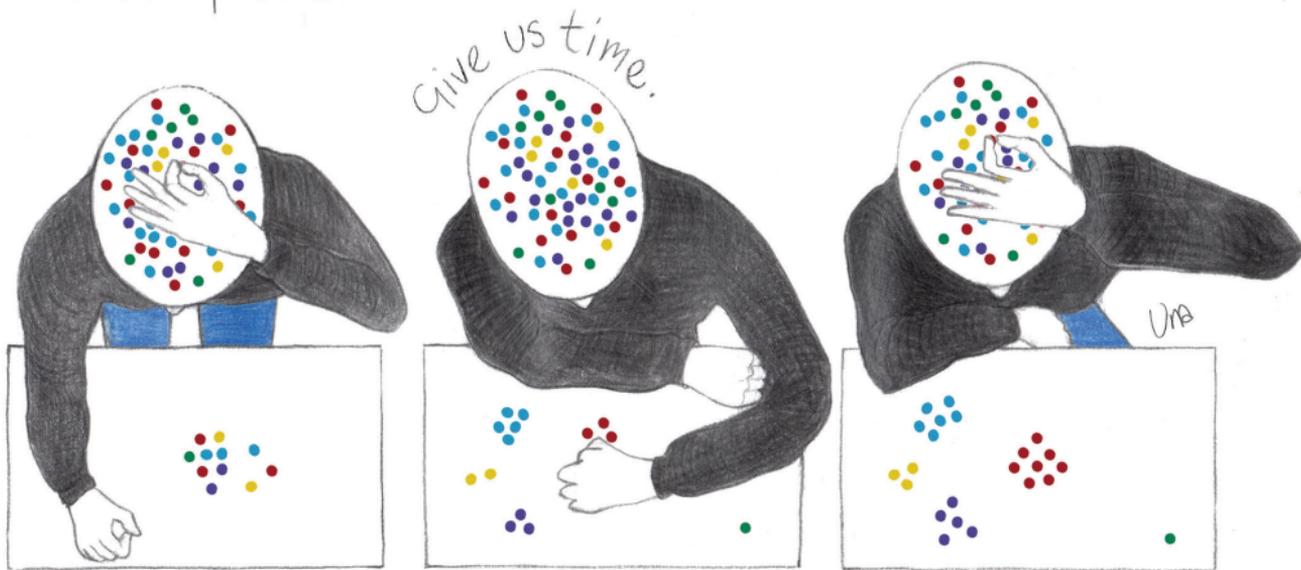


CSE Principles # 3.



We might have a lot of thoughts to process.

CSE Principles #3: Give us time

Young people affected by child sexual exploitation (CSE) who come into contact with services are often worried and scared. Service procedures can be alien, confusing and overwhelming. Young people may have experienced rejection by other services, and feel anxious that they will not be believed, or that action will be taken that they do not want. Some young people experience pressure to disclose abuse, so it's essential to recognise the importance of taking time, and allowing young people to talk when and if they are ready. Talking about abuse, trusting professionals, recovering – it all takes time.

“Once you get a kid through that door, you know their past on a piece of paper, but you don't know about their rules, like their view. So, like, you've got to talk to them, you've got to sit down and think 'Mate, I'm gonna put time into this' and after a couple of months, like, they're open to you, they'd think 'All right, she's gonna stick around.'”

(Young person, 'Barnardo's Safe Accommodation Project Evaluation')

“I would of liked more time in these sessions and to of done them for a few more weeks. I would really like to do these sessions again. It's nice to talk in private and share my ideas.”

(Young person, 'Out of the Box')

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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