

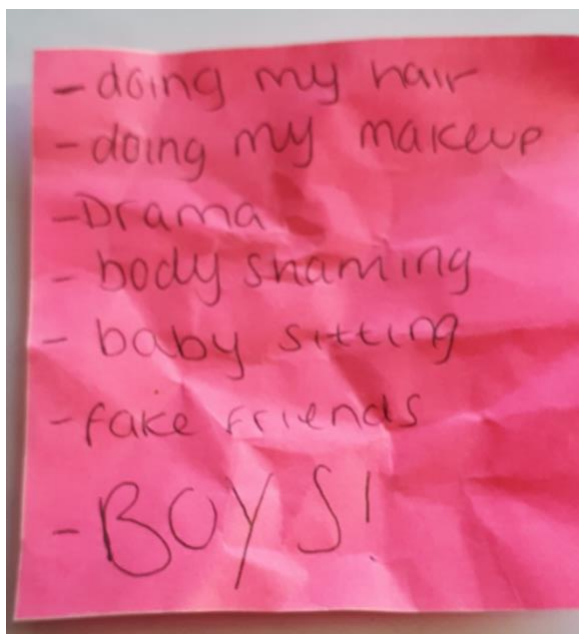
Ali's notes on Hideaway session 2 on October 1st 2019.

There is a backstory to this session. On September 10th Ester and I went to the youth club in Moss Side early to talk through the project and then to try and engage the young women. Ester and Rachel had signposted the Jeremy Deller documentary and there were references to Moss Side in the film which I thought might interest the group. It was a very lively open access session and difficult to engage the young women although Ester got a good discussion going about reproductive rights. The workers, who are all local Black women, recognised scenes from the Deller film and were keen to tell Ester about their memories – this did make us think about how the workers might see 'us' and about white privilege and power.

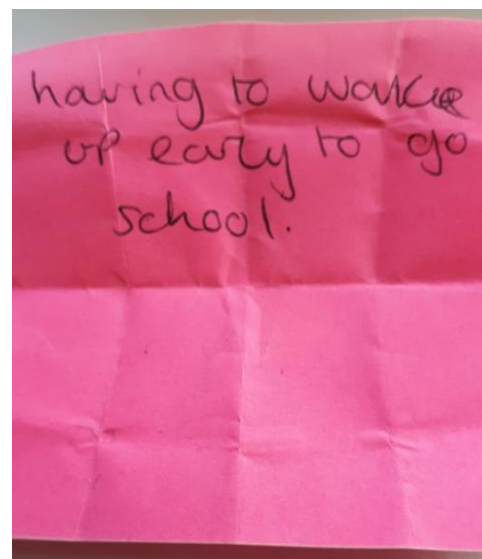
After the session both Ester and I thought a more creative approach would work better and I approached Hebe, a maker from the Proud Trust and she put me in touch with another maker and Black activist, Saleena Laverne Daye whose website was very inspiring and who agreed to come and work on October 1st. I went in briefly on 24th to talk ideas through with the youth workers and we talked about Black History Month and about creating a wall hanging perhaps.

So having been working at the MMU with Ester and Jayne Mugglestone the day before, I planned the session starting by using some of the same methods - the jars, a Who Am I exercise + using short extracts to generate discussion. Seleena was great, armed with materials and obviously used to working in youth clubs. However when we arrived, the youth workers seemed almost surprised to see us. Two of the workers were designing a painting project plus organising cooking and an exercise class downstairs.

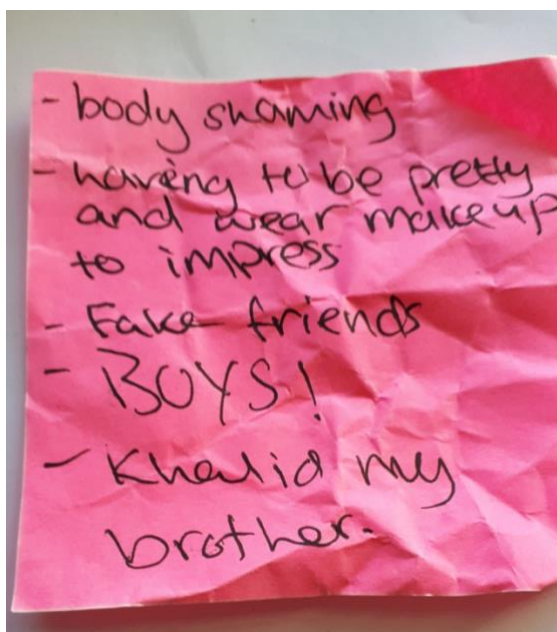
We did have a dedicated space- and we worked from a table in the centre of the room and some of the girls recognised me and came over, Saleena put her materials on the table and I went round to see if anyone else was happy to join us. Four girls came to join us. All the girls were of Pakistani heritage, and then Z joined us, a 16 yr old Black girl. We started with the *What Jars you about being a girl?* activity where each person has a jar and fills in with all the things that 'jar' them. This opened up space for discussion. Here are some of the young women's 'jarrings':



