now |
| 89 | They didn’t even you know. |  |  |
| 90 | Urm, send me to the school counsellor or the pastoral care. |  | Failure to care |
| 91 | It was just really, it was really really bad. |  |  |
| 92 | And I was sort of predicted really high grades, I was predicted, urm, ‘A’s across the board |  | Identity as an able student |
| 93 | And when I failed they didn’t realise that it’s, I’m failing because there’s something underlying there’s something that’s going on. |  | Failure to recognise difficulties |
| 94 | They just sort of thought well, you’ve got to do better next time. |  |  |
| 95 |  | What do you, what do you think they thought of you then? |  |
| 96 |  | They weren’t believing what was going on. |  |
| 97 | Urm, | What do you think they kind of thought? |  |
| 98 | Well I think they thought I was a liar |  | Judged of bad character |
| 99 | and Urm I just didn’t want to do the work. |  |  |
| 100 | That’s exactly what the teacher at school told me, he just said *‘you’re a liar, you just don’t want to do the work.’* |  | Judged as liar and lazy |
| 101 | *‘I don’t believe anything that you’re saying right now’.* |  |  |
| 102 | And urm and that had me in tears. |  |  |
| 103 | And still nothing. |  | Failure to empathise |
| 104 | They never once contacted my Mum to check any of this was really going on, or sent letters or anything, they never once followed it up. |  | Failure validate |
| 105 | When I left school urm, I think we were studying for A2 and I just never went back one day, I never went back. |  |  |
| 106 | I think, it was a Wednesday and I just thought do you know what I’m not going back to school, I’m not going back, I don’t want to go back. |  | Repetition  Breaking point |
|  | Story 5 **Mum’s response to daughter’s pregnancy** |  |  |
| 107 | At this point I’d told my Mum, urm, that I was pregnant. |  |  |
| 108 | And my Mum was really really disappointed. |  | Amplifier repeated – no other of really putting into words just how disappointed she was  Disappointed positions Sasha as having done wrong |
| 109 | But she said that she was going to support me through whatever I decided to do. |  | support |
|  | Story 6 **Decisions in light of the perceived school response** |  |  |
| 110 | And she sort of asked *‘so what are you going to do about school? and what are you going to do?’* |  | Responsible Mum, daughters best interest |
| 111 | *‘You failed your exams in January, what are you going to do?’* |  | failed |
| 112 | And I sort of said ‘well I’m not going to stay at [school name] to re-sit’ |  |  |
| 113 | ‘And I don’t think it would be appropriate, they wouldn’t let me stay on’ |  | Not appropriate |
| 114 | Because it’s not like a college where you can, you go about your business. |  |  |
| 115 | They’ve got another, they’ve got a year seven eight and nine. |  | Vulnerable? Pregnancy contagious? |
| 116 | They wouldn’t want. |  |  |
| 117 | And I think I was, was I head girl? Or was I council? |  | Responsible |
| 118 | Something like that head girl or council member at the Grammar school. |  |  |
| 119 | And I thought there is no way that they’d support their head girl, who get pregnant and she gets to go back to school and continue. |  | Role model  Damaged role model |
| 120 | There’s no way that they would allow that. |  |  |
| 121 | Urm so we sort of made the decision that I’m going to go to college. |  | Decision made together |
| 122 | And urm, I want to study applied science. |  |  |
| 123 | And urm I applied for college. |  | Assertive |
|  | Story 7 **College unaware she was pregnant** |  |  |
| 124 | I urm I think that’s when I got in touch with Donna Wheeler. |  | Resource/ support |
| 125 | And she wanted to know *‘what’s going on’*, urm, *‘with school,* *what are you doing?*’ |  | Support-education |
| 126 | I said ‘oh I’ve applied, I’ve applied to college, I had my interview and that all went very well’. |  | Independent  Able/ confident - interview |
| 127 | I had really, really good GCSE grades so they were happy to have me. |  | Able student identity  Colleges want able students |
| 128 | I started in college in the September. |  |  |
| 129 | And I must have been, urm, (pause) how pregnant was I? |  |  |
| 130 | I must have been six months pregnant. |  |  |
| 131 | Nobody knew at college, nobody knew and nobody could tell. |  | Did she want them to know? |
| 132 | I don’t know how they couldn’t tell because I was absolutely massive. |  | Amplifiers -Self-aware / body image |
| 133 | But nobody knew, nobody could tell. |  | Repeated. Important to her |
| 134 | I always sort of wore a scarf and a jacket so they just, nobody ever saw it. | (Laugh) | Hiding  Afraid how this might react |
|  | Story 8 **Course too easy?** |  |  |
| 135 | Nobody ever saw it until it was October and sort of we were doing like chemistry and what not. |  |  |
| 136 | It was applied science A-level and it was, urm, like a double award BTEC thing. |  |  |
| 137 |  | Yeah yeah |  |
| 138 | And my teachers kept asking *‘why are you doing this course?* |  |  |
| 139 | *‘You’re much better than this, you should be doing A-level Chemistry, you shouldn’t be doing this.’* |  | Direct speech – important to her  Able student identity  Recognition/ Praise  Positive relationship? |
| 140 | That’s what the Chemistry teacher use to always say. *‘You’re miles ahead of all the other people in this class. Why are you doing this course?’* |  |  |
| 141 | *‘You know you’ve got so much potential. You need to be doing something more challenging, please come to one of my other classes.’* |  |  |
| 142 | And I sort of knew, actually, no I need something. |  |  |
| 143 | Urm, I think it was going to get me two A-levels and, was it two A-levels? Yeah, I think it was two A-levels |  |  |
| 144 | And I just thought I need something not extremely difficult but something that I can just do and go home and. |  | Appreciation of demands, work load and other responsibilities |
| 145 | Cause I knew it wasn’t, it was, things were going to get difficult and |  | Increase in energy demand |
| 146 | Urm |  |  |
| 147 | yeah | Lot of responsibilities already |  |
| 148 | Yeah I knew that things were going to get even more difficult. |  |  |
|  | Story 9 **College staff member’s less than inclusive stance** |  |  |
| 149 | So I was there something like half a week and I do my work, everything was done on time and course work, everything, was bringing that. |  | Meeting the course responsibilities |
| 150 | I was sort of the best student in class |  | status |
| 151 | And then it came to the point when I was getting really, really tired. |  | Amplifiers repeated |
| 152 | Urm I think this was October half term I was really, really tired and I wanted to go on maternity leave, I wanted to leave now |  | Pregnancy - Tired  Maternity leave |
| 153 | But the first thing I need to do was to tell my form tutor that I was pregnant. |  |  |
| 154 | And I didn’t have the confidence to by myself. |  | dependent |
| 155 | So Donna came and we had a meeting. |  | Resource/ support |
| 156 | And we said, told this woman *‘oh yeah Sasha’s pregnant, she’s due on the nineteenth of November’* |  | Direct speech  ‘We’ versus Donna |
| 157 | And just watch the blood drain out of her face and just the, the look of horror and shock on this woman’s face. |  | Descriptive – emotive language  Form tutor shocked |
| 158 | And she made some comments which had me really upset. |  | emotional |
| 159 | And urm she was like *‘well she shouldn’t be doing this course, there’s no way we can allow her to continue doing this course if she’s pregnant, you know.* |  | Direct speech – significant, made an impact |
| 160 | *She can’t just go on maternity leave’.* |  |  |
| 161 |  | Right |  |
| 162 | And Donna was like ‘*well she’s got rights, just as any employee would have rights to go on maternity leave, so does she’*. |  | advocate |
| 163 | And we came up with like a plan. |  | dependent |
| 164 | I was going to continue going to college until the half term |  |  |
| 165 | And then I was study from home and I would maybe come in once a week to collect any new work that needed doing. |  | Desire to continue and achieve the qualification |
| 166 | Seen as I was so far ahead already |  |  |
| 167 | And um the other students in my class were going to sort of save me the work, email me the work. |  |  |
| 168 | And I would keep up to it, urm, keep up to deadlines. |  |  |
| 169 | And then I was going to go back urm I was going to go back in January, for the January exams. |  |  |
| 170 | She really was unhappy about this mind Pauline, but she was really unhappy about this. |  |  |
| 171 | *‘Well this was unacceptable.’* |  |  |
| 172 | *‘We’re going to have to do loads of risk assessments, you shouldn’t even be in the lab’.* |  | Risk assessments  Fear?/ more work? |
| 173 | *‘She shouldn’t be, she shouldn’t be here.’* |  |  |
| 174 | Urm, *‘how about you just do the exam in January and get your’*, I think it was half an AS. |  |  |
| 175 | *And then come back after you’ve had the baby and after you’ve settled and come back next year, next year in September’.* |  |  |
| 176 | *‘And you can start again.’* |  |  |
| 177 | And I was like ‘I’ve done all this work I’m not starting again, I’ve done all this work I’m not starting again.’ |  | Step back |
| 178 | I’ve never missed a day of college, I always went to college and stayed there all day. |  |  |
| 179 | And dropped my Brother off at nursery in the morning, after getting the bus from Clayton, I’d drop him off somewhere in White Abbey road and then I’d walk all the way to college, stay at college all day, go pick him up and then go home. |  | Achievement (work & home responsibilities met) |
| 180 | And, err, I thought I’ve not put all this work in for nothing |  |  |
| 181 | And urm, so yeah we decided, I’m coming back in, in, in January, was it the 15th of January? |  |  |
| 182 | Urm, so my baby would have been about eight weeks old then. |  | Young – very soon |
| 183 | And urm she was just, I was really shocked by it and she said *‘well you should have told me in your interview, you should have told me all these things before, we wouldn’t have allowed you to go on the course.’* |  | Admission of discrimination |
| 184 | And she was like *‘well you want to leave now, you’re tired now’*, urm, *‘we still have so much to go through, we still have so much more to do you know you can’t just leave now’.* |  | Pregnancy not convenient, doesn’t fit in with the school time table and assessment deadlines |
| 185 | And I’m like ‘well I’m due next month and I’m due’, this was, yes this must have been like the 7th October ‘and I’m due next month.’ |  | (Fact checking – does this a lot –trying to increase credibility?) |
| 186 | ‘I can’t keep walking around here, I’m really, really tired and finding it hard to get here on the morning and sort of stay here as well’. |  |  |
| 187 | Urm and er that, that was that. |  |  |
|  | Story 10 **Jenny the helpful professional** |  |  |
| 188 | And I think then I started seeing someone from the family nurse partnership. Urm, she’s called Jenny Bennett, she’s a health visitor and she supported me from round about then till, I think she’s going to sign me off next month when my daughter turns two. |  |  |
| 189 | And she was sort of helped me with form filling and anything that I was eligible for and things like that. |  | Resource, helful |
|  | Story 11 **Baby news Impact on relationships** |  |  |
| 190 | Urm so yeah I left college and then I was just sort of at home |  | Nothing else to do  Pregnant body impacts on life |
| 191 | I dropped my brother off to nursery every day |  | duties |
| 192 | Urm my Mum, she was still really depressed, she found it hard coming to terms with my brother’s disabilities. |  |  |
| 193 | So it was me that looked after him. |  | Carer |
| 194 | Urm and you know we just sort of got by. |  |  |
| 195 | Urm, my daughter’s father was, he was being supportive throughout the pregnancy, really supportive, he was there, for me, he was really supportive throughout the whole pregnancy and even after she was born. |  | Amplifiers |
| 196 | My Dad disowned me when I was, when he found out I was pregnant |  | Loss of relationship  Why? |
| 197 | And we didn’t talk until about two weeks before I urm, actually gave birth. |  |  |
| 198 | And then he sort of apologised and said, you know, I’ve sort of come to terms with this, I’ll, we need to work through it. |  | Qualifier |
| 199 | So that was my Dad. |  |  |
| 200 | Urm a lot of family members stopped talking to me. |  | Multiple loss of relationship |
| 201 | I was really close to my Aunty at that point, my Mum’s sister. |  | relationship |
| 202 | Urm, she’s like, she’s only a few, about five years older than me, no she’s not she’s about seven years older than me and a lot younger than my Mum. |  | Detail – credibility? |
| 203 | So me and her are really close |  | Positive relationship |
| 204 |  | Um |  |
| 205 | And she just stopped talking to me. |  | Loss/ isolated/ rejected |
| 206 | And I found that really difficult, I found that really difficult |  | Repetition – emotional emphasis |
| 207 |  | I imagine, yeah |  |
| 208 | Urm, just because she’d always been there, like I’d see her a few times a week. |  | Loss of support  Loss of routine |
| 209 | So I found that difficult. |  |  |
| 210 | My Mum found it really difficult as well. |  |  |
| 211 | Just sort of, how was she going to go out into the world knowing , other people knowing her daughter had gotten pregnant and, you know, and all that. |  | Shame? construction |
|  | Story 12 **Managing contraction pains** |  |  |
| 212 | And err, but anyway things sort of came together about the month before, urm Leila was born. |  |  |
| 213 | Err when I went into, into labour. |  | Birth story |
| 214 | It was quite a, quite a slow beginning, I think it was on the Tuesday and I’d be on, sort of get, sort of contractions. |  |  |
| 215 | I was still about six minutes apart, six or seven minutes apart. |  |  |
| 216 | This carried on until Thursday night. |  |  |
| 217 | And on Thursday one of my friends came to see me. |  |  |
|  | Story 13 (embedded in 12) **Popular to good core friends** |  |  |
| 218 | My friends were quite good as well. |  | Appreciated  Qualifier – not as good as? |
| 219 | Urm, I had like a really small circle of friends. |  |  |
| 220 | When I was at school I was really popular, everyone was my friend, nobody disliked me. |  | Amplifier  Generalised |
| 221 | Everyone thought I was really outgoing. |  | outgoing |
| 222 | Everyone wanted to know me, wanted to know my business. |  |  |
| 223 | And then as soon as they found out I was pregnant I had like the five that stuck by me. |  | Direct consequence |
| 224 | The five friends that would come visit me. |  | Support (visit) |
| 225 | And they were just excited, ooh she’s having a baby, really excited. | (laugh) | Positive reaction |
|  | Story 12 continued |  |  |
| 226 | Urm, one of my friends came to see me and I just couldn’t sit still, because the contractions were like five minutes apart. |  |  |
| 227 | The just weren’t, nothing was going like, urm nothing was happening. | (laugh) | Delivery – dramatic/ humorous |
| 228 | Urm then I think, it got to the point that it was pitch black outside. |  |  |
| 229 | I couldn’t sit still, couldn’t sit in the house. |  |  |
| 230 | I’d get in the bath and the pains were too strong and the bath was not doing anything |  |  |
| 231 | And I planned to have a water birth but I’d already used up the water and it wasn’t helping me at all. |  | Idealistic birthing plan |
| 232 | So I was like oh God what am I going to do. | (laugh) | Spiritual? |
| 233 | So I was like Mum I’m going for a walk. |  |  |
| 234 | Left the house about seven O’clock. |  |  |
| 235 | Half seven, eight O’clock. Must have been about eight O’clock on a Thursday, |  |  |
| 236 | cos she was watching Emmerdale. |  |  |
| 237 | And I went for a walk, I walked for about an hour, and I probably walked the equivalent of about two and a half miles. |  |  |
| 238 | All the way around the neighbourhood and up down and round again, kept walking. |  | Story telling |
| 239 | It was really dark and I sort of had my ear phones in. |  |  |
| 240 | And I’m walking around and urm, pain was just getting stronger and stronger. |  |  |
| 241 | Urm and I rang my boyfriend and said I think I’m going into labour. |  | Support or distraction? Both? |
| 242 | And he’s, *‘don’t be so silly, you’re not due for another, urm, for another few days, are you sure? No, I was just with you yesterday you were fine, don’t be so silly’* |  |  |
| 243 | And then, urm, I got back home and I was upstairs. |  |  |
| 244 | I think I was, was I crying? |  |  |
| 245 | I was just sort of trying to stop the pain |  |  |
| 246 | And I was, kept moving about |  |  |
| 247 | And my Mum came up and said ‘right, we’re going to the hospital, I’m taking you to hospital, you’re not sitting here for any longer, you’re driving me mad’. |  | Mum decisive |
| 248 | So they dropped my brother off at one of her friends’ houses and went to the hospital. |  |  |
|  | Story 14 **hospital says not ready to go to them** |  |  |
| 249 | And I’d been ringing the hospital earlier on. |  | Needing support/ needing something to do |
| 250 | And they said , ‘*well how far are your contractions, no they’re not close enough yet, no don’t come in, don’t come in yet, don’t come in. No don’t come in yet’*. |  | resistance |
| 251 | When I’d been to see the midwife a few days before she’d said *‘ah, you’re, you’re sort of dilating you’re about, whatever three centimetres or whatever’*. |  |  |
| 252 | Urm, but yeah they said ‘*no don’t, have your waters broke? no, fine, no, you stay at home’.* |  | Not ready for her yet |
|  | Story 15 **The nice hospital room** |  |  |
| 253 | Urm, so we went to the hospital. |  |  |
| 254 | We got there at 10 O’clock and the assessment unit had just, had just closed. |  |  |
| 255 | And urm, I just remember walking up and down the corridor. |  |  |
| 256 | And, and I just know I kept wriggling around trying to, counteract the pains, walking up and down |  | Entertaining delivery |
| 257 | And they said OK *‘follow us go into this room.’* |  |  |
| 258 | So I went onto the maternity ward. |  |  |
| 259 | Urm, I’d been there a few weeks before to sort of have a new, tour of the new, they’d built a new maternity wing, a birthing centre is I think, what they called it but it wasn’t open yet. |  |  |
| 260 | I sort of wanted to hold off until it was open to use all the new facilities, but, urm, it wasn’t open yet. | (laugh) | Ideal birth |
| 261 | They stuck me in a room on the side. |  | Reflection of the interaction? Abrupt? |
| 262 | It was a really nice room. |  | Positive |
| 263 | They had like an i-pad docking station and a radio. |  |  |
| 264 | So I had the radio playing. |  |  |
| 265 | Urm, I got in. |  |  |
|  | Story 16 **My cousin, myself and an attempt to induce labour** |  |  |
| 266 | Urm, my cousin, my cousin, I’d stopped, they’d been sort of family issues and I’d not seen my cousin in about ten years. |  |  |
| 267 | So, this might have been July. |  |  |
| 268 | So I sent her a message on facebook, I need to talk to you, let’s have a chat. |  |  |
| 269 | I said, Oh by the way I’m pregnant. |  | An excuse to communicate |
| 270 | She’s just like, ‘oh my God my baby cousin’s pregnant , what? What? What?’ | (Laugh) |  |
| 271 | She’s just, she can’t believe it. |  | Surprised but not in an unpleasant way, excited (Sasha’s delivery conveys this) |
| 272 | Urm, She came to see me about a few weeks later and she stayed the whole weekend. |  | As it this is amazing and she’s come to see me |
| 273 | Urm and she just couldn’t believe that her baby cousin was pregnant. |  | I’m enthused by the excitement here |
| 274 | Urm and then she came again, was it on the 9th of November, that weekend. |  | 2nd visit - privileged |
| 275 | She came the 9th of November, she’s going *‘right, you’re going to labour now come on, you need to have this baby, I’m here, you need to go into labour now.’* |  | Relationship  Wanting her cousin to be there for the experience (reciprocated) |
| 276 | And just nothing happened. |  |  |
| 277 | We, we went to Nandos and we got extra hot spices on the chicken. |  |  |
| 278 | She thought yeah if you have something spicy, you’ll go into labour. |  |  |
| 279 | We walked all round town and, we walked for ages. |  |  |
| 280 | Thought, yeah you’ll go into labour now, you will you will, it’ll kick start it. |  |  |
| 281 | Nothing happened. |  | I’m amused |
|  | Story 17 **the labour experience: recruiting the family** |  |  |
| 282 | So it was the following weekend urm, and she was working. |  |  |
| 283 | She lives in [City 1] and she came all the way, straight from work, to be with me. |  | Again, I’m special to her, I’m cared for (suppoted) |
| 284 | And I rang my aunty at that moment. |  |  |
| 285 | The one that we’d not been talking. |  |  |
| 286 | And I said ‘we’re going to hospital, I’m going into labour.’ |  |  |
