

SEXUAL OFFENDERS – THE PROBLEM FOR PRISONS



UNLOCKING POTENTIAL
TRANSFORMING LIVES



SEXUAL OFFENDING TREATMENT PROGRAMMES IN PRISONS

.....EVERYONE HAS A VIEW



INCREASING NUMBERS

- The Prisoners (Control of Release) (Scotland) Bill 2014
 - Increasing numbers
 - Medium vs High Risk?

 - Limited resources – where to target?
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RISK ASSESSMENT – THE ERA OF FORMULATION

- Who/ what / why / when / how?

- With this
 - The stakes are high
 - Failure is very public and not tolerated
 - Clinical override or risk averse?



MYTHS AND LABELS

- Dangerous Predator
 - “beast” “nonce|”
 - “the offence”
 - “he’s an SO”
 - Sadistic
 - Deviant
 - Personality disorder
 - Psychopath
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THE BALANCE OF RISKS, NEEDS AND RESPONSIVITY

- Early experiences
- Sexual abuse
- Denial
- Motivation and Choice
- Persistent personality problems
- Isolation
- Substances
- Impulsivity



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TESTING THE RISKS



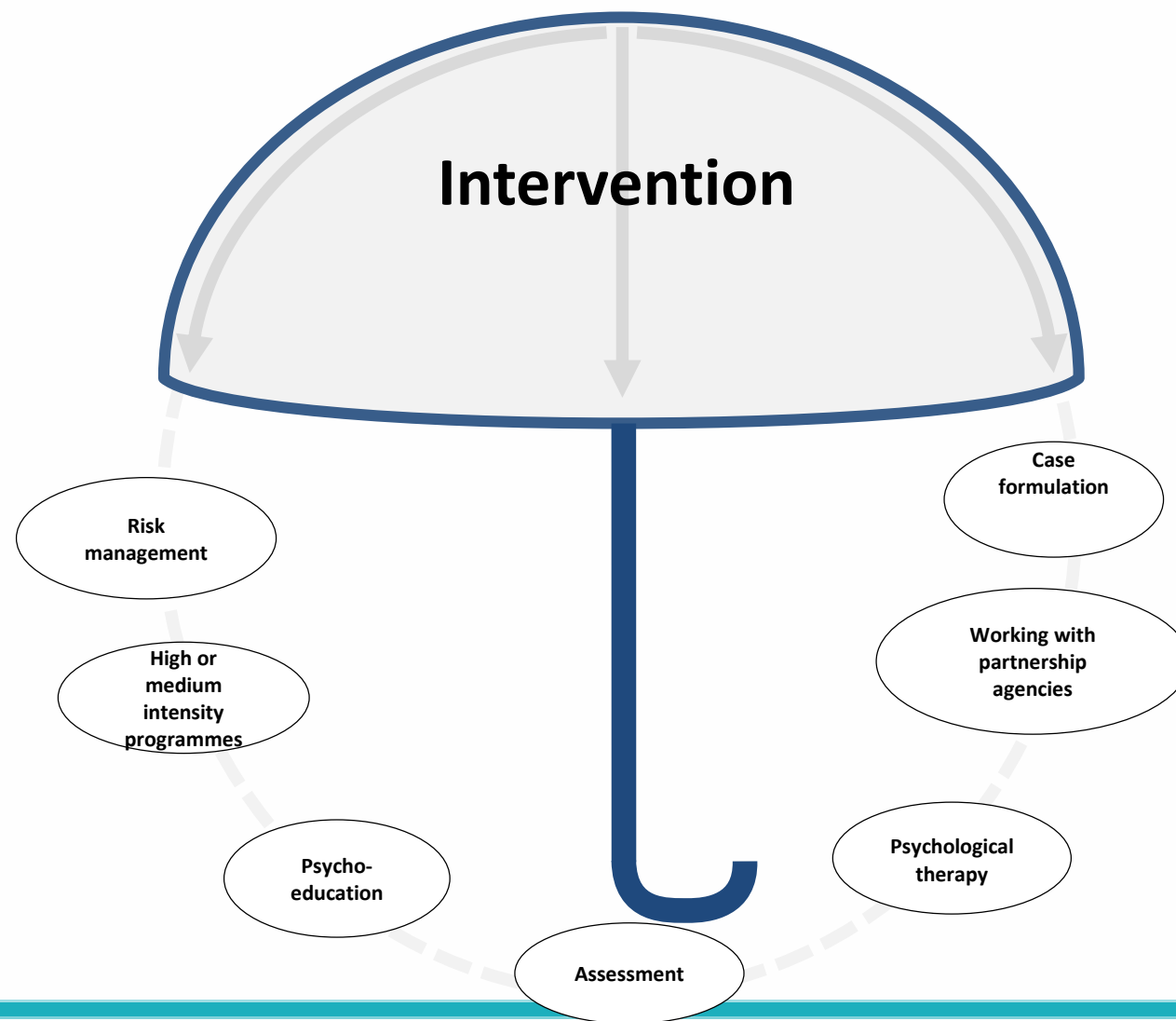
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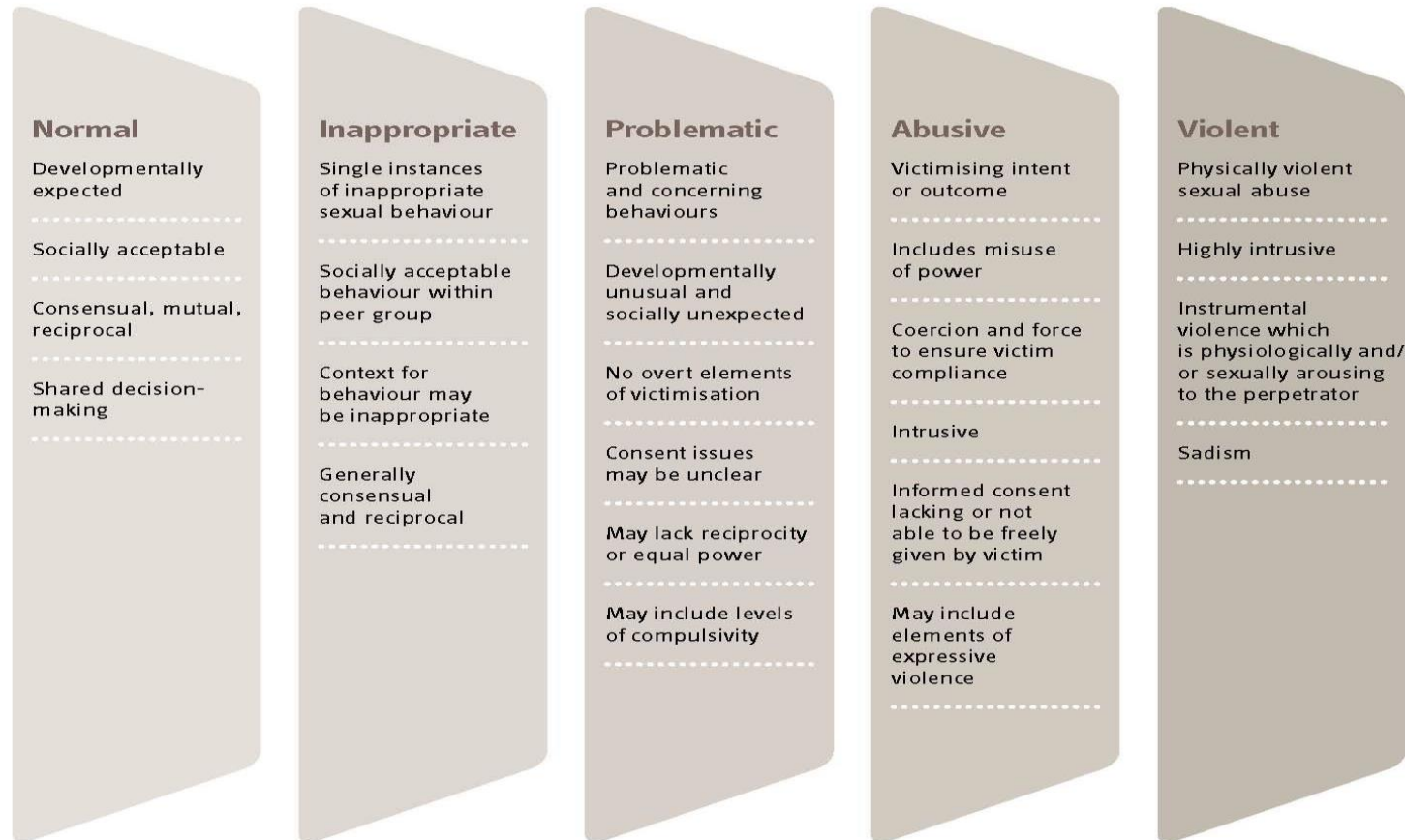
THE COMPLEX COHORT



