

Tackling online harm



**LUCY
FAITHFULL
FOUNDATION**

Scotland | Alba

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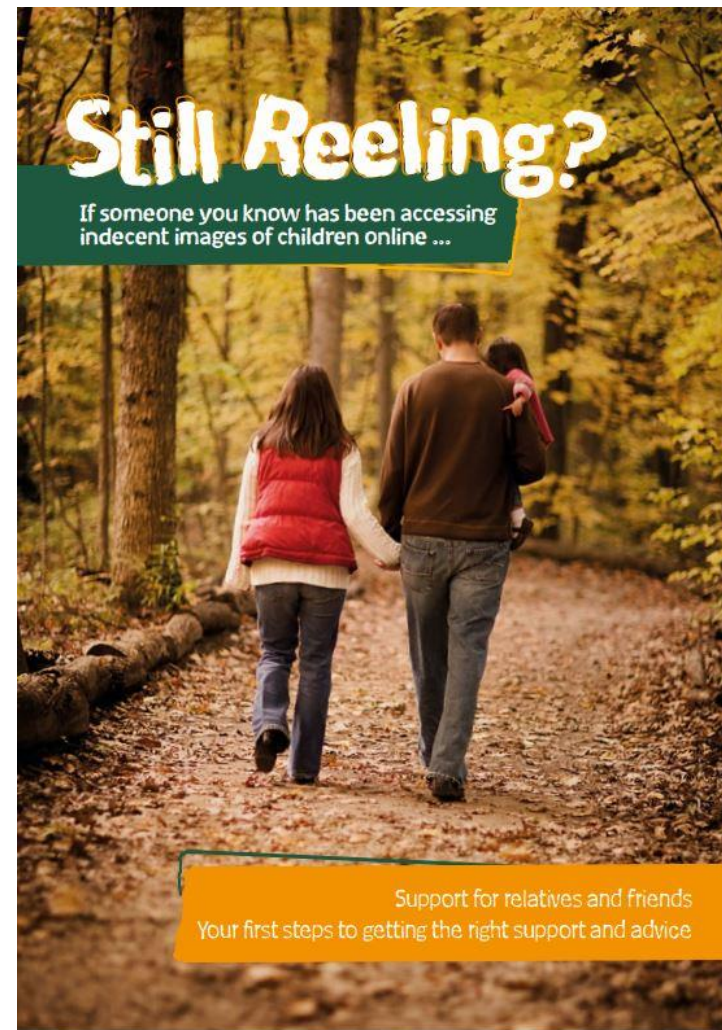
Today's content

- What do we do at Lucy Faithfull Foundation Scotland?
- Who commits online sexual offences?
- Why do people offend - pathways into online abuse / motivations
- How can we better manages cases involving online harm in the child protection system?
- How can online harm be prevented in the first place?
- What resources can you use in your role to tackle online harm?
- To premier a deterrence video developed by Police Scotland and Lucy Faithfull Foundation to be launched 1st July)

LFF Scotland

- Confidential help and advice available to all concerned about child sex abuse.
- 1-1 intervention support and group work for individuals who cannot access statutory services
 - adults who are at risk of sexual offending or who have offended
 - families and friends of people who are at risk of sexual offending or have been arrested for online offences,
 - children and young people (under the age of 18) who have displayed harmful sexual behaviour or have been arrested for online sexual offences
- Advice, training, guidance and resources for parents and carers, communities and professionals in children's services and criminal justice settings about all aspects of CSA prevention (not just online harm).
- Last year we worked with 150 adult males worried about their sexual thoughts, feelings or behaviours towards children, 100 partners or family members and 15 under 18s who had displayed online harmful sexual behaviour.