| 287 | And she said *‘right, OK, I’m coming.’* |  |  |
| 288 | She’s got three kids of her own, she just dropped the kids off and she came straight away. | (laugh) | When it comes to it she’s there for me  support |
| 289 | She, I think she went to pick up a friend, left her with the kids and she came straight away. |  |  |
| 290 | And my Mum was just like, she’s just like, *‘umm, what’s going on here?*’ |  |  |
|  | Story 18 **the labour experience: Including Dad** |  |  |
| 291 | I remember going in and, urm, I was fine and I was like right I need a shower. |  |  |
| 292 | I’m going to go have a shower and I got into the shower |  |  |
| 293 | No, I think this was all before that. |  |  |
| 294 | I got in and I sat on the bed and I sent my Dad a picture of myself in hospital, with the gas and air. |  | Present herself as vulnerable? To dramatise the moment? |
| 295 | And my, and I’d planned out this all natural birth. |  |  |
| 296 | And I sent my Dad a picture. |  |  |
| 297 | And my Dad what rings me and he’s, he’s, *‘ooh you look really, you look really tired are you OK? You look really, really bad. Is everything OK? Are you sure? Are you sure are you sure you’re going to be fine?’* |  | Concerned about her  Support  Direct speech |
| 298 | And I said, ‘oh yeah I’m fine Dad, I’m just having this Gas and air, yeah, I’m having contractions,’ blah, blah, blah. |  |  |
| 299 | He’s like, *‘alright, OK, well, I’ll be here,*’ der de de de der. |  |  |
| 300 | My Mum and Dad have not spoken since er, my Dad found out I was pregnant. |  | Why? Blame? |
| 301 | And my Dad spoke to, he rang my Mum. |  |  |
| 302 | And spoke to my Mum as well, so that was like a breakthrough. |  | Facilitated a breakthrough, positives |
|  | Story 19 **The labour experience: the partner’s role** |  |  |
| 303 | And then I rang Leila’s Dad and he was at work. |  |  |
| 304 | Urm, well he was my boyfriend at that point. |  |  |
| 305 | I rang him, he was at work, er, he was working nights. |  |  |
| 306 | And I said, ‘I’m in hospital.’ |  |  |
| 307 | And he was like, *‘are you really definitely in labour then?’* |  | Direct speech – amplifiers within his speech |
| 308 | And I said, ‘yeah, I’m in hospital, I’m having gas and air.’ |  |  |
| 309 | ‘This baby is coming today.’ |  |  |
| 310 | And he’s like, *‘oh right, OK, do you want me to come?’* |  | Not previously discussed |
| 311 | And I was like, ‘well my Mum’s here.’ |  |  |
| 312 | He and my Mum had had like, my Mum was, just not accepting him, she didn’t want to know anything to do with him. |  |  |
| 313 | We’d had a few arguments about him. |  |  |
| 314 | She was like, *‘if he’s going to be there at the birth, I’m not going to be there.’* |  | Made to choose |
| 315 | So it was like a, that kind of situation. |  |  |
| 316 | And, urm, and he said, *‘do you want me to come?’* |  | Question as oppose to simply telling her |
| 317 | I said ‘my Mum’s here, my cousin is on her way and my Aunty’s coming.’ |  |  |
| 318 | ‘You can come, when you’ve finished work or whatever or, I’ll just let you know how I’ll get on.’ |  |  |
| 319 | Urm, and we spoke about half an hour. |  |  |
| 320 | And I’m going, ‘I hate you, this is all your fault’ (laugh), ‘I hate you this is all your fault, all this pain, it’s all your fault.’ |  | Joking together |
| 321 | Urm, I sort of said, right I’m off now. |  |  |
|  | Story 20 **Deviating from the birthing plan** |  |  |
| 322 | Urm, and then I went to have a shower and my waters broke. |  |  |
| 323 | And at this point my Mum and my cousin. |  |  |
| 324 | My Mum had left me at that point, she came back, she’d gone to pick up my cousin. |  |  |
| 325 | My cousin was there. |  | Supported |
| 326 | And my waters had broke and it was like this slimy gunk (laugh) | (laugh) | Entertaining descriptive- visual |
| 327 | And I’m thinking, this is not, how it happens in the movies. | (laugh) | Expectation  entertaining |
| 328 | It’s just like a slime. |  |  |
| 329 | This is not how it happens, nothing gushed out, it was just a slime. |  |  |
| 330 | Got out of the shower. |  |  |
| 331 | I remember the shower was really, really cold, it wasn’t hot enough. |  | Amplifier & repetition  Descriptive -sensory |
| 332 | And then urm, I put my pyjamas on, urm and got into the bed. |  |  |
| 333 | Planned all this stuff out. |  | Pre-planned birth |
| 334 | I was going to get in the birthing pool, and I was going to do this. |  |  |
| 335 | As soon as I got onto the bed, I was really comfortable |  | Deviation, responding to the experience  Amplifier -Descriptive-sensory |
| 336 | And they said *‘oh you know, you want to lean over and have an active birth.’* |  |  |
| 337 | *‘Because then it will be much easier, you’ll be in less pain.’* |  |  |
| 338 | But I got onto the bed and I was really comfortable, having my gas and air, it was fine. |  |  |
|  | Story 21 **three birthing partners** |  |  |
| 339 | Urm, my aunty came she drove from [name of town] and came, to came. |  | Support |
| 340 | And we were just chatting all night, Just chatting. |  |  |
| 341 | I don’t remember much. |  |  |
| 342 | I just know, oh, I’ll just chat. |  |  |
| 343 | They were short on midwives, I only had one midwife |  |  |
| 344 | And they said *‘she can only have two birthing partners’* |  | Addressed to who? Not to Sasha, why? |
| 345 | But she said because you’ve only got one midwife I’ll let you have your three family members. |  | Accommodating |
| 346 | It’s fine. |  |  |
| 347 | So yeah we’re all just sort of you know talking. |  |  |
|  | Story 22 **The birth: too late for the epidural** |  |  |
| 348 | And then it got to the point now. |  |  |
| 349 | Urm, they were feeding me ice chips as well. |  |  |
| 350 | I really wanted ice. |  | sensory |
| 351 | So I was eating a lot of ice cos, well I lent my lucazade and my ice and then my gas and air and that is what I was sort of rotating through. | (laugh) |  |
| 352 | My cousins feeding me ice, my Aunties talking to me, my Mum’s stood on her phone at the end of the bed. |  | Birth - Family experience |
| 353 | Urm and then the contractions were just getting stronger and stronger |  |  |
| 354 | And I think I was like, I wasn’t, I got to seven centimetres and it just wasn’t moving. |  |  |
| 355 | Then all of a sudden I said, right I want the epidural, I’m done, I’m finished. |  | Right – decision made  Epidural – deviation from plan |
| 356 | I think I had a shot of pethadin and it just didn’t do anything for me |  |  |
| 357 | I don’t remember what that felt like. |  |  |
| 358 | And I said, right, I want this epidural, I’m, I’ve had enough. |  | Decisive (also repeated in text) |
| 359 | So the midwife said *‘alright we’ll get the anaesthetist to come along and we’ll get all that sorted for you.’* |  |  |
| 360 | *‘Let me just check how far dilated you are.’* |  |  |
| 361 | *‘Oh no, you’re ten,*’ is it ten centimetres? *‘yes you’re ten centimetres, it’s too late the babies coming now.’* |  | A lot of direct speech – transported into the moment and indicates importance to Sasha |
| 362 | We’re like (shriek) *‘what? What do you mean? What do you mean?’* | (laugh) | dramatic |
| 363 | And everyone’s like *‘oh, oh dear.’* |  |  |
| 364 | And my aunties going *‘all no Sasha, no, you should have just had the epidural.’* |  | Direct speech |
| 365 | *‘I’ve done this three times, I told you.’* |  |  |
| 366 | *‘You should just have had the epidural, then you’re in and out’* |  |  |
| 367 | And then everyone was like *‘oh, oh no.’* |  |  |
|  | Story 23 **The birth: a family affair** |  |  |
| 368 | So, the contractions coming and I just went,’ ah, I need to push.’ |  | Natural? |
| 369 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 370 | And I could hear someone screaming, down the, urm, in another room in the hospital at one point. |  |  |
| 371 | ‘What’s she screaming for, drama queen.’ |  | entertaining |
| 372 | Urm, My aunty was videoing now, she’s videoing the birth. |  |  |
| 373 | And, I’d asked her to video it, prior to all this. | (laugh) |  |
| 374 | She’s videoing it and taking pictures, my cousin is holding my hand and feeding me ice, my Mum’s holding my other hand and I’m pushing. | (laugh) | Love that line, each has a role |
| 375 | And the midwife were like, *‘yeah, keep going, keep pushing, yeah.’* |  |  |
| 376 | And then, and then my cousin went, *‘ah Sasha, I can see the head.’* |  |  |
| 377 | And I went, ‘what? what do you mean you can see the head? stop lying to me.’ | (laugh) |  |
| 378 | And then urm, pushed the head out |  |  |
| 379 | And urm and then one second later the whole body just sort of flew out |  |  |
| 380 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 381 | And urm, the baby comes out. |  |  |
| 382 | My aunty comes over, she cut the umbilical cord |  |  |
| 383 | And my Mum just started crying. |  | Mum emotional |
|  | Story 24 **Hello Leila** |  |  |
| 384 | Urm, I’d sort of took, gave me the baby and said *‘oh just have some skin to skin contact.’* |  | bonding |
| 385 | And there’s this baby covered in white stuff (laugh). |  | Colouring of the new born? |
| 386 | Urm, she wasn’t covered actually, she was really, really clean. |  | Memory or active reconstruction. |
| 387 | And she came out. |  |  |
| 388 | It just looked, tiny little eyes, she looked like her Dad and my Dad. |  | Located within the family |
| 389 | She just, she just, really, really, really beautiful. |  | Repeated amplifier - emphasis |
| 390 | My Mum’s crying. |  |  |
| 391 | Urm, my Aunt is like going, *‘you’ve done it, you’ve done it.’* |  | achievement |
| 392 | My Aunty is talking to her doctor friend on the phone, *‘yeah she’s just done it, they’ve weighed her, she’s seven and a half pounds.’* |  | Pride  Sharing the good news |
| 393 | Seven point six? And that was the biggest baby in our family for I think fifty years. |  | pride |
| 394 | We, everyone has really small babies, |  | contrast |
| 395 | urm and she was really, really long. |  |  |
| 396 | Urm, really healthy. |  | Healthy (big, healthy and beautiful) |
| 397 | And then, I think everyone just sort of got her dressed into some clothes |  |  |
|  | Story 25 **Celebrating a successful birth** |  |  |
| 398 | And urm, I was just sort of recovering. |  |  |
| 399 | And my Aunty is going *‘you should have had the epidural you held on for too long’.* | (laugh) |  |
| 400 | *‘You’re really really strong, I couldn’t do that, I couldn’t do it, I’m just really proud of you, I can’t believe it.’* |  | Better pride achievement example direct speech |
| 401 | My Mum’s just in complete shock (laugh), she just can’t believe what’s gone on in front of her eyes. |  | Mum shock- emotional |
| 402 | And I told my Aunty delete the video, |  |  |
| 403 | And now, I must have been high off the gas and air. | Uh |  |
| 404 | Delete the video and now I’m like I want to see the video. |  | Regret that there isn’t a more objective cue to the ‘truth’ of the situation |
| 405 | I want to see what happened, | Ah, ah dear |  |
| 406 | But all I know is I never cried, I didn’t say I can’t do this. |  | Pride |
| 407 | Urm I found, it wasn’t that painful, it was quite easy, it. |  | Easy birth |
| 408 | I didn’t need any stitches or anything. |  |  |
|  | Story 26 **On second thoughts, no placenta milkshake** |  |  |
| 409 | I planned to keep the placenta and I was going to get it encapsulated or I was going to like cook it and have milk shakes out of it because it’s really good for you and all the celebrities do that. | (laugh) | Celebrities – youth culture?  ideal |
| 410 | But once it came out it looked like massive liver and ‘oh, take it away, take it away.’ | (laugh) | The reality deviates from the ideal |
|  | Story 27 **Celebrating with partner** |  |  |
| 411 | Urm I went up to the ward, so she was born at thirty eight minutes past four, urm, I went up to the ward at about six O’clock. |  | More details |
| 412 | Urm my Mum went home and my Aunty went home as well. |  |  |
| 413 | And my cousin stayed with me. |  |  |
| 414 | Urm my boyfriend came at about six O’clock, as soon as he’d finished work he came straight up. |  | Came straight away |
| 415 | Urm and he was, he just couldn’t believe it, he just couldn’t believe it |  | repetition |
| 416 | And he was just like, *‘I’m the happiest I’ve ever been’* |  | Direct speech – boyfriend also finds the birth of Leila special |
| 417 | And urm we all had a bit of a cry. |  | Shared emotional experience |
| 418 | He stayed until about ten O’clock and he was like, *‘OK, I have to go home and go to sleep and I’ll come back later on.’* |  |  |
|  | Story 28 **vulnerable Leila: a mother’s fears** |  |  |
| 419 | But I think Lei\*, Leila’s temperature was, lower, lower than it should be. |  | vulnerable |
| 420 | So they made us stay in hospital overnight. |  | Language of power |
| 421 | She was born at five O’clock in the morning and we stayed all day. |  |  |
| 422 | And they wouldn’t discharge me that night because her temperature wasn’t coming back up. |  | And again, though rational explanation is given |
| 423 | So she had like temperature mats or whatever, heating mats in her cot. |  | description of Sasha as dependent |
| 424 | I remember being really scared that night because the bed was so small and I have a double bed. |  | Protective, fearful Mum |
| 425 | And like I was just afraid that I was going to roll off because I was still a bit numb or I was going to drop her. |  | Fear/ protect |
| 426 | That’s what I kept thinking, that night, I wouldn’t let myself hold her for too long. |  | Daughter’s safety the overriding thought |
| 427 | And I remember just being really, really groggy and falling asleep while I was holding her |  |  |
| 428 | And I thought, no this is really dangerous, I need to put her down. | (laugh) | Responsible Mum even when tired |
|  | Story 29 **One experience of poor care** |  |  |
| 429 | Urm and, urm I thought the midwives were really nice. |  | Positive service  relationship |
| 430 | There was one really horrible midwife, she wasn’t a midwife she was a nurse. |  | One -Suggest minority, though redefined as nurse and no contrast offered |
| 431 | She was really negligent I think. |  | Poor care |
| 432 | I must of had like, I must have passed a really big, really big blood clot and I said ‘oh, I’m really worried.’ |  | This was significant |
| 433 | She didn’t even, she just walked past me, just ignored it. |  | Not expected level of care  No reassurance or promise of return |
| 434 | And I was in a lot of pain and I was wanted some pain, pain relief. |  |  |
| 435 | Took her ages and when she came she gave me paracetamol and that paracetamol did not suffice, not, doesn’t count. | (laugh) | too long  humorous delivery  need not met |
| 436 | Urm, so that was that. |  |  |
|  | Story 30 **Home via Tescos: Leila into the community** |  |  |
| 437 | Urm the next morning, the next morning we went home. |  |  |
| 438 | No we went home in the evening again. |  | Fact correcting again |
| 439 | We went home about six O’clock, the, that eve\* the second day we were in hospital. |  |  |
| 440 | And my Mum came to pick me up, my Mum and my Cousin and we went home. |  | supported |
| 441 | Well we went to Tesco first, because we needed something in Tesco |  |  |
| 442 | And that’s just like taboo in my culture. |  | Recognises a culture and one she perceives is likely to be different from her audience who? – Researcher. Reader, both? Perceived as minority culture? |
| 443 | Once you’ve had the baby you go straight home, the baby doesn’t come out of the house. |  | Perceived cultural assumption |
| 444 | Er, You don’t take your baby shopping and what not, while it’s really really small, it’s completely unacceptable. |  | Amplifiers around size- Leila Vulnerable?  Unacceptable – the use of this again in reference to a wider group (previously school)  Breaking the cultural |
| 445 | And I bumped into urm, one of my sort of, he’s like a really distant relative. |  | Credentials of belonging to the cultural group |
| 446 | And he’s like ‘*Oh, whose babies that?’And I said ‘*Oh mine.’ ‘*Oh really I didn’t know you were having a baby, oh congratulations*, *Oh she’s really beautiful.’* |  |  |
| 447 | *‘When was she born?* ‘ ‘Oh yeah at five O’clock.’ |  |  |
| 448 | No I must have, I don’t know if I did sleep over. |  |  |
| 449 | ‘Five O’clock yesterday in the morning’ and he’s like, ‘*what, you gave birth yesterday?* ‘ ‘Yeah, Yeah, I gave birth yesterday.’ |  |  |
| 450 | And he, he, he couldn’t believe it and he’s like, ‘*what are you doing in Tesco then?’*(laugh) | (laugh) | Illustration of breaking the taboo with direct speech  No apparent repercussions or shame associated with this one. A minor taboo? Also shielded by Mum here. Endorsed by someone who may be perceived to be more powerful than Sasha |
|  | Story 31 **Naming Leila: what would Grandma say** |  |  |
| 451 | Yeah, we went home and when we got home. |  |  |
| 452 | Urm, Oh this was, what’s the babies name? What’s the babies name? Nobody knew her name. |  |  |
| 453 | I decided she was going to be called Sadie. |  |  |
| 454 | But when she was born she didn’t look like a Sadie, she looked like an angel. |  | Spiritual |
| 455 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 456 | I thought I can’t call her Angel that’s just really chavy, you know. |  |  |
| 457 | When she’s sixteen and people ask her, her name, she like *‘oh it’s Angel,*’ they’re going to be like, *‘bloody hell.’* | (laugh) |  |
| 458 | Urm, If I call her Angel and then she grows up to be really, really naughty. | (laugh) | Entertaining rather than any serious constructions around this |
| 459 | It usually works out that way. | (laugh) |  |
| 460 | So I was like, Angelica, Sadie. |  |  |
| 461 | My Mum was calling her Mia (laugh), cos she liked that name, and I liked it too. | Yeah |  |
| 462 | We all called her Mia, but we thought, what’s Mia short for? |  |  |
| 463 | We just didn’t know and we thought she can’t just be called Mia, we can’t do that. |  | Need for formal/ traditional |
| 464 | And then we called her Millie, we really liked Millie, everyone liked Millie. |  |  |
| 465 | I said ‘well what’s Millie, what’s Millie short, what’s the sort of long name, what’s Millie short for.’ | (laugh) |  |
| 466 | ‘Oh I don’t know, I don’t know.’ |  |  |
| 467 | Urm, someone said Leila, ‘oh that’s a nice name, ah.’ |  |  |
|  | And we thought oh no not Leila and we tried to look for a name that had a really good meaning. |  |  |
| 468 | I wanted something really profound. | (laugh) | Thoughtful, spiritual? |
| 469 | Leila just means [name meaning], I just thought, well |  |  |
| 470 |  | Like her Mum |  |
| 471 | Yeah, I wanted something more like ‘purity’, whatever. | (laugh) | Moral? Or spiritual? |
| 472 | So I decided she was going to be called Aoke, a Japanese name. |  |  |
| 473 | Everyone is ‘oh right, Aoke (laugh). Why Aoke?’ |  |  |
| 474 | I was just, cos it’s nice and, Kimora Lee Simmons her daughter is called Aoke. |  | Celebrities – youth culture |
| 475 | That didn’t go well. |  | Family influence |
| 476 | And then we called her Kiomi, she was Kiomi for a, you know, few days. |  |  |
| 477 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 478 | Urm, so people came to see her, she was called Kiomi. |  |  |
| 479 | And then I’m going do you know what, my Grandma in the middle of Africa, when they say to her ‘*your Great Grand daughter has been born, she’s called Kiomi.’* |  |  |
| 480 | she’s going to be like, *‘what on earth, where did they find this name?’* |  | Acceptance from wider family  Located within the family |
| 481 | And I thought OK she’s called Leila. |  |  |
| 482 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 483 | So it’s not till she was a week old that she was called Leila. |  |  |
| 484 | I was going to call her Saskia as well. |  |  |
| 485 |  | (Laugh) |  |
| 486 | We had some really Wacky names going. |  |  |
| 487 | Um, yeah, she was called Leila. |  |  |
| 488 | And then I went and had her registered about a week later. |  |  |
|  | Story 32 **Too soon to leave Leila, can’t return to college** |  |  |
| 489 | And I was just sort of enthralled in her, I just sort of couldn’t keep my eyes off of her, she was just perfect. |  | Bonding |
| 490 | And I wouldn’t let anyone really hold her and I was just really glued to her. |  | Bonding |
| 491 | And, urm and then it was like, right, I need to go to college in like three weeks. |  |  |
| 492 | My Aunty came to visit. |  | family |
| 493 | Er my Mum’s got five sisters and her sister who lives in South Africa came to visit that Christmas. |  |  |
| 494 | So we had a really good Christmas. |  | Family = good Christmas (causal) |
| 495 | And my Uncle, who lives down South, he came and it was like a big family business. |  |  |
| 496 | And everyone saw Leila and it was just, it was really lovely. |  | Introduced, part of the family |
| 497 | And er, and then it was, sort of time to back to college. |  |  |
| 498 | And I was like, ‘well, I don’t want to go back.’ |  | A lot of direct speech (498-504) |
