

THE DOMINO EFFECT OF CARE

"Every decision leaves a mark."



BROKEN TRUST

"They said they would come."



Trust → Trauma → Education → Isolation
→ Instability → Mental Health → Exploitation → Criminalisation

"One trusted adult can interrupt the entire chain."

13%

of care leavers reach higher education.

40%

of care leavers aged 19-21 are NEET.

26%

of care-experienced 17-year-olds reported suicide attempts.

52%

of looked-after children had a criminal conviction by age 24.

"These are not disconnected statistics."

WHAT ARE WE REALLY COMMISSIONING?

Crisis?

Or prevention?

Compliance?

Or belonging?

Services?

Or relationships?



"One person can interrupt the chain."

Trust → Stability → Safety → Education

Opportunity → Belonging → Purpose → Legacy

"We may not be able to stop every storm
in a young person's life...

but we must never become the first domino
that pushes them further into one."

KEY QUESTIONS FOR LEADERS

Are we commissioning relationships or transactions?

Are we listening to lived experience early enough?

Are systems accidentally retraumatising young people?

Do our measurements capture human impact?

What dominoes are we preventing before crisis emerges?

Are children being labelled "non-engaging" when trust has been broken?

How can public bodies collectively uphold corporate parenting responsibilities?

Thank you.

Everton Sutherland-Adebisi
In partnership with Leaders In Training



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