LFF Scotland Referral Routes - Getting Arrested in Scotland

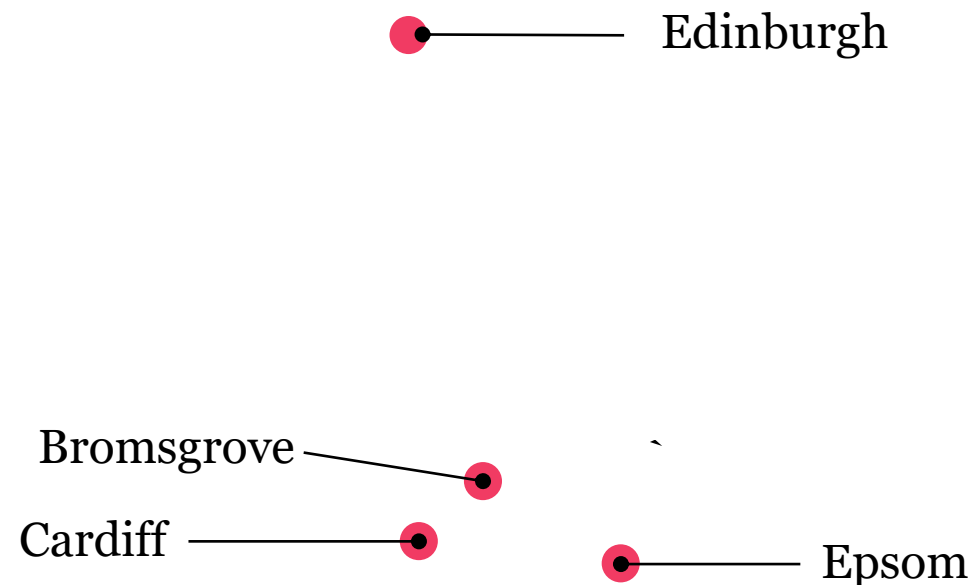


Referral Routes: the Stop It Now helpline for UK and Ireland

Helpline Target group: people with concerns about child sexual abuse, including

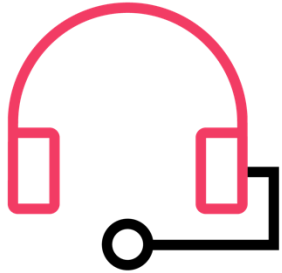
- **People concerned about their own thoughts and behaviours towards children (online and offline)**
- **People concerned about the behaviour of another adult**
- **Adults concerned about a child who may have been abused**
- **Professionals calling for case advice**
- **Survivors of child sexual abuse**

Stop it now



Stop it Now helpline stats 2023/2024

Stop it now



14,564 calls

5,555 callers



2,829 emails

2,346 emailers



1,956 chats

1,039 chatters

Total overall:

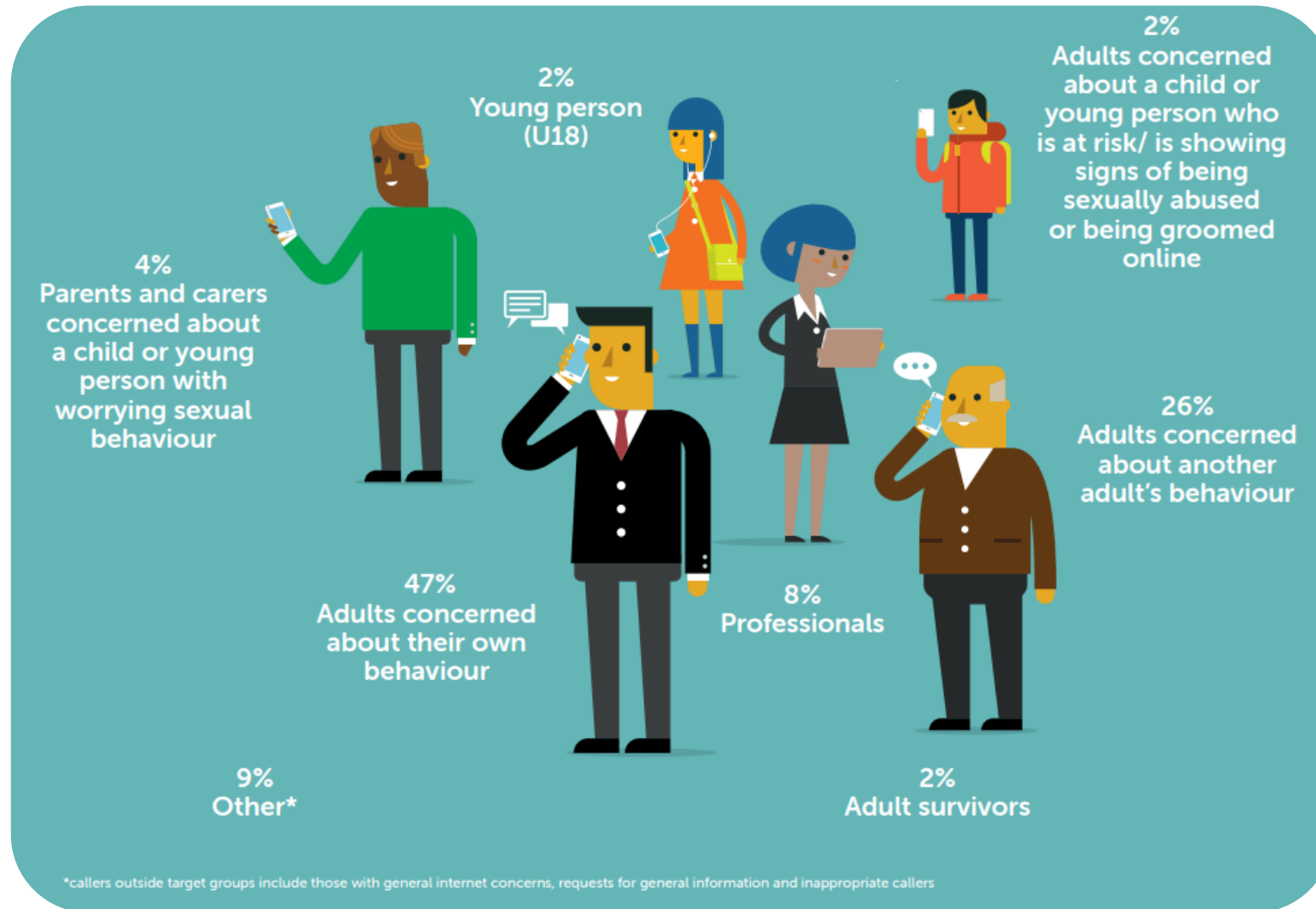
19,328

Calls, chats
and emails

8,753

Callers,
chatters and
emailers

Stop It Now UK helpline – 0800 1000 900



RMA Literature Review on online offending – 2018

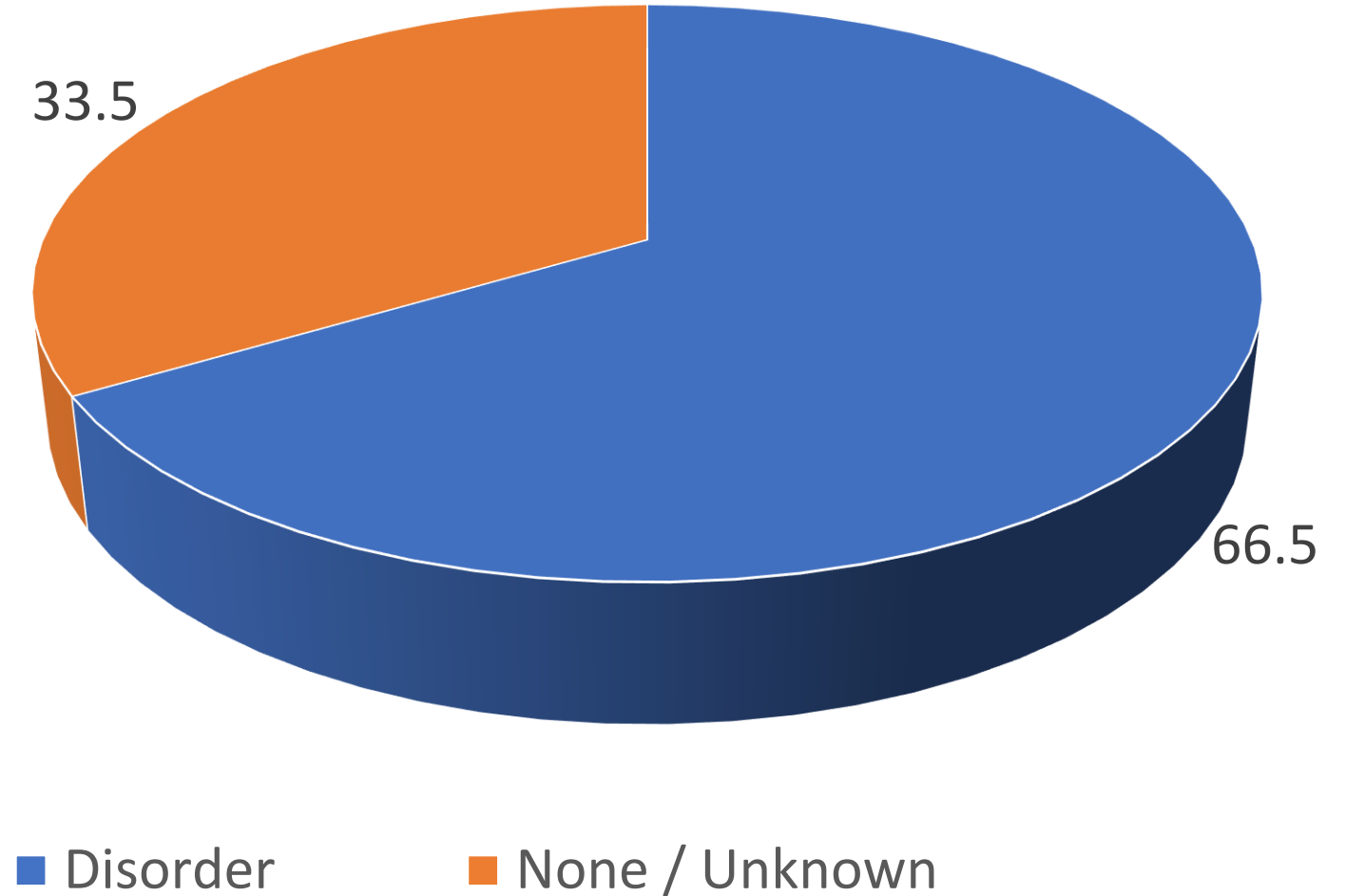
Literature review

A review of the risk posed by internet offenders

- Overwhelmingly caucasian males.
- Can be any age but most studies show mean age of mid 30s (but also spike between 14 and 21)
- Typically well-educated, in some form of employment and with no history of involvement in the criminal justice system.
- Less stable intimate relationships than general population.
- Several studies reported that internet offenders experience problems with intimacy, emotional loneliness, low self-esteem and social skills.
- Autism overrepresented (research equivocal on this)
- Online offenders when compared to contact offenders are more likely to have sexual feelings towards children but less likely to have cognitive distortions about sexual agency of children. Online offenders less likely to have a criminal history.
- Review suggests groomers are an insufficiently studied group (are they ore like CSAM viewers or contact offenders?)
- Subgroups - offenders are a heterogeneous group ranging from diagnosable paedophiles to those who begin offending without a self-reported sexual interest in children

