



5. How can we tell things are better?

A fifth tent pole concerned how people could tell if any planned support was working and if things were getting better.

Some of the indicators suggested by the children are not easily measured such as being happier, more confident or having improved relationships in the family.

However, there are different ways these softer outcomes can be evaluated.



These things could be assessed as follows:

- Listen to the child or young person - they could tell you how things were progressing in their view.
- Observation - some improvements such as improved attitude, mood and behaviour might be evident.
- Measure improvements- such as improved performance at school or increased opportunities to take part in activities.
- Build up a picture - an increase in confidence might be evident if the young person had more friends and engaged with or got involved with more things.
- Look for signs of improved health - such as putting on weight, being less tired, looking better.

