

REFLECTIONS
+VISIONS
THE WORLD
THROUGH
DIFFERENT
EYES

INTRODUCTION/

As part of SIRCC's tenth anniversary celebrations, we embarked on a very special youth participation project which started in February this year.

Working with the young people from the Voice of Reason group in Aberdeen and Who Cares? Scotland, we gave the nine young people, who form our Participation National Training Team, the loan of a digital camera and access to a professional photographer. We worked with the young people throughout a residential weekend to see the world through different eyes, using photography to reflect on their journey through care.

As you will see, the young people have taken remarkable pictures and put considerable thought into their work. This is a true celebration of their talents and abilities. Sometimes harrowing and other times uplifting, you cannot fail but to be impressed by what young people are telling us about what they need to flourish and what is their view of the world.

The young people's artwork will be exhibited across Scotland. The SIRCC Participation National Training Team remain active up and down the length of Scotland working in classrooms with students who are studying social work, social care and residential child care. The team work first hand with these students sharing their views, knowledge and experiences, encouraging staff to listen to their views and ensuring respect for their rights.

I want to wholeheartedly thank; Alex, Fraser, Jordan, Julie Ann, Kimberley, Lisa, Liza, Michael and Murray for giving so much of your time, creativity, passion and energy so freely.

I also extend my sincere thanks to; John Paul Fitzpatrick, Fiona Murray, Denny Ford, Jeremy Miller, Kirsten McManus and Who Cares? Scotland for efficiently supporting the young people in achieving so much.

I look ahead with enthusiasm in anticipation of the future years of SIRCC working in partnership with others supporting young people in care to achieve all they can.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Davidson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'J'.

Jennifer Davidson
Director, SIRCC
June 2010

ALEX/

Don't let your dreams wash away

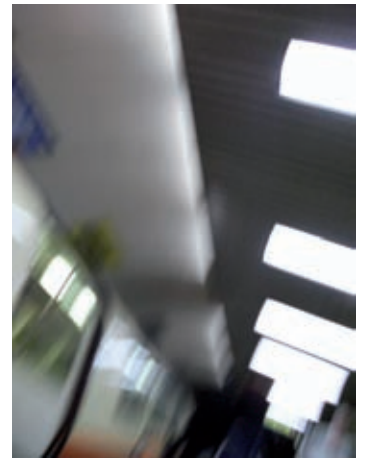
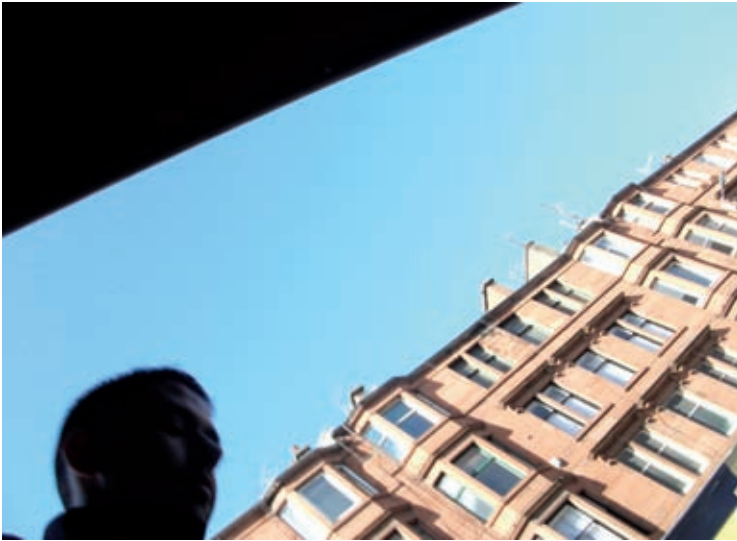
My picture means keep on trying,
don't let your life dreams wash away.
The hopes and goals of young people
in care can get washed away like the
message in the sand. When I was
in mainstream school I thought
I wouldn't get any standard grades.

I never gave up on it and when
I moved to a residential school through
smaller class numbers I managed to
get my standard grades. So if you ever
dream, don't let yours wash away!





ALEX/



Above and above right
Hand held Cartier Bresson technique,
in Glasgow and on the subway

Right
Self portrait, on the rocks, this was
how Alex felt sometimes when he
stayed in care





Above
Shot in the transport museum,
our first excursion with our camera



Left
Making Goals Happen washing away

FRASER/

A lot of young people in care have very little; the few possessions and clothes are in most cases their life. I wanted to demonstrate in my photograph that many young people feel that their life is being treated with disrespect. Moving from unit to unit, with their life in a bin bag as if it a load of rubbish which it isn't.





