



Still a mam



#StillAMam

Overview of child removal in the NE



- Since 2009 there has been a 77% increase in the number of children being placed in care. (North East ADCS, 2021)
- Child removal is a leading correlating factor in premature death in mothers
- Out of the 20 worst performing local authorities in the country the NE alone has 12
- The link between poverty and child removal is irrefutable



“I've never told my story, like to anybody. Nobody asks you. Nobody's interested. I just hope to God for the future that social services listen to people and give them some help. Like I don't know why they took him off us, I was doing everything right, it was all 'what if's. There was no need for it whatsoever. It was so unfair.” - Zoe

Still a mam

Overview of Research - Themes

It's not your fault but it's your responsibility

Relationships matter!

It's the layers of disconnection, I couldn't have a natural birth, I was induced, disconnection. The oxytocin, that bond between mother and baby, that was lost. The trauma of a C-section, in and of itself. I couldn't hold her when she was born, disconnection. No skin to skin contact because I was out of it from the C-section, not allowed to breastfeed, not getting that. And I kind of knew she was going to be removed anyway. On day five I was asked to leave the hospital and she had to stay behind. Nobody called to check on me. Nobody. And bear in mind I have self harm and suicide in my history which everyone knew.” -

Emma

Still a mam

Erica

#StillAMam

Still a mam

Presentation of findings

It's not your fault but it's your responsibility

Relationships matter!

“My contact kept dwindling down, they were saying I was presenting as erratic, I was lying. I didn't know how to be honest. I felt I was going to be judged on being honest. No one said it's OK, just tell the truth, we can work with that. It was just like there was no support, they went, we're not your social worker, we're your children's social worker. You have to deal with your stuff.” - Claire

Kim's Story

It's not your fault but it's
your responsibility

Then the ex come and put my car windows out, so that was reported the week after come and set fire to my car right outside my sitting room window... the social worker says unfortunately, your house isn't safe for you or the kids, the kids are going to have to go and stay with their dads.

“My contact kept dwindling down, they were saying I was presenting as erratic, I was lying. I didn't know how to be honest. I felt I was going to be judged on being honest. No one said it's OK, just tell the truth, we can work with that. It was just like there was no support, they went, we're not your social worker, we're your children's social worker. You have to deal with your stuff.” - Claire

Still a mam

Gina's Story

Relationships matter!

I said, 'can't you just take me to a women's refuge?' and she laughed at me and said, 'you don't need a women's refuge, you're doing this to yourself.'

“Then my new social worker took over. She's the best thing to ever happen to me and my son. Best thing, she's fantastic. I absolutely love the lass, like she's dead good, she comes around, we have a cuppa, she's more like a friend who supports me.” -

Claire



Thank you!

#StillAMam

“I think it’s just remembering, that one of us could be your daughter, that this happens to anybody, if you could just see we’re somebody’s child, and I think if you look at somebody and think, I could be their mam” - Rachel