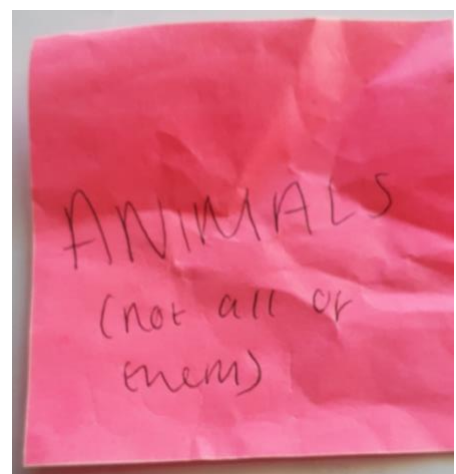
- doing my hair
- doing my makeup
- Drama
- body shaming
- baby sitting
- fake friends
- BOYS!



having to wake up early to go school.



- body shaming
- having to be pretty and wear makeup to impress
- Fake friends
- BOYS!
- Khatid my brother.



ANIMALS
(not all of them)

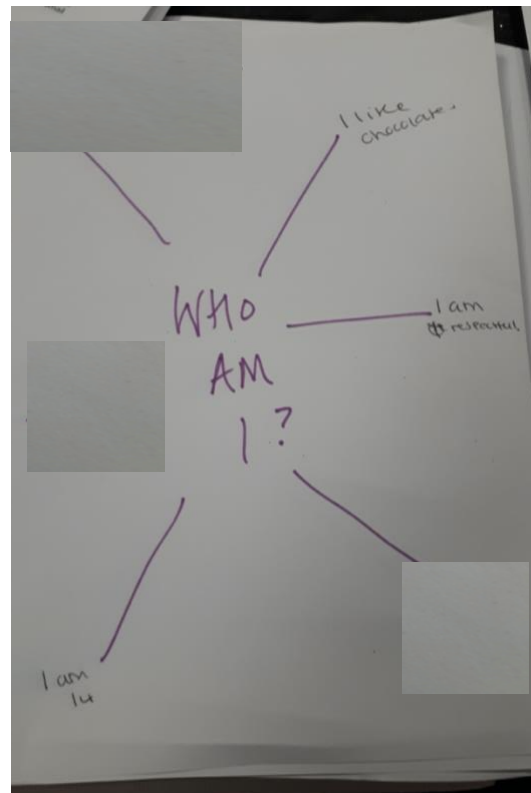
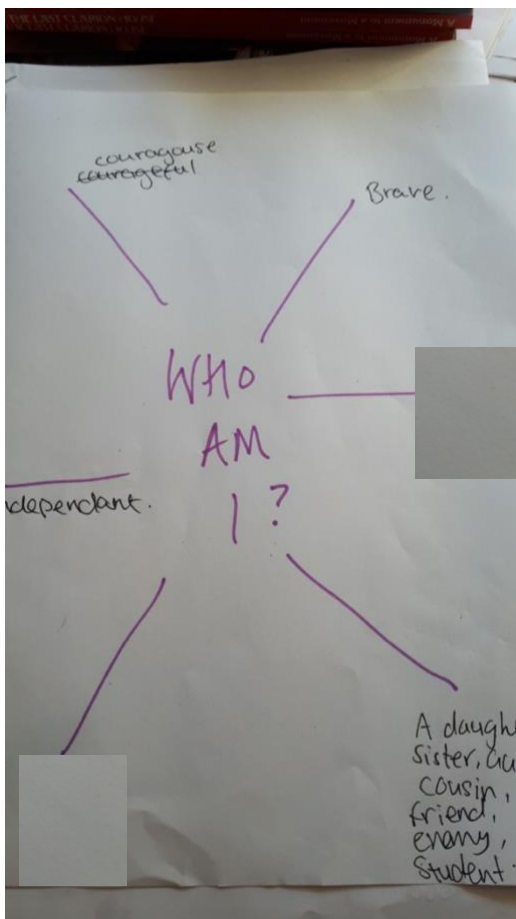
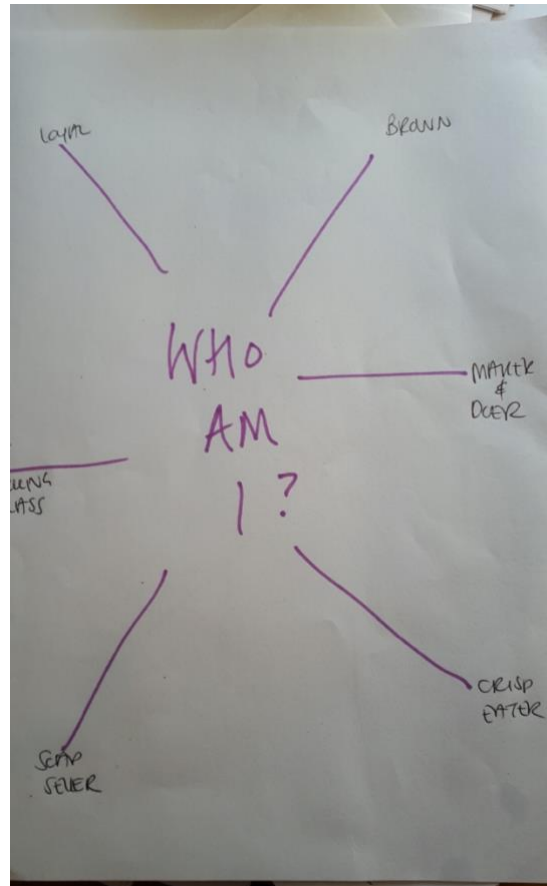
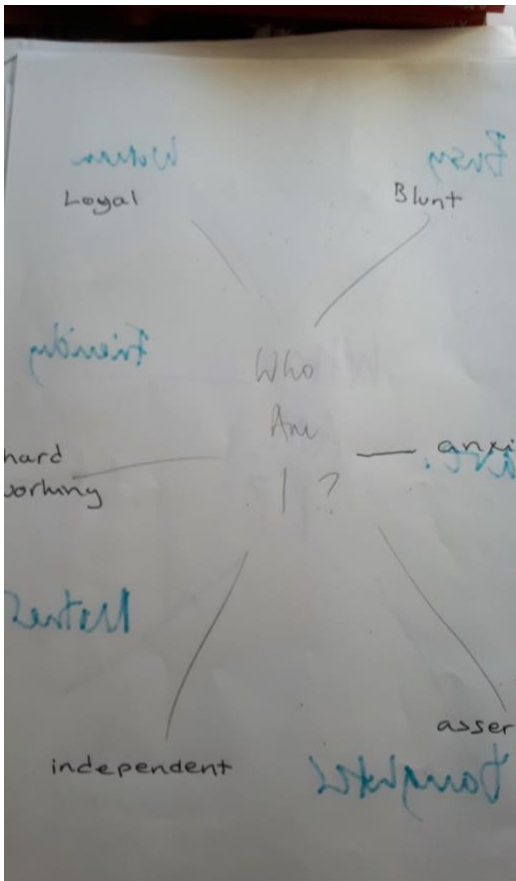
Getting in
trouble by teachers
for no reason
at all.

