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| **7.2** | **Develop their ambitions**  Developing a new identity | |
| **Young person:** | |  |
| **Practitioner:** | |  |
| **Date:** | |  |

A young person’s **self-identity** (the way they see themselves), and their **social identity** (the way others see them) **both play a significant role in their offending**.

People who have nothing of value have nothing to lose, so **young people who lack positive social or self-identities really have very little reason to play by the rules.** Furthermore, for many young people their offending may be a significant part of their **identity and the only way they feel they can achieve recognition or status**.

To successfully reduce reoffending, we must **help young people develop a pro-social identity for themselves.**

Luckily, **a young person’s identity is fluid, dynamic and ever developing**, so we can support them to reconstruct a more positive identity. The following things are important:

* **The young person needs to start seeing themselves differently**
* **They must see society giving them the chance to reinvent themselves**
* **They often need to know there is someone that believes in them.**

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|  | **Discuss the young person’s social and self-identities:**   * How do they **see themselves**? * How do **others see them**? * How **would they like** others to see them? * Do they feel they have the power to **change or improve** the way the world sees them? * What role do their **close relationships and friendships** play in their identities? * Do they **feel like they belong** to any communities or groups? |