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| **3.2** | **Acknowledge limited life chances**  Life chances in adolescence | |
| **Young person:** | |  |
| **Practitioner:** | |  |
| **Date:** | |  |

We all need recognition from those around us. But for adolescents (and not just those who offend), **adequate social recognition doesn’t come easily.**

**As adolescents, they don’t get protected as a child would, but nor do they get the freedom adults have.** So by definition, adolescence is **transient**, **difficult** and **lacking in status**.

**Adolescence itself has been linked with offending**. And for many, the increased recognition afforded by adulthood can itself lead to desistance from crime, **explaining in part why many young people ‘grow out’ of crime.**

Forthose who are disadvantaged or marginalised, **the period of adolescence can be especially difficult.** Many end up in a pattern of offending in an attempt to **create a positive identity** for themselves or in an **attempt to make up for disadvantage in an unequal society**.

**We often put great emphasis on challenging young people’s attitudes and behaviour, responsibilising them for their offending without recognising complex structural difficulties they encounter.**

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|  | **Think about how you can create opportunities for change and integration, giving the young person the experience of being part of adult society.**   * **Ask the young person what they find frustrating about their situation, and try to help.** * **Ask yourself what work you can do with this young person to ease their transition to adulthood.** * **Take the opportunity to give the young people a say. That way they have some power and autonomy that comes with growing up, and not just responsibility!** |