Presence of mental health disorders (%) in LFF Scotland referrals 2011 -21 (n=800)

- Twice as many with disorders as not



Jack



- Aged 64 and arrested for large collection of CSEM, some of it accessed via dark net.
- Describes himself as ‘a lifelong paedophile’ when he meets our staff
- Divorced, saying his wife ‘didn’t like the way he looked at children’
- Retired, but has spent much of his professional life working with children

Dave



- Male 50, works as a Health & Safety Office
- Clinical Depression for about 3 years coinciding with onset of offending. Socially isolated, working away from home Married, currently separated, no children
- Compulsive Collector –a large amount of legal pornography and CSEM. 13 hard drives taken by police.
- Stated that he was not interested in children sexually but found that his huge collection of pornography led to boundaries being blurred and viewing CSEM' made him feel like an outlaw'

Alex



- 17 year old male with autistic spectrum disorder
- Bullied at high school, confused about sexual and gender identity
- Shared sexual images of himself on messaging apps
- Sent CSAM by adult offenders and started trading CSAM
- Said that 'he felt he had found a community online where he had power

Mark

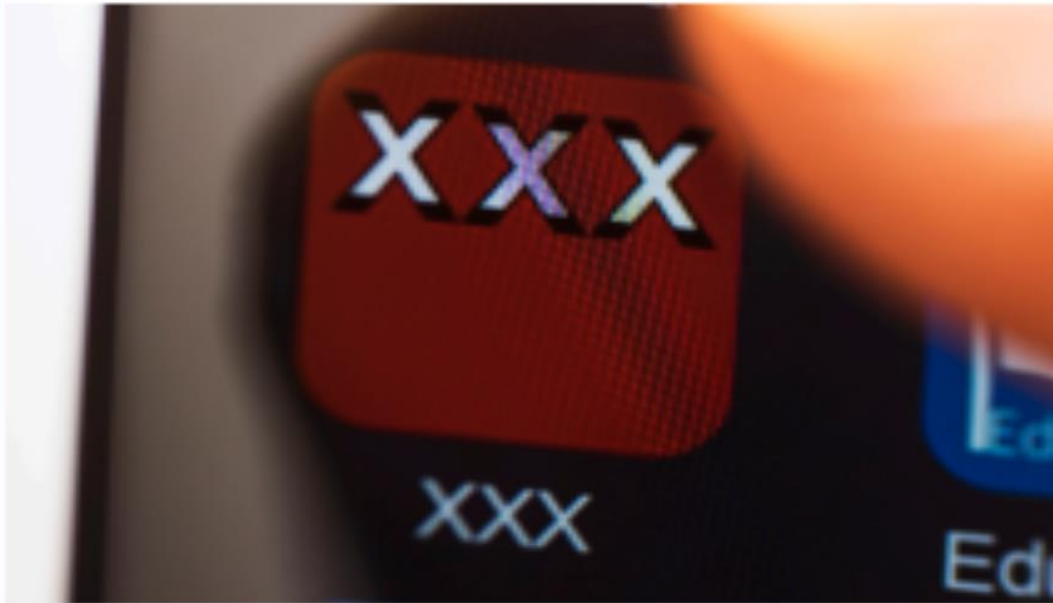


- 33 year old police officer arrested for owning CSAM
- Married with 2 year old daughter
- Images were of boys aged 8 -12
- He noted in interview that he had been abused by his uncle between these ages. He knew he had an erection when he was abused and he wondered whether there was something that was never quite processed for him.

