



Psychiatry & Behavioral Science - 2017

16 A Psychological Formulation Model for the Multi-Agency Intervention: Investigation and Management of Child Sexual Exploitation

Lynsey F. Gozna, PhD, University of Nottingham, Centre for Forensic and Family Psychology, Division of Psychiatry and Applied Psychology, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire NG8 1BB, UNITED KINGDOM*

After attending this presentation, attendees will understand and be able to articulate the critical elements of a psychologically informed approach to responding to cases of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). In particular, this takes into account the perpetrator(s), at-risk young people and victims, and the multi-agency team dynamics and practices.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by considering a breadth of child sexual exploitation targeting and the ways in which these manifest in offending behavior within and across a range of cases. This will be applicable to professionals working across multidisciplinary teams and in multi-agency safeguarding and criminal investigations (including interrogation), community interventions and management, and interventions in correctional and forensic mental health facilities. The formulation model will be readily applicable for professionals to consider in their therapeutic work with children and young people in the community, as well as with offenders in regard to clinical formulation, treatment intervention, and risk assessment.

This study presents the development and validation of a model that assists practitioners in developing a psychological formulation of all parties involved in a particular case and helps focus the decision-making and resources of teams managing disparate interventions and investigations while ensuring a coordinated and coherent approach.

CSE creates manifold challenges for multi-agency practitioners responding to the proliferation of targeting that permeates societal and cyber spaces and results in severe psychological, physical, and sexual harm to children and young people. The psychological model, CAPTIVE, developed for multi-agency, cross-disciplinary teams, enables the critical elements and complexities of victim-offender interactions in the context of CSE and broader sexual offending repertoires to be revealed. CSE research to date has predominantly described multiple *modus operandi* (e.g., party, peer, and trafficking models and risk indicators) while negating the underlying offending outlook and the perspective of the victim. Using an approach comprising personality, mind-set, and motive, the interaction between perpetrator(s) and victim(s) can be placed within the CSE trajectory of offending and harm. This comprises the interaction between perpetrator(s) and victim(s) from the process of initial victim identification and targeting, indoctrination/grooming processes, the nature and severity of victimization, and broader processes to interfere in police investigations and associated witness evidence. The myriad ways in which perpetrators deceive, manipulate and condition victims toward a particular mindset increases the challenges for intervention, whether therapeutic or criminal justice, in addition to the dynamic assessment of future risk. This extends social developmental theoretical approaches and the development and validation of the model has incorporated a mixed methods approach in regard to user logistics and psychological content: (1) practitioner evaluation of the CAPTIVE formulation and assessment of risk; and, (2) police files of CSE cases. Case examples in regard to the interaction of psychological dispositions across a range of victim and perpetrator profiles and interactions were additionally developed and will be presented in regard of the fusion of psychological dispositions across a range of victim and perpetrator profiles and interactions. This enables a consideration of the role of complex, challenging, and destructive characteristics of



Psychiatry & Behavioral Science - 2017

predatory perpetrators and the mechanisms used to maximize successful victim targeting, online and offline. Practice recommendations will be provided in regard to working with “at risk” and victimized children and young people, investigating and disrupting current known perpetrators, identifying and intervening with “at risk” perpetrators and facilitators of CSE, and case building for prosecution.

Formulation, Child, Sexual Exploitation