

The International Centre

Increasing understanding of, and improving responses to, child sexual exploitation, violence and trafficking in local, national and international contexts

Achieved through

- Academic rigor and research excellence
- Collaborative and partnership based approaches to applied social research
- Meaningful and ethical engagement of children and young people
- Active dissemination and evidence -based engagement in theory , policy and practice

Two Themes

Sexual abuse / sexual exploitation have dramatic impacts on young people's lives.

Young people can be resilient and can make change

Summary

- Research tells us some things, more?
- Young people can be resilient: we need strength based approaches
- Abuse has significant impact
- Interventions beyond the young person: community and therapeutic environment
- Consent is not child centred

Resilience

- Bounce back (Mike Stein)
- Not the same as coping
- Can be developed at different stages of life span

Warrington (2013) Young People can be resilient

- Bi- directionality
- Participation in detail
- Focus on the child /young person

Cody 2015: Our Voices/ creative activities

Factor with others: Reaching Socially Excluded Young People

Making Justice work

Beckett and Warrington 2015

The journey...





Criminal Justice System .mp4

Impact: See it to believe it ?

1 in 20 young people experienced CSA
(NSPCC 2011),

CSE data unreliable

but NWG, OCC, Rotherham and OFSTED
recognised prevalence

Sexual abuse and sexual exploitation (NSPCC 2011)

NSPCC prevalence study on extent of child sexual abuse

- Police in England and Wales recorded a sex crime every 20 minutes in 2010
- More than 23,000 offences, including rape, incest and gross indecency were logged in 2009-10: most reports concerned children aged 12 to 15
- Girls continue to be 6 times more likely to known victims of sexual assault

Perpetrator/victim binary: Peer on peer

Peers were responsible for a significant amount of all contact sexual abuse for under 17s – 65.9%. (Barter et al 2009/ see also 2015)

Barnardo's/NWG/OCC/IC : average 25% CSE cases: peer on peer

Firmin 2011/ Msunderstood

What about those peers who are change makers?

The global agenda.

- Three world congresses against CSE : Stockholm 1996, Yokohama 2001 and Rio de Janeiro 2008:
- UNICEF 2011: at least 70 country offices across all regions addressing sexual abuse and exploitation of children and women
- Despite this, robust data on the extent of CSE is limited (Radford et al forthcoming, Arocha 2013, Council of Europe 2013; CoE One in Five Campaign).

Lanzarote agreement

- 2010 The Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse
- This Convention : first instrument to establish various forms of sexual abuse of children as criminal offences, including such abuse committed in the home or family, with the use of force, coercion or threats.
- Driver: Coordinated European policy protecting children

UN Violence Against Children

Marta Santos 2011: UN Special representative of the secretary general on violence against children:

address to The Council of Europe Launch of the ‘One in five ‘ campaign: to prevent sexual violence against children (www.coe.int)

- “Children are ***blamed*** for what has happened, ***coerced*** to keep it a secret and often stigmatized and marginalised by their families and communities”,.
- Situations of armed conflict create a ***favourable environment for impunity. Sexual violence as a tactic*** of war and a means to terrorise civilians is used in modern day conflicts
- Children are the ***most vulnerable*** yet they are the ***least protected.***
- Violence against children is ***preventable.*** Investing efforts and resources in prevention is the most effective means to reduce violence against children.

'What Works for Us'

Young People's Group: Annual report 2010

- *..they question you a lot and say 'did you try to run away?' and they think you didn't try to get away. They think you wanted it. They doubt you.*
- *People's stereotype is , 'girls like that, that's what they do'*
- *A lot of their attitude is 'you're just a little slapper – a slapper who likes sleeping with older men – they think it's just kids coming onto older men*

Extracts from practitioner interviews (Pearce 2009, 2011)

“This child has a very vivid imagination. I’m not even going to record a lot of our conversation because it’s clearly not true.”