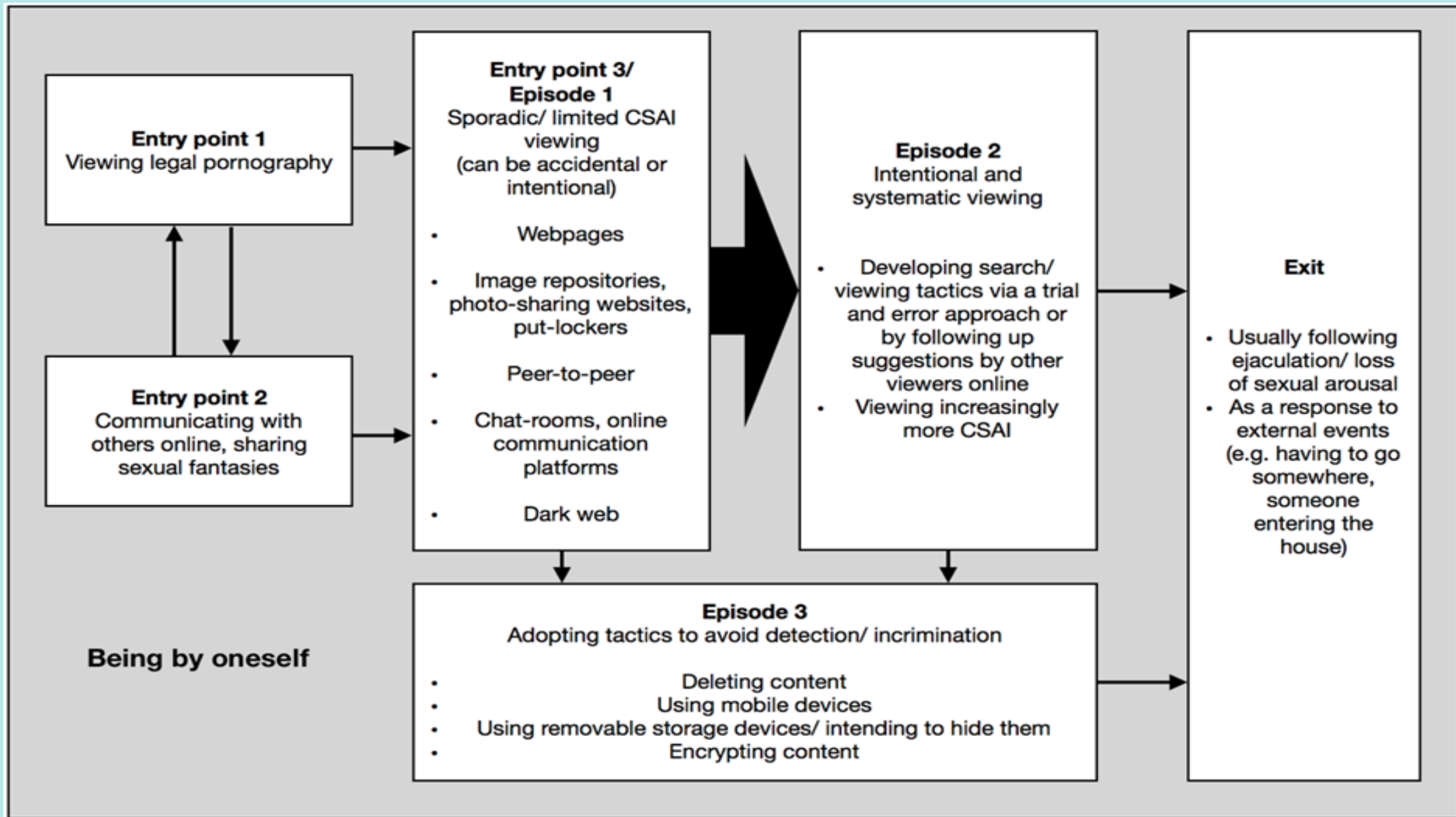
Why do people offend online?

What's porn got to do with it? The link between viewing adult pornography and online sexual offending against children

By Alexandra Bailey and Fiona Moran



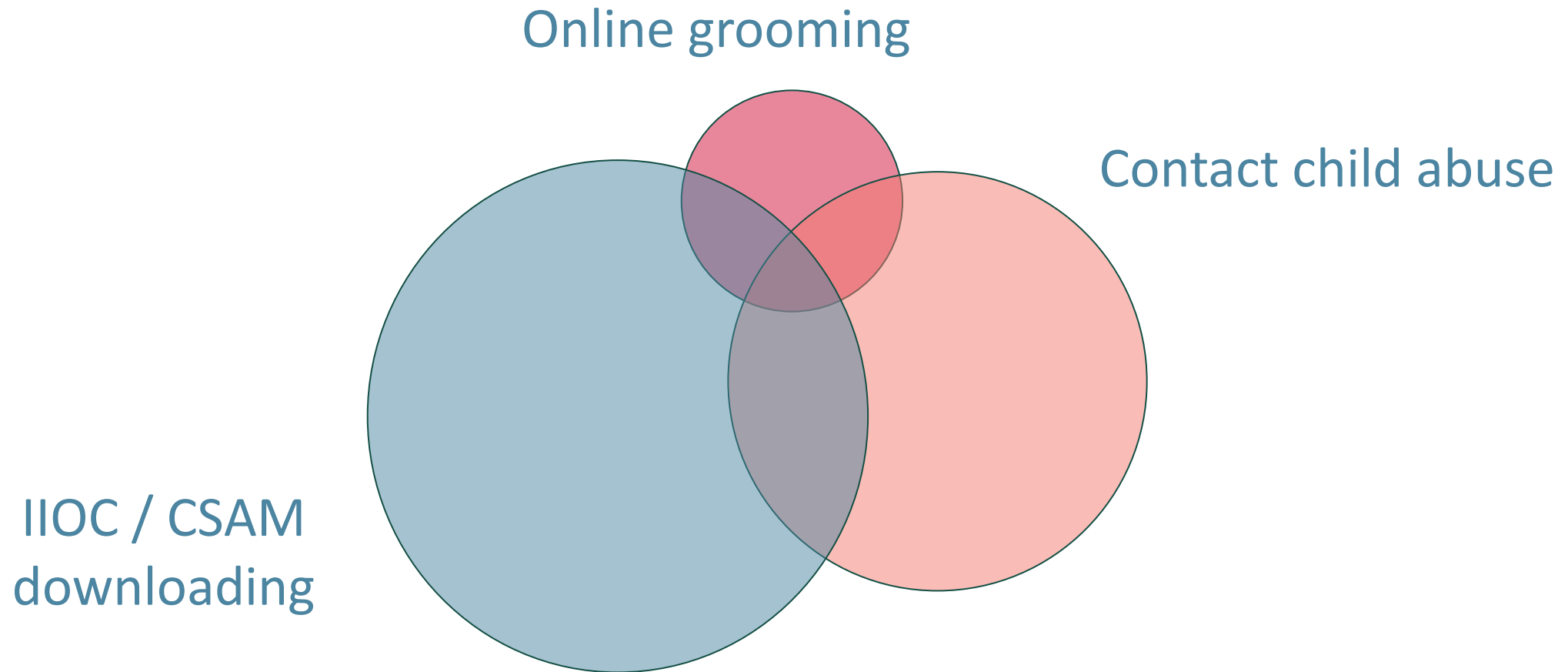
- Multiple pathways and entry points into online offending and areas where CSAM accessed (encrypted messaging apps, newsgroups, surface web forums, dark web CSAM forums).
- Triple A engine (accessibility, anonymity, availability)
- Compulsivity online (particularly to pornography and sexual behavior generally)
- Sex as a coping mechanism
- Affordances of the internet (e.g. algorithms promote increasingly extreme sexual material)
- Desensitisation to legal pornography over time
- Capacity to be sexually interested in children
- Exceptionalism ('I'm not like paedos on TV')