| 499 | ‘I can’t leave her, who am I going to leave her with.’ |  |  |
| 500 | ‘She can’t go to a child minders, she’s too young, no, I won’t leave her she’s too small.’ |  | Vulnerable  Leila dependent |
| 501 | My Mum’s like, My Auntie’s saying ‘*are you sure you want to go back Sasha, you know your feelings change when you have the baby. You’re just not going to want to go back’.* |  | Priority readjustment |
| 502 | I kind of said, ‘no, I don’t want to go back.’ |  |  |
| 503 | So my Mum said *‘alright, don’t go back, you don’t have to go back, but what are you going to do now?’* |  | Forcing direction/ focusing |
| 504 | ‘I don’t know, I don’t know.’ |  |  |
| 505 | So I sort of had this time when I’d just felt really lost, didn’t know what I was doing, where I was going. |  | Loss of direction – amplifier emphasises |
|  | Story 33 **The college didn’t care** |  |  |
| 506 | Urm college, again, I didn’t, I just didn’t go back for the first session, I didn’t go back for a full week. |  | Decision made |
| 507 | And then I just got urm, a letter in the post saying you didn’t return last week, you didn’t give us a reason why, we’ve withdrawn you from our course. |  | Formal letter response - rejection |
| 508 | Simple as that, no phone calls no, nothing. |  | Inadequate, breaks expected duty of care |
| 509 | There was like no phone calls or e-mails to say, *‘oh, have you had your baby, are you OK?’* none of that. |  |  |
| 510 | Urm, not even from college support services, nothing. |  |  |
| 511 | So I was like right, OK, well that’s fine. |  | Reactive? |
| 512 | Urm I can just go to either college in September or I’ll start looking for an apprenticeship. |  |  |
| 513 | Urm, so I thought, oh, I’ll look for apprenticeships. |  | Decision making, assertive |
| 514 | And it, was it March? March, I was looking really actively, |  |  |
| 515 | Urm, Leila was still young but I thought I need to start looking now and I’ll find something. |  | Replace direction/ prove self? |
|  | Story 34 **Baby blues** |  |  |
| 516 | I was, I’d got, got to the point where there was like, weeks when I wouldn’t leave the house. |  | Loss of motivation? |
| 517 | I didn’t leave the house for like three weeks at a time and I just saw nothing wrong with it. |  | Implication she does now. Change in construction - unhealthy |
| 518 | I just didn’t want to leave the house. |  | Unqualified |
| 519 |  | hm |  |
| 520 | And my Mum was like, *‘no, don’t fall into that trap, you need to go out.’* |  | Mum safeguarding daughters best interest  advise |
| 521 | *‘Whether you’re going to baby group or whether you’re just going into town or just walking to the shop. Or you’re just going somewhere, you need to get out of the house.’* |  |  |
| 522 | ‘*Or maybe go and see your friends, you know you can’t stay in the house all the time.’* |  | In light of the change in construction – Mum was right |
|  | Story 35 **The interview: Omitting the motherhood** |  |  |
| 523 | Urm, and then I found this job, which is an apprenticeship. |  | Assertive – no mention of assistance, certainly not supported by college |
| 524 | And I gave my interview and, you know, and, it went really well. |  | Positive appraisal of own performance |
| 525 |  | Um |  |
| 526 | *‘Tell us about yourself*’ and all this and err. |  |  |
| 527 | I didn’t tell them the fact that I was a teen Mum. |  | Hiding – fear of discrimination? |
| 528 | Cos I thought, actually when ever I’ve had a really bad experience at college, when I’ve told them I was pregnant. |  |  |
| 529 | It’s just, you could just see the disappointment. |  | Still affected by this  Perception/ Construction – College where disappointed in her |
| 530 | And they just, you know, they didn’t treat me the same way as they did before that. |  | discrimination |
| 531 | So urm, I didn’t tell them anything. |  |  |
| 532 | Urm, I got the job and er, sort of said, *‘right, we need to sign you next week.’* |  |  |
|  | Story 36 **A child minder for Lelia** |  |  |
| 533 | Leila was four months old then, I was still breastfeeding |  | Age – too young?  dependent |
| 534 | And I was like, ‘right OK what do I do?, What am I going to do?’ |  |  |
| 535 | My Mum was working, back to working full time now. |  | Loss of potential support/ baby sitter |
| 536 | Who was going to look after Leila? What am I going to do? |  | Child care problem |
| 537 | Found a child minder, urm, sort of nearby and we went to see her and she said, *‘yeah, yeah, I can look after her, yeah, yeah.’* |  |  |
| 538 | She seemed alright. |  | Do you want to leave your baby with someone why seems just ‘alright’? |
| 539 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 540 | I thought OK, we couldn’t really do settling in sessions, so she did about two to three sort of mornings and stay and play |  |  |
| 541 | She was still like a small baby, I was just weaning her then. |  | Vulnerable/ dependent |
| 542 | Urm and she started going to the child minders and I started this job. |  | Separated |
|  | Story 37 **Attempting to stop breast feeding: the child minder’s request** |  |  |
| 543 | Things were starting to go well but at the child minder was saying, *‘right you need to stop breast feeding now because it’s really difficult, I can’t get her to drink formula milk, she won’t drink out of the bottle.’* |  | Not drinking formula milk  Directed on Motherhood related decision |
| 544 | *‘She’s just not drinking anything and I can get her to eat, but she doesn’t eat very well either.’* |  |  |
| 545 | *‘She’s only, she’s only small, she shouldn’t really be eating meals.’* |  |  |
| 546 | And like we just noticed Leila went from being this really happy baby to, we’d pick her up and she’d sort of be snotty, you could tell she’d cried all day, she was just really unhappy, |  | Unhappy Leila |
| 547 | Urm, she’d be really hungry, you could tell she’d not eaten all day, well she’s not eaten much. |  |  |
| 548 | And urm, that was really stressing me out at that point, but I couldn’t stop breast feeding her because she wasn’t accepting the bottle. |  | Concern – wellbeing of child  Caring |
| 549 | It was really hard to stop breastfeeding because she’s not accepting the bottle |  | Tried to stop breast feeding - responsible  Repetition - reinforces struggle |
| 550 | And I felt bad because I’m at work all day, that’s the only thing that she has to familiarise with me. |  | Bond  Worried about breaking the bond |
| 551 | So I continued breast feeding, sort of got it down to mornings and evenings. |  | Reduced but continued breast feeding |
|  | Story 38 **Unhappy Lelia: inadequate child care** |  |  |
| 552 | And urm, and then we moved house. |  | Moving house |
| 553 | We moved from [area name 1] to [area name 2] and it was sort of time to say good bye to this child minder. |  |  |
| 554 | We’d just sort of all realised, we thought that what if she’s got allergies to the dog, we just tried to figure out why is Leila so unhappy. |  | Solution finding |
| 555 | And then we sort of realised that she doesn’t like the environment that she’s in. |  |  |
| 556 | She’s always cold when we pick her up, and she’s really snotty and she’s just not being looked after properly. |  | Construction that the unhappiness is due to poor care |
|  | Story 39 **New child care: extending the family** |  |  |
| 557 | Urm I found a new child minder. |  |  |
| 558 | Urm, and that was like fate, because when I went to see the child minder, she said *‘oh, what’s your daughter called?’* |  | Spiritual construct |
| 559 | ‘Lelia’, *‘Oh right, my daughter is called Leila and this one here is called Leila.’* | (laugh) |  |
| 560 | One of the kids she looks after, another girl, there’s two Leila’s there already. | (laugh) |  |
| 561 | The setting was really, the environment was really good. |  | Contrast with rejection of environment (555) |
| 562 | And, urm, I don’t know if we bonded well as well, because she’s black as well and she’s urm, Jamaican, Caribbean decent. |  | Racial identity |
| 563 | And so we just sort of, it was like a home, from home. |  | Home/ family |
| 564 | And urm, Leila went, she didn’t need a single settling in session. |  |  |
| 565 | She just went the following month, no she went on the Friday. |  |  |
| 566 | I gave her Leila’s book, for the child minder to say just sort of learn her routine and what she’s like. |  | Responsible Mum |
| 567 | I dropped her off that day, she didn’t call me all day to say we have a problem or anything. |  |  |
| 568 | Leila settled in really well, they just gelled. |  |  |
| 569 | I’ve never had any problems since, she loves going there, she calls her Aunty. |  | Family  happy |
| 570 | And because they’ve had her from such a young age, she’s just |  |  |
| 571 |  | So how old was she when she started there? |  |
| 572 | She was about, about five months, four and a half months, five months. |  |  |
| 573 |  | Yep |  |
| 574 | Yeah |  |  |
| 575 | And she just gelled in really well, |  |  |
| 576 | I think she was the youngest baby they’d ever had. |  |  |
| 577 | And so she’s their baby. |  | family |
| 578 | Even today she just loves going there, she calls them both Aunty. |  |  |
| 579 | It’s a home from home and they’re really supportive. |  | Repeats this – enjoys this construct |
| 580 | Whenever I’ve had anything going on in my life, they’re really supportive. |  |  |
|  | Story 40: **The apprenticeship: opening doors** |  |  |
| 581 | So Urm, I started working and then I think I started the apprenticeship framework and that was urm, business admin. |  |  |
| 582 | And I thought oh, I don’t really want to be a business administrator but it can open doors, it can open a lot of doors. |  | Practical consideration |
| 583 | And I started the job it was really exciting, I was doing some really good things and I thought, oh I’m really, really enjoying this, I was really happy, |  | Enjoyment, doing something |
| 584 | Urm, yeah, kept working didn’t really have any problems. |  |  |
|  | Story 41 **Boy trouble: Not father material** |  |  |
| 585 | I was going through a lot of problems with my boyfriend, at the time |  | Boy trouble |
| 586 | Urm, and I just couldn’t see eye to eye with him on seeing his daughter or supporting me financially. |  | Lack of financial support |
| 587 | Just the relationship just sort of went sour. |  |  |
| 588 | And I was just finding it really hard to sort of get some sort of co-parenting thing going on. |  | Joint parenting – difficult |
| 589 | Urm, it’s still the same today (laugh). |  | Present time |
| 590 | And, Urm, Yeah, we just continued going on. |  |  |
|  | Story 42 **Tensions with Mum: The rent** |  |  |
| 591 | Urm, it got to the point where I felt like I think I want to move out. |  |  |
| 592 | Because my Mum and I were clashing over a few things. |  | tension |
| 593 | I thought oh I think I want to move out. |  |  |
| 594 | Urm, basically my Mum was asking me to pay board, which was fine, I’d always paid board. |  |  |
| 595 | But now I’d started working she wanted something like three hundred and something a month. |  |  |
| 596 | And I was only on an apprentice wage, I was only earning seven hundred pounds a month. |  | Low income |
| 597 | So for me it was like, I’m not going to work all month so that I can give you all my wages, you know, give you half my wages. |  |  |
| 598 | I just thought no, I have friends that live with their parents and they don’t pay anything. |  | Comparison - fairness |
| 599 | My Dad was like, you shouldn’t be paying anything, don’t give her any more money, don’t, you shouldn’t be paying anything. |  | Ally - validates unfairness |
| 600 | If you lived with me I wouldn’t ask you for anything, I’d just ask you to help me around the house. |  | Different type of contribution |
| 601 | Things with my Mum went sour |  |  |
|  | Story 43 **Tensions with Mum: Domestic violence** |  |  |
| 602 | Urm, and then sort of on the twelfth of November we had like a really big altercation. |  |  |
| 603 | She got really violent in front of Leila. |  | Violent in front of daughter – priority consideration |
| 604 | And she was sort of hitting me and throwing me out |  |  |
| 605 | And urm, yeah, that day she sort of kicked me out. |  | Didn’t really mean it? |
| 606 | *‘I don’t want you in the house anymore.’* |  | Told to leave |
| 607 | So I just picked up my stuff, got my coat on, got my shoes on, got Leila’s bag ready, took her pram and we just left. |  | Leave home with Leila - instantly |
| 608 | We went straight to [name of community support group] and told them, my Mum’s kicked me out, this is what’s happened. |  | assertive |
| 609 | You could just see visual bruises all over my body, it was, it was, really horrible. |  | Evidence extent of violence |
| 610 |  | Um |  |
| 611 | Horrible altercation. |  | Emotional language |
| 612 | And urm, I stayed in hospital that night. |  |  |
| 613 | And then next day they put me up in sort of temporary accommodation |  |  |
| 614 | And I stayed there from November till January. |  |  |
|  | Story 44 **Extending the olive branch: failed attempt at reconciliation** |  |  |
| 615 |  | Um |  |
| 616 | I didn’t speak to my Mum, until Christmas eve. |  |  |
| 617 | This sort of kept going back and forth with different family members sort of trying to get involved and trying to diffuse the situation, trying to get us back together. |  | Interventions- family |
| 618 | This happened, I think four days before Leila’s birthday. |  |  |
| 619 | Leila’s birthday was on Saturday and this happened on Monday. |  |  |
| 620 | Urm, on Leila’s birthday, I had like a meal at Nandos and I invited all the family. |  |  |
| 621 | Everyone came, from [city name] and [town name] and then my Aunty that lives in [city name 2] she came. |  |  |
| 622 | Er, Leila’s Dad was there and I thought do you know what, I’ll just extend the olive branch to my Mum. |  | Leila intervention, Leila inspired reunion and peace/ tolerance |
| 623 | I rang her and said, ‘you know, you can come, it’s Leila’s birthday we’re doing this, do you want to come?’ |  |  |
| 624 | And she said *‘oh, OK I’ll try and make it, I’ll finish work.’* |  |  |
| 625 | Came to it, she didn’t come but she sent my cousin with my little brother. |  |  |
| 626 | So she sent representatives but she couldn’t come to her own daught\*, granddaughter’s first birthday. |  |  |
| 627 | So for me that stuck with me and I just couldn’t get over it, couldn’t get back past it, so we just didn’t talk at all, we did not talk. |  | Emphasis on this |
|  | Story 45 **Repercussions and explanations: Social services become involved** |  |  |
| 628 | Social services got involved because they obviously found out, you know. |  | Enter social services |
| 629 | Urm, my manager reported the whole incident to safeguarding because my brother lives with my Mum and sort of they were fearing for his safety. |  |  |
| 630 | If she can beat me so violently, what’s to stop her from doing it to him |  | Potential threat to brother? |
| 631 | And the whole thing had started because, I don’t know, He has sort of upsets in the mornings and he, you know carries on a bit. |  |  |
| 632 | And she hit him, which was, I just thought it was unacceptable. |  | Unacceptable tends to carry a moral |
| 633 | ‘And why have you hit him for? It’s not going to make him, you’re just going to make it worse and why did you have to hit him with that kind of force?’ |  |  |
| 634 | And she’s, *‘oh, why are you questioning me?’* |  | Mother/ daughter relationship Power challenged. |
| 635 | Then it just sort of escalated from there on. |  |  |
| 636 | So that was, that was reported to safeguarding, social services got involved. |  |  |
| 637 | And then it sort of became like a child protection case with my little brother because he’s autistic. |  |  |
| 638 | And then with him being disabled and my Mum not coping and then the violence, they are like, ‘is he really safe to be at home, is he really safe?’ |  | Mum not coping |
| 639 | And she couldn’t forgive me, she couldn’t, she didn’t even want to think about me because she thought well Sasha has reported me to social services. |  | Mum Feels betrayed |
| 640 | I didn’t actually report her to social services. |  |  |
| 641 | I didn’t report her to the police because I didn’t want anything to happen to my brother. |  | Repercussions? Worse fate? |
| 642 | But it was just sort of out of my hands, nothing I could do about it. | Um | Happier place to be, absolves responsibility |
|  | Story 46 **A Christmas reconciliation** |  |  |
| 643 | Fast forward to Christmas eve, it just sort of came to the point of Christmas |  |  |
| 644 | And now at this point my Mum was like really depressed and she was just, like I don’t know how I can go through Christmas without you there. | ‘And now at this point my Mum was like really depressed and she was just, like I don’t know how I can go through Christmas without you there.’ (644)  ‘She’s never, ever had, since I was born, we’ve never had a Christmas apart, we’ve never.’ (645) | More affected than usually? |
| 645 | She’s never, ever had, since I was born, we’ve never had a Christmas apart, we’ve never. |  | Always had Christmas together |
| 646 | Urm, she split up with my Dad when I was about five. |  |  |
| 647 | And then my Dad moved to Australia when I was eight. |  |  |
| 648 | So I’ve never ever had a Christmas without my Mum. |  |  |
| 649 | And she sort of, sort of apologised in her sort of way. |  | ‘Sort of’ x3  Just about enough of an indication of an apology |
| 650 | And I was due to go and spend Christmas with other family members in Leicester, my Dad’s side of the family |  |  |
| 651 | And that was just alien to me, I just thought, this is really weird. |  | Too strange  Christmas a time for tradition and tradition is Mum |
| 652 | I don’t know how I’m going to do it and urm, I just didn’t end up going. |  |  |
| 653 | I stayed at home and I went home for Christmas. |  | Two separate homes? Home where she’s living with Leila and home as in the family home |
| 654 | And urm, sort of things changed and slowly, slowly, slowly we sort of, built up that relationship. |  | Emphasis on it being a long process building the relationship back up |
|  | Story 47 **Social services: The positive narrative** |  |  |
| 655 | With social services being involved, she received the support that she needed so that she could help my brother. |  |  |
| 656 | I spoke with urm, my brother’s social worker, she’s upstairs [in the building we were conducting the interview] |  |  |
| 666 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 667 | And urm she was just sort of, she spoke to me just as she spoke to my Mum and she told me the sort of things that she’s said to my Mum. |  |  |
| 668 | Just like *‘your Mum needs to be thankful for you, because you basically raised Kaleb from being small, you took that onto your responsibilities.’* |  |  |
| 669 | *‘So when it came and you got pregnant you just kept doing the same thing and then it just got to the point where you just couldn’t take anymore.’* |  |  |
| 670 | *‘You just didn’t want to, you just couldn’t continue.’* |  |  |
| 671 | And then that was the case. |  | Accepted as truth |
|  | Story 48 **The Healing Process** |  |  |
| 672 | Urm, I had to go through, I think my manager referred me to occupational help. |  | Supportive manager |
| 673 | And I went through something like an NLP counselling type thing. |  |  |
| 674 | And that was the way I got over the whole, sort of incident. |  | NLP beneficial |
| 675 | Because it was giving me nightmares and sort of. |  | Impact of relationship loss/damage |
| 676 |  | right |  |
| 677 | It was really sort of getting me down. |  |  |
| 678 | Whenever I think about my Mum, I’d just burst into tears. |  | impact |
| 679 | I just couldn’t. |  |  |
| 680 |  | Yeah |  |
| 681 | I couldn’t function. |  | pervasive |
| 682 | And umm so that really helped, sort of forgetting, it just sort of removed the pain from what happened. |  | Coping mechanism, emotional detachment |
| 683 | And this, this has got to be like the first time I’m taking about it since all of that stuff happened and since moving past it. |  | Now in a position to be able to talk about it |
| 684 | So yeah umm, I moved past that. |  |  |
|  | Story 49 **Moving and stability for Lelia** |  |  |
| 685 | So I was homeless from November till January. |  | Homeless identiy |
| 686 | The temporary accommodation was basically a hostel, like a self contained hostel |  |  |
| 687 | And urm, I moved into another temporary accommodation. |  | Another move |
| 688 | Er, which was, it was closer to the child minders house now. |  |  |
| 689 | Cos I never wanted to sort of remove Leila out of the child minders. |  |  |
| 690 | I was going to send her to nursery sort of at the end of this road |  |  |
| 691 | But I thought with all that’s going on she needs some sort of normality. |  | Positioning as Good parent |
| 692 | She needs to keep something, which is her old routine, she needs to keep some sort of normality. |  | Repetition – emphasis concern that Leila has experienced disruption |
