

Leonard

Consultancy

Low, Medium or High

Assessing the Risk Posed by Sex Offenders

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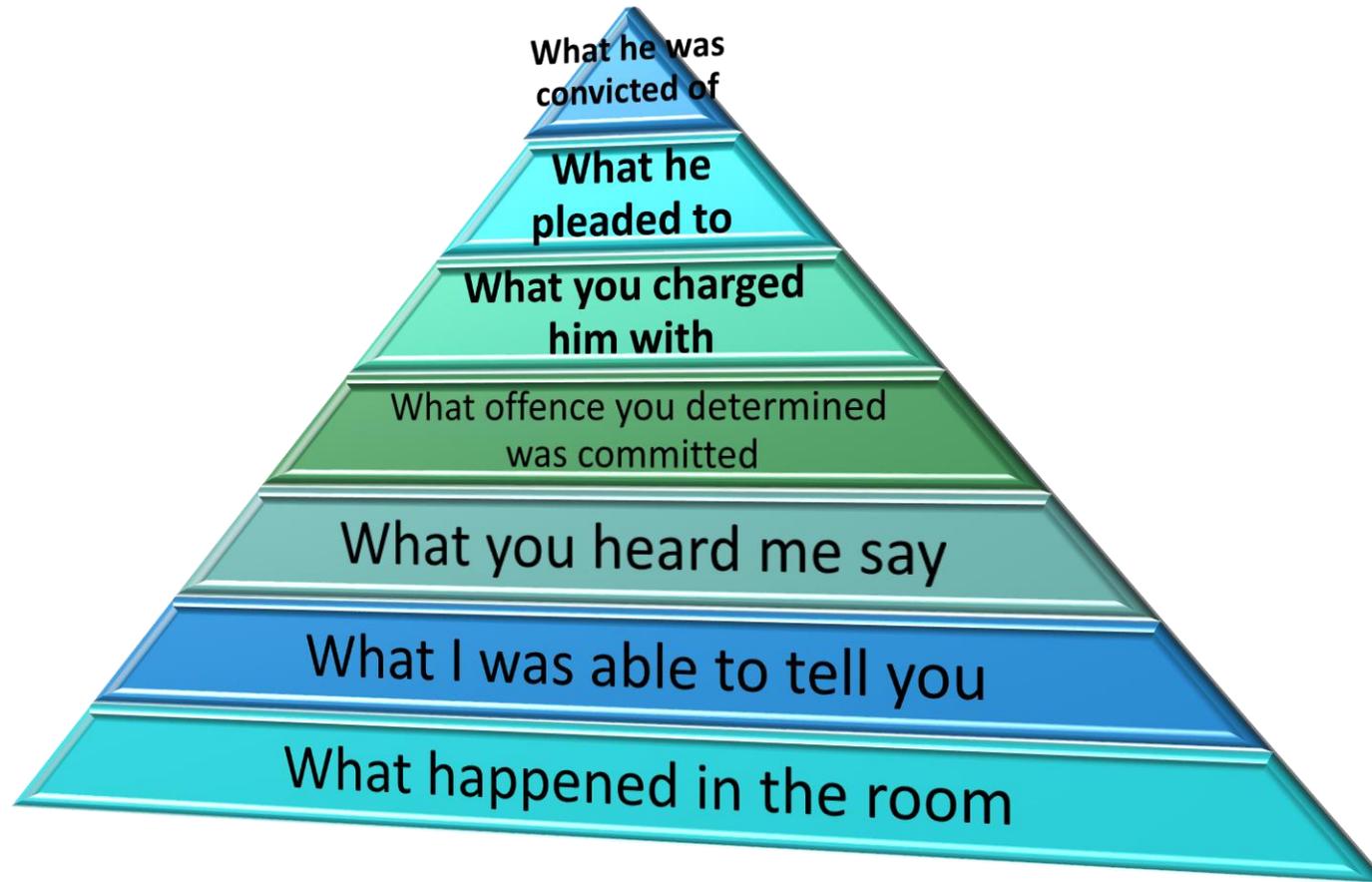


