

Child Sexual Exploitation

Identifying, assessing and
intervening

Introductions

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What we will cover

- Defining child sexual exploitation
- Using the SERAF to identify vulnerabilities and risk indicators
- Current processes and guidance
- Assessment and intervention

Note: if anyone feels uncomfortable please take a break.

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Better Futures Cymru

Who Are We ?



Service Includes

- Taith Service, Harmful Sexual Behaviour established in 2000
- Seraf Service, Child Sexual Exploitation established in 2006
- Gobaith, CSA younger children service 2015
- SWP Missing Service established in 2015
- Gwella, early intervention and prevention service established 2016
- ICTA home office funded trafficking service 2017
- BOYS 2 home office funded research project 2017

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Who we are



Better Futures Cymru works with children and their families, where there are concerns about sexual behaviour.

The young person is:

- Aged 5-21 years
- Male or female
- May admit or deny the behaviour
- May or may not be prosecuted
- Referred by Children's Services or YOS

What we do

The Service offers :

- Outreach
- Assessment
- Longer-term programme work
- Direct work with parents/carers
- Consultation to other professionals
- Training
- Research



What is CSE?

- In pairs develop a definition of child sexual exploitation.

Definition of Child Sexual Exploitation

Child sexual exploitation is the **coercion or manipulation** of children and young people into taking part in sexual activities. It is a form of sexual abuse **involving an exchange** of some form of payment which can include money, mobile phones and other items, drugs, alcohol, a place to stay, 'protection' or affection. The **vulnerability** of the young person and **grooming process** employed by perpetrators renders them powerless to recognise the exploitative nature of relationships and **unable to give informed consent**.

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Models of Exploitation



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“Age 16 to 18 is a grey area?”

Abuse of children through prostitution or pornography offences (Sections 47-50) Sexual Offences Act 2003

Children involved in prostitution are primarily victims of abuse and people who take advantage of them by exploiting them, are child abusers. The use of children in the sex industry is entirely unjustifiable. Sections 47-50 provide offences specifically to tackle the use of children in the sex industry, where a child is under 18

Key points

A person is a child if under 18;

Consent is not in issue. It does not matter if a child of 16 or 17 consents to the activity, it is those who exploit children who commit a criminal act;

There is a defence that a person reasonably believed that the child was over 18. This does not apply if the child was under 13;

A person is involved in pornography if an image of the child is recorded

Why don't young people report that they are being sexually exploited?

- Fear and threats
- Emotional ties/loyalty to the perpetrator – trauma bond
- Guilt/Shame – can feel complicit in their abuse
- Receipt of something they need/want
- Think they won't be believed
- Don't know where to go for help
- Prior negative reactions/experiences of services
- Don't realise there is anything to report
- Negative attitudes of professionals

Rotherham child abuse scandal: 'They thought they were dirty little slags' | Channel 4 News

“A perception that a young person is troublesome, rather than troubled, can effect their credibility and influence whether that individual seeks help.”

Independent Inquiry – Rotherham

Child A was 12 when the risk of sexual exploitation became known...She disclosed having had intercourse with 5 adults...A child protection case conference was held...the CID representative argued against the category of sexual abuse being used because he thought that Child A had been '100% consensual in every incident.'

Soldier spared jail for sex with 13 year old after judge ruled 'she made the running'

Nigel Thomson was seduced....by the teenager after befriending her at the RMA stables. The 41 year old...then took her back to his room where the couple had sexual intercourse.....a woman officer Army colleague warned him the girl was dangerous and underage. The Judge said:
'It was clear from the evidence that she was a disturbed girl, that her behaviour was precocious in several respects, that she looked and acted older than her age..'

How might victims of CSE present?