|  | Story 50 **Travel and the working Mum: Exhaustion** |  |  |
| 693 | Because I’d sort, it was really difficult. |  |  |
| 694 | I’d leave, urm, the flat where we were staying. |  |  |
| 695 | It was a really horrible flat, in a really bad area. |  | Housing/ environmental issues |
| 696 | You’d find needles on the floor outside |  |  |
| 697 |  | right |  |
| 698 | Sort of a red light district. |  |  |
| 699 | It was really horrible, mice in the apartment. |  |  |
| 700 | Urm, it was just, it was just really horrible. |  |  |
| 701 | And so we’d leave there at seven O’clock in the morning. |  |  |
| 702 | I’d go from there to the opposite side of [city name], drop Leila off at the child minders. |  |  |
| 703 | And once I’d dropped her off, then I’d make my way to work. |  |  |
| 704 | By the time I’d get to work it’s about nine O’clock. |  |  |
| 705 | I didn’t have a car then, I was still in my driving lesson. |  | dependency |
| 706 | I could barely afford to do my driving lessons. |  |  |
| 707 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 708 | And I’d finished work here at five, go pick Leila up half five and then we’d have to go back into town again and get a bus out of town to go home. |  |  |
| 709 | We wouldn’t get home until about half six, seven O’clock. |  |  |
| 710 | So I was just exhausted. |  |  |
| 711 |  | Yeah |  |
|  | Story 51 **Support, housing and regaining normality** |  |  |
| 712 | So then, when I found this other temporary accommodation. |  |  |
| 713 | At this point now I was being supported by [acronym of organisation] |  | support |
| 714 | I don’t know if you’ve heard of them, through [place name] housing. |  |  |
| 715 | Urm, got a really good support worker from [acronym of organisation], Sophie |  | Appreciated support |
| 716 | And she sort of helped me, since last year November. |  |  |
| 717 | And Er, they moved me into their sort of project in [Area 1] and that’s the [name of project] |  |  |
| 718 | And it was just so convenient because, their apartment block is all brand new, it’s all very clean. |  |  |
| 719 | It’s in a really good area and it was at the top of the child minders street. |  |  |
| 720 | So I regained some normality. |  |  |
| 721 | I was bidding for houses and trying to get sort of like a council house. |  |  |
| 722 | I finally got a house in [Area 1] |  |  |
| 723 | And that was urm, that was sort of behind my Mum’s street. |  |  |
| 724 | Which was fine now. |  | Relationship change |
|  | Story 52 **Moving out and the positive impact on Mum** |  |  |
| 725 | We’d worked through our issues and I was supporting her into standing on her own feet. |  | Support but promoting independence rather than maintaining |
| 726 |  | Yeah |  |
| 727 | Not having me around, looking after Kaleb and coping with it. |  |  |
| 728 |  | Um |  |
| 729 | As she was just sort of making do, she was trying. |  |  |
| 730 | She’d, she’s changed from the way that she was back then, she’d completely changed. |  |  |
| 731 | I think because she’d never expected me to react the way that I did. |  |  |
| 732 | She never expected me to move out. |  |  |
| 733 | She never expected me to stay moved out. |  | X 4 repeat, significance of family expectation |
| 734 | She thought I’d come home after a few days. |  |  |
| 735 | She just never expected any of it. |  |  |
| 736 | Urm, I don’t think any of my family thought I was strong enough to do any of that. |  | Interpretation of strength |
| 737 | But urm, so yeah, I found a house, urm I moved into this house on the twentieth of February. |  |  |
| 738 | I’ve been there ever since. |  |  |
| 739 | Urm, nice two bed house and I’ve got a front garden and back garden. There’s lots of space for Leila to play in |  | The good Mum identity – considering Leila’s needs |
|  | Story 53 **Financial hardship, support and gaining financial independence** |  |  |
| 740 | And that’s where more problems came again because I’m coming out of temporary accommodation, where you’ve got furniture and everything’s there. | (laugh) | Financial needs |
| 741 | You just bring your clothes and go about your business. |  |  |
| 742 | To somewhere where it’s completely empty, there’s no furniture at all. |  |  |
| 743 | Urm, so Sophie helped me, she applied through, lots of different sort of charities for funding to get me a cooker and a washer and fridge. |  | Acknowledged dependency |
| 744 | I had a TV, that had been given by my boyfriend |  |  |
| 745 | And, urm, getting a bed. |  |  |
| 746 | So urm, it just seemed like every month I’d get my wages and go buy a bed, or go buy this and mass bedding and go buy this and buy that and then I’d be skint again. | (laugh), (laugh) |  |
| 747 | And we’d just roll over. |  | Just about getting by |
| 748 | It’s only just now that I’m sort of, financially standing up on my own two feet. |  | independent |
| 749 | Because I can, I’ve got everything that I need now, I’m just trying to, balance off. |  |  |
|  | Story 54 **Qualifications, competencies and frustrations** |  |  |
| 750 | Urm and yeah, and then, so I’m now I’ve done my first year of the business admin qualification. |  |  |
| 751 | Urm, so I did the level two qualification and now I’ve doing the level three qualification. |  |  |
| 752 | And er, I was kind of disappointed when I started, wanted to start on level three. |  | Was this an appropriate level to start at? |
| 753 | But they said *‘this is your first office job, you might not have the competencies that you would for level three’.* |  | Might not? How did they assess Sasha’s competencies? How did they ensure that she was working at the highest level she was capable of doing? |
| 754 |  | Right |  |
| 755 | ‘*So it’s best to start from level two’.* |  | Best for whom? |
| 756 | I thought well, what harm can it do, so I started level two. |  |  |
| 757 | I’ve completed that and I’m on the level three |  |  |
|  | Story 55 **Education and career decisions** |  |  |
| 758 | And I’m thinking about going to university next September, when I’ve sort of finished this, to do business management. |  | Practical |
| 759 | Actually, I don’t want to do business management, I want to go do fashion marketing. |  | Aspirational |
| 760 | But it’s a little bit difficult going from business management to fashion marketing. | (laugh) | Acknowledges difficult to transfer |
| 761 | Cos now I’m at the stage where I’ve worked here for over a year now |  |  |
| 762 | And I just thought this is not what I want to do for the rest of my life. |  |  |
| 763 | This is just not, I, I enjoy it sometimes. |  |  |
| 764 | Urm, before I thought I’ll be a teacher, I’ll go do business management and then I’ll go do the teacher training, |  |  |
| 765 | I think I could really enjoy that. |  |  |
| 766 | But then I though what subject would I teach? |  |  |
| 767 | And probably I wouldn’t want to teach in school I’d like to work for the local authority. |  |  |
| 768 | But you can’t always get jobs in those capacities without that teacher training. |  | Perceived barrier? |
| 769 | And I’ve always, er, I was really artistic at school. |  |  |
| 770 | My teachers were shocked that I didn’t take art at A-level. | (Laugh) |  |
| 771 | Urm so what I want to do is go back into that and maybe be an art teacher. |  |  |
| 772 | or maybe not be an art teacher but go and design clothes and do something that I love. |  |  |
| 773 | Because | So are you thinking secondary teaching? |  |
| 774 | Yeah, definitely secondary teaching. |  |  |
| 775 | Urm, because we work a lot with schools but I don’t want to sit in an office nine till five. |  |  |
| 776 |  | Um hm |  |
| 777 | I don’t want to sit in an office nine till five. |  |  |
|  | Story 56 **Regrets and resolve: Spending more time with Leila** |  |  |
| 778 | I find it really difficult balancing work and the learning side of it and then my home life as well. |  | Definitely sympathise with this. |
| 779 | Because there’s always something going on at home. |  |  |
| 780 | There’s always something that I’ve got to think about. |  |  |
| 781 | Urm, I work full time as well, urm, thirty seven hours a week and I just find it harder and harder and harder as I go on. |  |  |
| 782 | Because I feel like Leila, she turns two next month, I just, I don’t see her often. |  | Conflict between work, study and mum commitments |
| 783 | I see her on a night when I picked her up from the child minders. |  |  |
| 784 | We go home, cook tea, bath time, bedtime. |  |  |
| 785 | Next morning, get dressed, you’re off to the child minders again |  |  |
| 786 | And then on the weekend it’s the only time I have sort of have anything social. |  |  |
| 787 | So I want to leave her with someone so I can go and get on with things that I can’t do during the week. |  |  |
| 788 | And I’m just, I’m not spending a lot of time with her. |  |  |
| 789 | I feel like a bit guilty for that. |  | Feeding the Bad Mum identity |
| 790 | And we, I’d like to get my hours changed to term time only but I don’t know how I’d do urm, financially. |  | Wanting to prioritise motherhood. Conflicting with monetary needs |
| 791 | I’d like to either reduce my hours to thirty hours a week, so I could pick her up from. |  |  |
| 792 | She might start nursery in, when she turns two, if I can get the fifteen year, er, fifteen hour offer, two year. |  |  |
| 793 | Then she’ll start nursery and I’d like to be the one who picks her up. |  |  |
| 794 |  | Um |  |
| 795 | After school and speaks to the teachers and finds out, how did she do today? How did this happen? Was she good? Was she? You know. |  |  |
| 796 | That, those are the kind of things I feel I miss out on. |  |  |
| 797 | She use to go to playgroup every Friday, urm and she just learnt so much. |  |  |
| 798 | And I felt I’ve never been able to go to playgroup, I’ve never been able to be there. |  | Regret than work has impacted on this |
| 799 | So part of me regrets not staying off for that early, until September when I went into work. |  |  |
| 800 | Like I should have got a part time job maybe and gone to college in September. |  |  |
| 801 | And done something that I would have enjoyed. |  |  |
| 802 |  | Um |  |
| 803 | And still had that time to look after Leila and watch her grow up. |  | A proper maternity leave |
| 804 | As oppose to going straight into work and just being bombarded with everything. |  |  |
| 805 | Urm and I’m looking at going back into full time education and dropping the work aspect. |  |  |
| 806 | I don’t feel like I need lots of money I just want to spend time with my daughter and watch her grow up. |  | Prioritising the Mum |
|  | Story 57 **Pregnancy scare and relationship with partner** |  |  |
| 807 | Urm a few months ago, I think, was it a few months, in July, I had a miscarriage, |  | Fact verifying |
| 808 | Urm, and that was like, the terror was not in the miscarriage itself, it was in finding out I was pregnant. |  |  |
| 809 | I felt what on earth am I going to do? How am I going to manage this? |  | Open questions  Overwhelmed, only just coping with the workloads |
| 810 |  | Hm |  |
| 811 | I’m basically a single parent now, I don’t, I get barely, I get minimum support from my ex. |  | Financial? Practical? both |
| 812 | He, at that point we were still together. |  |  |
| 813 |  | Hm |  |
| 814 | I was getting minimum support. |  | Repetition – emphasis on insufficient support |
| 815 | How am I going to tell him? I don’t know how this is going to work at all. |  | Worry around telling the partner. |
|  | Story 58 **Trauma and coping strategies** |  |  |
| 816 | And then a few weeks later I miscarried and sort of that was traumatic in itself. |  | Emotional distress |
| 817 |  | Absolutely |  |
| 818 | And I kept working, I worked through it, kept working. |  |  |
| 819 | I was in the hospital in the morning, came back to work in the afternoon. |  | Continues accounting for time – no break |
| 820 | And I feel like I perhaps should have took those two weeks off. |  | Doesn’t know how to stop? Use to juggling commitments. Have to keep going or everything falls |
| 821 | I should have took a week off or a few days off. |  |  |
| 822 | Just to centre myself and recover fully. |  |  |
| 823 | Cos still emotionally I feel like, I’m just waiting for the next big thing to happen. |  | Stress current |
| 824 | Urm like, I, I know that I definitely do have some form of depression. |  | reactive rather than clinical?  Emotional vulnerability |
| 825 | And I think it’s hard, (laugh) with everything I’ve been through recently. |  |  |
| 826 | It’s hard not to go through it. |  |  |
| 827 | Urm, I just sort of probably need to make a doctor’s appointment and speak to someone about it. |  |  |
|  | Story 59 **Revelation and Freedom: the partner’s double life** |  |  |
| 828 | And urm, a month ago, was it September? |  |  |
| 829 | Well I broke up with Leila’s Dad. |  |  |
| 830 | Sort of after five years of being together. |  |  |
| 831 |  | Yeah |  |
| 832 | On and off and what not. |  |  |
| 833 | We broke up in July. |  |  |
| 834 | After I had this miscarriage and I told him about it. |  |  |
| 835 | And a few weeks later we broke up. |  |  |
| 836 | And I just sort of said that, ‘that feeling I had when I found out I was pregnant was scared of telling you.’ |  |  |
| 837 | ‘And how am I going to go on? And do I really want to be with you for the rest of my life?’ |  | Questioning - uncertainty |
| 838 | Urm, sort of we split up there and that was that. |  |  |
| 839 | And then a month ago he told me, oh in fact he’s having another baby. |  |  |
| 840 | And in fact for the past two years, whilst I’ve been raising his daughter he’s been seeing somebody else |  | Partner- betrayal |
| 841 | And they’ve moved in together and they’re having a baby. |  |  |
| 842 | So that’s like, so that’s a big blow for me. | Yeah |  |
| 843 | And I just feel like, urm, knocked the wind out of my sail, I just feel that that knocks me down. |  | Metaphor - emotional impact |
| 844 | So that has completely changed where I saw myself in five years |  | Impact - revelation |
| 845 |  | Yeah |  |
| 846 | It’s changed my perception of who I want to be and what I want to do. |  | Reconsidering aspirations |
| 847 | It’s changed education wise. |  |  |
| 848 | Before I was like I’m going to be a teacher and get a stable job and I’ll do this. |  | Teacher??? Practical? Aspirational? |
| 849 | And I’ll buy a house and I’ll do it this way and I’ll do all that. |  |  |
| 850 | And now I feel like I’ve been living this life because I want to be stable and build a family. |  | Motivation - Obligation to family |
| 851 | And, you know, move in together and things will change and we’ll do this. |  |  |
| 852 | And now I’m like, well now that’s never going to happen. |  |  |
| 853 | Not with him anyway, it’s never going to happen. |  |  |
| 854 | Why am I sort of pushing myself to be in a dead end job if, that’s not what I want any more? |  | Interpretation of dead end job? Teacher or business admin/ office job?  Rediscovery of own interests wishes |
| 855 | I want to go out and do something exciting, something that I’m going to enjoy |  | Interest based aspiration |
| 856 | Because I’ve realised life is too short for me to spend time thinking about my future and planning ahead. |  |  |
| 857 | I just want to, I just want to completely change what I’m doing. |  |  |
|  | Story 60 **Unsupported: the life of a single Mum** |  |  |
| 858 | Urm and I still struggle getting him to see his daughter. |  |  |
| 859 | We argue every few weeks, are you picking her up this weekend? | Um |  |
| 860 | *‘Oh no I’m busy I’ve got football.’* |  |  |
| 861 | For me that’s like, I’m busy I’ve got football, excuse me, what do you think I do? |  |  |
| 862 | *‘Oh I can’t pick her up while I’m going to college and going to work.’* |  |  |
| 863 | And I’m like, ‘so what do you think I do during the week? What do you think I do?’ |  |  |
| 864 | Urm, I think the challenges as a single Mum are just greater than being a young Mum itself. |  | Single Mum identity  Single Mum versus young Mum |
| 865 | It just piles it on you even more because you don’t have someone to change their nappies when you. | (laugh) |  |
| 866 | You know, you might need a little lie in on a Saturday morning. |  |  |
| 867 | You don’t have someone who’s going to change nappies and make breakfast, hold the fort down. |  | Lack of Practical support |
| 868 | You don’t have someone who’s going to support you financially. |  | Lack of Financial support |
| 869 | You think oh you’ve had a bad month and you need to do this. |  |  |
| 870 | There’s not going to be someone who is going to fill in those gaps. |  |  |
| 871 | So I think the challenges are much greater. |  | Perception that Mums in relationships receive financial and practical support from their partners. |
|  | Story 61 **Betrayal, freedom and a sign from God** |  |  |
| 872 | But I feel like, I don’t know where I’m going to be in five years from now. |  |  |
| 873 | I’m not going to be here and I’m going to do something that I enjoy. |  |  |
| 874 | Yeah | And is that a freedom in a way for you to feel |  |
| 875 | I, from finding out that he’s having another baby and he’s | (laugh) |  |
| 876 | I felt betrayal, saw red completely. |  | Betrayal reinforced |
| 877 | And I thought actually, having the miscarriage was a sign. |  |  |
| 878 | It was God’s way of telling me this is not for you, this is not the life, you, you should be leading. |  | Religious constructions – positive meaning making – meant to be, better this way |
| 879 | There’s like, there’s freedom in, in finding those thing out, I feel like I’ve been set free. |  | Perhaps relating to formation of new aspirations around interest rather than duty |
|  | Story 62 **Career decisions: Aspirations and responsibilities** |  |  |
| 880 | And then I feel like, actually I want to go back and I don’t want to do business management cos it’s quite boring (laugh). |  |  |
| 881 | It’s really boring. |  | Confidence in admitting her feeling? |
| 882 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 883 | I only like it when we’re doing the peer Ed stuff. |  |  |
| 884 | And I just don’t like it when we are doing the other stuff and just working in an office and office politics. |  |  |
| 885 | I want to be free and in London going to London fashion week. |  |  |
| 886 | And, be a stylist or do you know. | (laugh) |  |
| 887 | I just don’t want to [inaudible] the life that I’m living. |  |  |
| 888 | I can see myself doing other things that are going to make me really happy. |  |  |
| 889 |  | Yeah |  |
| 890 | And provide in the same way as I do for my daughter today. |  | A release but not a complete release, still financial consideration |
| 891 | I just need, it’s about doing something you enjoy. |  |  |
| 892 | I met with someone yesterday and she’s a qualified teacher and, we’re basically on the same pay. |  |  |
| 893 | She works for a voluntary organisation and she said, *‘well I use to work in a school and get double the amount that I get now, but I didn’t enjoy it.’* |  | financial |
| 894 | *‘I was depressed and I love my job now I completely love it.’* |  |  |
| 895 | *‘I’m really flexible and I do everything that I want to do.’* |  |  |
| 896 | *‘I’m able to be there for my daughter and just do everything, it’s not always about the money.’* |  | financial |
| 897 | And I thought, you know, why? It’s not always about the money, |  | financial |
| 898 | So , I still don’t know where I’m going. |  |  |
| 899 | But I’m sort of changing things and it all comes with. | (laugh) | change |
|  | Story 63 **Career decisions: the impact of family and making them proud** |  |  |
| 900 | And I think most my education has been affected by outside. |  | External factors rather than intrinsically driven |
| 901 | By my family and just things that are going on in my life have always structured my education. |  |  |
| 902 | Urm, and |  |  |
|  |  | So who did you feel structured your education, sort of before you found out you were pregnant? |  |
| 903 | Oh, it was my Dad, my Mum and Dad. |  | Family infuence |
| 904 | I would have done Art A-level and Textiles and Media Studies. |  |  |
| 905 | Do you know, everything that I was really good at. |  |  |
| 906 | But when I was at school I was good across the whole board and I got all A stars and As and Bs. |  |  |
| 907 | So my Dad’s like *‘you can do anything you want, you’re really good at everything.’* |  |  |
| 908 | *‘You should go be a doctor, you should go be a Lawyer, you should go be a what, what.’* |  | Direct speech - demonstrating influence |
| 909 | And I wanted to be a Psychiatrist, I wanted to go do, go into psychiatry and do Psychology at university. |  | Recognises family influence but acknowledges that this was internalised to become what ‘I wanted’ |
| 910 | And then you know, or if I could get the grades at A-level I was going to go do Medicine. |  |  |