*”I know that she's been in front of a jury and told a **story** about being raped over there. I know she wasn't believed.....I mean we are asking the court to believe a 15 year old girl against four or five adults.”*

(Pearce, Hynes and Bovarnick 2009)

Only Vulnerable groups

- Gender
- Ethnicity
- Disability
- In care population
- Older young people
- Disadvantaged, impoverished Community and families

Gender

Violence against girls and women: does this make females a vulnerable group? What about women's Resistance and resilience

Allnock (2015): global prevalence rates for boys
Between 7.9% to 8.0% // girls between 15% to 19.7%

Barter (2009): 1,353 between 13 and 17 years inclusive :
1 in 3 girls and 16% boys: experienced some form of sexual violence
from their partner

Blast Project : only exclusively young men's project in England

Reminder ?

**Violence against girls and women: does
this make females a vulnerable group?**
**What about women's Resistance and
resilience**

Multiple problem families: Poly victimisation

who causing the problems? Troubled families or troubled neighbourhoods?

Of 479 cases living with families (Jago et al 2011):

42% had been identified as a child in need *prior to* the risk to child sexual exploitation having been identified.

Disability and disabling environments

Jago et al (2011) 67 of 461 cases (15%) had Special Educational Needs (*Compared to 2.8 % pupils across all schools in England had statements of SEN*).

Unprotected, Overprotected (Franklin et al 2015)

Young people with learning disabilities

- are vulnerable to CSE : society refusing to view them as sexual beings
- are often not specifically considered in local multi-agency arrangements for CSE,
- can face a number of challenges to disclosing CSE, including the negative responses of professionals

A disproportionate number are Looked after

21% of sample in Local Authority Care (*Jago et al 2011*);

54% of whom in residential care (*Jago et al 2011*)

(compared to under 20% of in care population in residential care)

34.7% of CEOP's (2011) CSE sample in LA care

(compared to fewer than 1% of children in care in England)

Ofsted : 9th May 2012: children's homes:

4,840 children, 1,800 girls, **631 suspected cases of being sold for sex**

OCC 2014

Ethnicity

- Minority Ethnic (ME) communities portrayed as perpetrators, not victims
- Victims from some ME communities are hidden from services (Muslim Women's network)
- thresholds for intervention with some ME children are higher than for others (Ward and Patel 2006; Owen & Statham, 2009).
- *Access to communities not always best through community leaders (D'Arcy et al 2014/15)*

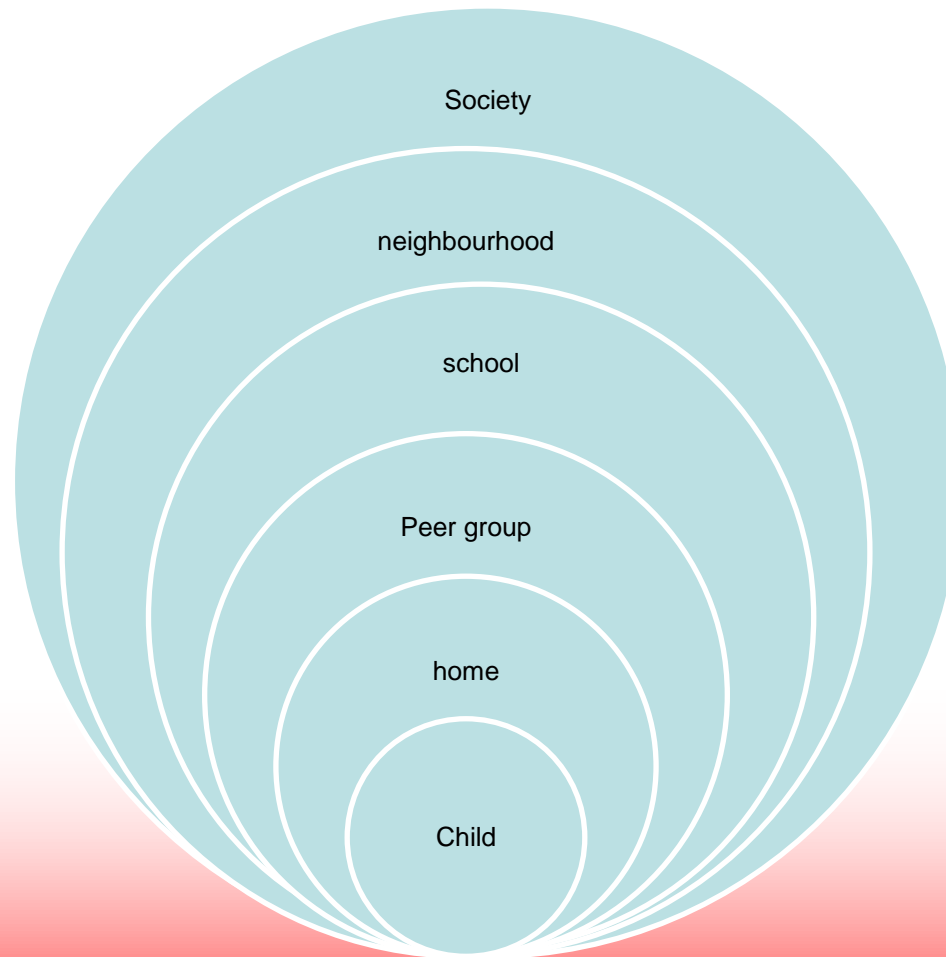
The most 'vulnerable' groups in the most 'vulnerable' places

