

Tips for: Addressing stigma, stereotypes, and low expectations

In this video, the young people explore the impact of stigma, stereotypes and low expectations. They encourage us to challenge these and look for their strengths and opportunities to shine.

Reflections

The young people talk about experiencing negative stereotypes and low expectations. What are some of the negative stereotypes and low expectations held about children and young people in care?

Mat, Sophie and Emily talk about wanting to be recognised and celebrated for their achievements. However, they also say that when they achieve something, it can feel like people are surprised they did well, or that people are proud of them because they did better than the low expectations set for them as kids in care. How do you celebrate children and young people's achievements with them? After listening to the young people, is there anything you would do differently?

Emily and Sophie talk about feeling like people are not interested in supporting children and young people when they are doing well and are only there at their lowest moments. Why do you think this happens? How can you safeguard against only responding to deficits in your out-of-home care practice?

Your plan

What will you do to make sure the expectations you and others set for children and young people match their individual capabilities and preferences?

How will you make sure the children in care you work with have the resources, opportunities and support they need to develop and practice their strengths?

Group supervision questions

How can we identify and support the child's strengths and shift away from a deficit focus?

How can we use case planning, leaving and aftercare planning to provide young people with opportunities to support their strengths and let them know we believe they will succeed?