

Role: Police Officer
Agency: Hampshire Constabulary

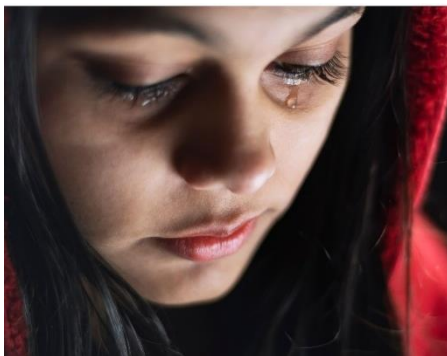
Background

Amira*, aged 15, became known to the police as a result of using and distributing drugs. Concerns had been raised about child criminal exploitation and grooming.

Amira was experiencing low self-esteem, was heavily in debt and had found herself in a situation that she was unsure how to get out of and which she refused to discuss with anyone.

Amira struggled to communicate honestly and openly with her family and professionals about her situation, which meant that her voice was not always heard and understood.

Action taken



The police officer involved in supporting Amira prioritised taking the time to really listen to Amira and encourage her to talk more openly with her family and professional support network. Through establishing a strong, trusting relationship with Amira, the officer was able to gain a much greater understanding of Amira's views and feelings about her situation. Building upon this, they were then able to advocate for Amira, sharing her views with other professionals. The aim was to encourage professionals to support Amira as a

vulnerable young person who has issues with self-esteem, rather than focusing just on the offences she had been arrested for.

The police officer ensured that Amira's voice and experience was represented at High-Risk Strategy Meetings as well as in discussions with social workers and other professionals. They also worked closely with Amira's parents to encourage them to see that Amira is still their daughter and to understand why she may have been drawn into situations that had placed her and others at significant risk.

Outcome

As a result of the supportive relationship that has been built with the police officer, Amira is now more comfortable being open about her situation and experiences.

SAFEGUARDING ADOLESCENTS CASE STUDY: AMIRA

With encouragement from her professional support network and family, Amira has been able to speak more honestly and recognise there are alternative options available to her. This has empowered her to build on her confidence and self-esteem.

Amira's parents continue to have a loving and supportive relationship with her, despite the troubles and impact her behaviour has had on the family.

**Pseudonym*