Moderate risk indicators



- Staying out late
- Multiple callers (unknown adults/older young people)
- Use of a mobile phone that causes concern
- Expressions of despair (self-harm, overdose, eating disorder, challenging behaviour, aggression)

Significant risk indicators



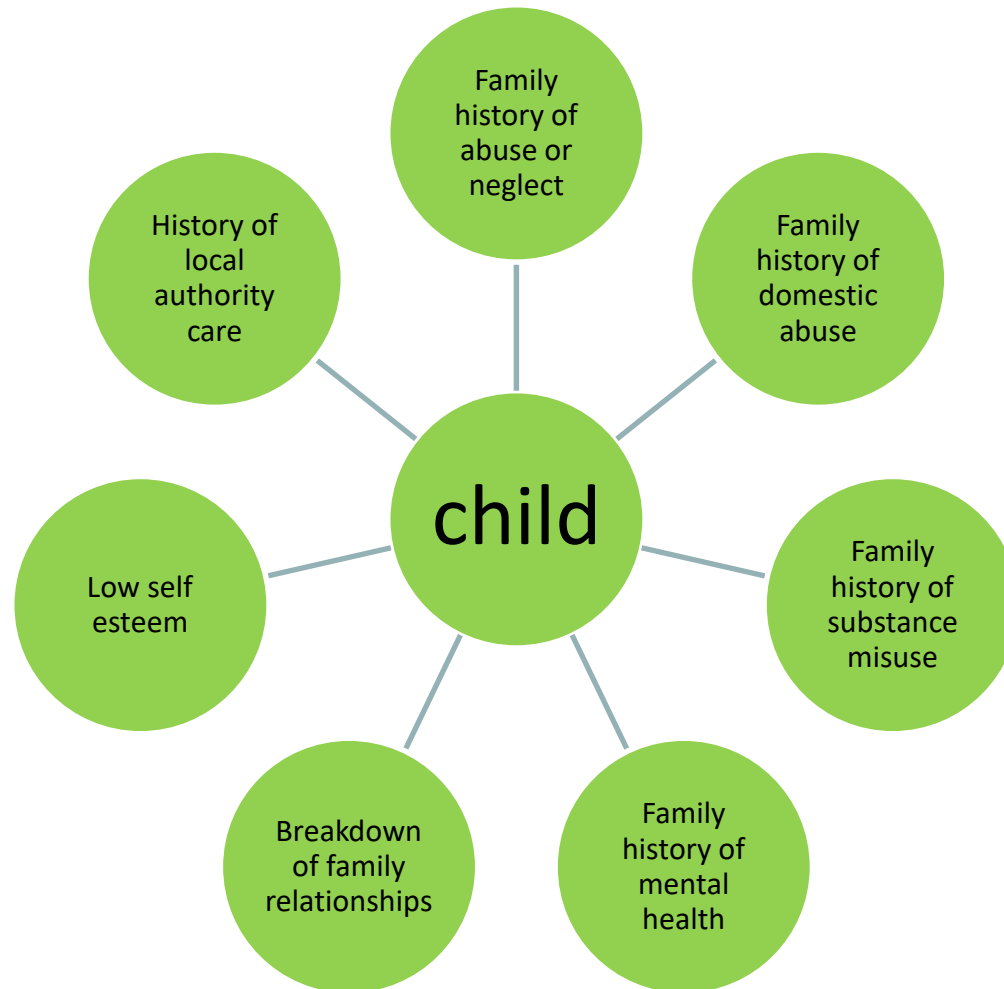
- Disclosure of sexual/physical assault followed by withdrawal of allegation
- Peers involved in clipping/sexual exploitation
- Periods of going missing overnight or longer
- Older Boy-Girlfriend/ relationship with controlling adult
- Physical abuse by that controlling adult / physical injury without plausible explanation
- Emotional abuse by that boy-girlfriend/controlling adult
- Entering/leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults
- Unexplained amounts of money, expensive clothing or other item
- Frequenting areas known for Adult Sex Work

