

CSE Principles #10. Stay hopeful: Things can change.



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Stay hopeful - Things can change

While the accounts of young people affected by child sexual exploitation (CSE) contain many indictments of professional practice, they also contain praise and an acknowledgement that individuals can make a big difference. Where young people have received good support, they can identify how circumstances have changed for them. It is important that professionals believe things can change – that they persevere, and don't give up. That belief can become a source of hope for young people when they are going through very difficult experiences.

“The police do an excellent job in keeping young people safe. They helped me find a safe place to stay and without them I never would have been here now. They have helped me understand that what happened was not my fault and that I was not to blame.”

(Young person, ‘Children’s Voices’)

“Because Tom [my worker] has had experiences with almost exactly the same situations as mine, he’s taught me about what’s happened – where they [the young people] are now and that’s almost made me think, this isn’t going to be forever. I can be a normal teenager... definitely Tom’s making me think that I can get past this.”

(Young person, ‘Helping me find my own way’)

This is one of ten principles for working with young people 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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