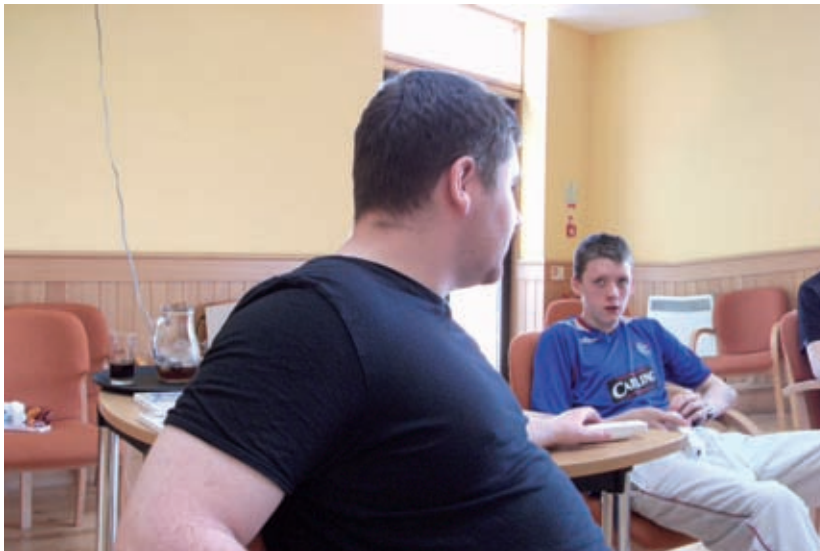
08/09

FRASER/



Above and right
Looking up

Below right
Panoramic of the team



Right
Sunset through the trees

Below
Off for a walk



JORDAN/

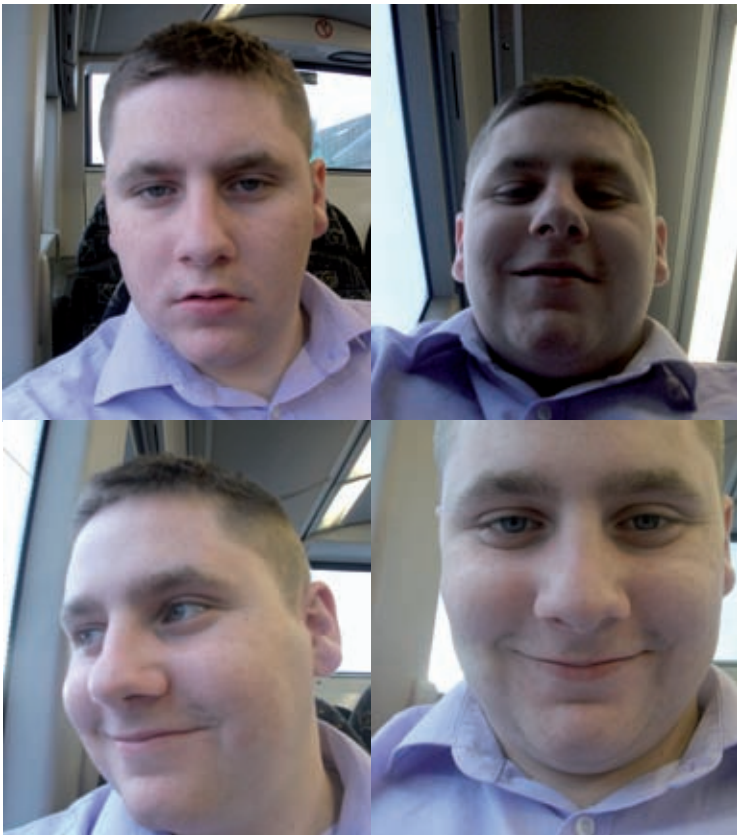
This picture was to show that young people's life in care can often be not great and sometimes shatters young people's lives. I want you to look at my eyes in the picture and for you to ask yourself:

- What is life really like for a young person in care?
- How would you feel?
- What can you do to stop shattering young people's hopes and dreams?