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Vulnerability factors



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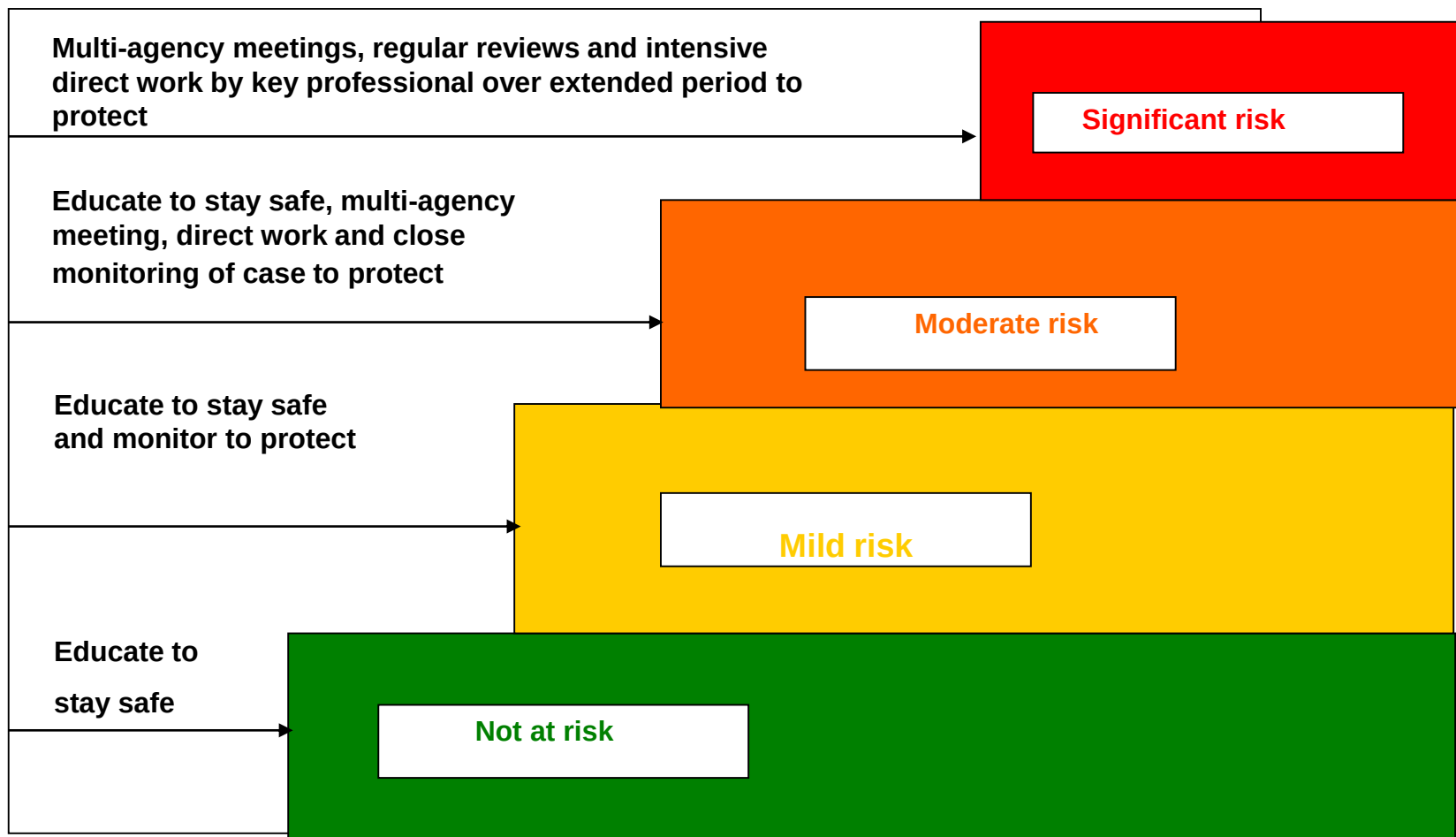
All Wales Child Protection Procedures: *All Wales Protocol – Safeguarding Children and Young People at Risk of Sexual Exploitation 2008* (reviewed 2013)

- **Principles:**
- **CSE is a CHILD PROTECTION matter (including 16 to 18 year olds)**
- **CSE is clearly defined**
- **Information sharing is key to early identification and protection**
- **All agencies have a role in identification and intervention**
- **It is possible to evidence risk**
- **Responses set out are based on evidence of what works and provide clear guidance on safeguarding actions**





