"MARGINAL GAINS" Small steps to improve how police engage with young people

WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE SAID

BARRIERS to young people engaging with police
- Feeling in some way to blame for the crime
- Not knowing my rights in the criminal justice system
- Don’t trust the police to keep me safe
- Will the police believe me?

Fear of negative repercussions for me and my family

BE RESPECTFUL & NON-JUDGEMENTAL
- Offer support, show you care
- Show interest
- Be open-minded/don’t assume
- Don’t stereotype and compare me with others
- Think about the bigger picture and risks to me

Previous negative experience with police

GOOD FIRST CONTACT CAN LEAD TO....
...VICTIM WITHDRAWAL

BAD FIRST CONTACT CAN LEAD TO....

SHOW EMPATHY & COMPASSION
- Treat me like a human being, be sincere, develop trust
- Show you understand and want to help and that you care
- Put yourself in my shoes
- Develop safeguarding plan/refer to specialists for support

LISTENING AND RESPONDING TO YOUNG PEOPLE ACCOUNTS
- Keep me informed of what’s going on or going to happen next - Communicate
- Listen and don’t interrupt
- Be patient
- Offer refreshments
- Give me time

NEGATIVE INTERACTION = VICTIM WITHDRAWAL?

LISTENING AND RESPONDING TO YOUNG PEOPLE ACCOUNTS

EVIDENCE GATHERING
- Is the environment OK?
- Why is it being taped?
- Can a friend come with me?
- What will I do with my phone?
- When will I get my phone back?

COURT
- Is the right person doing the interview?
- Do I have to wear my uniform?
- Make the questions simple

SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION
- Poor evidence gathering could have negative consequences

ONGOING SUPPORT
- Review safeguarding plan
- What else can I do to keep you safe?
- Would you like me to refer you to someone for extra help?

UNSUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION
- Just because the court case is over doesn’t mean it’s over for me.

SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION
- What else can I do to keep you safe?
- Would you like me to refer you to someone for extra help?

LISTENING AND RESPONDING TO YOUNG PEOPLE ACCOUNTS

NEGATIVE INTERACTION = VICTIM WITHDRAWAL?

LISTENING AND RESPONDING TO YOUNG PEOPLE ACCOUNTS

DISCLOSURE & COOPERATION
- Is the right person doing the interview?
- Offer refreshments
- Give me time

BACKGROUND & DISCLOSURE
- Be patient
- Offer refreshments
- Give me time

FEEDBACK
- For further information, go to www.beds.ac.uk/ic

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