JORDAN/



Left
Self portraits on the bus

Right
Logs, you chop me down
and left me lying



Left
Wheelbarrow, you knocked
me over when I was on a roll

Below
Rocks, you grew on me
like a disease

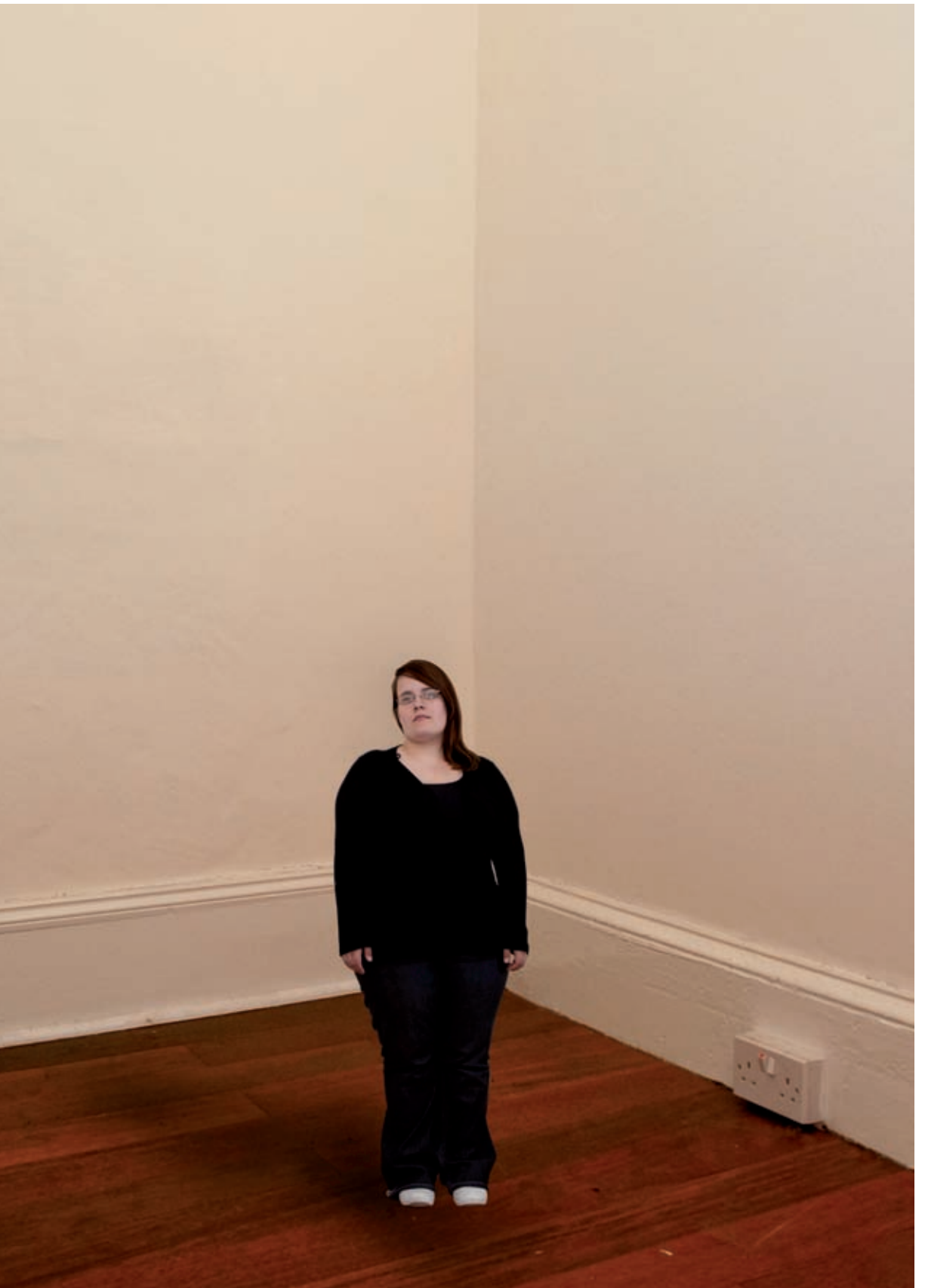


JULIE ANN/

My photograph represents how I felt in care, totally alone and so small in such a big world. I have 2 brothers and was always told from my social worker that I'd be placed in foster care with my brothers but we never did, one brother would be in one foster place and another in another without me.

When we went home to my mum for a couple of months we'd be together and then again we'd be split up and put in separate foster homes. I felt totally alone and frightened.





JULIE ANN/



Above
On our way to Skye we
past Eilean Donan Castle

Left
Just before we cross
the bridge to Skye



Above
The view from our accommodation
on our first day, looking towards
The Quiraing



Left
A walk in Skye on a sunny day

KIMBERLEY/

The figures represent my belief that young people need someone to look up to; responsible and positive role models to guide them, set examples and express expectations for them to reach their potential and establish themselves appropriately. The road sign as a whole reinforces this; on a long journey we have road signs to direct, guide us and keep us safe.

The heart is placed on the adult figure because I feel that those in charge of my care thought too much with their head and too little with their hearts; making decisions (or not) for the wrong reasons. The contrast between the light and bright top part of the background and the darker lower part of it represent my belief in the need for a balanced approach to care; I do not believe in acting purely by your heart either but somewhere in the middle makes for more effective decision making when it comes to young people's futures.