Firmin : Contextualised safeguarding

Focus on neighbourhood, community,
context as well as on 'vulnerable' children

Resilient communities

Msunderstood: Firmin 2013: Peer on Peer



Harm Caused

going back to the individual

- Sexualised trauma
- Isolation, ostracised from peers, family, community
- Mental Health, services and thresholds

Sexualised trauma: CSE a form of CSA

Finklehorn and Browne (1985) Traumatic sexualisation:

a process in which a child's sexuality (including both sexual feelings and sexual attitudes) is shaped in a

developmentally inappropriate and interpersonally dysfunctional fashion as a result of sexual abuse

(Italics mine ? How does this fit into 'Queer politics' who challenge 'normal'?)

Sexualised trauma: Finkelhor and Browne, 1985.

experience of sexual abuse analysed in terms of four trauma-causing factors

- traumatic sexualization,
- betrayal,
- powerlessness, and
- stigmatization.

The conjunction of these four dynamics in one set of circumstances is what makes the trauma of sexual abuse unique

Shuker (2013)

- Outcomes measurements: safe relationship
- Three dimensions of safety:
 - Physical
 - Emotional
 - Relational

Therapeutic interventions and therapeutic environments

Disclosure and recognition and telling
(University of east Anglia)

Long term support : longitudinal review
(Harris 2015)

Consent ?