NEXT STEPS?



NORMATIVE VS RISKY ADOLESCENT SEXUAL BEHAVIOURS (HACKETT, 2010)



WHAT IS NORMAL ADOLESCENT SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR

- Changing societal norms
 - Social pressures
 - Impact of technology
 - Vulnerability of young people
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YOUNG MEN WHO COMMIT SEXUAL OFFENCES

- Increase in young men being convicted
 - Distinct group from adults
 - Similarities with non-sexual offending adolescents
 - Treatment needs
 - Risk
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CYBER RELATED SEXUAL OFFENDING BY YOUNG MEN

- Increase in 'other sexual crimes' category
- 'Communicating indecently' & 'causes others to view sexual images/activity' account for over 50% of these offences
- 51% of 'other sexual crimes' cyber enabled in 2016-17
- In 2016-17 median age of perpetrators where cyber enabled was 18 vs 36 for non-cyber enabled
- Different treatment needs for these groups

Justice Analytical Services, Scottish Government (2017)

INTERVENTION WITH YOUNG MEN CONVICTED OF SEXUAL OFFENCES

- Age & stage appropriate
 - Proportionate
 - Holistic approach
 - More focus on educational input
 - Self management & social and emotional functioning
 - Need for earlier primary prevention
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CHALLENGES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

- Stigma of 'Sex Offender' label
 - Societal view
 - Lack of capability to cope
 - Sense of hopelessness
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THANK YOU !

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