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There is no such thing as a “typical” sex offender because:

- be male or female;
- be young or old;
- have differing levels of education, social skills, ability to relate to others
- be married or single;
- Commit contact or non-contact offences / internet offences
- Come from a range of employment & or professional backgrounds
- have strong ties to their families and communities, or have weak ties; and/or
- have no record of prior criminal involvement or have a record either for sexual & or non-sexual offences.
- May or may not be known to social / mental health / addiction services



Risk Assessment

Risk assessment

The systematic collection of information to determine the degree to which harm (to self or others) is likely at some point in time.

Risk prediction

The assigning of a probability to a person, indexing the likelihood of that person engaging in the specific risk behaviour (typically harm to self or others) such as violence (criminal or otherwise), within or outside of hospital/custody.

Risk management

The implementation of a set of values and principles integrated with a set of operational procedures and supports that enable a dynamic sensitivity to the individual's needs, vulnerabilities and evolving behaviours associated with risk. The purpose of these procedures is risk minimisation and the provision of safe, sound and supportive services.

Risk Assessment

- **Functional analyses** – The “*decision chain*” used to investigate the antecedents, behaviours, and consequences of the offence
- **Actuarial risk assessments** provide guidance as to the general band of risk that an offender falls into (e.g., low, medium, high).
- **Dynamic risk assessments**—where research meets clinical perceptions—may include assessment of stable and acute dynamic factors

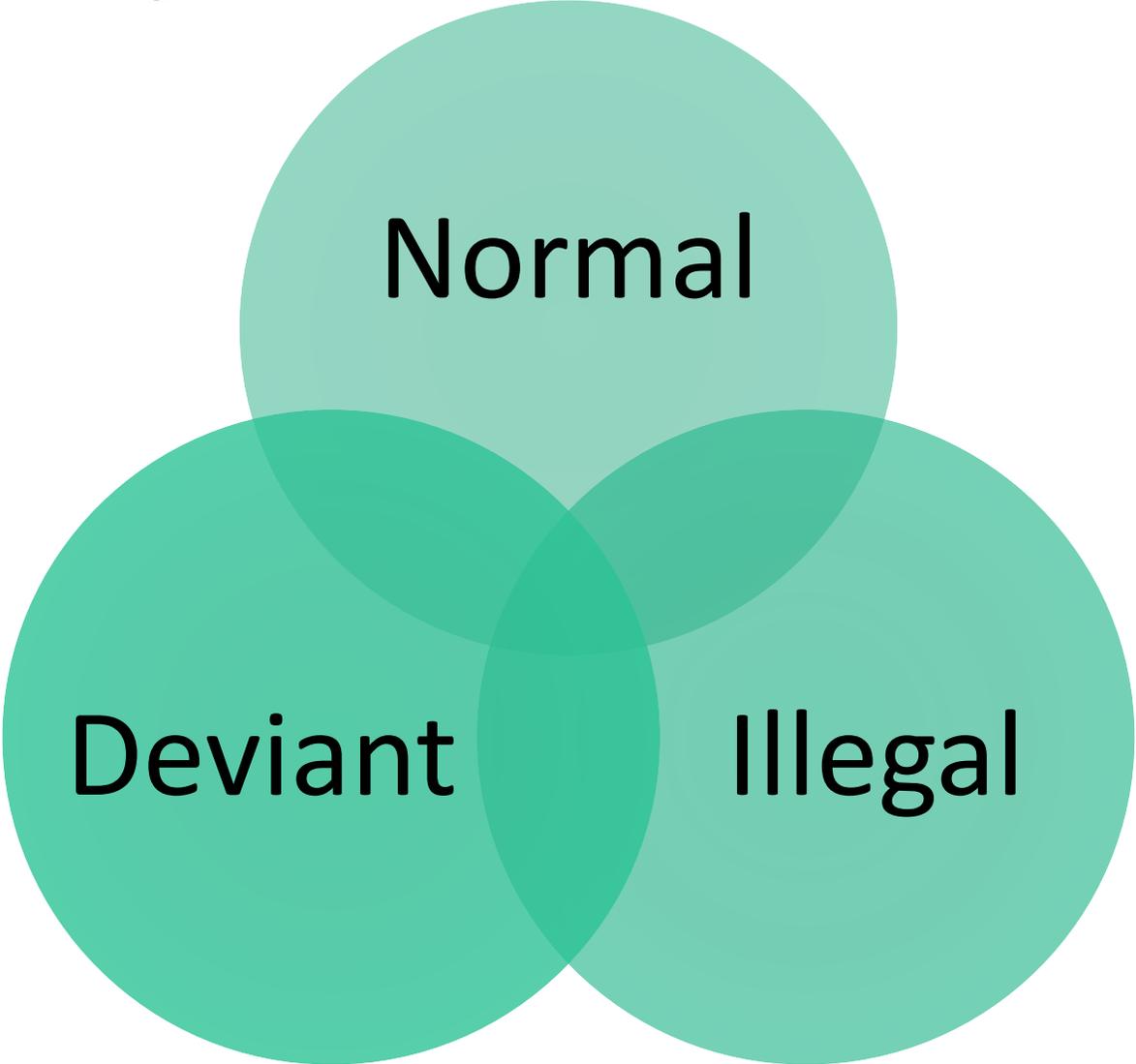
Blocks to identifying risk in assessment (Cleaver 1998)

