

You can tell me, you don't have to tell me...



CSE Principles #5. Treat us with respect and give us choices.

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Young people affected by child sexual exploitation (CSE) value relationships with professionals that are characterised by care, respect and perseverance. Part of respecting young people involves giving them choices wherever possible. Choice relates to the everyday details of practice, such as where to meet a worker, what food and drink will be available and who will be present, as well as more significant decisions. In this way professionals can demonstrate their trust in the young person's ability to make choices, and acknowledge their respect for the young person as an individual.

"She's been really helpful...I was kind of worried because I don't know what the police told her about my case... So then when she got here she was like, 'You can tell me, you don't have to tell me, I don't mind.'"

(Young person, 'Children's Voices')

"Sara was explaining what they'd do, and then said 'Well you can either go to the place where, like Sara's office is, or you can do them in college', and at first, because I didn't know Sara, I was more comfortable being in college with friendly faces and stuff, so that's where we carried on doing our meetings, at college, and we booked a room in the library, and that's where we go every Thursday at 11 o'clock, to do our meetings."

(Young person, 'The Alexi Project')

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