SERAF – Categories of risk



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Categories of Risk	Indicators of Risk	Description	Associated Safeguarding Actions
Category 1 (Not at risk) Score 0-5	No risk indicators but may have 1 or more vulnerabilities present.	A child or young person who may be 'in need' but who is not currently at risk of being groomed for sexual exploitation.	Educate to stay safe. Review risk following any significant change in circumstances.
Category 2 (Mild risk) Score 6-10	Multiple vulnerabilities. One or two risk indicators may also be present.	A vulnerable child or young person who may be at risk of being groomed for sexual exploitation.	Consider multi-agency meeting to share information and agree a plan to address risk and/or need. Work on risk awareness and staying safe should be undertaken with this child/young person. Review risk following any significant change in circumstances.
Category 3 (Moderate risk) Score 11-15	Multiple vulnerabilities and risk indicators present.	A child or young person who may be targeted for opportunistic abuse through exchange of sex for drugs, accommodation (overnight stays) and goods etc.	Convene multi-agency meeting under protocol for sexually exploited children and young people to ensure effective exchange of information with multi-agency colleagues and agree safety plan. At least one review meeting to be convened. Work should be undertaken with this child/young person around risk reduction and keeping safe.
Category 4 (Significant risk) Score 16 and above	Multiple vulnerabilities and risk indicators. One or more significant risk indicators also likely.	Indication that a child or young person is at significant risk of or is already being sexually exploited. Sexual exploitation is likely to be habitual, often self-denied and coercion/control is implicit.	Convene multi-agency meeting under protocol for sexually exploited children and young people to ensure effective exchange of information with multi-agency colleagues and agree safety plan, including regular review meetings. Protection plan should include long-term intensive direct work with the child or young person.

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Case study - Maddison

Read the case study handout and complete the Seraf screening tool.

There are no wrong answers!!

Limitations of the Seraf

Not sufficient as an assessment tool

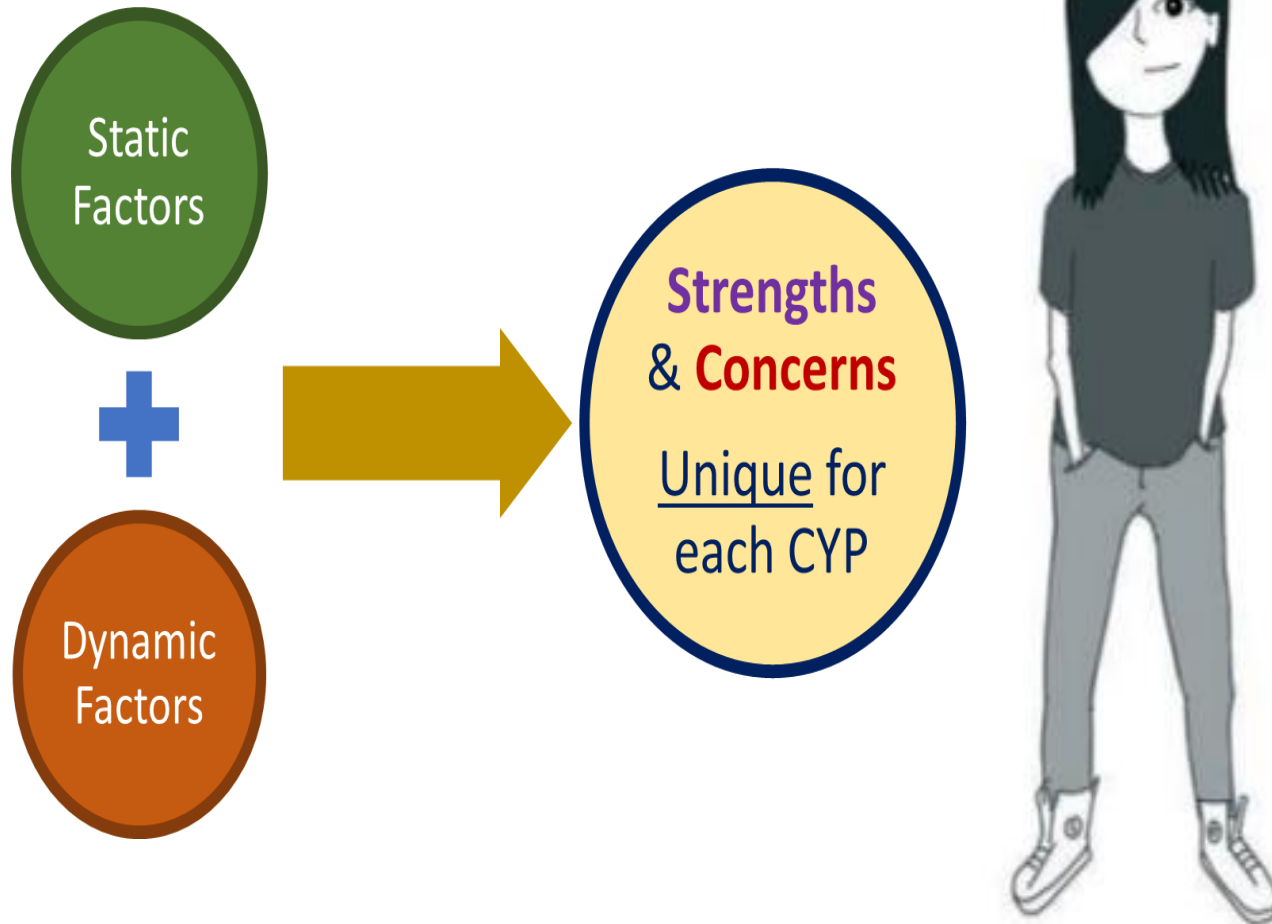
- Only concentrates on risk
- No inclusion of strengths of YP or protective factors
- Promotes safeguarding but doesn't address individual vulnerability of the young person
- What now? how do we work with YP?
- How do we make them more resilient and less vulnerable to exploitation?