| 911 | But, so I let those decisions, I thought oh yeah I need like a really stable career a really good career take [inaudible] from my Dad. |  |  |
| 912 | I said Dad ‘I really want to do Art’. |  | Desire for art interest remains |
| 913 | He’s like ‘*is Art going to get you a job after those three years or five years at University?’* |  |  |
| 914 | I said ‘well I don’t know, I enjoy it.’ |  |  |
| 915 | And he’s like, ‘*well you’ve got to be practical you’ve got to think about these things.’* |  | Practical influence – culturally expected parental response? |
| 916 | So I thought, oh, OK I’ll do Maths, it’s a really good subject, I’ll do business studies, it’s really good. |  |  |
| 917 | I’ll do Chemistry, in case I want to do some sort of health related, or medicine related, I’ve got Maths and Chemistry, those are your core subjects. |  | Practical decision making |
| 918 | Er, I’ll just do textiles on the side because that’s what I like to do for fun. |  | With a bit of interest snuck in |
| 919 | So that was my Dad who like really forced that decision about, yeah OK, I’ll, I’ll do the sensible thing. |  |  |
| 920 | Urm but before that I’ve always done what I wanted to do. |  |  |
| 921 | And, but it was that thought of oh I need to make my family proud. |  | Family identity – making proud |
| 922 | When I got pregnant it was like I need to make my family proud let me go do something that’s stable. |  | Pregnancy – need to make proud even more |
| 923 | Something that’s, you know, something that’s serious and not just be faffing about painting in my bedroom. |  |  |
| 924 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 925 | While they are going out to work, and thinking what is she actually doing? |  |  |
| 926 | So I think that shaped my decisions. |  |  |
|  | Story 64 **Career decisions: the good Mum** |  |  |
| 927 | I thought I’ve got a daughter to support, I need to get a job, I need to get a job and make sure I can support her. |  | Providing - Mum |
| 928 | And be a really good Mum |  | Good Mum identity |
| 929 | And I need a stable job and all this stuff is what I’m thinking. |  |  |
| 930 | Urm and that’s where I am today, that’s why I decided to do the apprenticeship. |  |  |
| 931 | Cos I thought that’s the best thing to do to be a Mum, do something stable |  |  |
| 932 | And I think that was my biggest mistake in not doing something I enjoyed. |  |  |
| 933 | I mean I do enjoy my job but I don’t enjoy being in an office, twenty four – seven. |  | Mixed constructions around job |
| 934 | I enjoy other things more and these are things that will give me life time enjoyment. |  |  |
| 935 | And this is something which I will enjoy it in the moment |  |  |
| 936 | And then I’ll probably look back in five years from now, still doing the same job and thinking oh I wish I’d done that and I wish I’d done this. |  |  |
|  | Story 65 **Acceptance in the office but still scarred by earlier experience** |  |  |
| 937 |  | Yeah Hindsight’s a fine thing. |  |
| 938 |  | but I think in some ways you were saying to me, urm, that actually, you know, even when you were going for the apprenticeship, you couldn’t tell them that you where pregnant. |  |
| 939 | Yeah |  |  |
| 940 |  | And kind of fears that, if you would have mentioned that in any kind of area of education you’d gone into, whether it was something you enjoyed or not. |  |
| 941 | Yeah |  |  |
| 942 | Um, hm  Yeah | That that might have been, urm, a barrier, certainly what you felt from your experience. |  |
| 943 | Yeah, I feel like it was definitely a barrier. |  |  |
| 944 | I mean when, when they found out at work that I had a daughter they were, *‘oh, you didn’t mention that in your interview.’* |  |  |
| 945 | *‘Oh let’s see pictures’* and everyone was really excited and they were all really supportive |  |  |
| 946 | And I brought her into the office and they’ve all just, they’ve all got children, they all know what it’s like. |  |  |
| 947 | They’re really understanding, and, and I just kind of feel like (pause), I don’t know. |  |  |
| 948 | When I’ve had a bad experience you just don’t, for me it just stems back to if my school couldn’t support me through being a young carer, whose going to support me through being a young Mum (pause). |  |  |
| 950 | When I was a young carer it wasn’t my fault, it’s sort of, by force, you know, in a sense. |  |  |
| 951 | Now I’m a young Mum by choice, who’s going to support me through that? |  |  |
| 952 | Who’s going to, sort of be OK with that? |  |  |
| 953 | And these are discussions we’ve actually had in the office. |  |  |
| 954 | They’ve said, *‘no one looks at you differently for being a Mum, we’re all parents, we’re all, we know these things happen it’s just not.’* |  |  |
| 955 | And when I’ve said, they’ve said, *‘why didn’t you tell us you had a child?’* |  |  |
| 956 | I said ‘well, I had a bad experience, from telling people I’m a young Mum and they just look at you like, ah, one of them, you know.’ |  |  |
| 957 | Ah, you know they just, no longer who you were, you’re just another one of them. |  |  |
| 958 | And they stereotype you to be the young Mum who doesn’t work, doesn’t go to school, just sat on benefits, having loads of babies. |  |  |
| 959 | That’s what they all, that’s definitely the impression I got. |  |  |
|  | Story 66 **Discrimination at the retail interview** |  |  |
| 960 | Even when I started at urm, I went back to [retail store] for a short time before I urm, started this job. |  |  |
| 961 | And I was at [retail store], for about six months, urm, sort of working here and working at [retail store]. |  |  |
| 962 | It was one night a week. |  |  |
| 963 |  | Um |  |
| 964 | But I was still working there and I am, I think I started at [retail store] when Leila was about three and a half months old and so I was just doing one night a week. |  |  |
| 965 |  | Yeah |  |
| 966 | Four hour shift. |  |  |
| 967 | And I remember telling them ‘oh yeah I’ve got a daughter now.’ |  |  |
| 968 | And the first question the lady said to me, this is in the sort of in the interview to come back, *‘so like who is going to look after her then? While you’re working?’* |  |  |
| 969 | *‘And what if she’s ill? When what’s going to happen? So who’s, who’s going to be looking after her? What, what, what’s going to happen?’* |  |  |
| 970 | *‘Does your job come first or does being a parent come first? What?’* |  |  |
| 971 | At the moment I just thought, oh well she’s asking a decent question. |  |  |
| 972 | And then when I’ve gone away and thought, actually she was discriminating. |  |  |
| 973 |  | Um |  |
| 974 | And, because I’m a young parent. |  |  |
|  | Story 67 **A story of discrimination at work** |  |  |
| 975 | And then, urm, I think when I was there, when I first started Leila had chicken pox and I had chicken pox. |  |  |
| 976 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 977 | So I went to work, I went to work with my chicken pox, my first shift back, I can’t not go. | Joys |  |
| 978 | I went to my first three shifts and Leila got chicken pox and I was like right well, I can’t leave my Mum to look after her. |  |  |
| 979 | I said ‘well I can’t come in my daughter’s got chicken pox.’ |  |  |
| 980 | ‘So whatever you’ve got me down for , for the next two weeks, I just, I can’t come in.’ |  |  |
| 981 | And urm, they said *‘alright OK, hope she gets better soon.’* |  |  |
| 982 | Then I went back everything was fine. |  |  |
| 983 | She was ill again, and when she’s ill and breastfeeding it’s just hard to let anyone else look after her. |  |  |
| 984 | You know what she wants and they can’t give her it. |  |  |
| 985 | I rang in sick again. I rang in sick twice, urm, due to Leila being unwell and I rang in again when I was really unwell. | Yeah |  |
| 986 | Urm, I don’t know what had happend, I was, I think I must have had like a sickness-diarrhoea bug. |  |  |
| 987 | And then when it came to renewing my contract in August they said *‘no we’ve decided not to keep you on.’* |  |  |
| 988 | *‘Because you rang in sick twice because of your daughter and then you rang in again for yourself.’* |  |  |
| 989 | *‘And, urr, we need reliable staff.’* |  |  |
| 999 | So there I was sort of penalised for being a parent. |  |  |
| 1000 | So there’s that experience, negative, experience. |  |  |
| 1001 |  | Do you think that’s sort of, urm, more general in terms of discrimination against all, kind of, parents, really? |  |
| 1002 | Yeah, it was more general, to sort of discriminating against parents |  |  |
| 1003 |  | Um, yeah, yes it’s er, a nice world isn’t it sometimes. |  |
| 1004 | Yeah. |  |  |
|  | Break |  |  |
| 1005 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 1006 |  | Do you want to take a break at this point or do you want to continue? |  |
| 1007 | No, continue. |  |  |
| 1008 |  | OK, cos I just wondered if you wanted to kind of stop and look at the look at the questions. |  |
| 1009 | Oh, yeah, OK, let’s stop |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | BREAK |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 1010 |  | Urm |  |
| 1011 |  | OK, so you’ve had a little bit of time to look at the type of prompt questions. |  |
| 1012 |  | To see if you want to talk a little bit more about anything else. |  |
| 1013 |  | Urm, I’ve also got a couple of questions that I scribbled down whilst I was going, whilst you were talking about, kind of your story and your journey. |  |
| 1014 |  | Urm, do you want to start talking about some of those of your choice or |  |
| 1015 | We’ll start with your and then |  |  |
|  | Story 68 **The need for an advocate: Mediating rights with college** |  |  |
| 1016 |  | OK |  |
| 1017 |  | Urm, I think partly what, what I was wondering about, was when you were talking about obviously, you worked with Donna and she sort of came in and negotiated with you, with the school about coming back. |  |
| 1018 |  | And I kind of wondered, what you felt would have happened if she hadn’t been there, at that time. |  |
| 1019 | I think if she hadn’t have been there (pause), I don’t know, I don’t know what would have happened. |  |  |
| 1020 | Urm, she, she initially said to me *‘oh, why don’t you try speaking to your form, your form tutor, urm, do you feel like you can do that?’* |  |  |
| 1021 | I said, ‘oh yeah, I’ll speak to her’ |  |  |
| 1022 | And the sort of a couple of weeks went on and I e-mailed her back saying I can’t speak to her. |  |  |
| 1023 | I don’t feel like I’ll able to speak to her like that without having someone else present. |  |  |
| 1024 | Cos, I don’t know what she’s going to say, she’s. |  |  |
| 1025 | As you get to know someone and sort of what their beliefs are and how they view things. |  |  |
| 1026 | I just felt like, I felt really uncomfortable, I thought, I thought I couldn’t do that. |  |  |
| 1027 | And if Donna wasn’t there then I would of, I don’t know, I don’t know what would have happened. |  |  |
| 1028 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 1029 | I don’t know. |  |  |
| 1030 | I think if Donna wasn’t there I wouldn’t have gone to college that September, I wouldn’t have gone. |  |  |
|  | Story 69 **Leaving to spare the school shame** |  |  |
| 1031 |  | This is also a speculative question as well, urm, cos obviously you’ve no idea what actually would have happened. |  |
| 1032 |  | But do you think it would have made a difference to what you have done or where you would have gone if your original school had been supportive of, you know, your carer role and if you’d perceived that they’d be supportive of becoming a young Mum? |  |
| 1033 |  | Do you think that would have made a difference? |  |
| 1034 |  | Would you have stayed there or do you think you would have probably gone somewhere else anyway? |  |
| 1035 | I would have probably gone somewhere else anyway. |  |  |
| 1036 |  | Yeah, yeah |  |
| 1037 | I would probably have gone somewhere else anyway. |  |  |
| 1038 | It’s just like you’ve kind of you’ve been there at that school for five years. |  |  |
| 1039 | And you know, head girl or whatever and just like. |  |  |
| 1040 | It’s the same thing with family they get embarrassed, our daughter got pregnant. |  |  |
| 1041 | I feel like I’d be embarrassing the school. |  |  |
| 1042 | Or embarrassing the teach\* I’d feel embarrassed myself. |  |  |
| 1043 | And I’d feel like people were judging me cos these are people who’ve know me from being eleven. |  |  |
| 1044 | Who now know me as like sixteen year old and pregnant. |  |  |
| 1045 | They’re just going to, people won’t see you the same. |  |  |
| 1046 | It’s easy to just forget every single thing that people have done over the five year journey at school than just see them as this, as a product of what they are now. |  |  |
|  | Story 70 **An encounter with an old teacher: Doing well** |  |  |
| 1047 | I’ve seen a few of the teachers, urm, like I bumped into one of my old English teachers in town the other week. |  |  |
| 1048 | *‘oh, so oh, what you doing now?’* |  |  |
| 1049 | Saw me get out of my car, *‘Oh, nice car, how are you doing? Urm, what are you doing now?’* |  |  |
| 1050 | ‘Oh yeah, I work for Bradford council, I’m doing this.’ |  |  |
| 1051 | *‘Oh fantastic that’s really, really good, oh, yeah, you’re doing well.’* |  |  |
| 1052 | And then I said, ‘oh, that’s my daughter in the back.’ |  |  |
| 1053 | *‘Right, wow, wow, how old is she then? Oh, well, congratulations.’* |  |  |
| 1054 | He just couldn’t believe it, because he only knows the positive of it. |  |  |
| 1055 | He, he, well he saw I’m doing well, that I’ve got a nice car, I’ve got a job, I’ve got a healthy daughter, you know, I seem to be doing well. |  |  |
| 1056 | So that, so he perceived it as, oh that’s really good, well done, you know. |  |  |
| 1057 |  | Um hm |  |
|  | Story 71 **Students prejudice, student betrayal** |  |  |
| 1058 | But then again when I’ve seen other students at the school, I think it was the students in the school that stopped me from going back there. |  |  |
| 1059 |  | Right |  |
| 1060 | When I got pregnant, sort of people found out. |  |  |
| 1061 | It became common knowledge. |  |  |
| 1062 | It, a few of them sent tweets out, on twitter. |  |  |
| 1063 | Oh yeah, you’ve got these boys who were in my class, boys, you wouldn’t expect boys to say anything about it they’d just, oh, you know you wouldn’t expect it |  |  |
| 1064 | About five of them so, un-followed me and stuff, that, and I’m not bothered, I’m quite boring on line. | ‘About five of them so, un-followed me and stuff, that, and I’m not bothered, I’m quite boring on line. But they sent tweets out saying, oh you got pregnant and you messed your life up now.’ (1064-1065)  ‘These are people that I’ve been in class with from year seven. Some of them gone to nursery with. Some of them I’ve gone to nursery with and they’re saying stuff like, oh, you got pregnant and you’ve messed your life up now. (1066-1070) |  |
| 1065 | But they sent tweets out saying, oh you got pregnant and you messed your life up now. |  |  |
| 1066 | These are people that I’ve been in class with from year seven. |  |  |
| 1067 |  | Um |  |
| 1068 | Some of them gone to nursery with. |  |  |
| 1069 |  | Sorry let’s move this [voice recorder] closer. |  |
| 1070 | Some of them I’ve gone to nursery with and they’re saying stuff like, oh, you got pregnant and you’ve messed your life up now. |  |  |
| 1071 | And they don’t, they couldn’t send me a message to say ‘are you alright? Is that what you wanted? Or congratulations.’ |  |  |
| 1072 | So, I wasn’t expecting congratulations but I was expecting a *‘you alright, what happened to you? What’s going on?’* |  |  |
| 1073 | Instead of a tweet, tweet, oh, yeah, got pregnant, messed your life up. |  |  |
| 1074 | And, urm, in fact it was way more explicit than that but I’m not going to say that over the tape (laugh). |  |  |
| 1075 |  | [inaudible] |  |
| 1076 | Yeah |  |  |
| 1077 |  | What do you think it is that influenced them in that way? |  |
| 1078 | Urm, I mean at school everyone just has this negative perception of teenage Mums. |  |  |
| 1079 | They just, *‘oh, I wouldn’t dare be a teen Mum, I wouldn’t dare have a kid, I wouldn’t dare do this and oh yeah, teenage Mums are all slags.’* |  |  |
| 1080 | That’s their perception. |  |  |
| 1081 | Nobody would have known that as a teen Mum I’d been with the same person, that’s the only person I’ve ever been with. |  |  |
| 1082 | I haven’t,I don’t sleep around or whatever. |  |  |
| 1083 | They wouldn’t know that, they’d just assume, that’s that’s what they’d assume. |  |  |
| 1084 |  | Right, hm |  |
| 1085 |  | And do you think this is coming from, urm, the small community or is it the wider media or |  |
| 1086 | I think it’s the wider media, the wider media |  |  |
| 1087 |  | Yeah |  |
| 1088 | Yeah |  |  |
| 1089 | Because you don’t get positive conations of young Mums. |  |  |
| 1090 |  | No |  |
| 1091 | Um hm  Um hm | I know from the start when we discussed, what you preferred to be referred as, you know, you said sort of, young Mum, who was in education is kind of preferable to teen Mum. |  |
| 1092 | *Um hm* |  |  |
| 1093 |  | Though I noticed during the interview you did at one point describe yourself as a, as a teen Mum. |  |
| 1094 | Um hm |  |  |
| 1095 | Yeah | Is that just sort of because it’s more common heard of really? |  |
| 1096 | Cos it’s more commonly heard of. |  |  |
| 1097 | Urm, I think I might have used it in the context of when I was at school. |  |  |
| 1098 | That’s how they would have seen it, teen Mum. | Yeah |  |
| 1099 |  | Yeah |  |
| 1100 | But I just think, I’m just a young Mum. |  |  |
| 1101 | And no different to the other young Mums who maybe twenty one, or, just not teenagers. |  |  |
| 1102 | And they’re still just young Mums who we may go through the same issues. |  |  |
| 1103 | We may go through the exact same journeys. |  |  |
| 1104 | But because they’re not teenagers, it’s not ‘babies having babies’. |  |  |
| 1105 |  | Yeah |  |
| 1106 | That, those were other tweets that were sent out by other kids at my school. |  |  |
| 1107 | And I just thought well I’m not going back there. |  |  |
|  | Story 72 **Pregnant girls just disappear** |  |  |
| 1108 |  | What would have had to be different? At the school, for both the school itself, the staff and the students that would have made you feel that you wanted to stay there? |  |
| 1109 | Kind of like if there was a more open environment, at like. |  |  |
| 1110 | People who have gotten pregnant and gone to that school before have always been kicked out. |  |  |
| 1111 |  | Right |  |
| 1112 | They’ve been kicked out. |  |  |
| 1113 | I don’t know how they’ve kicked them out. |  |  |
| 1114 | Because young Mums have, you know, might have been sort of pressured to, to leave, in that sense. | Um hm |  |
| 1115 | But no one has ever come back from a pregnancy. |  |  |
| 1116 | If I’d have seen that done before, I’d have seen schools attitudes towards it as supportive then I probably would have stayed there. |  |  |
| 1117 | But from previous people who have gotten pregnant, as soon as they’ve been pregnant that’s it. |  |  |
| 1118 | They just disappear, vanish from the school. |  |  |
| 1119 | You don’t see them again, whether they were in sixth form or year eleven, or they were in the end of sixth form or whatever, they just disappear. |  |  |
| 1120 | Cos the school does not endor\* they don’t, they don’t handle it very well. |  |  |
| 1121 | And a lot of people that I know personally from that school have ended up as teen Mums. |  |  |
| 1122 | I don’t think the sexual education there is very good. |  |  |
| 1123 | Urm and the pastoral care is rubbish, I know, in my year, at that school, ten girls that got pregnant. |  |  |
| 1124 | In the year below me another six girls that got pregnant. |  |  |
| 1125 | And this is all within, whilst I was still at the school. |  |  |
| 1126 | Or within the few years of leaving school. |  |  |
| 1127 | It’s, that school’s got quite a high teenage pregnancy rates. |  |  |
|  | Story 73 **Sex education, motherhood education** |  |  |
| 1128 |  | You mentioned that you didn’t think the sexual education in the school was very good. |  |
| 1129 |  | Do you think that makes a difference to getting pregnant? |  |
| 1130 |  | Would it have made a difference in your case? |  |
| 1131 | I don’t think it would have made a difference in my case. | no |  |
| 1132 | But, but, I feel like there was things that should have been instilled in us from a younger age |  |  |
| 1133 | And, urm, not to be looked down on for taking contraceptive pills. |  |  |
| 1134 | Or not to be looked down on for having sex at young age. |  |  |
| 1135 | They should have acknowledged that yes a lot of people do have sex at a young age. |  |  |
| 1136 | It’s about doing it safely and that is not something that they did. |  |  |
| 1137 | It was just sort of, well a man and a woman do this and then they that and a baby comes out. |  |  |
| 1138 | It wasn’t, urm, there’s people that I speak to in my year that don’t know that you can get pregnant from, not from, pulling out, basically. | Hm |  |
