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**SUMMARY KEYWORDS**

outcomes, people, work, academic, inequality, change, colour, accessible, youth worker, social, behavioural, difficulties, issues, unhelpful, groups, high level, views, negative outcomes, youth groups, carlisle

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In my early career, I was a primary school teacher, and then a youth worker. I worked in social care for a while looking after people who had extreme behavioural difficulties. And I worked in outdoor education. And in all of those different career settings, I found I came across lots of people who were really struggling with different life circumstances, and you had a high level of poor outcomes or negative outcomes. And I became an academic because I wanted to learn more about the ways in which we could support people. And I've become increasingly uncomfortable that by researching these issues, I'm not actually doing anything to solve them, that I'm creating a body of knowledge that other people can access and use, but isn't actually bringing about the changes that we need in society. I think academics, I think anyone can be complicit if they don't do anything. They don't take an action.

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I found myself complicit in that. Academic in the tie was a team issues that young people face. And research projects on getting involved in people or young people who looked after or marginalised from school as dropouts. And in some respect did was to fetishize the issues, and to focus on the difficulties and the problems. And if we talk about young people who have a certain label that reinforces the sense that that's who they are, it's what they've become. And what it ignores is the fact that this is what we've actually made you people that many social factors, determining outcomes that are completely outside the people's control. So I became aware of this fact I needed to write more broadly about inequality and the social determinants of outcome. Secondly, I needed to do something with that research.

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Rather than building an academic career on it. I have to take it out to a whole range of different places to actually make change happen myself, either It can be really off putting places for the general public to come to certainly not welcoming or accessible here tend to use, you get to this language to make us out in class. And that's unhelpful as a real value as well. So on one level, I challenge myself to go out and engage with the community. So I've been going out and talking with community groups, to local youth groups, and trying to find out what they think is design and what should be done about it. So I'm explaining my work in accessible terminology, making sure that my work is grounded in real views of people. That's one thing, and secondly, are trying to prop up Community Action groups. So in my local city, Carlisle, we've created a colour equality group.

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There are a whole range of people from different backgrounds, ages, demographics, meet once a month, we just caught in a really informal way about what we might do collectively, to try and bring about change. So a couple of weeks ago, we had a stance in the marketplace in colour. And we all gave out leaflets and tried to increase awareness of the issues of inequality in this country. Another thing I've done is to try and get more engagement with the press. So I can send articles, the press time to get on radio and things like that, to try and get messages out there about how unequal The world is that young people's outcomes aren't always their fault. I'm trying to kind of disrupt the dominant views, the ideology that we've got in society that people deserve what they get. And then fourthly, trying to aim for the top. Every time we deal with people. I send the report and the findings to local councillors and members of parliament in order to try and bring about some change. I mean, that's the most challenging level, I often get very polite, lots of stuff, which is very non cynical. Please my way plans for such change as at higher level. I firmly believe that as academics, we need to do our best to bring around social change. We can't just write about social change. So think about where you've had influence where you can actually get out and do something.