Preventing and responding to the sexual abuse and exploitation of children and young people: New developments in research and practice

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Why prevention matters
Different types of CSA and CSE – contact, non-contact, online, intra familial, extra familial, gang, network etc

Lots of guidance – education, health, police, etc

SV against children & VP national group 4 priorities

Improving the way organisations and professionals protect children and VP

Supporting victims & survivors

Preventing SV

Tackling offenders
Messages on prevention

We are starting to find out about prevention in 3 areas:

1. Reducing risks & building resilience among vulnerable
2. Situational prevention e.g. community design, offender regulation

MUCH RESEARCH IS STILL JUST ‘PROMISING’
Victim risks and vulnerabilities

- Gender
- Age related risks
- Sexual orientation
- Disability
- Overlap with other violence
- Man other than biological father in the home
- Situational risks – e.g. online
- Grooming – ‘boyfriends’
- Alcohol & drugs
- Different perpetrators and intermediaries

- Association sexually aggressive peers – gangs
- ‘Self managed’ cse
- Previous abuse, neglect or exposure to DV – risky sexual behaviour
- Running away/apart from parent
- Care system 22% cse service users 2011
- Tolerance violence in the community
Perpetrator risks & demand

- Overcoming barriers – Motivation; Internal inhibitions; External inhibitions; Victim resistance (Finkelhor, 2005)
- Different types of offender – generalist & specialist
- Young offender pathways & prior victimization - early onset, adolescent limited and lifecourse persistence
- Online and contact abuse overlap, 1 in 10 also contact CSE (Bissias et al, 2016)
- Butler Redux rates of contact abuse reporting increase in therapy
- Demand factors cse– individual (preferential and situational), intermediary & underlying factors (UN Special Rapporteur, 2015)
Keeping safe – self protection

- School child safety programmes – e.g Canada *Who do you tell?* (promising), multi media e.g. *Soul City*
- Improve children’s awareness csa (Tutty, 1997; Zwi et al 2009)
- Promote disclosure (Finkelhor, 2007; Kahembe & Shipeena 2009)
- Less self blame if children are victimized later (Finkelhor et al 1995)
- Limited evidence of lower rates child victimization (Gibson & Leitenberg, 2000)
- Small minority show negative reactions (Tutty, 1997)
- Lack of long term follow up
Online resources
Families and prevention

- Relationship with caregiver is important in resilience and risk reduction
- Families Matter project = aims to aid parent to child communication about sexual risk
- RCT 1128 African American families found higher levels parent-child communication post intervention & 12 months later (Forehand et al, 2007)
- RCT Safe Dates with parental education via activity booklet & health education advice
- Evaluation with 324 caregivers and teens 3 months later found more caregiver involvement & less physical violence (Foshee et al, 2012)

Perpetrators are not all the same..

• Family/family friend/neighbour
• Boyfriend
• Peers and young people
• Online grooming
• Position of trust
• Gang
• Paedophile
• Teachers/coaches
• “Strangers”
• Intermediaries
Men, boys and demand

- Promundo, IMAGES surveys & EMERGE
- Bystanders (Banyard et al 2007)
- Stepping Stones
- Life skills training girls and boys
- RCT Eastern Cape found reduced rates physical and sexual IPV on 2 year follow up (Jewkes et al 2008)

- Stop it now evaluation
- 31,000 calls taken 2002-2013
- 48% callers 2012 had committed an offence
- Positive feedback callers and referral agencies
- Improved awareness of CSA and CSE behaviour and impact
- Understanding behaviour can change
- Techniques to prevent and control behaviour and manage risk
An unforgettable experience…
Disruption activities - transport

• Police offender disruption plans and offender surveillance (Jago & Pearce, 2008)
• Truck drivers Brazil
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kanAeaSTgGQ
• Interviews truck drivers to identify hot spots and vulnerable 2004, 2009 mapping highway routes Anna Flora Werneck, Childhood Brasil
• Awareness raising truck drivers on CSA and CSE
• Tracking changes over time increasing reports CSE to hotline
Practice implications

- Prevention and response should co-exist
- Alert to risks & vulnerabilities – asking
- Reducing vulnerabilities
- Situational issues
- Everybody’s responsibility – partners including those ‘outside’ child protection, young people, men & boys
- Disruption - Lancashire taxi drivers training
- Engagement – outreach & online