

Tackling Child Exploitation
Support Programme

Joining the Dots:

Children and Young People's Voices

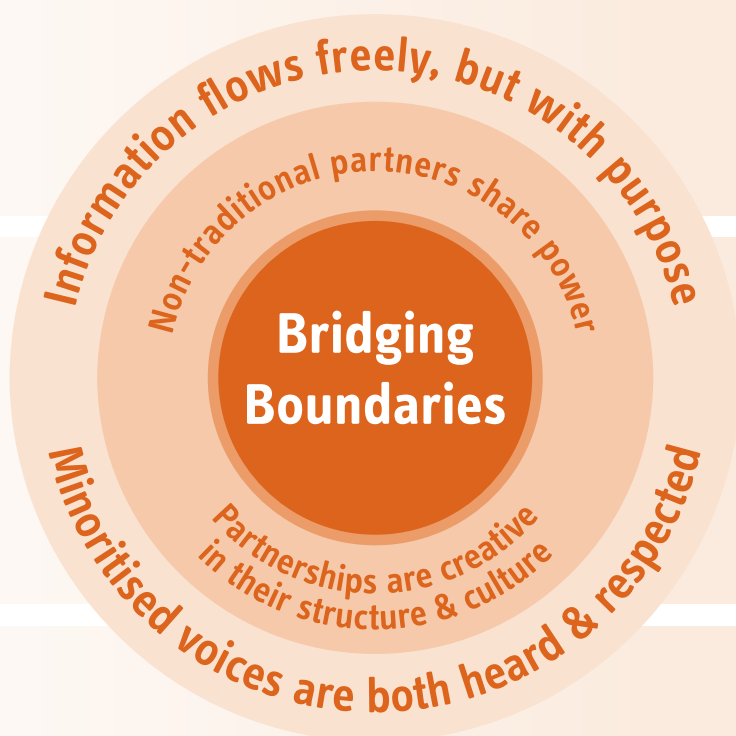


TRUST INVESTMENT
IN SERVICES
INCLUSION INTERVENTION
MENTORING OPPORTUNITY
INCLUSIVITY SUPPORT
OPPORTUNITY DIVERSITY
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
EQUALITY FLEXIBILITY
ROLE MODELS
EXTRA-FAMILIAL HARM
CHILD EXPLOITATION

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Child exploitation and extra-familial harm splits, separates and isolates



Form deeper and broader partnerships

Young people said they would like there to be more awareness and accountability in challenging stereotypes, developed and delivered by people that have experience of exploitation.

- **They would like to see:**
 - The opportunity to change the stigma around different forms of exploitation.
 - Role models that give positive examples, share experiences and help young people navigate situations and contexts.

Young people said that it would help them to hear other people's experiences, but also to have alternative examples outside of their normal circles.

- **They would like to see:**
 - Peer support groups within services.
 - Links to a mentor, whether that is a peer mentor or professional.

Young people engaged in consultation work asked for reciprocal opportunities to develop their own learning, either through education options or opportunities to upskill alongside professionals.

- **They would like to see:**
 - Investment in services, especially in more deprived areas, with a key focus on prevention and intervention.

How are you supporting young people to make the most of their strengths and maximising the protective opportunities in the communities that surround them?

What opportunities are available for young people across your partnership to move beyond experiences of exploitation and extra familial harm?

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Child exploitation and extra-familial harm involves control, manipulation and coercion



Focus on strengths, relationships and restorative approaches

Children and young people said they still do not feel heard or listened to.

- **They would like to see:**

Professionals held to account for not listening or acting on, or for inappropriately commenting on, children and young people's experiences.

Young people said attention to language is still needed, i.e. for professionals not to use words to describe exploitation that children and young people wouldn't use.

- **They would like to see:**

Professionals getting to know young people and *asking* how to best support them.

Young people are still experiencing structural inequality in terms of their race, class, gender, sexuality, and disability.

- **They would like to see:**

Better awareness and support to access services for minoritised groups.

In what ways do your local strategies support young people to form long-term trusted relationships with professionals?

How do you invite support and challenge from children and young people into your partnership

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Child exploitation and extra-familial harm moves, shifts and constantly adapts



Stand back,
slow down and reflect

Young people recognise and experience some participation work as performative action and tokenism.

- **They would like to see:**
A flexible, inclusive and open-minded approach to support, whilst recognising the challenges for professionals.

Young people described being singled out to meet professionals' needs around events like mental health awareness days, Black History Month and Pride Month, but at no other point throughout the year.

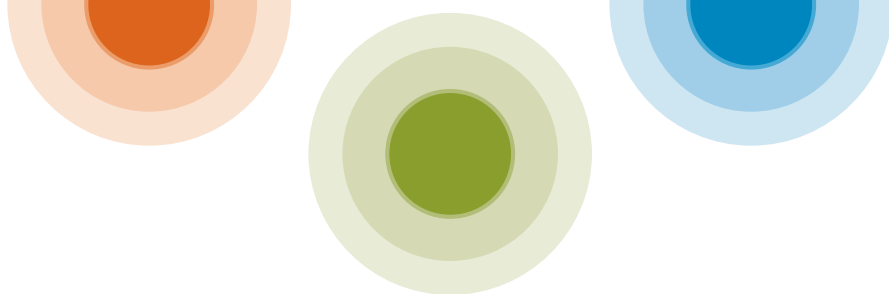
- **They would like to see:**
Visibility, recognition and on-going engagement related to the structural inequalities many of them face daily, and the routine need to cope with issues like mental health challenges.

Young people asked for genuine community engagement from government at all levels and from local decision-makers and professionals.


- **They would like to see:**
 - Opportunities for genuine representation for all young people and areas.
 - Opportunities for young people to give examples both locally and nationally.

What opportunities are there for children and young people to represent themselves directly to decision - makers across your partnership?

What do you know about how these opportunities are offered and supported, and whether your partnership does this in a way that enables diverse and truly representative views from young people to be heard?



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