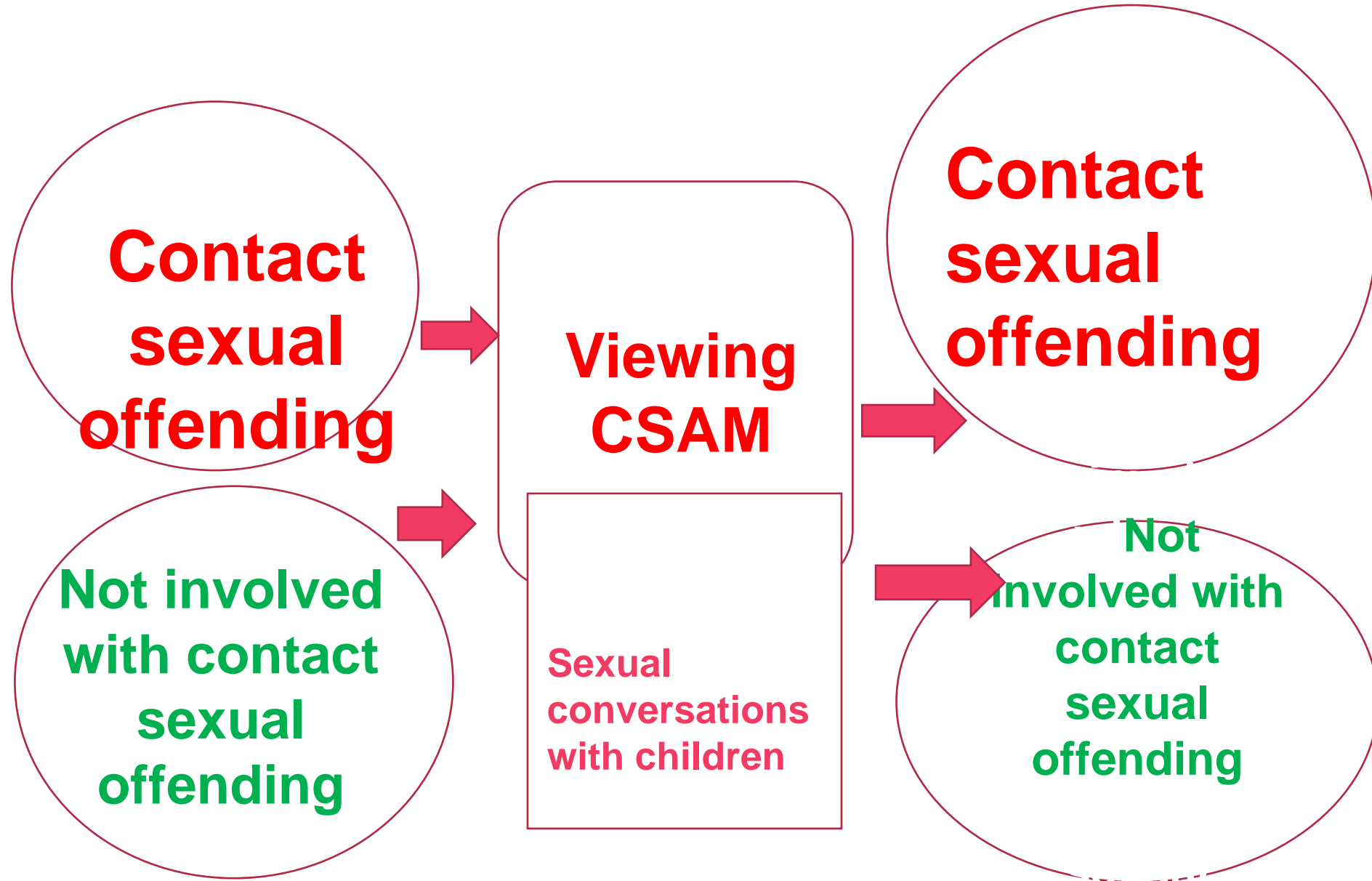
Risk profiles

- *‘Internet offenders reoffend at a lower rate than contact and dual offenders. Internet offenders who do reoffend tend to do so with further IIOC offences. The research found that only a very low number recidivated with a contact offence’
RMA Lit Review 2018*
- Factors associated with offline offending include antisociality and having a criminal history. There is also some speculation about more extreme IIOC of children aged five years and under, predisposition and fewer pro-social factors facilitating the transition to contact offending.
- Some recent evidence suggests that those involved with dark net offending are more likely to be more at risk of contact offending
- Those involved with online offending are up to 100% more likely to commit suicide than
- Risk factors for suicide including being married, having children and social economic status

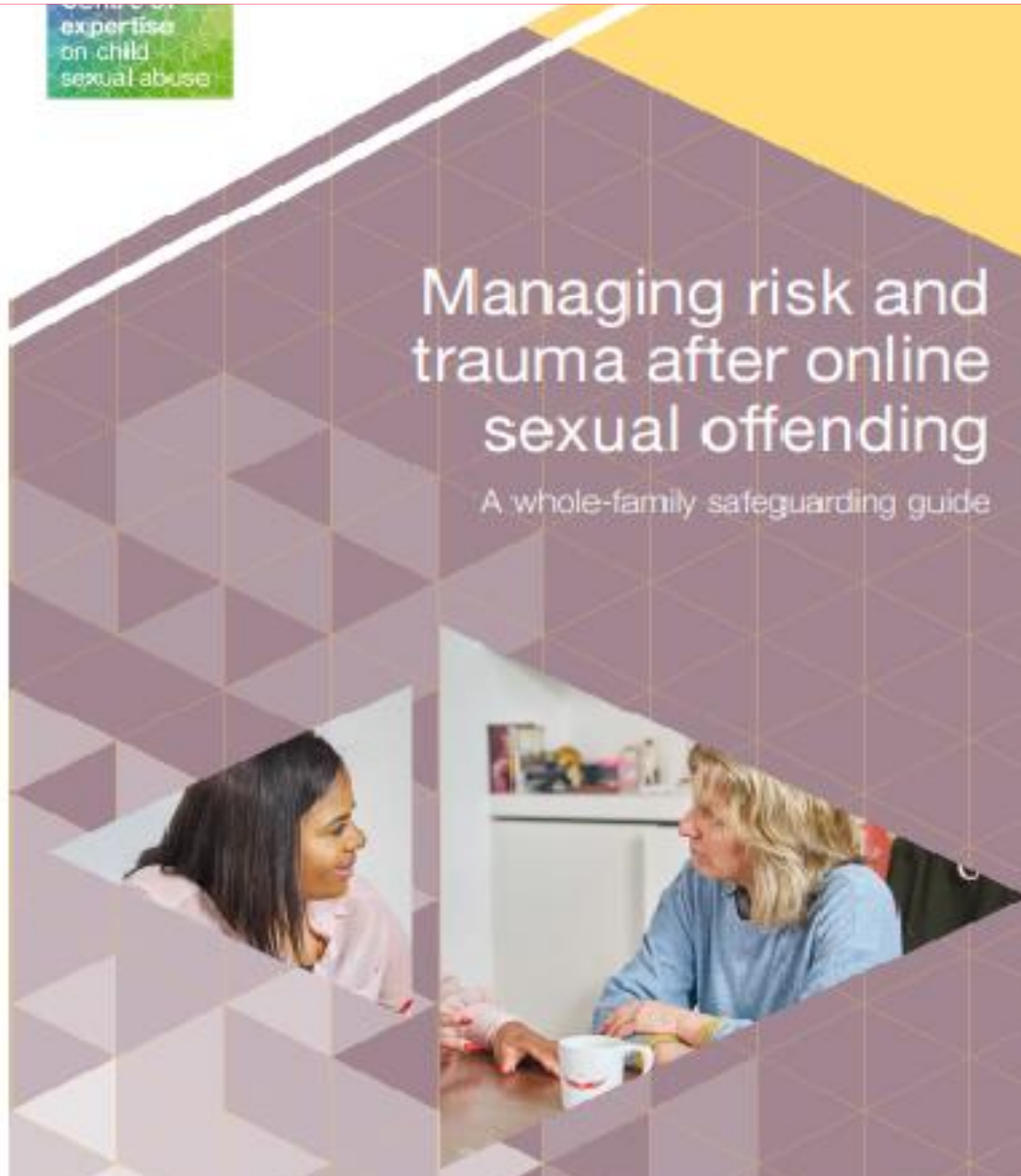
Conceptualising the issue – what do we mean by online child sexual abuse and exploitation?



