



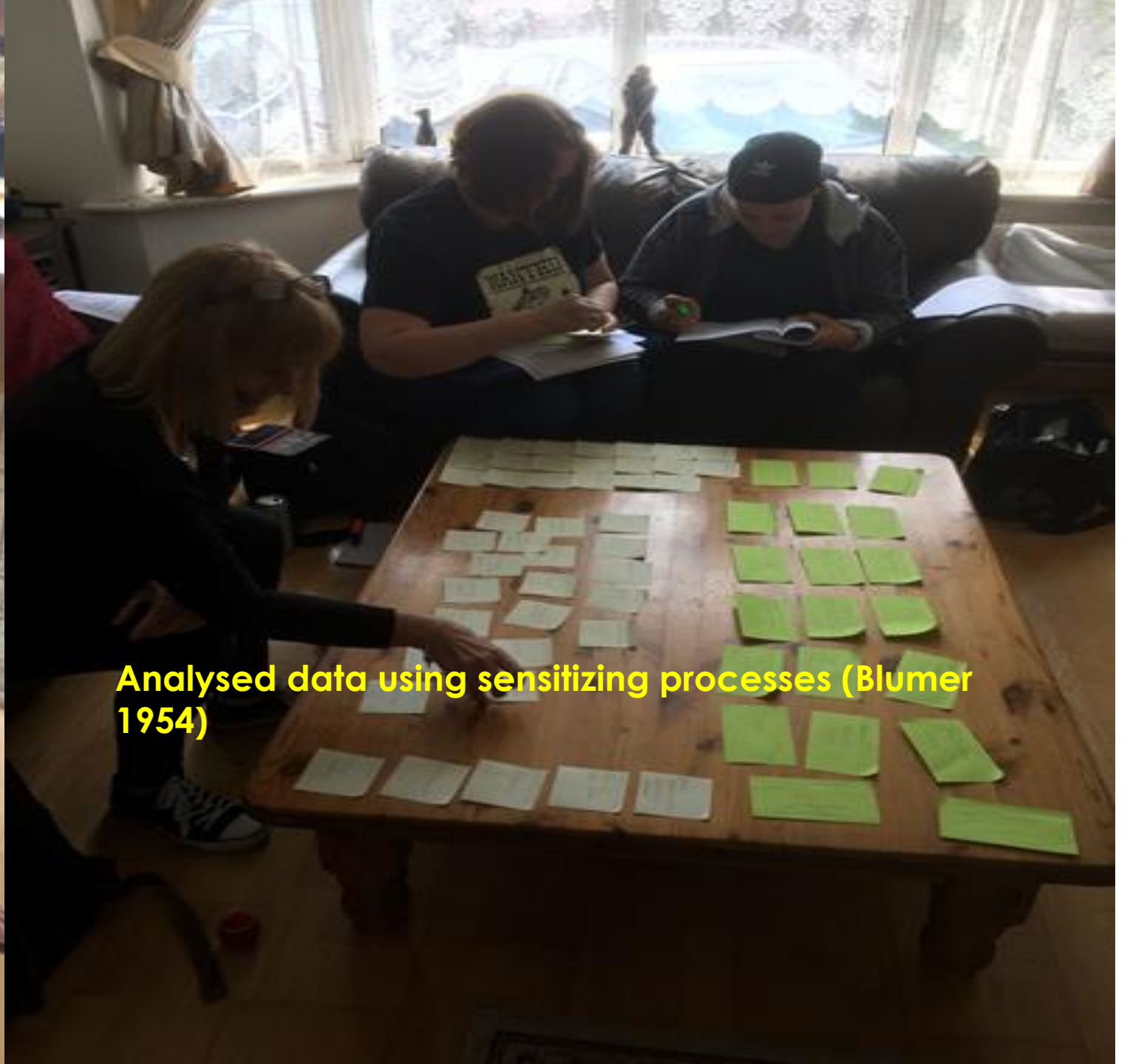
**BEYOND THE
SCHOOL GATES**

WHY DO THIS PROJECT?

- Exclusions increasing 50% up since 2000 in secondary schools
- Call for evidence Department for Education March 2018 – excluded students and their parents' perspectives of exclusions
- Local requests to work with excluded students
- Funding SLN: COP (£8,500) set up Beyond the school Gates project

USING LIVED EXPERIENCES TO HELP

- Lived experience a valid / reliable form of evidence – the phenomena (Husserl in Ideas I)
- Former excluded students and their parents trained to draw on lived experience to guide study
- Employed as researchers
- Drew on own experiences to guide focus groups and interviews
- Four focus groups (7 parents / 5 yp)
- All yp had SEND and EHCP



Analysed data using sensitizing processes (Blumer 1954)

grades Ali
qualifications
needed /
wanted.

Ali:
Working
together.

consistency.

needs
to feel
control. VK

Looks on
as a naughty
child. VK

Get behind VK

Ali
transition.

Ali:
relationship
building

Ali
being with
friends.

VK
Very intelligent
enjoy learning
likes to teach himself

Schools policy VK
not meeting needs

wants to learn
VK

Ali:
very
clever /
intelligent.

Ali:
it's school
that has the
problem.

Ali
Mistrust

Wanting
Real now

can't sit
still. VK

VK
School can't handle
his needs.

VK
Hands on learning

Feeling
safe &
secure.
Ali:

Don't come
near me.
Ali:

lack of
self-est. A
VK VK
doesn't like being
singled out from
his friend

Ali
He doesn't

Ali:



WHAT DID WE DO WITH THE THEORY?

- Trained researchers as mentors to work with five families (5 yp and 7 parents)
- Create safe relational spaces – a shelter
- Helps students and parents re-orientate their narratives – develop skills to access resources to re-engage education to achieve this



WHAT WERE THE OUTCOMES?

- All 5 yp re-engaged education, reduced exclusions, increased attendance
- Now working with 2 x younger brothers and 1 x new family
- 3 x team presented at conferences
- Article under review Journal of Youth Studies
- Requests to use research model as basis for collaborative funding bids.
- Alliance formed with 2 x Alternative Provisions in West Sussex and Brighton (175 students reach)
- 3-4 new student referrals for fixed period 1st May – 31st July 2019.

Feedback – Toni & John

As a p/t working mum I felt utter despondence as the whole situation was played out by the school. My voice as a parent was disparaged and I was not taken seriously even when I could prove the exclusion was biased and incorrect - Toni

BSG gives a real strength of effectiveness because of the lived experiences of all parties involved. Accessible knowledge and resources all working for a common good - Toni

Being a dad in f/t work I didn't realise how much school had a hold on parents. Being told by letter that your child had been excluded was hard to take in. All of this puts a strain on your relationships with your wife and most importantly your children - John

We always feel on an equal footing as we are not judged but valued as people...we were previously struggling in a spiral of despair - John

Feedback: Nathan & Ben

BSG has given me more confidence and independence. Before BSG I used to rely on other people to help me with problems. Now I try to work things out more by myself and rely on people less. The project really listens and take in anything your say...they make sure that you don't get excluded again by working with you to achieve that

Nathan 17 years

When I got excluded from school I got upset because I couldn't talk to my friends and it was a hard time for people. BSG has helped me so much that I am comfortable talking to people about my experience of school. BSG is so good because they don't judge people like other support services.

Ben 15 years

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Becoming legal entity – BSG Co-operative AP (Launch 1st September 2019).
- Legal fees paid for by local community group and 1 x AP
- Developing undergraduate degree through UoP in collaboration with BSG, WSAPC and ECU that focuses on working in communities with children, young people and families at the margins
- Developing collaborations with ex gang members and organisations to address county lines issues that impact our yp