The Assessment of Risk and Manageability of Individuals with Developmental and Intellectual Limitations who Offend-Sexually (ARMIDILO-S)

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Aims & Objectives

- Understanding sexual abuse
- An overview of the sexual experiences of people with an intellectual disability.
- Explore and understand problematic and harmful sexual behaviours by people with intellectual disabilities.
- Understand ‘what works’ in assessing risk and need in adults with intellectual disabilities who present with problematic and harmful sexual behaviours.
- To become competent in the use of the ARMIDILLO-S
Keeping safe

- Whenever a large group of people gathers together, there are likely to be people present who have been affected by the issue of sexual abuse.
- We need to be aware of this and be sensitive to people who have had such experiences.
- This training environment is not intended to be a place to discuss personal issues.
Introductions

- Pair off & introduce yourself to your partner.
- A quality that best characterizes me.
- My experience of learning disabilities.
- What I hope to achieve over the next two days.
What is a learning disability?

In pairs come up with a written definition of what constitutes a learning disability.
Why do males engage in harmful sexual behaviours?

- Adult Males (18+)
- Adolescent Males (14-18 years)
What are the barriers or challenges to people with learning disabilities developing sexual/romantic relationships?
Society is uncomfortable with the sexuality of disabled people.

Traditional misconceptions have fallen into two categories; either

- that people with learning disabilities exist in a perpetual childhood and are therefore not sexual, even when physically mature (Fairbairn et al 1995); or

- that they demonstrate inappropriate sexual urges that need to be controlled to prevent risks to self and others (Neufeld et al 2002)
Secret Loves – Hidden lives?

Consider being LGBT and learning disabled?

What challenges/obstacles might be faced in expressing your sexuality?
50% of people interviewed reported feeling lonely & isolated because of their sexuality.

Social exclusion and isolation are key factors to LGBT lives.

Almost everyone interviewed reported having been bullied because they were gay or lesbian.

Most of the people interviewed had been depressed at some time in their lives with small number reporting suicidal ideations at points in their lives because of their sexuality.

Five of the people wanted to have children in a gay relationship.

Four of these people said that staff and family did not want them to have children.

https://youtu.be/lyR8RFwAGhE
Summary of Considered Factors

- Attitudes are shifting from viewing people with intellectual disability as sexual ‘innocents’ or ‘oversexed’ potential sex offenders to recognition of their sexual needs and rights.
- However, attitudes toward sexual expression still remain restrictive.
- People with intellectual disability express desires for intimate relationships but report limited opportunities and difficulty negotiating relationships.
- Sexual knowledge in people with intellectual disability has been shown to be poor and access to education limited despite the development of appropriate programmes.
- Often people with LD’s tend to have high levels of supervision and low levels of privacy.
- Capacity to consent to sex may be limited or difficult to assess and social and legal rules regarding sexual behaviour may be confusing.
- It is important to be able to distinguish between what constitutes normal, inappropriate and abusive behaviour in people with a LD.
Static risk assessment tools can provide assistance in anchoring risk judgments for this client group.

Clinical judgment is often too subjective to provide a solid foundation.

The variance in risk assessment is likely to be tapped by actuarial methods focusing on static/historical variables.

Additional research will be required.

Static Risk Assessment
Sexual offenders with ID have:

- Reduced opportunity to establish meaningful relationships
- More likely to be diverted from the criminal justice system
- Actuarial risk measures include, number of previous criminal convictions and relationships history.
- Actuarial measures may not accurately estimate the risk of those offenders diverted from the mental health services to criminal justice system.
Structured Professional Judgement Frameworks

- Structured professional judgment (SPJ) attempts to bridge the gap between actuarial and unstructured clinical approaches to risk assessment.
- SPJ’s considers specific risk factors from the literature & clinical experience.
- The method is more prescribed than the unstructured clinical approach, but much more flexible than the actuarial method.
- SPJ’s do not abrogate the professional responsibility and discretion of the evaluator, but it does attempt to improve the consistency and visibility of risk judgments.
Individualised Assessment

- Crucial starting point – aim is to provide as comprehensive an understanding of the person as possible:
- Why the person offends or presents in the way that they do (formulation) or the function of this behaviour
- Key information for static and dynamic risk factor assessments
- Development of treatment targets
- Learning style and personal strengths
- Communication skills
- Medical and mental health needs
- Long term goals and aspirations
- Who needs to understand this information
ARMIDILLO-S Structure

Each factor is viewed both as a:

Risk factor - What is it about the item that increases the likelihood the person may reoffend? Does this issue increase the risk for this client?

Protective Factor - What is it about this item that decreases the likelihood the person may reoffend? Does this issue serve a protective function for this client?
ARMIDILO-S Structure

Environmental Items - How the environment and staff are interacting with the client

Client Items - How the client is managing relevant behaviours

Stable Items - Factors that are slow to change such as motivation

Acute Items (less than 3 months) - factors that can change quickly such as substance misuse