Complexities of offending trajectories



Risk assessment in a child protection context



Indecent images and internet-enabled sexual offending by adults

- 4.207 Internet-enabled sexual offending includes possession, exchange and distribution of indecent images of and/or with children (IIOC); production of IIOC; sexual solicitation (online interaction with minors for sexual purposes); non-consensual sharing of sexual images; and conspiracy crimes such as working with others to distribute IIOC or to solicit children. All such behaviour causes significant harm to children. Investigation by Police Scotland will be necessary. An inter-agency referral discussion (IRD) will be necessary in relation to identified children who may be at risk of significant harm. Relevant legislation is signposted above in the section on child sexual abuse.
- 4.208 Most people who offend are male. Many are in relationships and have children. Motivations vary: some have a long-standing sexual interest in children, while some behaviours are exploratory or relate to the seeking out of extreme sexual material.
- 4.209 Beyond the direct and indirect abuse of children caused by the behaviour listed above, practitioners concerned with child protection will be concerned to know:
- is this person likely to commit a contact sexual offence with a child?
 - has the person already committed contact sexual offences with a child?
- 4.210 The Risk Management Authority in Scotland's recent [review of current evidence](#) suggests that those convicted for viewing IIOC only are in general less likely to commit further sexual offences than other types of sexual offenders. When they do re-offend, it tends to be repeat

Key messages for supporting families affected by online harm

- Discovering that a partner, who may be the parent of their child(ren), has accessed child sexual abuse material is likely to be one of the most traumatic experiences any parent will go through. A trauma informed perspective is essential
- It can take up to 2 years for conviction to take place (and also a portion of investigations do not lead to arrest or conviction. Whenever you are working with a family where a parent or carer has accessed child sexual abuse material, you will need to make an assessment in relation to:
 1. the potential risks that the offending parent poses to child(ren) in the family home
 2. the non-offending parent's capacity to protect their child(ren)
 3. the overall safety and wellbeing of the child(ren) in the home
- When a parent or carer is under police investigation for accessing child sexual abuse material, the early responses that their family receive are extremely powerful. Positive, informed and non-judgemental responses are typically felt to be supportive, while ill-informed, critical and subjective responses can lead to or exacerbate significant trauma across the whole family

What prevents online sexual offending

	Universal prevention	Risky situations	After offending
Children	Online safety education (RSHP)	Targeted support and resilience building for particular children	Ameliorating harm and preventing revictimisation
Parents	Digital resilience – age appropriate conversations about online behaviour and safety	Reducing risks, building protective factors, promoting safety	Emotional and practical support for parent
People who offend (or are at risk of doing so)	Developmental prevention/deterrence	Disruption and early help	Policing, prosecution, criminal justice interventions

Resources for Parents

Cyber resilience and internet safety

A Guide for parents and carers



- Signposts parents to resources about apps, how to set up parental controls on devices etc.
- Promotes online safety within a wider context of digital resilience
- Discusses online behavior in context of adolescence and neurodevelopment
- Underlines importance of key messaging to children, ensuring they have different options if they are worried about their safety or behavior online and open conversations about what we do online.
- Conversation starters and ideas to move away from conversations about online safety feeling like 'surveillance' of young people
- Information on signs and indicators of risk and what preventative actions you can take as a parent

Self help resources – [Get Help](#)

Concerned about your own thoughts or behaviour?

Ways to look after your wellbeing & self care

Self-help, information and support to help you look after yourself, motivate and manage change as well as help you have a better understanding of you feelings and emotions and how to deal with them.

[Learn More](#)

Are you worried about inappropriate thoughts or behaviour?

Self-help, information and support for people troubled by their sexual thoughts about children and young people. Help to cope with unwanted feelings and manage problematic behaviour.

[Get Support](#)

Are you worried about your online behaviour?

Self-help, information and support to stop viewing sexual images of children or having sexual conversations with children.

[Get Help](#)

Information and support to encourage you to move forward positively

Self-help, information and support on how to continue moving forward, disclose your offending and build a fulfilling life.

[Learn More](#)

Self Help resources - SHORE



[Help and advice](#) ▾ [About](#) [Have your say](#)

 [I need help now](#)

Start typing to search [Go](#)

Welcome to shore

A safe space for teenagers worried about sexual behaviour

Close site 

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How can we help?

 [Get help](#)

Call to Action

- Pass on information about the Stop It Now! Helpline to whoever might need it
- Explore some of the resources such as Shore and Get Help. Use them as sources of ideas for your work.
- Consider how you sign post service users to resources that promote prevention or early self help
- Contribute to the social media promotion of our deterrence campaign work if you can (partners pack will be made available to those at this webinar)

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Anonymous and confidential support
to stop child sexual abuse

0808 1000 900

Creating a world free from child sexual abuse

Stop it now

Deterrence campaigning