- The unknown
- The known but not fully appreciated
- Interpretation
- Objective and subjective information
- Unappreciated data
- The decoy of dual pathology

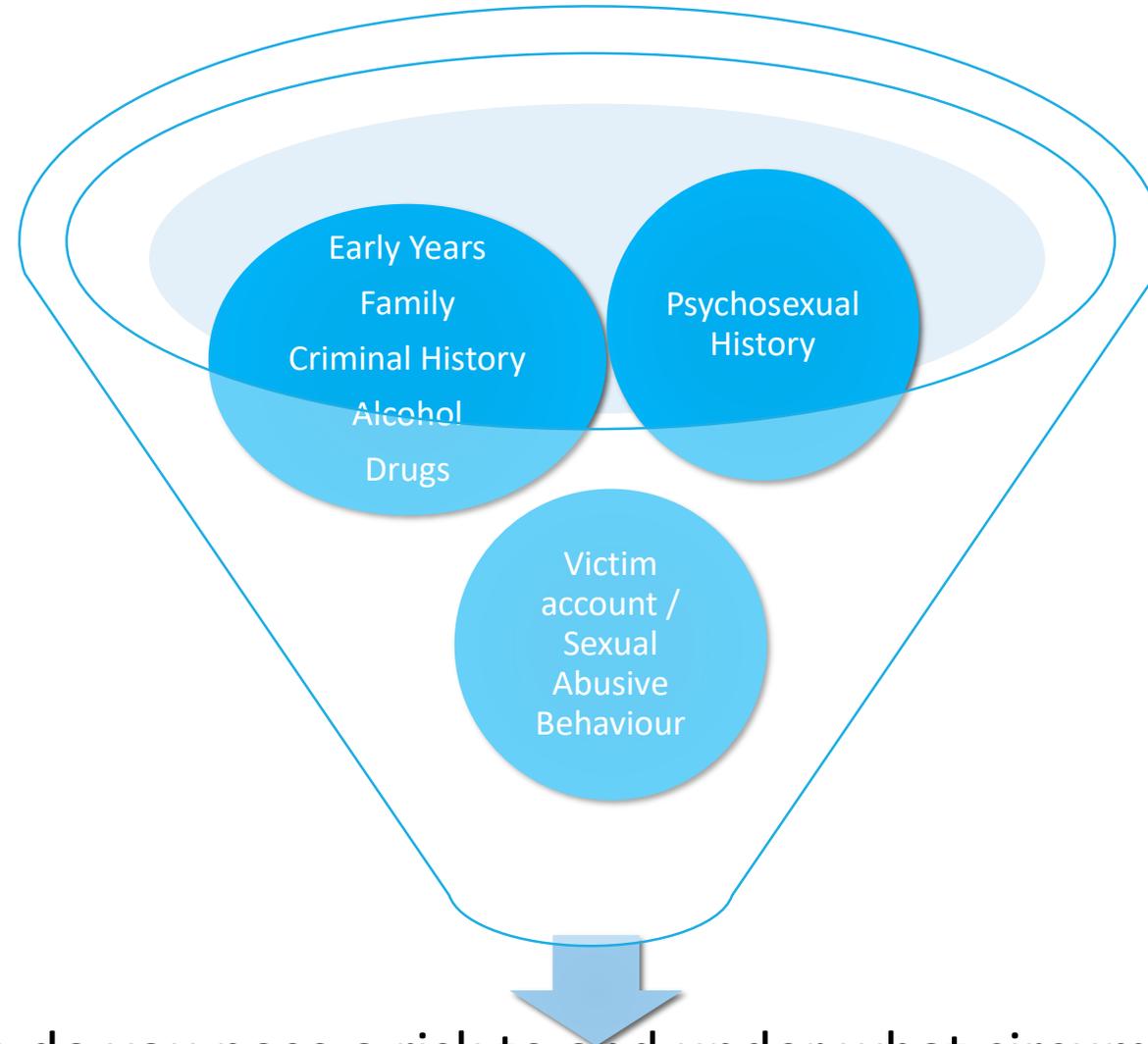
Blocks to identifying risk in assessment (Cleaver 1998)