| 1139 | That’s what they call it, they don’t know you can still get pregnant before that. | Yes |  |
| 1140 | They don’t it doesn’t register with them. |  |  |
| 1141 |  | Yeah |  |
| 1142 | I had a friend, we were in the same class and she’s going, *‘so what happens then when you’re in labour? What happens? Sasha, what happens?’* |  |  |
| 1143 | *‘So how do you breastfeed?’* |  |  |
| 1144 | Just not knowing, genuinely not knowing. | Hm |  |
| 1145 | Not knowing what happens. |  |  |
| 1146 |  | Yeah |  |
| 1147 | And how it works. |  |  |
| 1148 | I, I do blame the school, just because of what my friends have said to me. |  |  |
| 1149 | And how they just genuinely didn’t know until one of their friends got pregnant. |  |  |
| 1150 | And *‘oh, right, OK, is that what happens?’* |  |  |
| 1151 | And urm, some of this stuff is not common sense. |  |  |
| 1152 | If you’re not being taught it at school and your parents don’t talk to you about it, you might not never know until the first time, when you have sex. |  |  |
| 1153 | Yeah helped | So it would just sort of helped you and the other students to have a little bit more knowledge? |  |
| 1154 | To have a little bit more knowledge. |  |  |
| 1155 | And you know, if you have unprotected sex you will most likely get pregnant. |  |  |
| 1156 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 1157 | You need to, not just promoting using condoms, but promoting using contraceptives. |  |  |
| 1158 | Because, you need to use them because it’s not common sense. | (laugh) |  |
| 1159 | That’s what urm, I think, that’s where the school definitely failed. |  |  |
| 1160 | Urm, we just didn’t feel like we could go speak to someone about it, that was the problem. |  |  |
| 1161 |  | Yep, Yeah. |  |
|  | Story 74 **From the heavens: the decision to have Leila** |  |  |
| 1162 |  | Urm, from what I take from what you’ve said before, I’m assuming that Leila wasn’t planned. |  |
| 1163 | Um hm | It wasn’t sort of a decision to have her, it was just, you found out that you were pregnant. |  |
| 1164 |  | Obviously there were decisions that came from that, decisions that you actually wanted to have Leila and keep her. |  |
| 1165 |  | What type of things do you think influenced that decision? |  |
| 1166 | Urm, I think it would be like my religious beliefs. |  |  |
| 1167 | I think it were my religious beliefs that stopped me from not going through with the pregnancy. |  |  |
| 1168 | I just, there was no way that I could not have, urm, Leila. |  |  |
| 1169 | Just knowing, just valuing life and knowing some people struggle to have children. |  |  |
| 1170 | It was like a blessing in a sense. |  |  |
| 1171 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 1172 | It was, you know, there was no way that I couldn’t go through with it. |  |  |
| 1173 | That was like part of my plan in life, part of Gods plan for me. |  |  |
| 1174 | I might not know where it’s going to take me but that’s part of my plan in life. |  |  |
| 1175 | Yeah |  |  |
| 1176 | Yes | And can I ask if that, that made, urm, an influence, having a belief in God and that |  |
| 1177 | Having a belief in God, it did definitely make a difference, cos I just, there was no way like, I was completely against it. |  |  |
| 1178 | My beliefs and I thought, there’s no way I can not have this baby. |  |  |
| 1179 | This baby has been brought from the Heavens. | (laugh) |  |
| 1180 | There’s no way that I can not, I can not have this baby. |  |  |
|  | Story 75 **Spirituality and perspective** |  |  |
| 1181 |  | Did it have a wider, urm, influence on how you experienced the whole progression the journey from being pregnant and having your child? |  |
| 1182 | Yeah, Er, I think it did. |  |  |
| 1183 | Er, I sort of dibble dabbled in and out of, chose when I would believe and when I wouldn’t believe. |  |  |
| 1184 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 1185 | But at the moment I think, I’m the most sort of spiritual, or my beliefs are stronger now than they’ve ever been before. |  |  |
| 1186 | Because of everything that I’ve been through. |  |  |
| 1187 | And I’ve been through all of that stuff and I still feel like I’ve, I’m only, I’m only nineteen. |  |  |
| 1188 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 1189 | I’m only nineteen, I’ve, there’s still so much more that I’m going to do before, before I’m twenty five. |  |  |
| 1190 | Everything that’s gone before and everything that going to go I’ve been through. |  |  |
| 1191 | It’s going to be hashed out, it’s going to be cancelled out by all the things I’m going to do in the future. |  |  |
| 1192 | That’s, that’s just the way I think of it. |  |  |
| 1193 | Urm so, and it helps working in the inter faith education centre. |  |  |
| 1194 | (laugh) | (laugh) |  |
| 1195 | So I’m a lot more sort of spiritual in my faith and I believe a lot more. |  |  |
|  | Story 76 **Finding myself again** |  |  |
| 1196 | And sort of by learning new things I can, I’ve got more things to believe in. |  |  |
| 1197 | I’m believing in myself. |  |  |
| 1198 | I think I lost a sense of who I was and what I was doing after I had Leila and before I had Leila. |  |  |
| 1199 | I just sort of, I was just a Mum |  |  |
| 1200 |  | Right |  |
| 1201 | I was just a Mum |  |  |
| 1202 | And now, like at school I was really confident, outgoing, you know always picked first and always the loud mouth. |  |  |
| 1203 | And then I sort of had Leila and I was just a Mum. |  |  |
| 1204 | I was quiet again, I just didn’t have friends. |  |  |
| 1205 | I just, I lost who I was and that’s just not me, just not me. |  |  |
| 1206 | Urm, and I started working here again and I made new friends. |  |  |
| 1207 | People who had been through similar things that I had. |  |  |
| 1208 | Other Mums, other single Mums who in fact were testament to say actually, listen I’ve been through it, I’ve done it, I’m still here. |  |  |
| 1209 | Look at what I’m doing, I’m fine, you’re going to be fine. |  |  |
| 1210 | It’s, you know, don’t be worried about it, don’t be stressed out about it. |  |  |
| 1211 | People that supported me and sort of guided me in making myself a better person, in feeling better about myself. |  |  |
| 1212 | Urm, I’ve found myself again and sort of evolved and I don’t feel, I’m not afraid any more, I’m not afraid. |  |  |
| 1213 | And that’s what I was before, I was afraid, I didn’t know where I was going. |  |  |
| 1214 | Even now I don’t know where I’m going but I know it’s going to be great. |  |  |
| 1215 |  | (Laugh) |  |
| 1216 | I’m not worried about it, I know that I’ve got options I’ve got. |  |  |
| 1217 |  | Um |  |
|  | Story 77 **A stronger voice: influenced but in control** |  |  |
| 1218 |  | So the whole sort of journey, from before you were pregnant you were quite a confident person. |  |
| 1219 | Um hm |  |  |
| 1220 |  | You had some visions, they weren’t necessarily chosen by you. |  |
| 1221 | Um hm |  |  |
| 1222 | Um hm | You know, influenced by members of your family as you said, but you did have sort of an idea. |  |
| 1223 |  | And then you got pregnant, realised you were pregnant. |  |
| 1224 | Yeah, Yeah | And was it sort of from that point onwards that this kind of fear and uncertainty kicked off? |  |
| 1225 | I think from that point onwards that fear, underlying fear, just sort of, fear like oh my God where am I going? What’s going to happen? What am I going to do? What am I, what am I going to do? |  |  |
| 1226 | Even, even recently, like as recent as last year, I still thought, what am I going to do? |  |  |
| 1227 | But I’ve been able to, instead of having other people influence me, I’m influencing myself. |  |  |
| 1228 | And influencing others in a way that makes me feel, feel good about myself. |  |  |
| 1229 | And, but most people that do influence me they don’t influence my decision, cos they just sort of influence, urm, my mindset. |  |  |
| 1230 | Or, just sort of spiritual, they don’t influence me in a way that’s not going to benefit me in life. |  |  |
| 1231 | They don’t influence me in a way to say *‘oh don’t do that, It’s not good for you.’* |  |  |
| 1232 |  | Hm |  |
| 1233 | They don’t push their opinion on me they just, it’s sort of an open flow of whatever’s going on. |  |  |
| 1234 |  | Yeah |  |
| 1235 | And I think my Mum found that difficult to deal with. |  |  |
| 1236 | Urm, that I was changing and she no longer had any control over me. |  |  |
| 1237 | I think urm, Leila’s Dad found the same thing, that I was changing and he no longer had any hold over me. |  |  |
| 1238 | He’s even said that to me recently like, *‘I can’t control you, I don’t know what you’re thinking, I don’t know what’s going on through your head and I don’t know who you are anymore’* |  |  |
| 1239 | Because I’ve just (pause), well I’ve changed a lot. |  |  |
|  | Story 78 **Aspirations and optimism** |  |  |
| 1240 | And he’s a lot older than me, he is twenty six now? so he’s in a completely different stage in his life. |  |  |
| 1241 | And I feel like, looking at where he is in his life, at twenty six, that is not where I want to be at twenty six |  |  |
| 1242 |  | Hm (laugh) |  |
| 1243 | So when I think, oh, he’s having another kid with someone else, I think that could have been me, that’s not a good thing. |  |  |
| 1244 | I don’t want to be working at [supermarket] at twenty six, I don’t want to be still working at, you know. |  |  |
| 1245 | I don’t want to be doing a dead end job at twenty six. |  |  |
| 1246 | At twenty six I want to be, a millionaire. |  |  |
| 1247 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 1248 | I want to be a millionaire at twenty one, (laugh) but. |  |  |
| 1249 |  | (laugh) we’ll see |  |
| 1250 | I want to be a millionaire at twenty one. |  |  |
| 1251 | It’s just like, I’ve opened myself up to other things that I wasn’t open to before, because I was just a Mum and now I’m Sasha. | ‘I’ve opened myself up to other things that I wasn’t open to before, because I was just a Mum and now I’m Sasha.’ (1251) |  |
|  | Story 79 **Realising ‘I’ was lost** |  |  |
| 1252 |  | And at what point in that journey did you think the turmoil of who am I, am I losing my identity. |  |
| 1253 |  | When did you really become aware of that? |  |
| 1254 | I think I only really became aware of it, urm (pause) shortly after I started working here. |  |  |
| 1255 | ‘So *what do you do in your spare time?’* |  |  |
| 1256 | ‘Oh, urm, I look after my daughter’ |  |  |
| 1257 | *‘Oh so do you meet up with your friends?’* |  |  |
| 1258 | Oh, I don’t really have any friends. |  |  |
| 1259 | When you’ve sort of realised to yourself, actually I don’t, who am I? And what am I doing? |  |  |
| 1260 | But I don’t think I actually started to make, to change anything about that until earlier on this year. |  |  |
| 1261 | Because when I finally, I felt settled enough to invest in myself. |  |  |
| 1262 | And so right now, I do make time, I’ve got new friends and new experiences. |  |  |
|  | Story 80 **positive thinking strategy** |  |  |
| 1263 | I don’t, what I like to do for fun now and what I would have done for fun back then, it has completely changed. |  |  |
| 1264 | I, I’m just seeking like a good time. |  |  |
| 1265 | If there’s ever anything negative or something negative around me I just sort of shy away, I disappear. |  |  |
| 1266 | I don’t , I, I believe in thinking positively now, and like urm, and I want to be able to help others do the same thing. |  |  |
| 1267 | Like I read a really good book, don’t know if you’ve ever heard of it, called ‘secret’ and that’s all about positive thinking and urm, changing your life around positive thinking. |  |  |
| 1268 | And since I’ve read that I think my life has just changed completely. |  |  |
| 1269 | I’ve found, I’ve got a new found confidence in myself. |  |  |
| 1270 | And knowing that I can do anything, I can achieve anything, I just need to believe in it. |  |  |
| 1271 | And I don’t think I’ve believed in myself before, I relied on other peoples belief in me to get me places |  |  |
| 1272 |  | That’s interesting, yeah. |  |
|  | Story 81**Keep going until breaking point** |  |  |
| 1273 |  | I wonder whether cos you’re talking about this new coping strategy, but obviously from a young age, you had some quite strong coping strategies with |  |
| 1274 | Um hm |  |  |
| 1275 | Um hm  Um hm | You know, being the one looking after you brother, recognising that obviously your Mum couldn’t handle it quite as well. |  |
| 1276 |  | How, do you think those helped you to get through the |  |
| 1277 | Yeah, I do think they did but, I don’t I wouldn’t say that I had a coping strategy. |  |  |
| 1278 | I just sort of just do, do or die. |  |  |
| 1279 | Just keep doing, just keep doing and I’m still like that. |  |  |
| 1280 | But I feel like every now and then I need to look after myself and stop. |  |  |
| 1281 | And I feel like I need to stop at the moment. |  |  |
| 1282 | Just to digest everything that’s going on and then bury it and walk past it. |  |  |
| 1283 | That’s what I need to, feel like that’s what I need to do. |  |  |
| 1284 | Because since everything that’s happened, even last year with my Mum, I were, it was at a really busy time in the office, I couldn’t take any time off. |  |  |
| 1285 | I took one day off to move into this new temporary accommodation and then I was straight into things at work. |  |  |
| 1286 | It was so busy, I actually couldn’t take that time off. |  |  |
| 1287 | And I haven’t, whenever things get hectic in my life I don’t take the time off to look after myself. |  |  |
| 1288 | I just continue going and then I reach sort of a breaking point where I need to come to terms with it and move on. |  |  |
| 1289 | And that’s where I think I am now but we’re coming up to a very busy point at work. |  |  |
| 1290 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 1291 | So |  |  |
| 1292 | Um hm | So now you still do, you stop and think. |  |
| 1293 |  | And make plans to shape what you will do. |  |
| 1294 | Yeah, like now, now I’m thinking about, I’m planning a holiday, working towards that holiday. |  |  |
| 1295 | it’s going to be half term soon, I might just sit at home and slob in my pyjamas all day but it’s going to be a break from everything |  |  |
| 1296 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 1297 | Like I can just shut myself off for a few hours and just clear my head and that’s not something, I don’t think I did before. |  |  |
| 1298 | That’s not something I did before, I wasn’t able to then pick myself up and go back to the positive, I’d focus on that negative. |  |  |
|  | Story 82 **Signs of depressions: A mothers intervention** |  |  |
| 1299 | Um Hm  Um hm | One thing that you mentioned that quite interested me was, you know you got to the point when you’d had Leila and you were at home and you were just staying in all the time but it was your Mum that kind of like said to you come on you need to start going out, you need to start, you know, seeing people, doing, doing things. |  |
| 1300 |  | Urm, do you think that was important, your Mum’s sort of intervention there? |  |
| 1301 | Yeah, I think it was, I think it was really important. |  |  |
| 1302 | Like she would have rules like, you have to be up and ready and bathed by ten thirty and downstairs. |  |  |
| 1303 | Because if she hadn’t made these rules I would still have been in bed at two O’clock, with just Leila, just in bed. |  |  |
| 1304 | Doing nothing, maybe in and out of sleep, read a book, play on my phone and watch TV in bed, |  |  |
| 1305 | Just like I’d still be in my pyjamas I wouldn’t brush my hair, I just wouldn’t do anything |  |  |
| 1306 | And if it wasn’t for my Mum making those things up and maybe ringing me and saying right are you ready, lets go I’m coming in ten minutes, lets go out, lets got to town or lets just go to Morrisons and do the food shopping, stuff like that. |  |  |
| 1307 | Cos I think she saw urm, that sort of, the depression, she recognised those signs and thought if she lets it carry on, I’ll get to a stage when I’m like her and afraid to go out and afraid to interact with other people. |  |  |
|  | Story 83 **Close to Mum, very open with Mum** |  |  |
| 1308 |  | So your, your relationship with your family was something you spoke about quite a lot. |  |
| 1309 | Um |  |  |
| 1310 |  | urm, very interesting, cos the birth itself was a really really sort of family orientated experience |  |
| 1311 | Um |  |  |
| 1312 |  | All the women in your family kind of round you, a really positive thing. |  |
| 1313 |  | But obviously you talked as well about some of the struggles of those relationships and the changes in that. |  |
| 1314 |  | Urm, who, who do you now feel, you know sort of closest to? Who can you |  |
| 1315 | My Mum |  |  |
| 1316 |  | Your Mum |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 1317 | My Mum, I’m really close to my Mum. Urm, I’ve learnt that, I just don’t hold anything back when I’m telling her stuff because if she knows half of the story then she’s going to react on that half of the story. |  |  |
| 1318 | She might, like, I might have, I might do something that she doesn’t see right. |  |  |
| 1319 | And, she doesn’t know that there’s another bigger picture so she, she’ll make a rash decision based on what, the only thing that she knows. |  |  |
| 1320 | So I’ve just learnt to just, I tell her everything. |  |  |
| 1321 | I’m completely honest with her, I tell her everything and anything. |  |  |
| 1322 | Like I speak to, Urm, I’ve just started dating again |  |  |
| 1323 | Er, and was speaking to someone again and he said, ‘*Oh you’re always with your Mum aren’t you*?’ |  |  |
| 1324 | ‘Yeah, Yeah I am.’ |  |  |
| 1325 | I go to my Mums every single day after work once I’ve picked Leila up and I stay there until about eight O’clock, then I go home. |  |  |
| 1326 | But that’s like a recent thing, I didn’t use to do that before |  |  |
| 1327 | But I feel like I need to have my family around me whilst I’m still feeling a bit fragile. |  |  |
| 1328 | Urm, ‘*Yeah, you’re always with your Mum, does your Mum know we talk*?’ |  |  |
| 1329 | ‘Yeah she knows we talk, she knows who you are.’ | (laugh) |  |
| 1330 | Cos this is someone my Mum knows. |  |  |
| 1331 | ‘She knows we talk Yeah, yeah, she knows everything.’ |  |  |
| 1332 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 1333 | ‘I told her everything so you know when you ring me some times, she’ll be right next to me and she’ll ask me, oh what was that then, I’ll tell her everything.’ |  |  |
| 1334 | I don’t hold back because I feel she doesn’t hold back with me. | (laugh) |  |
| 1335 |  | Yep |  |
| 1336 | She doesn’t hold back with me, she wants me to understand the bigger picture. |  |  |
| 1337 | So, since I’ve been like that, I’m like that with my Aunty as well. |  |  |
| 1338 | My Aunty doesn’t tell me her problems because she doesn’t want to burden me but my Mum tells me my Auntie’s problems (laugh). |  |  |
| 1339 | So then we just sort of like support each other in different ways, we just support each other. |  |  |
| 1340 | But I’m completely honest with my Aunty. |  |  |
| 1341 | And she gives me that advice that sometimes I don’t want to hear but I need to hear it. |  |  |
| 1342 | And I’m completely honest with my Mum |  |  |
| 1343 | And my Mum just sort of tries to always think of a way to move forward. |  |  |
|  | Story 84 **Disappointment and loss** |  |  |
| 1344 |  | I know you said about your Aunty at first, reacted a little negatively |  |
| 1345 | Yeah |  |  |
| 1346 | She was just disappointed | Do you understand |  |
| 1347 |  | Right |  |
| 1348 | She was just disappointed, she had really big hopes and dreams for me. |  |  |
| 1349 | She just, she had, she, she could see where she wanted me to be in life. |  |  |
| 1350 | And when she found out I was pregnant she was devastated, more than my Mum. |  |  |
| 1351 |  | Um |  |
| 1352 | My Mum was able to say OK, I’m really disappointed in this but we’ll work through it |  |  |
| 1353 | But my Aunty was just stuck on the fact, she was just really disappointed. |  |  |
| 1354 | *‘You’ve let me down.’* |  |  |
| 1355 |  | So it was a loss for her |  |
| 1356 | Yes It was a loss for her. |  |  |
| 1357 | But when Leila was born, she’s just, everyone in my family, just brings joy to everyone. |  |  |
|  | Story 86 **Gains and losses** |  |  |
| 1358 |  | Yeah and it sounds like, you know, you have gained a lot from the whole experience. |  |
| 1359 | Um hm |  |  |
| 1360 |  | Is there any think that you think, I’ve lost, through this whole sort of journey? |  |
| 1361 | I feel like I’ve lost my, I would say, I’ve lost my childhood. |  |  |
| 1362 | And lost that experience of going to University and fresher’s week. |  |  |
| 1363 | And doing everything that all my friends are doing and just having fun, I’ve lost that. |  |  |
| 1364 | But I can still do it, I can still do it. |  |  |