I purposely shot the sign at a skewed angle to portray the warped opinions I have experienced about young people in care; people's actions and views being that young people have done something wrong before they were taken into care and that their futures won't amount to anything significant.

The technical imperfections in the photo have also be deliberately left there to symbolises how distorted views can leave marks with young people and shape their futures; how can you expect a young person to do well if you don't have good wishes and expectations for them?





KIMBERLEY/





Experimenting with my final image



LISA/

The picture I have created shows different parts of my life in care.

These are memories, places from the past and things that make me happy. These pictures make up my shadow. I have been to 2 nursery schools, 5 primary schools and 1 secondary. This was because I had to move from placement to placement in different places and different local authorities. This has been a big part of my life because moving house was hard enough but having to move school was even harder.



It meant a new uniform, a new teacher, new people and more new friends.

The only thing that went along with me was the memories. I find it hard to go back to some of the places because it's weird. Remembering things from my childhood made me think of being little again and it was hard.

Life is different now am settled. I can move on and enjoy the things that make me happy and make me the person I am. The pictures of my perfume, phone, laptop, etc represents this. This is me. This is who I am.



LISA/



Above
Working in a photographic studio,
using the flash lights and camera
on self timer

Above right
Montage of my perfume bottles

Right
Photographic studio





Above
My brother's feet as he steps
in front of my camera



Left
Feeling alone

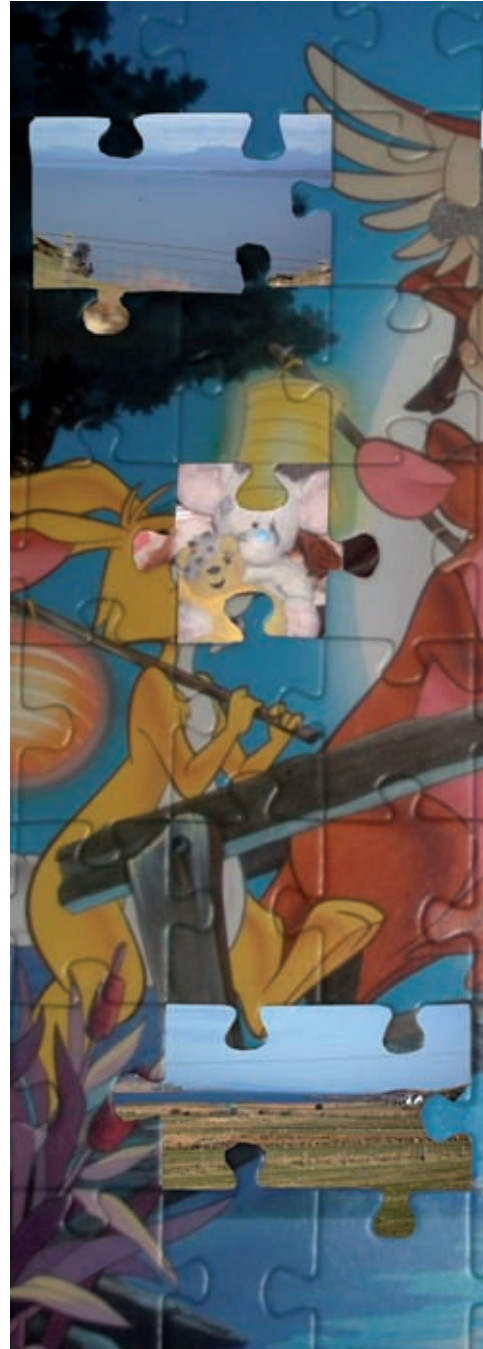
Below
My favourite bear



LIZA/

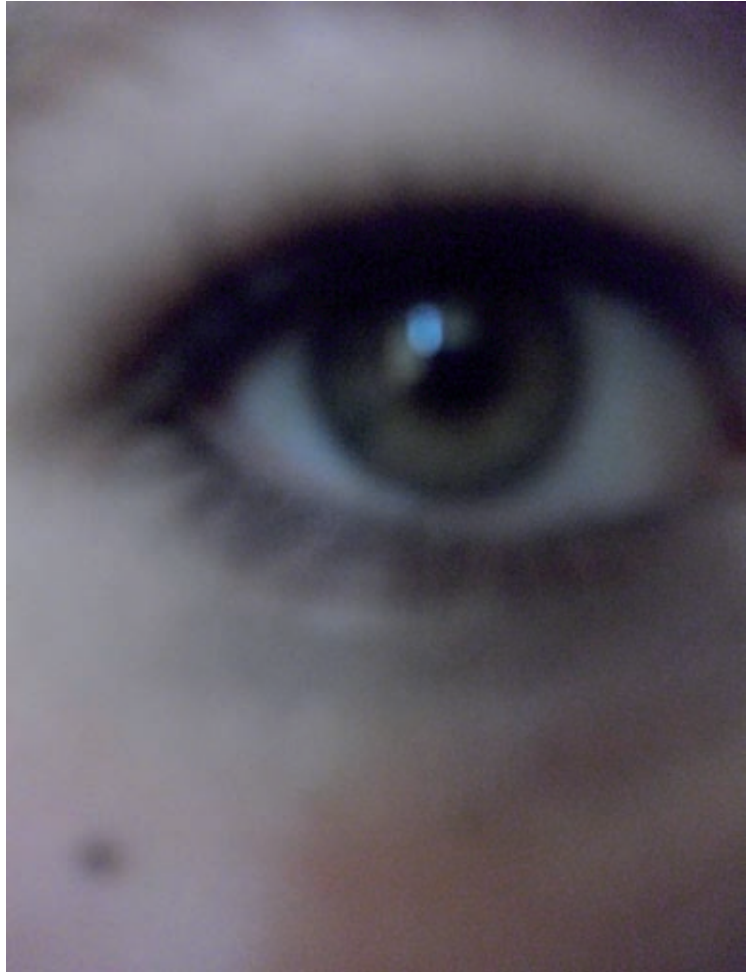