- Certainty
- Competing tasks with same visiting schedule
- The known but not assembled
- Not fitting current mode of understanding
- Long standing blocks

What are we assessing?



You pose a risk to everyone, all of the time



Who do you pose a risk to and under what circumstances

How do we communicate risk?

Give percentages to the following

1. Certain
2. Significant
3. A Chance
4. Strong likelihood
5. Low
6. Medium
7. High
8. There is a risk

Who presents the greatest risk

- Child Sex Offender
- Adult Rapist
- Internet Offender
- Paedophile
- Sex Offender with a Learning Disability

Child Sex Offender

- Body shape
- Physicality
- Pain, distress and lack of consent
- Ability to 'successfully perform'
- Attracted to post puberty body as well

Rape

- Physicality
- Degree of deviancy
- Use of paraphilias
- Distress
- Normal sexual functioning

Internet Offenders

- Time
- Contact ?
- Deviancy
- Paraphilia
- Impact victim

Sex offender with Learning Disability

- Attitudes of family and professionals
- The ease of grooming
- The lack of internal controls
- The frequency of recidivism

CSE – Multiple Offenders

- Identification of like minded persons
- Complicit together
- Degree of deviancy
- Return to normal sexual functioning

Female Sex Offenders

6 Categories of female sexual offenders

- Heterosexual nurturers
- Non- criminal homosexual offenders
- Female sexual predators
- Young adult child exploiters
- Homosexual criminals
- Aggressive homosexual offenders

Vandiver and Kercher (2004)

Formulation

Formulation is the summation and integration of the knowledge that is acquired by this assessment process that may involve psychological, biological and systemic factors and procedures. The formulation will draw on psychological theory and research to provide a framework for describing a client's problem or needs, how it developed and is being maintained.

Division of Clinical Psychology, 2010

“Formulation should, so far as possible, specify factors likely to increase the risk of dangerous behaviour and those likely to decrease it”. *Royal College of Psychiatrists (1996)*

Formulation

5Ps

1. Presenting problem/behaviour
2. Predisposing factors (e.g. early life experiences, trauma etc.)
3. Precipitating factors (triggers, critical life events etc.)
4. Perpetuating factors (maintaining factors)
5. Protective Factors (abilities, skills, personality factors, support etc.)