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Holistic assessment



Static Factors

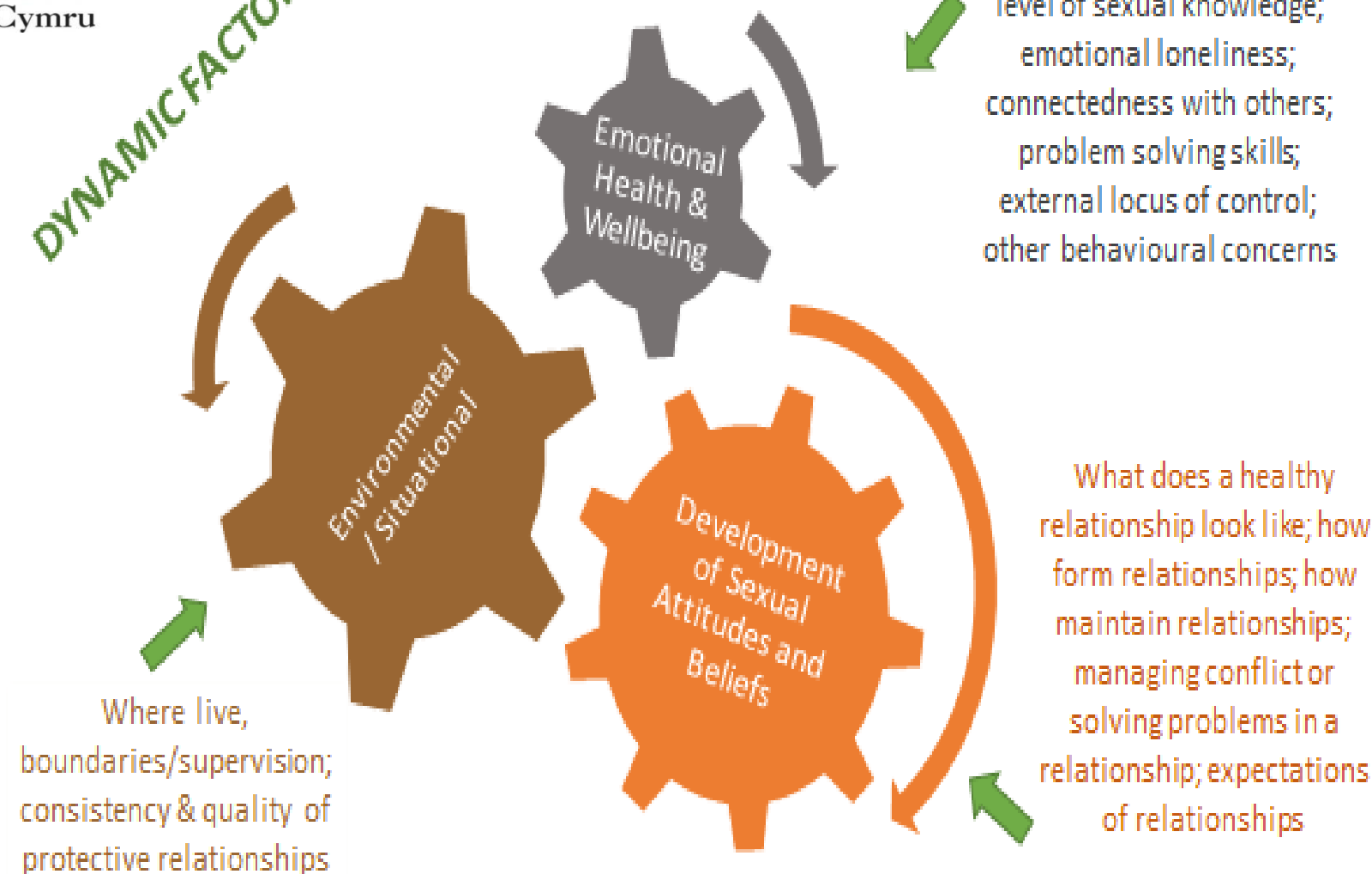
Trauma History	Taith (HSB)	Seraf (CSE)	Child Protection Register Wales
Exposure to domestic abuse	62%	43%	21%
Reported sexual abuse	40%	29%	7%
Reported physical abuse	38%	32%	16%
Reported emotional neglect	55%	51%	38%

