

Research with the Friends' Group



This series of posters shows a research project undertaken with a group of unaccompanied asylum seeking children who are placed in foster care with TACT in Bristol.

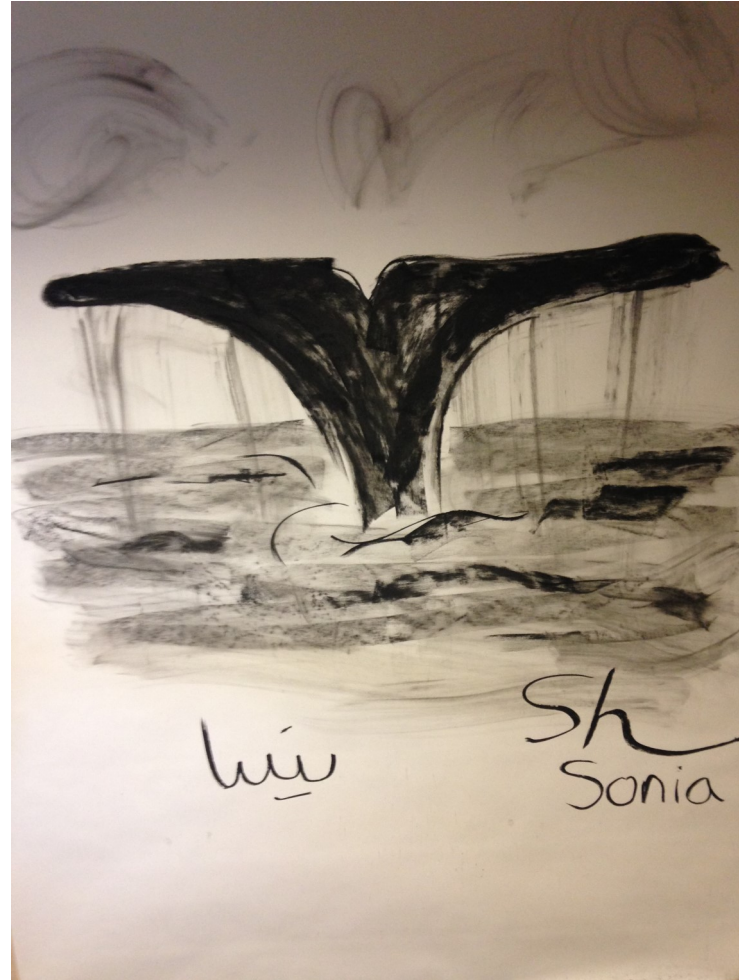
As a result of war and human rights abuses in countries neighbouring Europe, there has been an increase in people entering the UK to seek asylum. Despite a large number of people in the UK wanting to welcome refugees, TACT's fostering service in the south-west had very few people coming forward to enquire about fostering refugee children who arrived in the country alone. TACT have also experienced some apprehension from their existing carers to offer placements to refugee children. The Social Workers at TACT felt that this was due to a barrier where people saw the refugee/asylum seeker status first and the child/young person second.

This research aimed to shift perceptions and show that despite challenging life experiences these young people are adapting to their lives in the south west of England and thriving in their foster placements.

TACT run a regular group for the refugee children placed in their care. During this project they had seven boys placed with their foster carers, six of them were from Afghanistan and one was from Albania. As a group of researchers we joined the young people in their 'Friends' Group'. We spent time getting to know them and engaging in a range of fun activities.

We ran an art session with a local artist, we went rock climbing and we also held a music session with students from the University of Bath who volunteered their time. We provided the young people with digital cameras to document the sessions and also to show us what was important to them in their day-to-day lives growing up in foster care in and around Bristol.

Art Workshop



Climbing Session



Photo Voice

Photo voice is a research approach that enables people to communicate their experiences and identities through photography. The photographs on this poster were all taken by the young people. They show the things that they feel are important to them in their day-to-day lives. These images may appear as ordinary photographs to be found on any young person's phone. However, given the context of forced migration and the loss of family and place, the images take on extraordinary meaning and communicate the young people's new sense of belonging and their growing attachments to their carers and communities.