Analysis/Formulation

1. Using 5 Ps
2. What are their risks (not just sexual). Are they specific or general?
3. In what circumstances – use the contact offender risk assessment tool factors to assist you;
4. How immediate is the risk?
5. How volatile is the risk?
6. What were their sexual needs and how are they being met now? What is the gap? Is their response realistic?
7. What are their therapeutic needs?
8. What is my realistic plan to reduce those risks?
9. The issue is not whether they are low, medium or high but are they a risk and in what circumstances.

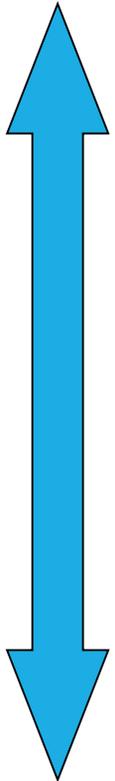
Name the Current Risk

Summary

- Not to state a level or assessment of risk in any CPCC report without including the context to the risk level
- Out of date risk assessments e.g. caution of reporting a level of risk that was completed several years ago or prior to significant life events having taken place
- The risk assessment is often related to the child/ren who were subject to the referral and therefore caution to transfer the assessment to other contexts which may not have been part of the assessment

Denial Continuum

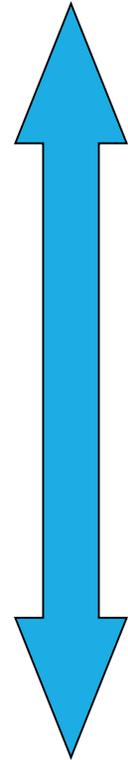
Hopeless



Hopeful

Nothing happened
Something happened, but it wasn't me,
Something happened but they wanted to,
Something happened but not as bad as they said,
It happened but at the time I didn't know it was wrong,
It happened but it was an accident,
It happened and I don't know what came over me,
It happened but it wasn't planned,
It happened but it never happened before,
It happened, I planned it and I know it hurt people so it won't happen again,
It happened, I planned it, it hurt people,
I understand my thinking, I think about it still, but this is my relapse prevention plan if I feel tempted again.

Denial



Responsibility.

There are no Simple Answers – But Some Common Features

There is no simple reason for why someone misuses a position of power or influence to be sexual with a child. The answers are not only complex, but as different as the people and situations involved.

Risk Assessment – Low, Medium or High

Risk Factors

Active Risk Management System - ARMS

Dynamic – Changeable factors

- Opportunity
- Sexual pre-occupation
- Offence related sexual interests
- Emotional congruence with children
- Poor self-management
- Hostile orientation
- **Social influences**

Protective

Dynamic – Changeable factors

- Commitment to desist
- Intimate relationship
- Employment/Positive routine
- Social investment

The Impact of the Ability to Protect
On Assessment of Risk
CASP Tool

Non – abusing cannot be assumed

- Need to eliminate either by omission or co-mission
- If not then need to assess the joint risk

Negative Consequences of Challenging Abuse and Disclosure

For the perpetrator, the mother and the victim these can be divided into:

- Family
- Legal
- Psychological
- Social
- Financial and professional

Grief and Loss

In order to understand the impact, we must recognise the impact of loss and where the person is at in terms of grieving, the Kubler-Ross grief cycle assists us in this:

- Denial
- Anger
- Bargaining
- Depression
- Acceptance

The Protective Partner reduces the risk by:

1. Accept there is a risk
2. Accept who poses that risk
3. Developed the skills of a supervisor
4. Be accepted in the role of a supervisor and protector
5. Make the transition through the grief process to let go of who she / he thought their partner was and start journey to accepting what risk they may pose
6. Work alongside authorities and be the proactive protector

Assessing Protectiveness: CASP Tool

- Protective

and

- Supervisor

So what are the key risk factors v what do you want to know for child protection

- ✓ What is their risk
- ✓ Who do they pose a risk to,
- ✓ Under what circumstances and
- ✓ Can this be managed,
- ✓ By whom
- ✓ Is this manageable from a governance perspective

Thank you / Go Raibh Maith Agat

