

Try to make sure we see and talk to the same person.



CSE Principles #9: Try to make sure we see and talk to the same person

Young people affected by child sexual exploitation (CSE) recognise that it is not always possible to work with the same person, but they are frustrated at having to repeat their accounts, and being passed to different workers or services. Meeting with and talking to the same person can help build up a trusting relationship, which can mean the young person is more able to talk about what is happening. This in turn can help keep them safe. Young people also highlight that being in contact with the same person is helpful for making sure they, and their family, are kept informed.

"Sometimes you have to keep retelling your story over and over again to different police officers because they keep switching and assigning different officers to your case."

(Young person, 'Making Justice Work')

"Let's say I'm the young person, I tell you something, yes I know you have to go tell your supervisor and everything, but let's say...the case gets passed on to different services. I think the key worker that was initially there should remain in contact with that young person so she doesn't feel like she's just told that person something, they've told someone else and now they've moved on."

(Young person, 'It's wrong...but you get used to it')

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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