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Growing up with regeneration

Joanne Neary

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- The majority of academic studies that examine young people and regeneration tend to focus on the impact regeneration can have on *outcomes*
- Relatively little is known about how young people experience the *process* of regeneration
- Less again is known about how young people experience these processes in relation to their own experiences of growing up



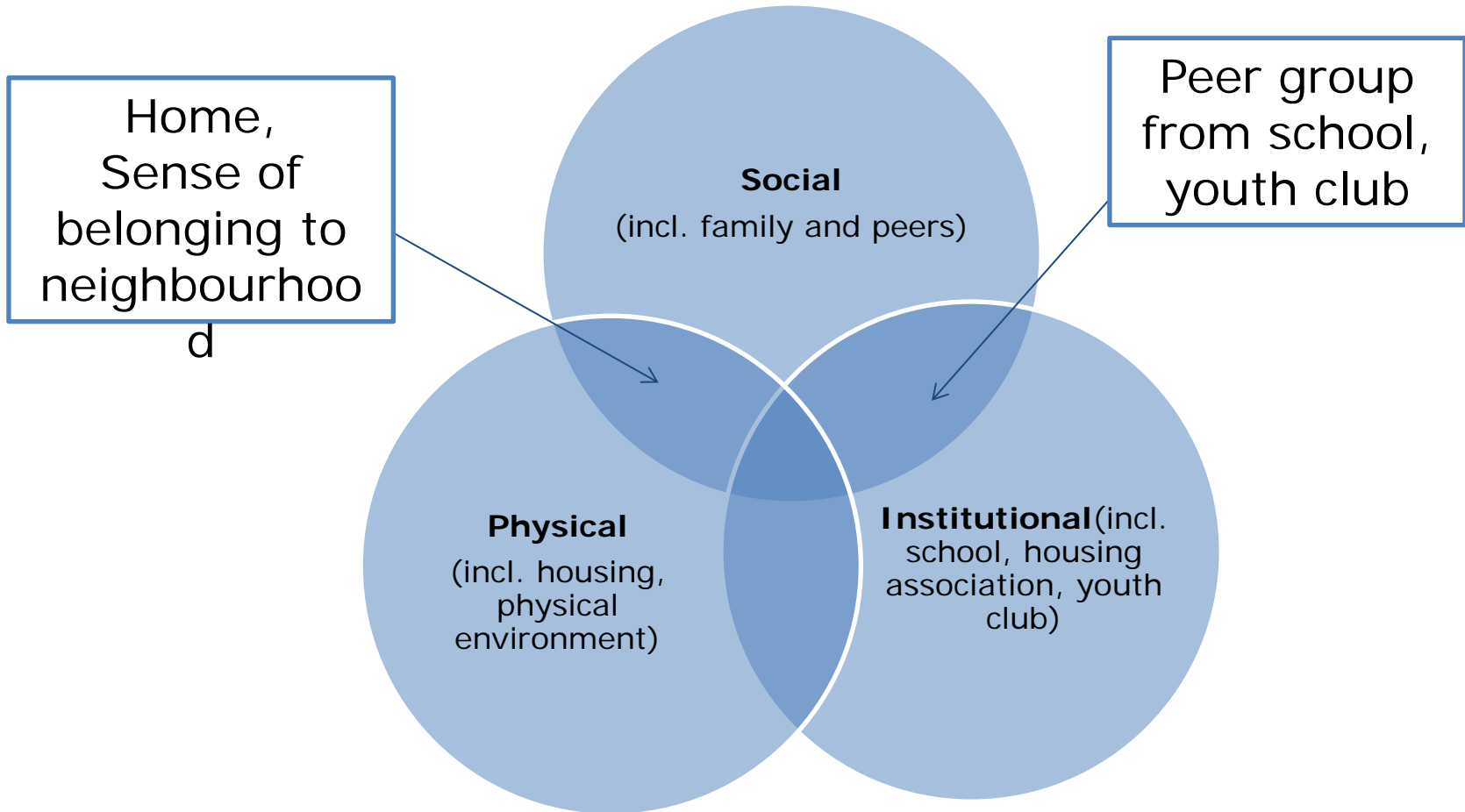
ICEBREAKER (5 mins)

- Turn to the person next to you and recall one of your own memories of growing up in your childhood neighbourhood
- What did neighbourhood mean to you as a child and did that change as you grew up?

