

Case Studies: Child Welfare Youth at High Risk of Sex Trafficking

Clara came into care after being exposed to domestic violence. She has a close relationship with her social worker of four years and has confided that she is currently involved in sex trafficking. She has already undergone an intervention for sex trafficking. This past year has been especially difficult for Clara. She was sexually assaulted by a former partner and is involved in litigation. Clara's living situation is unstable, spending time in an unlicensed placement. She is not attending school and spends time with peers who are being exploited. She also engages in risky online behaviour, accepts rides from strangers, and may have gang involvement.



Clara

15 years old

Mental health

Developmental disability



Angelo

18 years old

Mixed Race

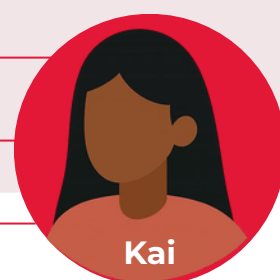
Developmental disability

Angelo came into care at 16 after experiencing physical abuse at home. He is a racial minority and feels disconnected from his culture. He struggles with low mood and self-esteem, often turning to non-suicidal self-injury, and has no support for his mental health. Over the past year, he stopped attending college, cut off contact with his family, and has had unstable peer relationships. Living independently, he has moved several times, and his whereabouts are often unknown. His worker of eight months worries he may be frequenting hotel rooms and other locations known for trafficking, and notes that Angelo is secretive about his romantic relationships.

19 years old

Indigenous

Bisexual



Kai

When Kai was 15, her father passed away and her mother was no longer able to care for her. She spent three years in care and then transitioned into the Ready, Set, Go program. Over the past year, her life has been very unstable. She stopped going to school, lost her job, and struggles to make ends meet. She has moved several times, and her location is often unknown. Kai also spends time with peers who are suspected of being trafficked. She feels abandoned by her mother and has no financial support from her family. The only consistent support in her life is her social worker of five months. Although Kai shares openly with her worker, they are still unsure whether she is being trafficked.