



Empowering young experts with lived experience: A voice through film

Blackburn with Darwen Food Alliance

Interim report, November 2019

#BwDgetsHangry Film premier

A milestone film, *Edgelands*, was scripted from the stories and concerns of those involved in the #DarwengetsHangry programmes. Our young people are passionately concerned about food poverty and homelessness. The first screenings took place over summer 2019.

The film creatively amplifies the voices of young people, using their language to tell their stories. In the *Edgelands*, a land of forgotten estates, the film demonstrates the grim reality of issues surrounding food poverty, homelessness, and welfare. It contextualises these topics and uses them as a backdrop to put forward a message of resilience as one of the many creative ways our project aims to raise awareness.

The next phase is to get the film out to a wider audience, using resources which are in preparation for schools, faith groups and young people's forums.

Challenges and learning

The film took longer than expected to complete and distribute. The original concept was to focus a final scene on resilience, but it worked better without this.

Next steps

We are now developing resources to support conversations about the film to be available in January. We are also planning screenings in various local venues and hoping it can be shared nationally through Food Power and the Together Network.

We will continue to use our growing social media knowledge to share the film and other messages, such as video blogging to raise the profile of food poverty as experienced by young people.

View the film at <http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/edgelands/>



Filming *Edgelands* on location in Darwen

“Edgelands deals with challenging topics and brushes upon different issues raised by those working with the campaign who are using their own experiences as a way of sparking discussion. It is this, alongside street casting and improvised performances, that helps give the film a very blunt feel, one that will hopefully resonate with its audience.”

Brody Salmon, Film writer and director

“Working with Broden & making a film with other young people gave us another way to share our experiences to a wider audience, allowing them to realise the issues we face. I think those involved in the film learnt quite a lot from us.”

Corey McPartland, young campaigner

Outcomes

We hope this film will impact within and beyond Blackburn with Darwen to change opinions, and inspire people to campaign for positive children and young people policies.

This activity was assisted by financial support and other advice from Food Power.
www.foodpower.org.uk

