

Share information about us in a responsible and sensitive way CSE principle #4

THINK!
Before you
speak.



Uma

CSE Principles #4: Share information about us and with us in a responsible and sensitive way

Young people affected by child sexual exploitation (CSE) understand that professionals need to work together to help them, and that information about them will sometimes have to be shared. What they emphasise is that this information is personal to them. If information is shared inappropriately it is hurtful, can be damaging to young people, and shows a lack of respect for them as individuals with rights. It is important, wherever possible, to get permission beforehand, and only share information when it is necessary and appropriate. Sensitivity is also important when helping the young person access information about themselves.

"If I tell Lucia something confidential I want it to stay there – unless it's something really, really serious. It doesn't get spread round here [the CSE project]. It's like Peter [another project worker] won't know my details – he'll just know my name and who I am, whereas Lucia knows more about me... It's important because it's my life."

(Young person, 'Helping me find my own way')

"Here they say – 'Where do you want to read it? (her case file) Do you want someone there? Should we have a plan in case there is something that is written you don't agree with?...You could be upset'. Very considerate. Other services don't do this."

(Young person, 'The Alexi Project')

This is one of ten principles for working with children who are affected by sexual exploitation, created as part of the Alexi Project by the 'International Centre: Researching child sexual exploitation, violence and trafficking' at the University of Bedfordshire. Comic illustrations were produced by Una and supported by the Young Researcher's Advisory Panel. To learn more and view the other postcards visit www.alexiproject.org.uk

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