

Well, it's only to be expected, really!



CSE PRINCIPLES #8 DON'T DISCRIMINATE.

CSE Principles #8:

Don't discriminate

Young people affected by child sexual exploitation (CSE) report different types of discrimination, relating to their age, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, culture, the neighbourhood to which they belong, or perceptions of their family background or behaviour. They can also feel judged for being sexually exploited, and feel that these perceptions have informed professional reactions and responses. Sometimes this is reflected in negative, discriminatory language – expressed verbally or in written notes. Young people therefore feel strongly that professionals should think carefully about the way they talk about – and to – young people, and should question their assumptions about young people's behaviour.

"When you see young people on the streets don't call them attention seekers, don't call them prostitutes, see the bigger picture - why are they on the streets? Why don't they want to go home? Why do they want to stay out? See the bigger picture."

(Young person, 'DfE consultation')

"She [the police officer] tried to blame my upbringing for the people that I was associating with and stuff. She said because I grew up without my dad being there...I'd always had an older boyfriend to have a father figure, and she kind of like blamed me for what had happened."

(Young person, 'Making Justice Work')

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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