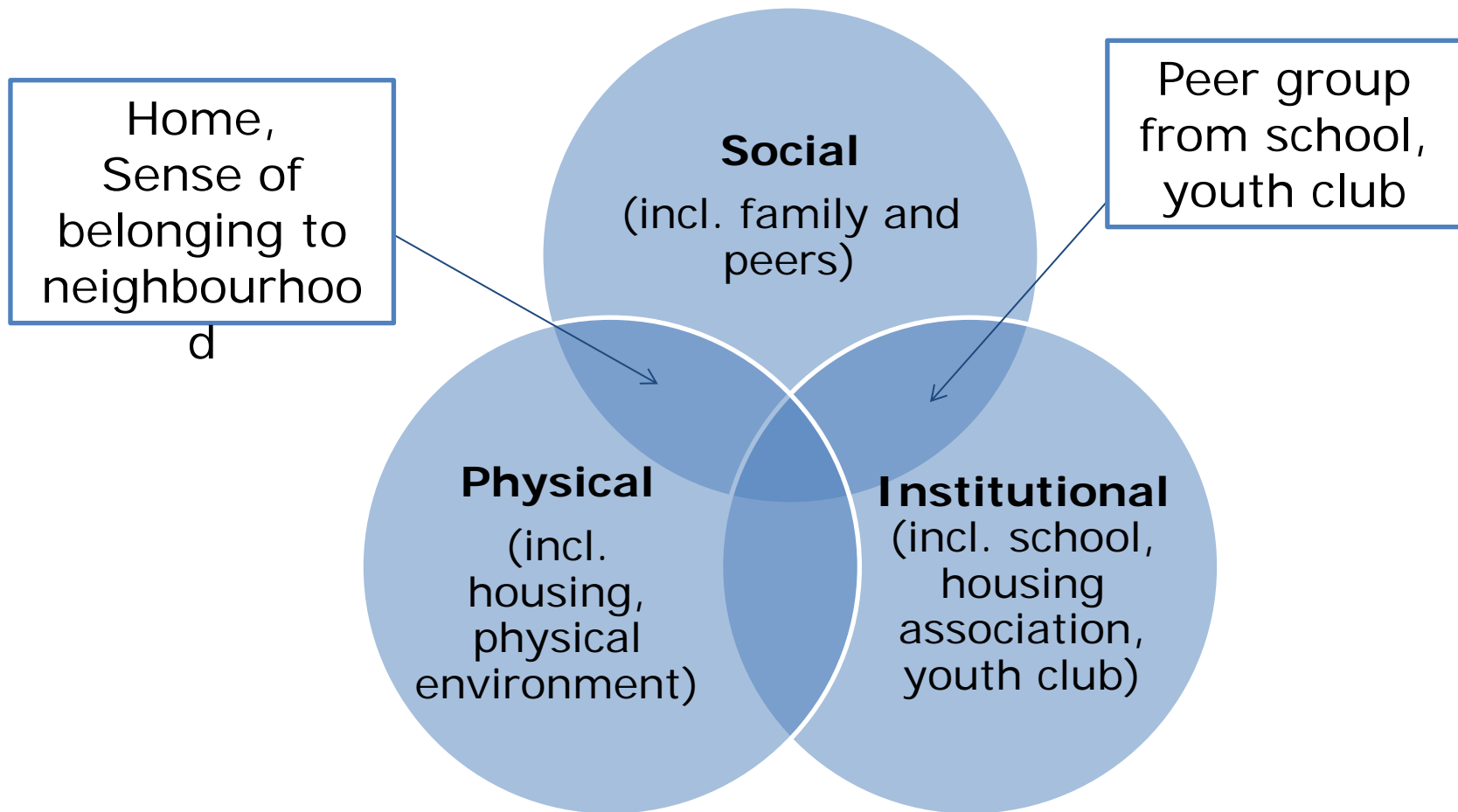


- Previous studies examining young people's experience of the neighbourhood:
 - The importance of public space for hanging out (Childress, 2002, Abbott-Chapman, 2006)
 - Young people's negotiation of 'dangerous' places and people (Elsley, 2004, Valentine, 1997)
 - Their awareness of stigma (both of neighbourhoods and of themselves) (Reay and Lucey, 2000, Deuchar, 2009)