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DYNAMIC FACTORS





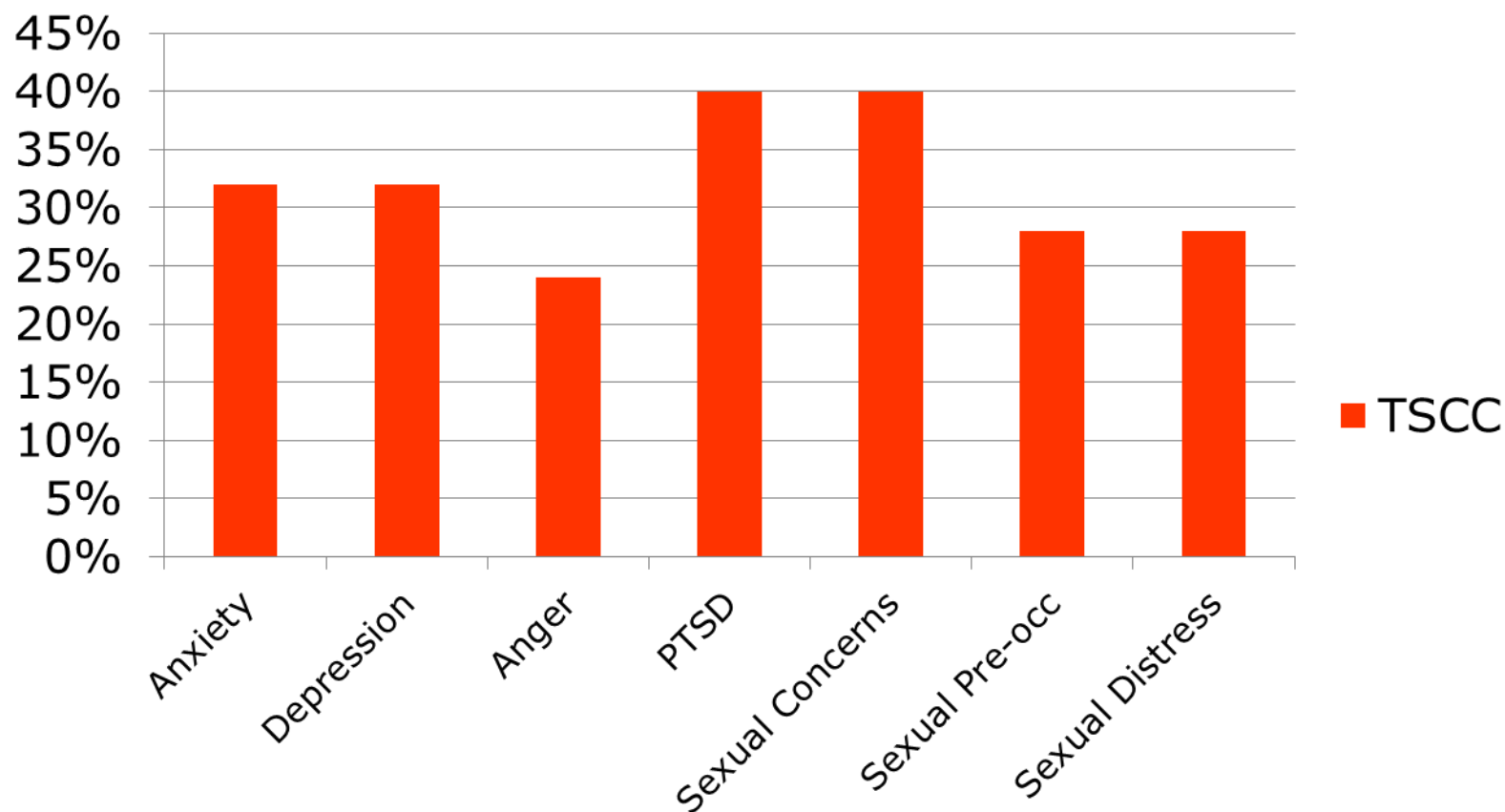
Domestic Violence

CHILD	ADOLESCENT	YOUNG ADULT
Trauma related problems: PTSD, dissociation, poor emotional regulation, bed wetting, soiling	Trauma related problems that may impact on attention, emotional regulation, educational difficulties	Personality problems/ disorders
Unsafe feelings, anxiety, withdrawn	Emotionally immature, poor self concept, self blame, substance misuse	Trust issues, poor self worth
Hyper vigilant	Hyper vigilant	Fight or flight, criminal justice system?
Distorted views of relationships, attachment problems	Increased need for control	Normalises aggression, violence, control in relationships
Aggression, bullying, general behaviour problems	Aggression, bullying, violence as coping strategies	Victim/perpetrator of domestic violence
Understanding of sex as harm. Sex and aggression linked	Sex as harm/aggression, sex as emotional regulation gender distortions	Distorted roles in relationships, sex as abuse/ control