| 1365 | But I just kind of feel like, urm, how do I put this? |  |  |
| 1366 | Someone once asked me *‘do you regret ever having Leila?’* |  |  |
| 1367 | And I say ‘yes I do regret having a baby at such a young age.’ |  |  |
| 1368 | ‘But I don’t regret her and I wouldn’t change, you know, wouldn’t change her for anything.’ |  |  |
| 1369 | If I wouldn’t have got pregnant in the first place, that’s the only thing that I would have changed. |  |  |
| 1370 | But I wouldn’t if I’d found out I was pregnant I would have still had Leila and things would have still happened the way that they did. |  |  |
| 1371 | But that is the only thing I would have changed. |  |  |
| 1372 | And I would have, in, gone to university and done all the things that I wanted to do. |  |  |
| 1373 | And not the things that my family wanted to do. |  |  |
| 1374 | It’s not something that I could change. |  |  |
| 1375 |  | Um hm |  |
| 1376 | So it’s like I regret, urm, I regret the past five years being spent with someone who had no intentions of ever, raising their child. |  |  |
| 1377 | Or being supportive, or doing the right thing. |  |  |
| 1378 | That’s what I regret, but I don’t regret Leila. |  |  |
| 1379 | So, I, I do feel like I lost something, urm, I could have been doing all sorts. |  |  |
| 1380 | I could have been concentrating on my school work, thinking about bloody boyfriend |  |  |
| 1381 | Urm, so I’ve lost that, sort of, (Pause) being a teenager, I’ve lost that. |  |  |
| 1382 | But I’ve gained being a Mum and I’ve gained a beautiful daughter. |  |  |
| 1383 | And such a strong family support system which I probably wouldn’t have had, had I just been a teenager, yeah. |  |  |
|  | Story 86 **Dad look at me: communication through pictures** |  |  |
| 1384 |  | Yeah, sounds good |  |
| 1385 |  | Yeah, Right I think, let me just check through my list of questions to make sure I’ve asked you all the kind of things that I picked up at the time, that I wanted to say. |  |
| 1386 |  | Urm (pause), there was another thing about the relationships actually because you’ve spoken a lot about your relationships with your female relatives but you also obviously mentioned your Dad a bit. |  |
| 1387 |  | Urm, and did you have a reason behind, what was it that made you send that photo of yourself in the hospital to your Dad? What was it at the time do you think? |  |
| 1388 | Well I think it was, Dad look at me, I’m about to have a baby. |  |  |
| 1389 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 1390 | Urm, urm, it was just Dad look at me, I’m about to, I’m in labour, look, no I really am in labour look. |  |  |
| 1391 | Yeah, that was, that was sort of it. |  |  |
| 1392 | Urm, with my Dad, cos with him being, oh I think my Dad asked me for a picture |  |  |
| 1393 |  | Ah |  |
| 1394 | I must have said ‘Dad I’m in hospital’ |  |  |
| 1395 | And he said ‘*why, what’s going on and what, what, what, it’s too soon*.’ |  |  |
| 1396 | I’m like ‘it’s not too soon, she’s due in two days’ |  |  |
| 1397 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 1398 | ‘*Are you really in labour, no, send me a picture.’* |  |  |
| 1399 | So I sent him a picture |  |  |
| 1400 | It’s like even now my Dad says ‘*how’s Leila?’* |  |  |
| 1401 | ‘Oh, she’s fine, she’s good.’ |  |  |
| 1402 | *‘Send me a picture*.’ |  |  |
| 1403 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 1404 | I do the same with him, ‘oh Dad how are you?’ |  |  |
| 1405 | *‘Fine’* |  |  |
| 1406 | ‘OK, send me a picture.’ |  |  |
| 1407 | ‘What are you up to today? Send me a picture.’ |  |  |
| 1408 | That’s just sort of how we communicate. |  |  |
| 1409 |  | Yeah |  |
| 1410 | I’ve never been to Australia, I really want to go, er, but these are things |  |  |
| 1411 |  | These are financial things aren’t they? |  |
| 1412 | Yes, yes |  |  |
| 1413 |  | Very much so (laugh). |  |
|  | Story 87 **Exhaustion: A single Mum’s life** |  |  |
| 1414 |  | Urm, you’ve talked early about, you used the term exhausted a couple of times and I think that relates partly to being a single Mum and that type of thing. |  |
| 1415 | Um hm |  |  |
| 1416 |  | But do you want to tell me a little more about that? |  |
| 1417 |  | And sort of how that’s affected your experience? |  |
| 1418 | Urm, could you go into that a little bit more? |  |  |
| 1419 |  | So, I think some of the times you said, being exhausted, being tired by things. |  |
| 1420 | Um hm, I think | Urm, was that something you found sort of |  |
| 1421 | Yeah |  |  |
| 1422 |  | Throughout your experience? |  |
| 1423 | Yeah, yeah, like I’m always tired, I’m always tired and that’s mainly due to being a single Mum. |  |  |
| 1424 | like I’m the one that gets up and does all the washing and hovers the house at six O’clock in the morning before you set off and go to school and makes my sandwiches and gets everything ready for work and then gets Leila ready in the morning. |  |  |
| 1425 | Like there’s no, there’s no time when I ever let someone else do it whilst I just relax a few minutes. |  |  |
| 1426 | There’s no, there’s never that, so I feel like yeah I am always tired but when I’m exhausted it usually because being a single Mum and just doing all, being a Mum in itself is tiring. |  |  |
| 1427 | But then when you have other things going on that are emotionally draining you, that’s when I feel emotionally exhausted. |  |  |
| 1428 | I feel like I’ve reached the end of the road I have to turn left or right. |  |  |
|  | Story 88 **Support from the partner** |  |  |
| 1429 |  | What do you think would have helped you, through that experience of being tired? |  |
| 1430 |  | You know, having to do, feeling you have to do a lot for yourself, what could have helped you? |  |
| 1431 | I | Even some members of your family, or maybe some professionals, people outside. In an ideal situation, what  Could have helped? |  |
| 1432 | I think the only person who could have helped me was Leila’s Dad. |  |  |
| 1433 | He’s the only person that could have alleviated any of those things. |  |  |
| 1434 | He is the only person who could have changed those things. |  |  |
| 1435 | Because regardless of whether I had help from my Mum or whatever it was they, those things were always going to tire someone else out. |  |  |
| 1436 | They were going to use up someone else resource. |  |  |
| 1437 | But it was his responsibility to do and he never did any of those things, that’s |  |  |
| 1438 |  | Yeah |  |
| 1439 | I feel like it was his responsibility to do. |  |  |
| 1440 | He never once said oh you look tired let me pick up our daughter for a few hours, you get some rest. |  |  |
| 1441 | I’ve always had to ask him, ‘can you pick up Leila? When are you picking up Leila? When are you going to see her?’ |  |  |
| 1442 | A few weeks ago he had her over night for the first time and that was only because I bullied him into it. |  |  |
| 1443 | He wanted to pick her up from the child minders earlier and I said, ‘well I’m paying until four O’clock.’ |  |  |
| 1444 | ‘So no you can’t pick her up earlier at twelve, you can pick her up at half four.’ |  |  |
| 1445 | *‘Well what time do I bring her back then, eight O’clock.’* |  |  |
| 1446 | And I was like, ‘well, you can bring her back the next morning at eight, at ten O’clock, I’ll be awake then.’ |  |  |
| 1447 | So he brought her back the next morning at eleven O’clock. |  |  |
| 1448 | And that was like, you’ve just defeated the purpose, because I still didn’t get to have that lie in. |  |  |
| 1449 | I’ve still not managed to rest, fully rest, yes I haven’t had her overnight but I’ve not managed to get those few hours back. |  |  |
| 1450 |  | So what time did you say he brought her back? |  |
| 1451 | Eight O’clock in the morning |  |  |
| 1452 |  | Eight O’clock sorry. |  |
| 1453 | Eight O’clock in the morn\*, we had agreed bring her back at ten O’clock, ten thirty. |  |  |
| 1454 |  | Yeah, Yeah (laugh). |  |
| 1455 | Ten thirty and he brought her back at eight O’clock |  |  |
| 1456 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 1457 | And that for me is just, he is like, at the moment the big contributor |  |  |
| 1458 | He’s usually been my biggest supporter |  |  |
| 1459 | And although there are things that he hasn’t done which I sort of question, ‘so why couldn’t you do those things?’ |  |  |
| 1460 | It makes sense how he couldn’t do it cos he had someone else on the go at the same time. |  |  |
|  | Story 89 **Time to recover from emotional exhaustion** |  |  |
| 1461 | But it’s now it’s just always him. |  |  |
| 1462 | I don’t cry ever, except for every time I speak to him, I cry. |  |  |
| 1463 |  | Hm |  |
| 1464 | And that’s sort of the source of my emotional exhaustion. |  |  |
| 1465 |  | Yeah |  |
| 1466 | And I just need to take a break, I need to take a break from, from even being at work, |  |  |
| 1467 | Cos I’m still at work, I’m still, I’m still tired and I’m also exhausted. |  |  |
| 1468 | I don’t have the time to sort of get all my sleep together and feel like, OK, I’m not tired any mor, I can get over all this emotional stuff and just patch myself back together. |  |  |
| 1469 | Maybe even go to the gym once, you know, just, you know. |  |  |
| 1470 | Maybe even do something a bit fun and then come back refreshed. |  |  |
| 1471 | That is, it just doesn’t happen. |  |  |
| 1472 |  | Yeah, as I said the joys of Motherhood hey (laugh). |  |
| 1473 | Yep |  |  |
|  | Story 90 **A Holistic approach to support** |  |  |
| 1474 |  | But you have talked about the culture of you office |  |
| 1475 | Um hm |  |  |
| 1476 | Um hm | And the fact that actually, those people have made a big difference to you feeling comfortable in your apprenticeship and, and, being able to get through that. |  |
| 1477 | Um hm | Urm, so from all of your experiences in terms of the rejection from college the way that staff their managed things, you know |  |
| 1478 | Um hm | The professionals who supported you, professionals who have kind of disappeared on you and ignored you. |  |
| 1479 | Um hm | Urm, the colleague around you right now, who are a support to you. |  |
| 1480 |  | From your experiences of what has helped you and what hasn’t though your journey, what would you suggest to people looking to support young Mums? |  |
| 1481 | Um hm |  |  |
| 1482 |  | What types of things would you suggest that they should try and do? |  |
| 1483 | I think you usually get someone who supports, will support you in education but it’s education only, they’’ll support you on. |  |  |
| 1484 | Like the health visitor, Leila’s health only and my health as well. |  |  |
| 1485 | You don’t get somebody who supports you all the way around. |  |  |
| 1486 | I mean, well Sophie supports me all the way around. |  |  |
| 1487 | She supports me with everything, we have a support plan and she supports me through. |  |  |
| 1488 | If I have problems at work, she’ll contact unions with me. |  | Benefits – a stereotype but does the reader/ society begrudge a woman working full time a top up on a measly £700 pay cheque? |
| 1489 | If I have problems with my benefits or anything, she’ll help me contact them. |  |  |
| 1490 | If I have problems with my electric, my gas, my house’s association, she will help me contact all those people. |  |  |
| 1491 | So I feel, like having more people like the services that they do at [acronym of organisation] that’s the type, you need an all around support. | Yep |  |
| 1492 | It’s difficult having four people supporting the same person who don’t work for the same organisations, so their work never marries together. |  |  |
| 1493 |  | Hm |  |
| 1494 | Someone could help you one week and then the other person comes next week and then it’s all a bit messed up. |  |  |
| 1495 | It doesn’t, it doesn’t come together as one. |  |  |
| 1496 | And sort of like a holistic approach. |  |  |
|  | Story 91 **Multiagency meeting and a key worker** |  |  |
| 1497 |  | Did you value their input? |  |
| 1498 |  | Did you feel like they made a, the different people working. |  |
| 1499 | Yes different people did make a really good input. |  |  |
| 1500 | Like I mean, you know, there’s things that Donna knew that I wouldn’t have gotten from anybody else. |  |  |
| 1501 |  | Hm |  |
| 1502 | But urm, so it’s like, it’s stuff like that. |  |  |
| 1503 | Just, I feel like you need that one person that will support you across the board. | Yeah |  |
| 1504 | Urm and then you also need someone else, whose going to, who probably specialises in those things. |  |  |
| 1505 | So it would be like if, I mean Jenny has only just recently supported me. |  |  |
| 1506 | But if it was at the time when I first got pregnant I would have appreciated it if she could have liaised with Donna and they could have sort of worked together on how to support me efficiently. | Um hm |  |
| 1507 | And worked with, urm, health visitor and how to support my health. You know how, and Leila’s health and how to support that. |  |  |
| 1508 | And just like liaised with people at college. |  |  |
| 1509 |  | So a lot more sort of multiagency and |  |
| 1510 | Multiagency , but then one key person. |  |  |
| 1511 | So just like a social worker who’s going to support you through different agencies. |  |  |
| 1512 |  | Um hm |  |
| 1513 | I think that would have been important. |  |  |
| 1514 | Because I’ve had a lot of support over the past two, three years but it’s been through various different people at various different point. |  |  |
| 1515 | Like when Donna was supporting me it was just Donna, there was nobody else supporting me through anything else. |  |  |
| 1516 |  | Um |  |
| 1517 | Urm, and I don’t think Donna would have known that I was going through all those things where I was a carer and she wouldn’t have known that, she wouldn’t have known. |  |  |
| 1518 | So she wouldn’t have been able to give me that support. |  |  |
| 1519 |  | Um |  |
| 1520 | She was focused on helping me through and making sure that I get my education, making sure that I definitely get that. |  |  |
| 1521 | And then you’ve got the health visitor, she was sort of making sure I was having a healthy pregnancy, making sure that Leila gets all of her jabs at the same time. |  |  |
| 1522 | You now, everything sort of in order and that Leila’s developing well, that I’m still OK. |  |  |
| 1523 | But, she just works, deals with me one to one that’s all, she doesn’t, it doesn’t get fed back to those people. |  |  |
| 1524 | I mean I usually, I would tell them what was going on. |  |  |
| 1525 | But at different stages of my life I’ve had different types of support. |  |  |
| 1526 | And I would have been great to have that sort of key person who was going to liaise with all those different people. |  |  |
| 1527 | Because they could probably think of something that I wouldn’t have thought of. |  |  |
| 1528 |  | Yep |  |
| 1529 | They could probably think of something that I wouldn’t have |  |  |
| 1530 | Like together they could have thought of something that I wouldn’t have thought of, so it’s things like that. |  |  |
| 1531 |  | Yeah, sounds like a good idea. |  |
|  | Story 92 **Young Mums need support** |  |  |
| 1532 | I think people might underestimate the kind of support young Mums need. |  |  |
| 1533 | I mean being the Mum part is easy. |  |  |
| 1534 | It’s just all the other environmental influences that are going to affect you. |  |  |
| 1535 | The Mum part is easy, I mean, I could change a nappy in my sleep. |  |  |
| 1536 | The Mum part is easier and I enjoy being a Mum, it’s the best thing that I’ve ever done. |  |  |
| 1537 | It’s just, it brings me so much joy. |  |  |
| 1538 | But there’s all the other things that, urm, affecting me around my environment. |  |  |
| 1539 | That, not always, that someone else might not be able to pick up. |  |  |
| 1540 |  | Um, Yeah |  |
| 1541 | Donna might not have been able to see that I was in a controlling relationship. |  |  |
| 1542 | Well she wasn’t supporting me through that anymore, I was in an apprenticeship and I’d left college so she’d signed off, she’d done her part. |  |  |
| 1543 |  | Um |  |
| 1544 | But, and the health visitor might not have seen that I was going through something else. |  |  |
| 1545 |  | Yeah |  |
| 1546 | Just things like that. |  |  |
| 1547 |  | Yeah, Definitely |  |
|  | Story 92 **No real emotional support, emotionally reserved** |  |  |
| 1548 |  | And you talked a lot about them knowing things an giving you advice which is obviously really important when you’re negotiating a new world. |  |
| 1549 |  | And how to get through it in a way that most people wouldn’t traditionally kind of embark on. |  |
| 1550 |  | So that’s been really important. |  |
| 1551 |  | Urm, what about, ee, the kind of emotional support you received from them or didn’t receive from them? |  |
| 1552 |  | Can you describe, tell me a bit more about that side of things? |  |
| 1553 | Er, I don’t really think, urm I received a lot of emotional support. |  |  |
| 1554 |  | Um hm |  |
| 1555 | But that’s down to me and the kind of person that I am. |  |  |
| 1556 | I tend to put my emotions on the back burner and think about how everyone else is doing. |  |  |
| 1557 | And think about everyone else first before I think about myself. |  |  |
| 1558 | So that’s down to sort of me and how I deal with it. |  |  |
| 1559 | So you could speak to me in the office and not know that I was homeless. |  |  |
| 1560 | One of my colleagues actually got a little bit upset because she felt as though, a few other people in the office knew, but she didn’t know so she wasn’t able to support me. |  |  |
| 1561 | And I just said I wanted to have some sort of normality, someone whose, not looking down on me, someone who still just sees me as Sasha. |  |  |
| 1562 | Who doesn’t know that she’s got all this crazy stuff going on at home. |  |  |
| 1563 | So that, urm, I tend to compose myself so I think it’s hard for people to support me emotionally. |  |  |
| 1564 | But if I was to have that key person, I mean, they would have been able to piece everything, all the key pieces of the puzzle and help me get some help. |  |  |
|  | Story 94 **Baby groups and Mentors** |  |  |
| 1565 |  | Yeah. |  |
| 1566 |  | And the urm, the, the experience of other people who are single mothers, is that something you’d have liked to see even earlier? |  |
| 1567 | That’s something I always use to bring up with urm, with Jenny. |  |  |
| 1568 | Is there no sort of single Mother’s baby group or something? Or young Mum baby group? |  |  |
| 1569 | That’s like, I always wanted to start like a young Mum baby group. |  |  |
| 1570 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 1571 | You know just young Mums in the area will come and talk and talk about similar experiences. |  |  |
| 1572 | When I’ve had friends that have urm, I’ve had I think two friends that have gotten pregnant after me. |  |  |
| 1573 | I’ve always given them as much support as I can and I’ve told them every single thing I went through. |  |  |
| 1574 | And I’ve told them, do this, do that, don’t do that and anyone who talks, whose pregnant now I’ll tell them. |  |  |
| 1575 | This is what you need to expect, don’t let them lie to you. |  |  |
| 1576 |  | Yeah |  |
| 1577 | You know, I’ve always said (laugh) you need to make sure you take laxatives in hospital because they don’t tell you what’s going to happen next when you have the baby. You know |  |  |
| 1578 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 1579 | You need to make sure those things, nobody ever told me, that, that caught me unaware. |  |  |
| 1580 | So having that sort of support group whether it ‘s young Mums, pregnant young Mums. |  |  |
| 1581 | And it doesn’t necessarily have to be teenagers, people in their early twenties or something. |  |  |
| 1582 | You still have something to bond over and that’s something that I would have really, really loved to see right from the beginning. |  |  |
| 1583 | Because I only sort of got that sort of one on one support with someone who’d been through it before, and come out the other end. |  |  |
| 1584 | Urm, when Leila was sort of seven months old |  |  |
| 1585 |  | Um |  |
| 1586 | And today she’s my best friend. |  |  |
| 1587 |  | (Laugh) |  |
| 1588 | That’s, if I ever have a problem I’ll ring her and she’ll think of something, we’ll, we’ll make a solution. |  |  |
| 1589 | You know, er, we go through similar problems and we’re able to sort of bounce off each other and just, and cope and that’s just through, going through the same experiences. |  |  |
| 1590 | It’s, it’s, it’s invaluable. |  |  |
| 1591 | Like I have a friend, urm her daughter’s one, she’s born in, in February? And Leila was born in November. |  |  |
| 1592 | She always comes to me, we don’t speak every day, we can go two months without talking but if she has a problem or feels that no one else is going to understand her. |  |  |
| 1593 | She’ll ring me no matter what time of the night it is and say *‘this is what is going on, what do I do?’* |  |  |
