

Internet Offending Behaviour and Risk

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What is internet sexual offending behaviour?

- To engage in inappropriate (sexual) chat with children
 - To harass children online with threats or sexually explicit material
 - To locate and prepare (“groom”) potential victims for contact abuse
 - To engage in contact with other individuals with a sexual interest in children
 - To promote sexual tourism and/or child trafficking
 - To view and distribute child sexual exploitation material (CSEM) for personal and/or commercial reasons
 - To exploit youth produced sexual materials
- (Online Protect presentation to NPS 2017)



What is CSEM

- Visual depiction of sexual abuse (indecent images of children) that varies in severity
 - Textual/audio depictions of child sexual activity and sexual violence
 - Paedophile manuals: How to exploit children sexually
 - Use of prohibited material in sexual communications with children
- (Online Protect presentation to NPS 2017)



Categories of CSEM

- Category A: Images involving penetrative sexual activity and/or images involving sexual activity with an animal or sadism
- Category B: Images involving non-penetrative sexual activity (children and adults or children with children)
- Category C: Other indecent images not falling within categories A or B
- Other e.g. Animation/Life like dolls



What tools are available to assess the risk posed by viewers of CSEM?

Risk assessment tools

- **Thornton's Risk Matrix 2000 (RM2000)**
A probation and police tool that assesses statistical likelihood of re-offending using static risk factors
- **Active Risk Management System (ARMS)**
A Probation and Police Tool that combines static and dynamic risk factors and helps prioritise the riskiest individuals
- **Kent Internet Risk Assessment Tool (KIRAT)**
A police tool that helps them prioritise which cases to investigate.
- **Child Pornography Offender Risk Tool (CPORT)**
Open access risk assessment tool that is free and publicly available. Not used by Police/Probation (A new tool and some concerns it can only confidently predict recidivism where there is already a contact offence history)



Do viewers of CSEM pose a risk of contact offences.

Meta-analyses on the criminal history of CSEM users:

- 13.3% previous contact sex offences, mostly against children
- 18.5% based on self-report
Hanson & Babchishin (2009; n= 3,536):
- 12.2% previous contact sex offences, mostly against children
17.3% based on self-report
Seto, Hanson, & Babchishin (2011; n= 4,697):

Reoffending rates of CSEM users:

- 5% sexual reoffending: 3.4% CSEM, 2% contact sex offence
Seto et al. (2011; n= 2630)
- 3% contact sex offence, 1.6% CSEM (US data)
Faust et al. (2014; n= 638) follow-up 1-9 years

Source (Online protect)



Recent UK Reconviction data Elliott et al (2019)

- 594 People convicted in the UK who had participated in a community intervention. Some IIOC only, others IIOC and contact offence.
- Of the 'IIOC only' group, over 5 years 2.7% were reconvicted with a sexual offence. 27.1% of these reconvictions were contact offences



How do we know which viewers of CSEM pose the highest risk?

First question....

- How did the offence come to light?



ARMS risk factors

| |
|---|
| Opportunity |
| Sexual Preoccupation |
| Offence Related Sexual Interests |
| Emotion Congruence with Children |
| Hostile Orientation |
| Poor Self-Management |
| Social Influences |
| Commitment to Desist |
| Intimate Relationship |
| Employment or Positive Routine |
| Social Investment – 'Giving Something Back' |



How do we get the information we need to make the risk assessment?

- Ask, ask and ask again!
- Form good relationships with clients but remember the purpose of the relationship and retain professional curiosity.
- Be as transparent and as genuine as you can.
- Ask the difficult questions
- Check more than one source
- Form good personal relationships with other agencies.



Indications of sexual interest in children

Alongside the CPORT is another tool (CASIC) that helps identify sexual interest in children. It includes six factors they consider to have strong correlations with sexual interest in children that are useful to consider in the absence of self-disclosed sexual interest.

This tool should not be used to assess specific risk to a child as it is not created for this context but the factors are useful to bear in mind.

- No previous committed relationship
- Watched videos of CSEM
- Had text stories of child abuse in their possession
- Offending spanned more than two years
- A volunteer role with high access to children
- Engaging in online sexual communication with a child.

<https://www.researchgate.net/project/Child-Pornography-Offender-Risk-Tool-CPORT>

Please note that CPORT and CASIC are NOT used by the National Probation Service as risk assessment tools. Their validity is still being assessed.



Final thought?

- Assessors should work from the assumption that the offender presents some risk of committing contact sexual offending until dynamic risk information rules this possibility out.

Phil Jarvis - Head of Sex Offender Team, Public Protection Group. HMPPS.



Useful resources

Book

- Michael C Seto (2013) 'Internet Sex Offenders'

Resources

- Lucy Faithfull Foundation
- NSPCC
- Online Protect
- CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre)
- IWF (Internet Watch Foundation)





Sentence Types

- Prison sentence over 24 months
- Prison sentence less than 24 months—with **P**ost**S**entence**S**upervision
- Suspended Prison Sentence
- Community Orders
 - Supervision
 - **R**ehab**i**l**i**tation **A**ctivity **R**equirement days
 - Unpaid work



The work we do cont...

- MAPPA
- Approved premises
- Multi-Agency work
 - CYPS
 - allocated police officer
- Police intel checks



FINALLY

The aim of the probation service is to protect the public and create fewer victims.

One element of this is to work directly with perpetrators where they are, to enable them to see the harm in their behaviour and change their lifestyle.