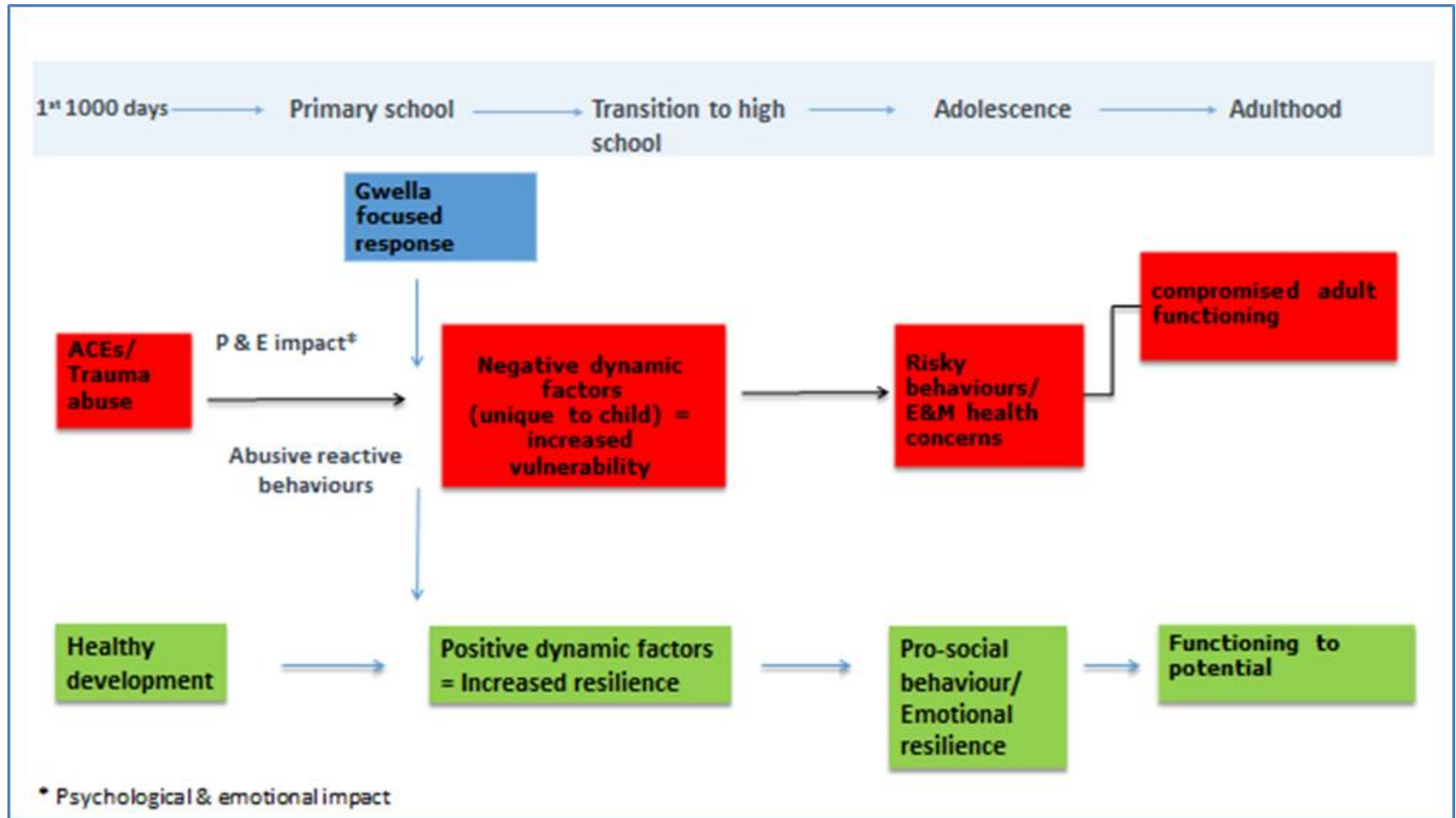
Sexual Abuse

CHILD	ADOLESCENT	YOUNG ADULT
Normalisation of abusive sex /premature sexualisation	Confused sexual scripts, sex as a form of control and violence, sexual preoccupation	Cognitive distortions, thinking errors
Trauma – PTSD, bed wetting, distortions about body development	PTSD, self-destructive behaviours, dissociative coping	Personality disorders, self harming
Skewed relationship scripts, trust issues, boundary issues	De-sensitised to porn/sexual violence. Intimacy avoidance., lack of trust	Normalisation of distorted social scripts.
Confusion, shame,	Poor self worth, perception, identity,	Introversion, social embarrassment
Sex as a means of connecting, making friends,	Poor development of normal sexual relationships, interests, knowledge	Struggling to form/maintain healthy relationships
Sex as a reward, compliance, poor boundaries	Sexual identity confused	Sexual identity confused, promiscuous behaviour
Sexualised behaviour, knowledge of sophisticated acts beyond age	Desensitised, increased risk of CSE,	Skewed balance in relationships, potential to be abused or abuse others

Trauma Symptom Checklist for Children (TSCC)- Health Needs



Trauma informed model



Protective Factors



- Parental warmth and encouragement
- Cohesion and care within the family
- Close relationship with caring adult, extended family
- Sense of belonging to family
- Belief in the child
- Non blaming approach to the child
- Carer support in place
- Presence of a hobby/interest, valued by others
- Responding to the child with developmental awareness

Protective Factors



- Social competence
- Positive peer relationships
- Positive pedagogical climate
- Emotional and physical health is managed
- Child is engaging in age appropriate normative activities
- Attending school/ training/ employment
- Healthy problem solving/coping skills
- Professional supports in place
- Engaging with professionals

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ANY QUESTIONS?

