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## CSE Principles #1:

### We want and need services

**Young people affected by child sexual exploitation (CSE) have made it clear that they need and value help from a range of services. This includes specialist CSE services which can provide a welcoming space where they will be listened to and where they can meet people who understand what they're going through. It also includes help from other services, like education, housing, youth work, counselling, health, children's social care and the police. All such services need to be accessible to, and work appropriately with, young people.**

"We are not [visiting the CSE service] to do anything other than talk about how we are, so it is taken a lot more seriously than when you are in school. Even when I did see a counsellor in school, it was about getting back to lessons rather than what was wrong...It makes me feel more comfortable knowing I have my worker I can talk to and be listened to."

**(Young person, 'The Alexi Project')**

"If you're having to come [travel] this far, are there enough services?"

**(Young person, 'The Alexi Project')**

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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](http://www.alexiproject.org.uk)

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