- When defining the neighbourhood there are three important interconnected contexts to keep in mind:
 - the social environment
 - the physical environment
 - the institutional environment
- Young people's experiences in the neighbourhood can be seen as the interaction between these three contexts



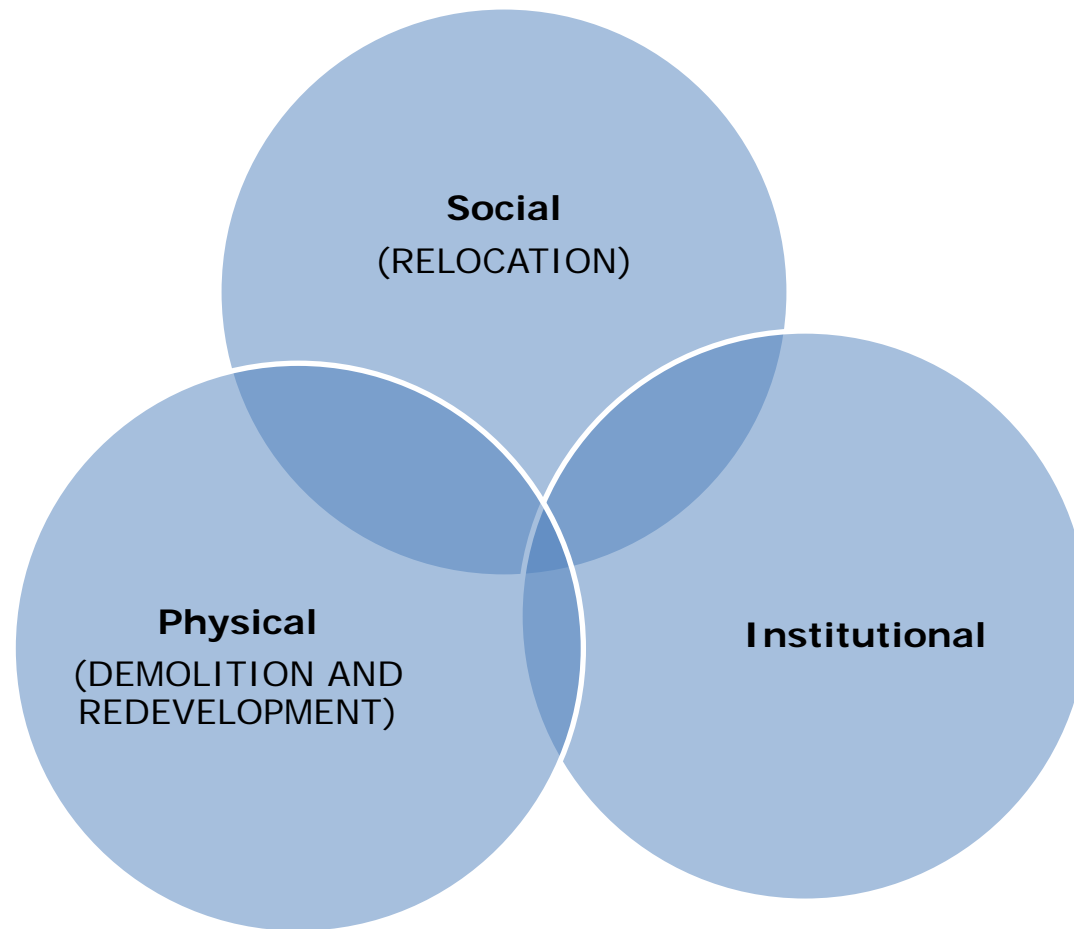
Socio-economic and political context





- The study examined two neighbourhoods that were undergoing transformational regeneration
- This included relocation of residents, demolition of buildings, and redevelopment of land