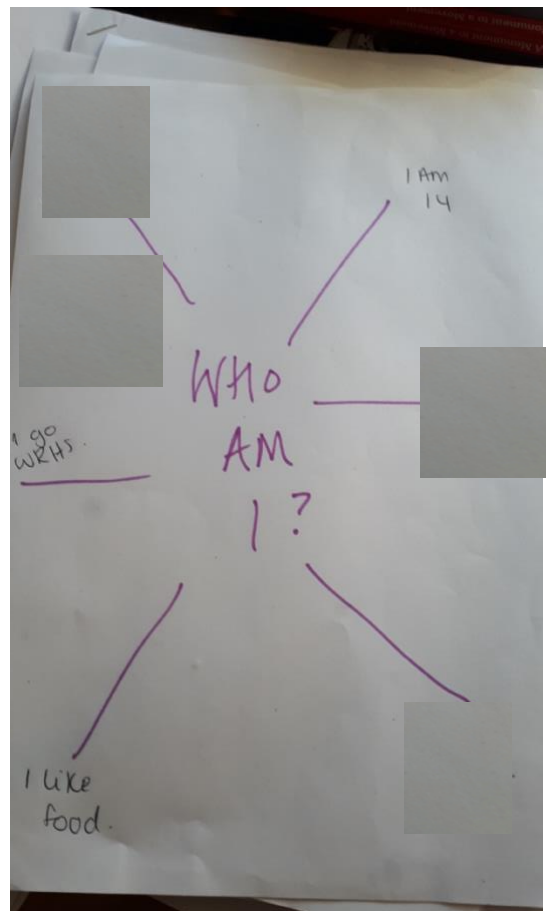
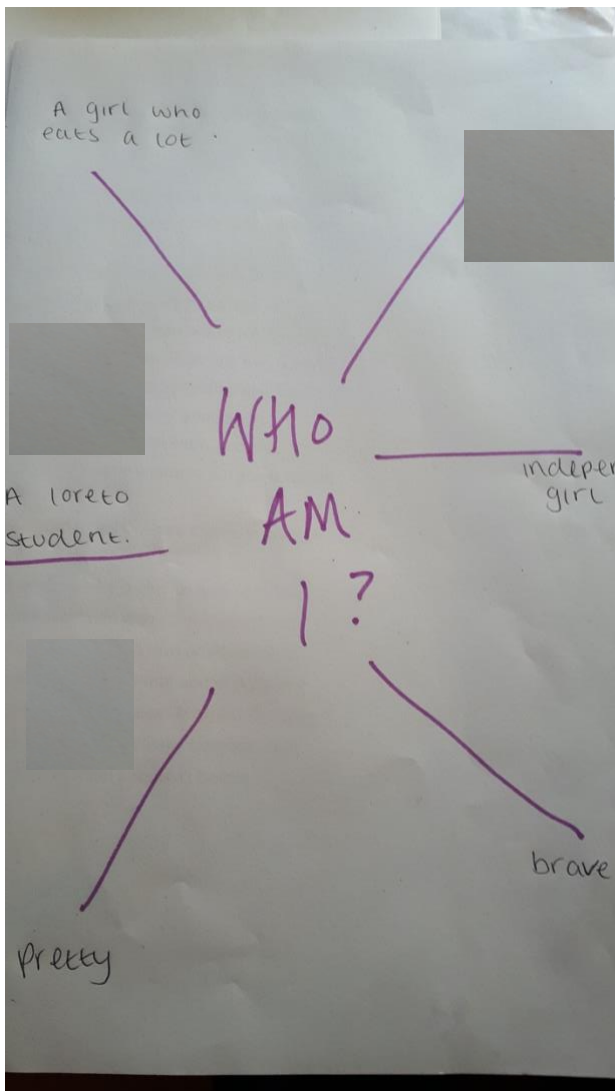
People that talk to
much are Jarring.

you always have
to have curves to
impress the boys
and boys just
in general annoy
me.

not being able
to get what you
want.