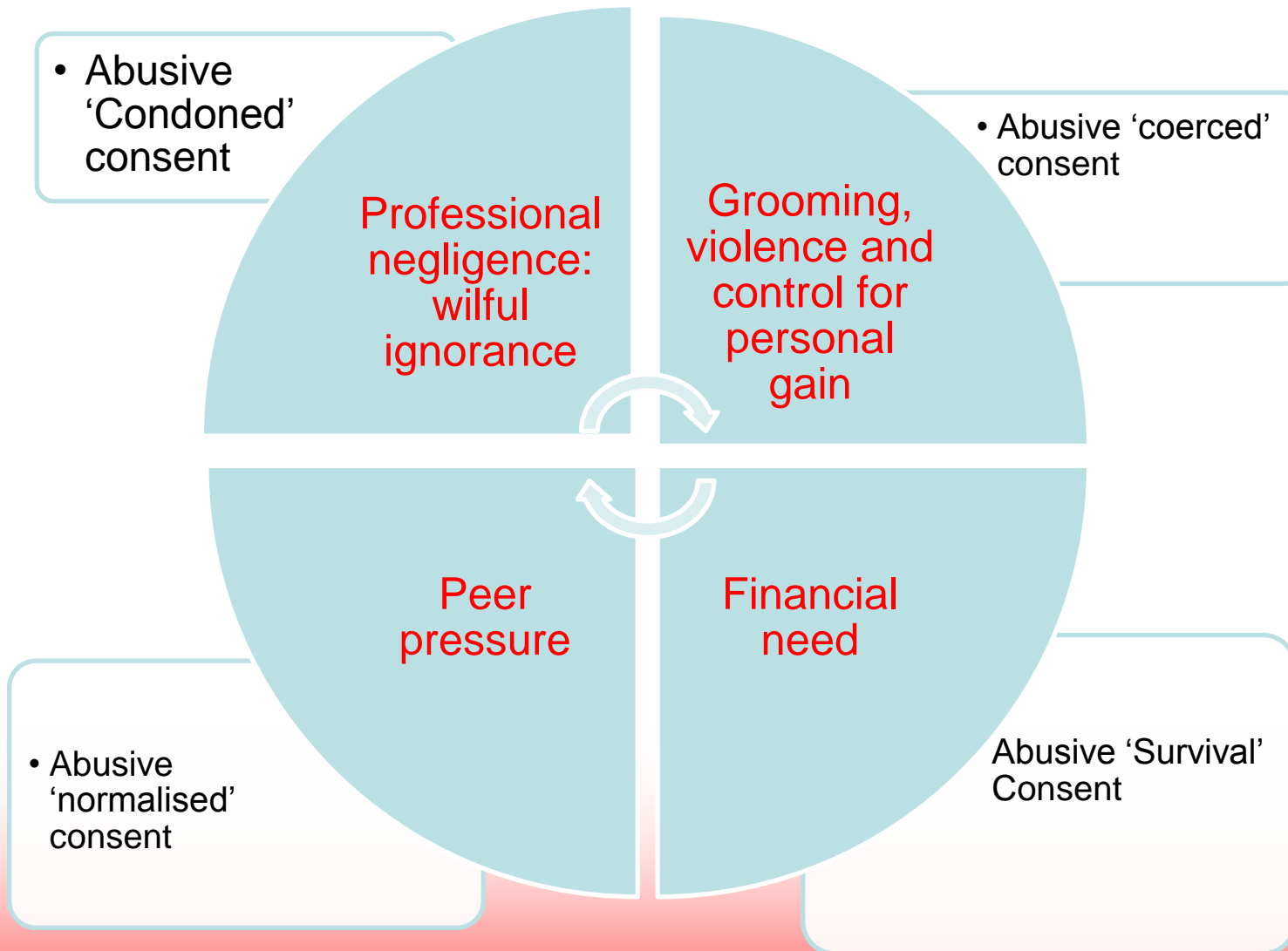
Country	Age for Consent to sexual activity	Age of criminal responsibility
Turkey	18	12
Cyprus	17	14
Ireland	17	12
Belgium	16	18
UK	16	10
Czech R , Denmark France, Greece	15	15
Estonia, Italy , Germany,	14	14

Age of consent to sexual activity and age of criminal responsibility

Country	Age for Consent to sexual activity	Age of criminal responsibility
Angola	12	16
Tunisia	20	13
Bahrain	21	15
Bangladesh	14	9
Cambodia	13	14
South Australia	17	10

UNDERSTANDING CONSENT: A SOCIAL MODEL

www.beds.ac.uk/research/iasr



Consent: 'at' risk

resilience/protective factors

Coerced	Low self esteem, previous abuse, learning difficulties	Some management in diverting abuse? Protecting others from knowledge of abuse?
Survival	Poverty, family and community involvement in the informal economy	Efforts to be independent and autonomous ? Managing risky and dangerous situations ?
Normalised	acceptance of sexual violence Stuck in the present	strategies to protect self , peers and family? Acceptance as means of moving on
Condoned	It will happen anyway Better not to open box Child's responsibility	Resistance to support? strength in saying no,

Summary

- We need an evidence base
- Abuse has significant impact
- Interventions beyond the young person: therapeutic environment
- Consent not child centred
- Young people can be resilient: we need strength based approaches