Transformational regeneration policies



time



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Shawbridge



Sighthill





- Previous GoWell studies of these two neighbourhoods showed:
 - A younger resident population than other neighbourhoods (under 18s outnumber over 25s) (GoWell, 2007)
 - Higher percentage of Asylum Seeker and Refugee families (GoWell, 2009)
 - High rate of unemployment and lower than average rate of educational attainment (GoWell, 2007)



- At the time of fieldwork, Sighthill was over 75% through the clearance process, and almost halfway through the demolition
- Shawbridge was over 80% through the clearance and 35% through the demolition





- Fieldwork was conducted between 2011-2012
- 15 young people (10 from Sighthill and 5 from Shawbridge) aged between 11-18 were interviewed between three and five times over a 16 month period
- Interviews included photography, walking tours, and interviews with a parent in their home (mostly in high-rise flats)
- They were asked about changes they had seen in their block, in the neighbourhood, and with their friends.
- They were also asked more generally about growing up in the neighbourhood (and about social spaces, access to services etc)



- Given what is known regarding young people's experience of growing up in the neighbourhood relating to positive interactions and attachments as well as their ability to comment on positive relationships and experiences of risk and vulnerability, the question is how does regeneration change this?

Experience of regeneration

- The regeneration of their neighbourhoods was a slow process. Younger participants, and those who had recently moved to Sighthill or Shawbridge, could not remember a time before regeneration
- Therefore when young people were directly asked about regeneration, it was often difficult for them to separate their experience of *neighbourhood* with their experience of *regeneration*
 - **Jenny:** Ok. See, you don't really notice these changes. You kinda have to think about.
 - [Jenny, 15 years, Shawbridge, w1, go-along]

Overview

- Creating new spaces
- Impact of relocation
- Importance of school, peers, and family
- Looking at the big picture

Creating new spaces

- Some of the participants described creating new social spaces from the regeneration sites. For example in Sighthill one of the most popular spots for younger people was the “spare ground” that used to contain one of the Fountainwell blocks (demolished in 2008)
- Others suggested that the regeneration had created dangerous places, especially buildings that were about to be demolished but had been vandalised in the interim period

Creating new spaces



Christina: [shouting] OOH THE WINDAE'S FELL OOT!

Shelly: Someb'dys been in that

Christina: Aye ye can well tell

JN: What do you mean? Like recently?

Christina: Aye because that windae wisnae away

Shelly: That wisnae like that last week

Christina: That wisnae there two nights ago either, so that's only happened last night or the-day

[Christina, 12 years; Shelly, 14 years; Sighthill, w1, go-along]

Impact of relocation

- Given the period of time that this study was conducted in, the majority of the participants had experienced a friend, neighbour, or family member relocate away from the neighbourhood
- Some participants described feeling isolated as a result of this:
 - Janet:** I used to have a friend that was in here, that I feel safe going with all the times, but they all moved houses
[Janet, 14 years, Sighthill, w1, home interview]
- Others felt worried about safety:
 - Claire:** I'm from here and I wouldn't feel safe walking about at night
[Claire, 16 years, sighthill, w1, go along]

Impact of relocation

- One of the participants described their biggest concern as the relocation of old neighbours and introduction of new short term leases in her high-rise building:

Shona: Everybody moved. Like see when I wis younger, aw the family... I could probably tell you... know where everybody lived oan maist o' the flairs up there an' then they aw moved. An' now you don't know anyone...it could be anyone.

[Shona, 18 years, Sighthill, w1, home interview]

- As the oldest participant, Shona was more able to reflect on her experiences growing up in Sighthill prior to regeneration. She suggested that the majority of tenants in her block did not move frequently and there was a good sense of community there

Impact of relocation

- Other participants suggested that as the neighbourhood became emptier, there was a rise in antisocial behaviour:

Claire: it was never, like, somebody, you wouldnae hear, like, people getting mugged and that, and then, like, last year, four people within, like, the space of a month got mugged walking up that path.

[Claire, 16 years, Sighthill, w1, go-along]

Christina: You hear a lot more fights now...I can see them from my window!