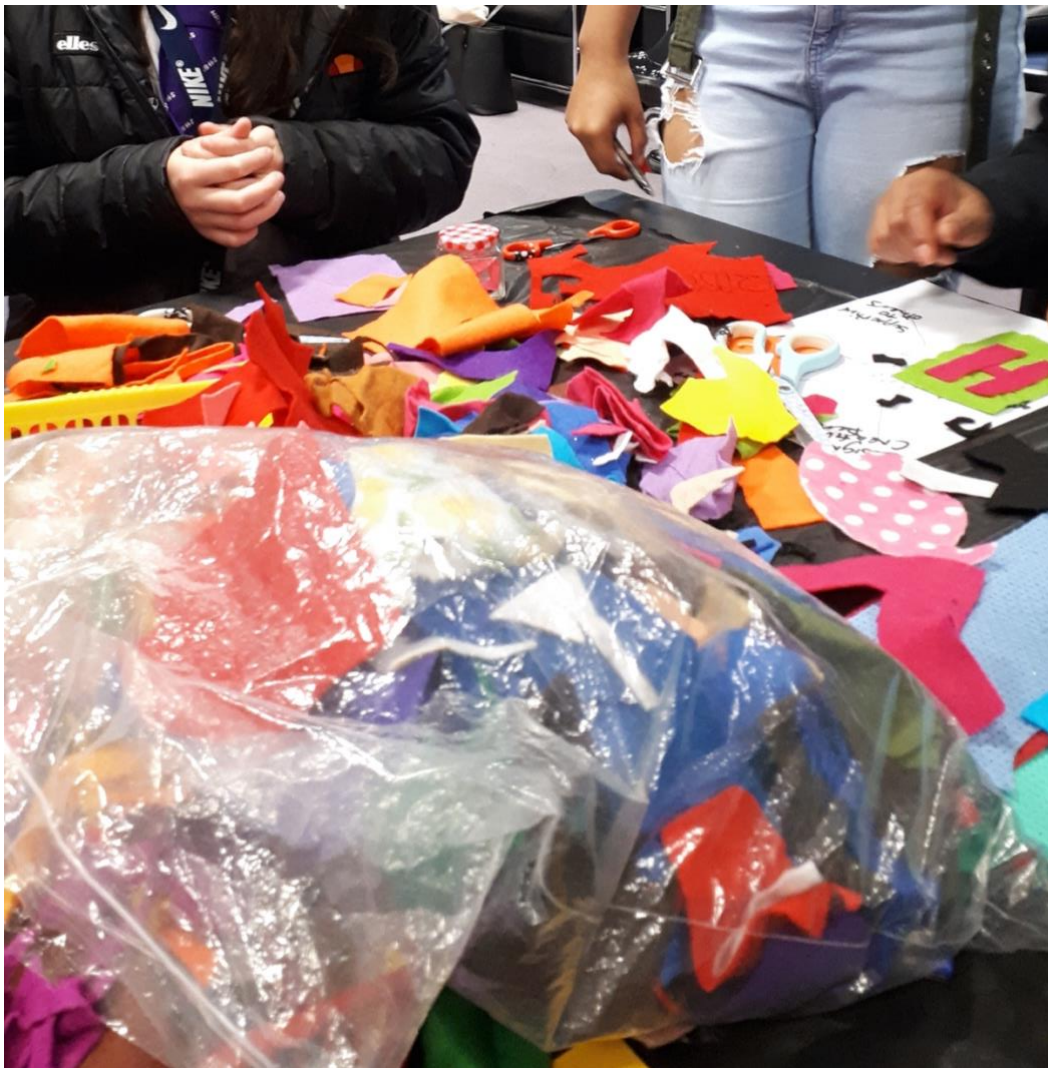
We then did *the Who am I?* exercise and the girls told us their names and birth years – all 2003/4/6. Lovely stuff on the *Who am I?* – ‘a girl who eats a lot’ ‘an independent girl’ ‘I am respectful’ ‘I am anxious’ and one ‘I am a daughter, sister, aunty, cousin, friend, enemy, student.’





Saleena picked up on some other adjectives 'courageous,' 'brave' 'independent' 'loyal' to start encouraging each girl to make a square that represented them and which would be stitched together. At the same time, we began to look at three extracts from three different WRAP interviews –MIS09/AMD2255/ MIS09 – and the discussion began to focus on periods and what the girls had learnt at home or at school. They talked about how their mothers had explained things once their periods had started, 2 had learnt about periods in Yr 5 and Yr 6. They talked about awkwardness, about looking for answers on Instagram and through following their favourite YouTubers and from the lyrics of songs. At this point one of the youth workers joined us and began to

talk about starting her periods and that her mother told her never to kiss a boy because she would get pregnant, that led onto a short and fairly superficial discussion about sex education, more girls joined us and began to stitch little squares. The stitching was fun and obviously enjoyed by everyone- easy running stitch and lots of colourful material, felt and colourful thread.



At 7pm we agreed to stop the session. The girls were very positive about the session and about us returning next week. The youth workers too were encouraging about how engaged the young women had been and they were happy that we are coming back.

Saleena suggested that she will bring some cut out felt next week to start a project of making portraits. We also talked about cutting up words and phrases from the extracts and using these in the stitching process. There is a lot more to do about comparing and contrasting 1989/2019 which Saleena was very interested in. So- watch this space!