

**Creating Stable Futures:
Human Trafficking, Participation and Outcomes for Children
Shared Learning Event resources**

Case Studies: Part 2

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Case Studies jointly created by

Patricia Hynes, Sheffield Hallam University, and Imogen Spencer-Chapman, ECPAT UK

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Ezra, Part 2

Ezra has been taken into care and placed in a semi-independent unit with a few hours of key-work support each week. His key-worker notices that Ezra has difficulty sleeping at night-time and that he tends to sleep on the floor and repeatedly checks the lock on his door. He tells his keyworker that he has nightmares and has been heard to cry out.

Ezra is struggling to make friends in the unit and although he wants to go to college, he is often too tired. He will not engage in activities such as football. He spends most of the day playing FIFA.

Ezra has been encouraged to give information to the police but has refused. He has been referred to CAMHS but says he is not sick and does not want therapy. His social worker has referred him to the NRM and he has received a positive RG decision. He has an immigration solicitor who hopes Ezra will be granted temporary leave as a Victim of Trafficking but is worried this will be refused because Ezra will not cooperate with the police or access therapy.

Abina, Part 2

Abina is now 18. She is a care-leaver and lives in a semi-independent unit, fully funded by the local authority. She has no recourse to public funds as it was discovered shortly before she turned 18 that she does not have legal status in the UK. She has a boyfriend who gives her gifts and financial support. Professionals describe her as needy, attention seeking, aggressive, abusive and “someone who sabotages relationships”. Children’s services are increasingly concerned about her behaviour and in particular, allegations of her involvement in grooming minors to engage in sexual activity.

She now has convictions for theft, criminal damage and drink driving, and investigations continue into the grooming allegations.

Abina has recently been referred to a sexual exploitation service who will soon be embarking on their introductory sessions with her.

Mesfin, Part 2

Mesfin is now 18. He has been reported missing several times and has been given notice on his placement due to rule breaches. He disclosed that he first left his placement as his 'boss' offered him protection from the Home Office whilst working to pay off his debt. He knew he had to come back however as was worried about getting into trouble with his personal advisor.

Although his personal advisor has explained that he's not allowed to work and that he is appealing his asylum decision so isn't currently at risk of being removed from the UK, Mesfin does not fully understand his situation and continues to go missing.

Most of the multi-agency network recognises the increased level of risk to Mesfin. He is believed to be travelling far outside London and several professionals' meetings have taken place. Mesfin has been asked about where he is going but he is very vague and won't provide any details. His keyworkers have observed that Mesfin appears extremely tired and dishevelled when he returns.

The police exploitation unit does not appear to recognise or be responding to the risks raised, with some professionals citing that there's no actual evidence of exploitation and now he's an adult he can make his own choices.

Yu Chan, Part 2

A year has passed, and Yu Chan remains in the same placement. She initially attended a local school and proving to be conscientious and hard-working, and with intensive ESOL support, succeeded in passing 2 GCSEs in English and Maths. She demonstrated a keen interest in hair and beauty, and now 17, attends a local college. However, her attendance levels have recently dropped. There are suspicions that someone might be controlling her and that she might continue to be linked to organised crime. These concerns are being discussed in strategy meetings and sessions with Yu Chan.

However, Yu Chan is a quiet girl who carers and professionals struggle to engage with. She maintains that everything is okay and that she is safe. Professionals do not accept this but without disclosures from Yu Chan they are not sure how to proceed. It has always been hard in her case to gather evidence, for example it remains unclear how the money, necessary documents and plane tickets were found for her baby to be sent back to China. Police have had very few leads and Yu Chan will not disclose anything.

Yu Chan has fallen pregnant again. Because her first child went missing, tight interventions have been placed on monitoring Yu Chan. She is under close watch in a mother and baby unit. Professionals worry she could go missing if she finds an opportunity.

Tabea, Part 2

Now 17, after three years of support with a foster carer and a designated keyworker, it is known that she was subjected to severe physical assault in the home where she was exploited. More recently she has indicated, but not disclosed, that she was treated badly in other ways. It is suspected that she was sexually abused when living in domestic servitude. She has also said she is scared of bad spirits because of the oath she had to take before she came to the UK and still feels controlled by them.

The couple who brought her into the UK have been prosecuted following a trafficking investigation that took two-and-a-half years to complete. They received a short custodial sentence and are due for release soon.

Tabea has achieved very well at school and has passed eight GCSEs. However, her asylum application has been refused and she is now appealing this decision. She has become very anxious, and her mental health is deteriorating. She says she cannot think about future aspirations and feels scared and hopeless.

Altin, Part 2

Altin is in the care of the local authority, in foster care with an Albanian family. The foster family are supportive but are worried that Altin is involved with criminal gangs and are worried that both they and Altin might be at risk from traffickers. They are worried that Altin might still have contact with the traffickers and may know where he is. The social worker feels out of his depth and is finding it hard to know how to engage with Altin. He suspects Altin is a victim of exploitation but is not clear what to do.

Altin's social worker recently spoke to his mother to inform her that Altin is in the care of the local authority. When Altin found out he had done this he was very angry, shouted at him and threatened to pull the radiator off the wall.

Altin spends most of his time in his room or playing Fortnite in the living area, but he rarely talks and doesn't want to go out.

So far Altin has not disclosed anything about what's happened to him, but during his LAC medical the nurse has observed and reported severe bruising on his body, and so professionals are hoping to use this as means to start a conversation with him.

Dat: Part 2

Police run checks on Dat and find that the Home Office have a recorded date of birth which makes him 23 years old. Dat maintains that he is 17, however the police do not accept this date, they charge him for the offence of cannabis cultivation and immigration offences and place him on remand in prison.

While in prison he attends an immigration surgery run by a law firm who identify that he is likely to be a minor and refer him to children's services for assessment.

Thomas, Part 2

Six months on, there are ongoing high-level concerns. Professionals have tried to investigate how Thomas obtained the money for these trips and how the trips had come about, but the exact circumstances remain unclear.

Thomas is under a Care Order and living in a small residential unit. He has been known to stay out overnight. He doesn't understand why he should follow the rules and has frequent angry outbursts. Staff find his behaviour very challenging. Thomas does not see himself as being trafficked.

When questioned if he thinks that he is at risk, he asks, "Why are social workers worried about me now when they didn't care