[Christina, 12 years, Sighthill, w1, home interview]

Life going on as normal

- Despite some of these challenges, the majority of participants described their everyday life going on as normal: they went to school, they ate dinner with their families, hung out with friends, and chatted online
- The majority described feeling happy to live in the neighbourhood with some suggesting they would want to move back to the neighbourhood if given the chance
- These resources (school, family, friends, the Internet) played a vital role in helping young people adapt to the changes in the neighbourhood
- This was also assisted by the relocation of residents occurring within a <2km radius

Life going on as normal

- High school was important in two ways:
 - It enabled the participants to keep in touch with friends when they moved away
 - It also enabled the participants to have an existing friendship group for their own move

Martin: I've settled in well. But obviously that's helped wi' being in an area where most of ma pals lived. Then, obviously, the school being in the same place and aw that.

[Martin, 16 years, Sighthill, w2]

- Obviously this is only the case if the relocation was within the <2km radius, but for the majority of participants, school appeared to be a key resource in maintaining friendships

Life going on as normal

- Family was another key resource for young people, as the majority of their time outside of school could be seen to be spent with them.
- Parents were seen to be important for informing young people of the plans for the neighbourhood with the majority of young people describing parents as their only source of information regarding regeneration (other resources included neighbours or the newspaper)
- Participants also suggested that during relocation, parents would try to involve them:
 - Some were informed of what was happening
 - Others were consulted as to what they wanted to happen
 - Others felt they had more of a direct influence on decision making

- Informed:

Mark: Mum got offered another HRF but she said no 'cause of the junkies an' that. So she took this one [a tenement flat] instead.

[Mark, 11 years, Shawbridge, w1, go-along interview]

- Consulted:

Johnny: I wanted to stay near my friends, but we looked and there wasnae any. So we had to take this one instead

[Johnny, 11 years, Shawbridge, w2, home interview]

- Influencing:

Jenny: we went to this one first 'cause we decided to get away from the cockroaches as soon as possible...I begged my dad 'yeah yeah please take it, I wanna go!'

[Jenny, 15 years, Shawbridge, w1, go-along interview]

Life going on as normal

- For the girls in the study, the internet appeared to be another way to navigate the changes in the neighbourhood, especially after their friends moved out
- Using Facebook, BBM, and whatsapp (all free messaging services that they can access on their smartphones), the girls described keeping in touch with friends when they could not see them face to face
- This was especially important when the friends moved further away
- Boys on the other hand described using football or after school sports clubs at school to keep in touch with friends

Growing up through regeneration

- The project also looked at other changes that were happening in young people's lives during this time period.
- While regeneration was an important change, these young people were going through adolescence and experiencing a range of biographical changes: going to high school, breaking up with boyfriends, meeting new friends, experiencing the separation of their parents
- At times, these biographical changes were more important and more stressful than the changes occurring on the street

The bigger picture

- Despite their ability to adapt to the changes of regeneration, and some parents discussing their own individual relocation, the majority of participants were not sure why the regeneration was happening or what the end result would be

Janet: I don't get this, because this flat is staying, it's not falling down, I don't think so. This flat's not falling down but how come most of the flats are falling down and they've just left two? There's no, I don't understand that. I don't, like it doesn't make sense to me.

[Janet, 14 years, Sighthill, w1, home interview]

Claire: The flats were good. I think if they done them up and made them look nice, like the ones over in [nearby neighbourhood] – the people still do want to stay in Sighthill. If you've been brought up, you're used to it

[Claire, 16 years, Sighthill, w1, go-along]

The bigger picture

- This led to some participants feeling less than optimistic regarding the future of the neighbourhood

Patrick: Nothing...I don't think anything'll change, except like the flats getting pulled down

(Patrick, 16 years, Shawbridge)

Jenny: I think it's the same place but new houses. I don't think there will be a big rise in people wanting to come and see the new flats

(Jenny, 15 years, Shawbridge)

Discussion points

- How best can we ensure young people's everyday lives are not negatively affected by regeneration?
- Is there a potential role for young people to be included in regeneration policy discussions?
- How best can we ensure young people are informed of decision making regarding the regeneration of their neighbourhood **and** what agencies/services would be involved in this?
- Are you aware of any examples of current services engaging with young people?

Thank you

Email: jneary@sphsu.mrc.ac.uk

Twitter: @joanne.neary