| 1594 | *‘You’ve done it before, you know what it’s like, you’re the only person that knows what it’s like’* and that’s. |  |  |
|  | Story 95 **The social life of a young Mum** |  |  |
| 1595 | Having a social life as a young Mum, I find that really difficult. |  |  |
| 1596 | And I know that a lot of young Mums find it difficult to have that social interaction because your friends that you went to school with or uni with they don’t understand. |  |  |
| 1597 | They don’t know, you can’t just get up and go. |  |  |
| 1598 | You need to sort the baby bag first |  |  |
| 1599 | and you need to, you’ve got nappies and wipes and, before, |  |  |
| 1600 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 1601 | It’s an hour before you get out of the house and nobody understands that. |  |  |
| 1602 |  | No |  |
| 1603 | Not until they’ve got a child and that’s why I was unable to sort of fit in with my friends again. | ‘that’s why I was unable to sort of fit in with my friends again.’ (1603)  ‘They’re out, you know every, every night, all weekend, getting drunk or whatever, going out partying And I just can’t do it, I can’t do it.’ (1605-1606) |  |
| 1604 | Cos they go out every Saturday night, they go out from Thursday to Saturday, or Thursday to Sunday night. |  |  |
| 1605 | They’re out, you know every, every night, all weekend, getting drunk or whatever, going out partying. |  |  |
| 1606 | And I just can’t do it, I can’t do it. |  |  |
| 1607 | First, my Mum would go mental, *‘where are you going? (laugh) like whose going to look after Leila? I can’t do it all night.’* |  |  |
|  | Story 96 **Return of the social life** |  |  |
| 1608 | I mean now things have changed, I mean Leila is a lot older, she’ll stay with anybody (laugh). |  |  |
| 1609 | So I’ve been able to regain that sort of bit of my youth back. |  |  |
| 1610 | Like I can just get a text to say Sasha lets go out. |  |  |
| 1611 | Say ‘Mum can I go’, she never says no. |  |  |
| 1612 | *‘Go, go, go now, she’s fine just go.’* |  |  |
| 1613 | So was it like last weekend or the weekend before? |  |  |
| 1614 | I was out Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday night. |  |  |
| 1615 | Urm, I went to a concert on Sunday night and then I went to the after party and the party after the after party. |  |  |
| 1616 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 1617 | And the night before I’d done the same thing. |  |  |
| 1618 | I’d been to a baby shower for one of our relatives and then I dragged my Mum and my Aunty out in Manchester as well (laugh), just pretending we were all sisters. |  |  |
| 1619 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 1620 | Urm and then the night before I’d gone out for a meal and gone for dessert or something the night before. |  |  |
| 1621 | So I’m able to get that social aspect back. |  |  |
| 1622 |  | excellent |  |
|  | Story 96 **Old friends: Nothing in common** |  |  |
| 1623 | I wish I could have done that before. |  |  |
| 1624 | But I couldn’t have done it with my usual friends because they don’t, we’ve got nothing left to talk about. |  |  |
| 1625 | *‘Ah, is your baby alright? Ah, she’s so cute, ah, you ah’.* |  |  |
| 1626 | You know, it’s a dead end conversation. |  |  |
| 1627 |  | Yeah |  |
| 1628 | *‘We need to meet up’.* |  |  |
| 1629 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 1630 | But with other friends who have the same problems you know, we talk about. |  |  |
| 1631 | ‘Well she bumped her head the other day’. |  |  |
| 1632 | ‘Oh I don’t know what to do she’s’. It’s it’s |  |  |
|  | Story 98 **Advice: stop breastfeeding and join a gym** |  |  |
| 1633 |  | Yeah, yeah definitely |  |
| 1634 | Yeah, Yeah |  |  |
| 1635 |  | You’ve talked about, mentoring really, being mentored and mentoring yourself. |  |
| 1636 | Um, hm | Urm, which I think is something, that clearly you consider to be very positive, thing. |  |
| 1637 |  | I just wonder now, if you could go back in time and be a mentor to yourself, what types of things might you suggest? |  |
| 1638 | Tell myself to stop breast feeding at twelve weeks, (laugh) |  |  |
| 1639 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 1640 | Leila was breastfed until she was eighteen months old and that just drained everything out of me. |  |  |
| 1641 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 1642 | Like I look at myself in the mirror and (sigh) what am I going to do? You know. |  |  |
| 1643 | I would have told myself, join a gym (laugh). |  |  |
| 1644 | Not because you want to lose weight but for something to do, it’s a hobby. |  |  |
| 1645 | You can go sit in the Jacuzzi and you can just pretend to swim a lap or, you can just pretend to do some weights. |  |  |
| 1646 | It’s just something to do, you can meet new people. |  |  |
| 1647 | I would have told myself to do that. |  |  |
|  | Story 99 **Advice: Education, work and Leila** |  |  |
| 1648 | Urm, I would have told myself not to go to college. |  |  |
| 1649 | No but I needed to go to college to know that I can still do things, I needed to do that. |  |  |
| 1650 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 1651 | Urm, I would have told myself to just enjoy Leila a little bit more. |  |  |
| 1652 |  | Yeah |  |
| 1653 | Enjoy, not rushing to work as fast as I did. |  |  |
| 1654 | Yep, I think I needed to go to college before she was born to prove to myself that I still had it in me. |  |  |
| 1655 | But, after she was born I should have enjoyed her a little bit longer. |  |  |
| 1656 | I should have enjoyed being a Mum a little bit longer because as soon as you get into work, you’ve got no time for anything. |  |  |
| 1657 |  | Hm |  |
| 1658 | Like I wanted to do stuff like just take her to the park. |  |  |
| 1659 | I can’t do that on a Saturday, well Saturday morning I’m cleaning the house and then at twelve O’clock I want to be in town just getting things done, do your food shopping. |  |  |
| 1660 | And then in the afternoon I might meet some friends and then in the evening I might go out later. |  |  |
| 1661 | And then on Sunday we go to church on a morning and then after church we go to my Mum’s for Sunday dinner. |  |  |
| 1662 | And then it’s like finding the, time to spend that quality time with Leila, I find that really difficult. |  |  |
|  | Story 100 **Enjoying Leila** |  |  |
| 1663 |  | What would you suggest was one of your favourite experiences with Leila? |  |
| 1664 | Urm, when she was first born, just the whole labour experience and then holding this tiny little baby, when she was born. |  |  |
| 1665 | And sort of coming home to her every day after work, when I first started work, that was just, was really good. |  |  |
| 1666 | I, I felt really, really good. |  |  |
| 1667 | Urm, just Leila being who she is, when she started crawling, when she started walking, when she started talking. |  |  |
| 1668 | I trained her to say *‘love you Mummy’, ‘Mummy I love you’* or *‘I love you too’*(laugh)*.* |  |  |
| 1669 | So just little things like that. |  |  |
| 1670 | Urm, hearing her interact with my brother, you can hear them fight from a mile away. |  |  |
| 1671 | *‘No Kaleb stop it, get off’*, she’s not even two yet. |  |  |
| 1672 | And hearing back from the child minder every day. |  |  |
| 1673 | ‘What’s she done?’ |  |  |
| 1674 | *‘Oh yeah, she’s a little madam, she did this’.* |  |  |
| 1675 | Just hearing back what she’s been up to, I find that really positive. |  |  |
| 1676 | And just her herself, that’s what I really, that’s my favourite. |  |  |
| 1677 | Knowing that no matter what I could ever do Leila is going to be there for me, she’s always going to be my daughter. |  |  |
| 1678 | And I think that’s something that my Mum feels about me as well. |  |  |
| 1679 | That she’ll always be there and she’ll never, well she can do whatever she wants but she’s always going to be my daughter. |  |  |
| 1680 | You know, she’ll bring a smile into anyone’s, into anyone’s life. | (laugh) |  |
| 1681 | A friend, a friend and colleague, my Aunty lives next door to her, one of my Mum’s other sisters, she lives next door to her. |  |  |
| 1682 | And I must have gone to visit my Aunty and I thought, oh I’ll pop in and say hi and have a cup of tea. |  |  |
| 1683 | Leila walks in, she took her shoes off, she’s upstairs already, messing about playing with the sons. |  |  |
| 1684 | And she’s just, that’s it, that is Leila, oh she’s upstairs playing with Jack and Jamie they’re just, I don’t know, |  |  |
| 1685 | You can hear them shouting and playing with each other. |  |  |
| 1686 | She’s just, just knowing that I can take her anywhere and she’s just so, she’s just like me (laugh). |  |  |
| 1687 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 1688 | She’s just like me and just not having a care at all and not worrying about anything, she’s not scared of anything. |  |  |
| 1689 |  | So she’s like you now. |  |
| 1690 | Yeah, yeah and she’ll sing and dance. |  |  |
| 1691 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 1692 | And just that’s what I love about her, she’s the life and soul of the party (laugh). |  |  |
| 1693 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 1694 | She’s just, yeah, she’s like a miniature version of me and that’s what I love, being able to see that in her. |  |  |
| 1695 | She gets the best of, the best of me and the best of her Dad, mixed together that’s what she is. |  |  |
| 1696 | Urm, and she always brings out, well she always brings out the best in me, I don’t know about him (laugh). |  |  |
| 1697 |  | (laugh) |  |
|  | Story 101 **Physical confidence: the achievement of having carried a life** |  |  |
| 1698 |  | OK, urm, |  |
| 1699 | I think we’ve covered most of these. |  |  |
| 1700 |  | Did you want to talk about |  |
| 1701 | Physical changes? Urm, Urm, I think I struggled with the physical changes after she was born. |  |  |
| 1702 | Because when she born, everything filled out and I thought oh yeah, I look fine, I felt fine |  |  |
| 1703 | And then as soon as she was out, sort of my stomach just like shrivelled and all that was left was this black skin. |  |  |
| 1704 | I think I had hyper pigmentation so it all just when black and it’s only just sort of lightened up now. |  |  |
| 1705 | And I was just sort of like, ‘what am I going to do? What do I do?’ |  |  |
| 1706 | And I find that hard, looking at my body now, knowing that I’m only nineteen and this is what my body looks like (laugh). | (laugh) |  |
| 1707 | But what I found is, I use to always think, who’s going to love me knowing that I’ve got stretch marks and what not. |  |  |
| 1708 | Well Leila’s Dad will always love me because that was his child or whatever. |  |  |
| 1709 | But I’ve learnt actually that nobody cares, about your stretch marks, nobody cares. |  |  |
| 1710 | It’s not that big an issue everyone’s got stretch marks, nobody cares. |  |  |
| 1711 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 1712 | So that’s what, I’ve learned to be confident. |  |  |
| 1713 | And the physical, just knowing that, knowing that I carried a life, I find that as an achievement. |  |  |
| 1714 | Knowing that urm, (pause), like there’s people, there’s people out there who, might have, they might look a certain way but you just don’t know how they feel underneath. |  |  |
| 1715 | And knowing that I feel proud of myself. |  |  |
| 1716 | Like the beauty is skin deep, that’s how I feel, that how I. |  |  |
| 1717 | I feel a lot more confident about myself and my body even though I’ve got hang ups that I might not like but I am confident in myself, in my own skin. |  |  |
| 1718 |  | Hm |  |
| 1719 | Confident in my own skin, cos if I don’t love myself, who’s going to love me (laughing). |  |  |
| 1720 | Who’s going to love me, but yeah. |  |  |
|  | Story 102 **Dispelling stereotypes and accepting it’s OK to be a teen Mum** |  |  |
| 1721 |  | What would you like to say to society at large? |  |
| 1722 |  | I know you feel that there’s a lot of negativity out there. |  |
| 1723 | Yeah |  |  |
| 1724 |  | Towards young Mums and that type of thing. |  |
| 1725 |  | What would you, if it was your opportunity, what would you like to say? |  |
| 1726 | I think we need to change the, urm, the common, common misinterpretations of being a teen Mum. |  |  |
| 1727 | And just the common connotations with it. |  |  |
| 1728 | Just how, when someone thinks young Mums, ah, straight away, negative. |  |  |
| 1729 | You don’t see those young Mums who work to the bone and do everything for their children. |  |  |
| 1730 | And, like a lot of people just say, ‘*oh are you one of them Mums that leaves the kid with the daugh\*, with the Grandma all the time?’* |  |  |
| 1731 | And actually that caused arguments in my family. |  |  |
| 1732 | Because when Leila was born, I did everything, I bathed her, cleaned her, everything. |  |  |
| 1733 | Nobody got a look in. |  |  |
| 1734 | And my Mum rang my Grandma upset, oh you know, ‘*I thought she was going to leave it all to me to do, I got upset about that when she was pregnant but now she’s born, she doesn’t even let me change a nappy, does she not trust me, what’s going on?’* |  |  |
| 1735 | And that was just, they don’t realise how hard working some people are. |  |  |
| 1736 | And just because of a few people that may not utilise all the opportunities that are in front of them or may not see it. |  |  |
| 1737 | There might be a reason why that young Mum sits at home and is on benefits or whatever. |  |  |
| 1738 | There might be a reason behind it. |  |  |
| 1739 | We just need to change that from a young age. |  |  |
| 1740 | Instil it in the young people who are growing up now, that actually being a young Mum is not that bad. It’s not, it’s not a crime, it’s not a bad thing. |  |  |
| 1741 | And that should, it’s just like racism, but against young Mums. |  |  |
| 1742 | You need to instil it in people that actually it’s OK. |  |  |
|  | Story 103 **Reducing teen pregnancies: Focus on raising aspirations** |  |  |
| 1743 | But this is something that goes down to politics. |  |  |
| 1744 | And you know, they want to reduce teenage pregnancy rates. |  |  |
| 1745 | They need to improve attainment rates and what people sort of want to, want to see themselves doing in the future. |  |  |
| 1746 | To raise aspirations before they start thinking about teenage pregnancies. |  |  |
| 1747 | Because if you raise those aspirations then you’ll have people wanting to be doctors, wanting to do things and involved in their education as oppose to being teen Mums. |  |  |
| 1748 | You can’t just focus on that one thing. |  |  |
| 1749 | That’s one thing that I just, whenever I see the headlines, oh highest teenage pregnancy since two thousand and ten. |  |  |
| 1750 | Well I think that someone’s failed earlier on. |  |  |
| 1751 | Whether it was sexual education or whether it was just some people they’re teen Mums because their Mum was a teen Mum. |  |  |
| 1752 | It’s fine, you’ve got your boyfriend now you might as well just have a kid and get together, that’s how they were raised. |  |  |
| 1753 | You need to be raising those aspirations is what I think, that’s, that’s the key to changing that stereotype. |  |  |
| 1754 |  | So you think in some ways that societies negativity is around the fact that the alternative is that they have to admit that they are the ones who have failed |  |
| 1755 | Yeah, I think that’s it |  |  |
| 1756 |  | That’s interesting theory yeah. |  |
|  | Story 104 **Financial support and a clear route to continuing in education** |  |  |
| 1757 |  | Urm, one thing I would ask which is sort of kind of related to that is. |  |
| 1758 |  | you talked about the fact that the biggest thing for you know would have been, once you got pregnant and had Leila would have been to have spent more time with Leila before going back to work or back into education, |  |
| 1759 |  | Now obviously in society as it stands at the moment the traditional route is to stay in education, you know stay in further education, stay in higher education and take that route upwards. |  |
| 1760 |  | What can people do to make it easier for someone who stops there, has a child, spends sometime with the child to then be able to join back into education, at a later date? |  |
| 1761 | There needs to be some sort of initiative like, like, I want to liken it to, to job seekers allowance. |  |  |
| 1762 | For at some point if you’re on job seekers for less than so many weeks and you went into a job they’d give you like a small grant of something. |  |  |
| 1763 | There needs to be some sort of initiative to say actually if you go back to school we’ll support you through this with your child care |  |  |
| 1764 | And we’ll also support you through this whatever you need fin\*, not, cos actually it’s down to financially. |  |  |
| 1765 | A lot of young Mums find it easy to sit at home on benefit, than go to work and not have those benefits and have to use their own money to pay it out. |  |  |
| 1766 | There needs to be some sort of pathways to get people back into, to get young Mums back into education. |  |  |
| 1767 | Some sort of (pause) bill needs to be past |  |  |
| 1768 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 1769 | Or something just to sort of, to make it not a taboo, to fall pregnant at a young age. |  |  |
| 1770 | Yes it’s not the traditional way of doing things but people need to know, OK you fell pregnant, it’s OK you can still go back to school. |  |  |
| 1771 | You can still go back to school and you can still do everything you were going to do before. |  |  |
| 1772 | You’ll probably just be delayed a few years but you can still do it. |  |  |
| 1773 |  | Yeah |  |
| 1774 | And that’s not what’s, that’s not what’s put out there. |  |  |
|  | Story 105 **When to return to work or education?** |  |  |
| 1775 |  | What would you be, what would be your optimal amount of time to have stayed with Leila, before returning to anything else? |  |
| 1776 | I wish I’d have just waited until September. |  |  |
| 1777 |  | So how many months was that? |  |
| 1778 | So she would have been, Urm, she’d have been about nine months old. |  |  |
| 1779 |  | OK |  |
| 1780 | She’d have been about nine months old, that’s all I’d have done. |  |  |
| 1781 |  | Yeah |  |
| 1782 | A year is too long, I’d have gone mad |  |  |
| 1783 |  | (laugh) |  |
| 1784 | But, I think if I’d been able to regain my social skills after she was born and not lost myself so much. |  |  |
| 1785 | Then I would have been able to continue being at home for a little bit longer as oppose to diving into work. |  |  |
| 1786 | That, but I felt like I needed to dive into work because I was going a bit, a bit mad. |  |  |
| 1787 | I don’t know what I was doing. | (laugh) |  |
| 1788 | So I felt, I felt I needed that. |  |  |
| 1789 |  | Um |  |
|  | Story 106 **Supporting and investing in young Mums** |  |  |
| 1790 | There just needs to be, or maybe an agency that young Mums get referred to and they help them look for work and help them look for childcare. |  |  |
| 1791 | And, or help them look for the next educational, whatever. |  |  |
| 1792 | Not just going to do level 2 hair and beauty or beauty therapy, raising their aspirations. |  |  |
| 1793 | OK you’re a young Mum, that’s fine, you can still be a doctor. |  |  |
| 1794 |  | Yeah |  |
| 1795 | You’re a young Mum, that’s fine you can still be a lawyer, you can still go be a teacher, you can still do it. |  |  |
| 1796 | You don’t need to be stuck in a low end job, you don’t need to urm, earn little amounts of money. |  |  |
| 1797 | You can still, you can still make it up there. |  |  |
| 1798 | I think that’s what, that’s what needs to change. |  |  |
| 1799 | Cos one girl I know, urm, she had her son a few weeks, urm, a few weeks after Leila was born. |  |  |
| 1800 | She’s one year or two years younger than me, so she, she must have just done her GCSEs. |  |  |
| 1801 | And then she went to college and did level 1 or whatever beauty and now she’s like, *‘now what do I do, I can’t get a job, I don’t really want to go to college again, now what do I do’* |  |  |
| 1802 | And now she’s just at home doing nothing. |  |  |
| 1803 | Maybe even get apprenticeships going for these young Mums. |  |  |
| 1804 |  | Um hm |  |
| 1805 | Because it’s, I think they need investing in to realise, actually yeah, I can do it, because you might not see that in yourself, where someone else might. |  |  |
|  | Thank you |  |  |
| 1806 |  | Thank you and is there anything else that you’d like to talk about or tell me. |  |
| 1807 | Urm, I don’t know, I think I’ve rabbited on for a long time. |  |  |
| 1808 |  | I’ve got an awful lot of information from you, thank you. |  |
| 1809 |  | I’ve got a lot of advice as well. |  |
| 1810 |  | As I said if something comes to mind later and you think, Ah, I really wish I’d said that we can just have a little follow up interview. |  |
| 1811 |  | Presumably quite a bit shorter than the one we’ve just had (laugh) |  |
| 1812 | Yeah |  |  |
| 1813 |  | Thank you very much Sasha. |  |
|  |  |  |  |