Assessment and Treatment Planning for Individuals having accessed Child Sexual Exploitation Material

A Feasibility Study

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Evaluation of consequences

Further offending behaviour

Desistance

Situational Factors
- Internet environment

Propensities
- Developmental context

Motivation
- Facilitation
- Permission-giving thoughts
- Personal situation

Sexual Arousal

offending behaviour
‘I would say it’s the first step into getting into the course and the actual understanding why the behaviour has happened, and to get a general picture of various different aspects of your life at the time, and how to change them in a positive way’
Offence-related Propensities

Situational Factors

Permission-giving Thoughts

Personal Situation

Protective Propensities

+ Evaluation of Consequences -
Key Aspects

**Individual’s Responsibility and Accountability**

Model will help client to arrive at their *own formulations of risk and need,* and their *own solutions to desistance and relapse prevention*

- Group evaluation showed that people are more committed to solutions they have generated themselves (Miller, 1983; Dervley et al., 2017)
- Individuals motivated to identify possible areas in which they could set up and exercise self-management (e.g., wife has password to laptop, it is only used in communal area etc.)

**Accessibility of Intervention Planning**

- Visual representation of highest areas of risk and need
- Allows proportionate targeting of most relevant relapse factors and treatment needs
InformPlus

Psycho-educational programme
- For those admitting accessing indecent images of children on-line (un/convicted)
- 10 x Weekly sessions
- Group treatment

Issue of Waiting List
Materials

- **Background information** (T1)

- **Young Schema Questionnaire - Short Form** (T1, T3)

- **Personal information:** Self-esteem, Loneliness, External Locus of Control, Sexual Preoccupation, Sexual Interest in Children, Coping Style, Impulsivity

- **Internet Cognition & Implicit Theories Evaluation:** Reinforcing Nature, Unhappy World, Children as Sexual Objects, Nature of Harm (CSEM-variant), Self as Uncontrollable, and Self as Collector also: Uncontrollability, Children as Sexual Beings

- **Paulhus Deception Scales:** Self-Deceptive Enhancement, Impression Management

- **Course Evaluation** (T2)

- **Follow-up Interview.** For both participants and treatment facilitators on the Intervention Groups, follow-up interviews were conducted after completion of the course.
# Outline

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Group 1: Initial Feedback

**Phrasing**
Offence-related Propensities → Offence-related Vulnerabilities
Developmental Context → Growing Up
Situational Factors → Environment (Online & Offline)
Protective Propensities → Protective Factors.

**Sexual Arousal**
People had difficulties filling this out!
Removed as an explicit text box, but maintained in self-assessment guide

**Arrows**
Removed circularity!
Key Finding 1: Validation of Assessment Model

Analysis of the Model Sheets validated the subthemes from the development sample

- Key developmental themes are **sexual scripts** & **acquisition of maladaptive coping skills**

- Some additional themes, such as cognitive “preparation” to offending behaviour (e.g., Suggestive/ lack of responsibility; Developed willingness to rationalise offending, objectification)
Key Finding 1: Validation of Assessment Model

“Sexual Arousal” difficult to conceptualise and often appeared in other boxes, such as “Propensities”

High level of insight/ rich account on own permission-giving thinking

Difficulties establishing ACUTE FACTORS/ Current crisis

New insights
One-Sheet Formulation: Interaction

“It was dividing up all the bits of ways of thinking – the different aspects of one’s character, physicality, and psychology...and dividing it up into all the sections and boxes. It was quite helpful. It helped me separate the core me from the problem I had.”

Focus on Individual

“I realised...that because of the permission-giving thoughts I was having, and because my personal situation at the time was so bad, the permission-giving thoughts I had were because I had some good experiences when I was younger, and I was trying to re-live those [good] experiences to try and detract myself from the current situation”

Specificity to Internet Offending

“[The PM] is just more relevant to me...”

Having to Write it Down

‘It was hurtful to write it down...’
‘It’s very hard to actually fill in your thing [Pathway sheet], so that was good’
Key Finding 2: What Does NOT Work?

Difficulty in Content

‘Some of the language is slightly colloquial to psychologists’

“I think there could have been a bit more detail [for case studies], because it doesn’t really go into how he was thinking at the time when he was downloading these images.”

Heterogeneity of Offending Behaviour

“There are some people who download thousands of images...who are very technically-minded...The Pathways Model – it seemed to point to people who just downloaded a few images...I think it could address the person who’s more intent on downloading, instead of the person who downloaded it on a whim”

More time/Detail needed

Link to Desistance?

‘Not in isolation it can’t’

‘Yeah, I do. Somebody that does want to actually cease but feels trapped and feels like they can’t because they’ve got cycles or addictions going on and it’s the only way they can get satisfaction – the Pathways can start unpacking that. Obviously, if somebody doesn’t want to stop, is completely happy with how they are and doesn’t see any moral wrongness with what they’ve done or what they’ve engaged in, then I don’t think you can shift them. But the people that want help, I think it will help’

I just don’t think a full understanding of why you did something is going to be enough to stop you doing it’
Key Finding 3: Is it Useful?

100% Agreement to take it on!

Advice for Future Participants

‘Engage. Don’t be afraid to take part...There’s no reason to hold back, and don’t be afraid to show your emotions either. Because if you’re not going to show your emotions, you’re going to be afraid to engage’

‘Just to be totally honest with yourself, and take the help that’s being offered...You’re going to have to be honest with yourself if you’re to make a change – really look forward in a positive way.

Request for Follow-up Support

If [participants were] able to take something away with them, if they could read and reflect upon if they had the urge to do it again, other than just the work they’ve done, would be very useful’
Where to next?

**Psychometric Analysis**
Quantitative markers of change?
Sensitive enough?

**Individual Trial**
currently on-going

**Analysis of Participant Features**
Individual responsiveness to treatment
Thank you