Children who sexually harm others

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Introduction
Who are we talking about?

SAM

What comes to mind?
What comes to mind?

Learning disability
Gender
History
Ethnicity
Offending history
Disgust
Paedophile
Mental health
Family
Experience
Evil
Age
Fear
SAM
First and foremost...

**Sam is a child**

Risk of forgetting this in the light of what they have done.
We have a duty to safeguarding ALL children and young people.
One incident of sexually inappropriate behaviour does not predict future incidents.
Safeguarding

- The victim
- The family of the perpetrator
- Wider society

And

- The perpetrator
Safeguarding the perpetrator?

- Risk to others does not eliminate risk from others
- The offences can blind individuals to the risks to the child
- A victim themselves?
- Demonising the child
- Excluded as a result of behaviour

Still need to consider risk to others...
Assessing risk

There is considerable controversy concerning the best approach to conducting risk assessments with sexual offenders.

Everyone agrees that valid risk factors need to be considered from multiple sources of information in order to ensure they are reliable.

Disagreement on the best method for combining risk factors into comprehensive assessments.
Types of risk

**Static** risk factors (cannot be altered)
– e.g., historical characteristics, such as age, prior offense history, and age at first sex

**Dynamic** risk factors (characteristics, circumstances, and attitudes that can change throughout one’s life)
– e.g., drug or alcohol use, poor attitude (e.g., low remorse and victim blaming),
Tools and clinical judgement

- Assessment Intervention Moving On (AIM)
- Estimate of Risk of Adolescent Sexual Offense Recidivism (ERASOR)
ERASOR Categories

1. Sexual Interests, Attitudes, and Behaviours
2. Sexual Assaults
3. Psychosocial Functioning
4. Family/Environmental Functioning
5. Treatment
6. Other
Sexual Interests, Attitudes, and Behaviours

- Deviant sexual interests
- Obsessive sexual interests/Preoccupation with sexual thoughts
- Attitudes supportive of sexual offending
- Unwillingness to alter deviant sexual interests/attitudes
Historical Sexual Assaults

- Ever sexually assaulted 2 or more victims
- Ever sexually assaulted same victim 2 or more times
- Prior adult sanctions for sexual assault(s)
- Threats of, or use of, violence/weapons during sexual offense
- Ever sexually assaulted a child
- Ever sexually assaulted a stranger
- Indiscriminate choice of victims
- Ever sexually assaulted a male victim (male offenders only)
- Diverse sexual-assault behaviours
Psychosocial Functioning

• Antisocial interpersonal orientation
• Lack of intimate peer relationships / Social isolation
• Negative peer associations and influences
• Interpersonal aggression
• Recent escalation in anger or negative affect
• Poor self-regulation of affect and behaviour (Impulsivity)
Functioning

- High-stress family environment
- Problematic parent-offender relationships/Parental rejection
- Parent(s) not supporting sexual-offense-specific assessment/treatment
- Environment supporting opportunities to reoffend sexually
Treatment

• No development or practice of realistic prevention plans/strategies

• Incomplete sexual-offense-specific treatment
To hold in mind

• Care
• Compassion
• Kindness

And

• Be fair
• Be clear
• Be honest
Thank you