My photograph represents the puzzle of my life fitting back into place when I was placed in care. I started doing puzzles when I first went into care, they occupied my time and gave me space to think. The first puzzle I completed was a Doctor Who puzzle, my favourite TV show.

The photograph shows another puzzle I completed. I replaced some of the pieces with other images I photographed with my camera. Things which are important to me, my little sister, where I live, my friends, pieces of my life now.





LIZA/



Above
Our transport museum trip,
getting to grips with the camera

Above right
Two colours in my eye





Above
The view from my window in care

Below
Panoramic view of The Quiraing, Skye



MURRAY/

When I was in my children's home
I never used to sit in the living room
and watch TV with everyone else
as I found it boring – watching what
everyone else wanted to watch.
Instead I'd sit in my room and sing
and play guitar, that's what gave me
the inspiration for my photograph.
Music was an escape from being
in care.



*Walking around with my head in the clouds
And I feel it, I feel it
There's nothing much more that I can do now
But i feel it, I feel it*

*I can remember this time before
I was lonely, lonely
There was no one there to knock on my door
Oh lonely, oh lonely*

*Walking around with my head in the clouds
And I feel it, I feel it
There's nothing much more that I can do now
But I feel it, I feel it*

*And now I see this moment
its so clear
How can I go on living my life
when you're not here*



MURRAY/

Right
Getting run over by a horse and carriage,
fooling around in the transport museum
with our cameras

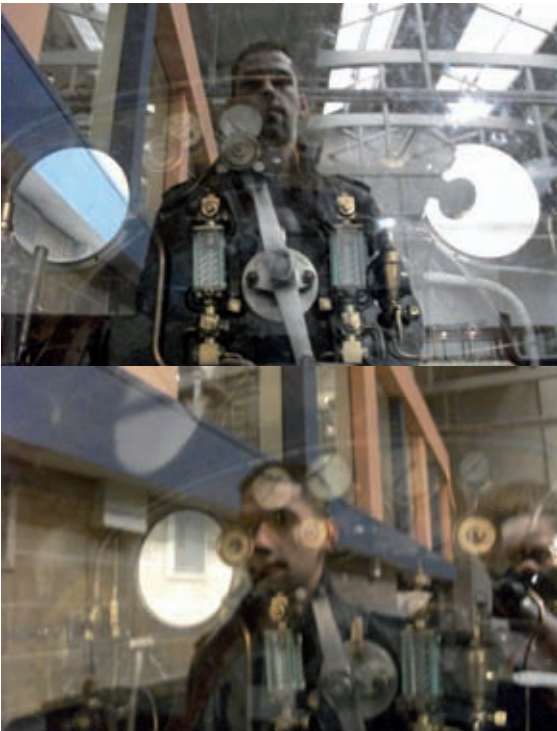
Below
Playing the guitar





Above
A David Hockney inspired montage,
layering elements of one photograph
in photoshop

Left
Reflection in a mechanical exhibit
at the transport museum







Team photograph in Skye

WHY WOULD
YOU SEE MY
LIFE AS
WASTED
COS I'M IN
CARE?



Powered by model.

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Scottish Institute for Residential Child Care (SIRCC).

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