

A Changing Landscape

UNDERSTANDING WHAT WORKS IN INTERVENTIONS WITH ADULT MALES WHO SEXUALLY OFFEND THROUGH TECHNOLOGY.

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Who and what are we treating?

- 5% of the adult male population hold a sexual attraction to pre-pubescent children (Seto 2008)
- The National Crime Agency estimates that 750,000 men living in Britain have a sexual interest in children with 250,000 sexually attracted to children under the age of 12.
- 'Triple A Engine' has increased the reach of potential offenders.
 - Accessibility (millions of websites are accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week),
 - Affordability (acquiring the material does not demand substantial financial resources),
 - Anonymity (no personal contact with others is needed to consume child pornography).
- The prevalence of paedophilia in samples of offenders who view child abuse images is much higher (50-65%) than in the general population.

Offenders who restrict their offenses to viewing online child abuse images seemed to have greater barriers to offending, such as less antisocial tendencies, greater victim empathy, and greater self-control .

Higher levels of self esteem, emotional isolation than contact offenders.

This typology challenged the suitability of conventional treatment programmes for those who viewed IIOC. (Sheldon & Howitt, 2007)

IIOC specific intervention programmes were developed in response (i-SOTP; Inform Plus)

Of the programmes that do exist, there is a paucity of research examining programme utility. (Inform Plus N=13; Sheldon & Howitt 2007; (I-SOTP N=28; Mc Gibbon 2014) ,

A 'new'
typology

One out of eight will have an officially recorded contact sex offence against a child, and about half will self-report committing a contact sex offence (Seto et al., 2005).

Not all will commit contact offences, however each engagement with material, increases the likelihood of a future contact offence.

Those who have both IIOC and contact offences (i.e., mixed offenders) have higher recidivism rates for contact sex offences (6%) than offenders with solely IIOC offences (0.2%)

Studies show that 'mixed' offenders have greater paraphilic interests and also had greater access to children than offenders with IIOC only offences.

Mixed offenders also demonstrate greater anti-social traits; (more prior violent offences; higher unemployment and had greater substance abuse problems).

Contact offenders are 'treated' in mainstream programmes with mixed success.

The emerging picture

A mixed picture.

Some quantitative reviews of available research have found that treatment reduces reoffending in sex offenders.

The evaluation of the prison based Core Sex Offender Treatment Programme (SOTP) concluded little or no changes in reoffending rates generally. (UK's Ministry of Justice 2017)

Possible that attendance on the Core prison-based SOTP may increase the propensity to sexually re-offend amongst sex offenders.

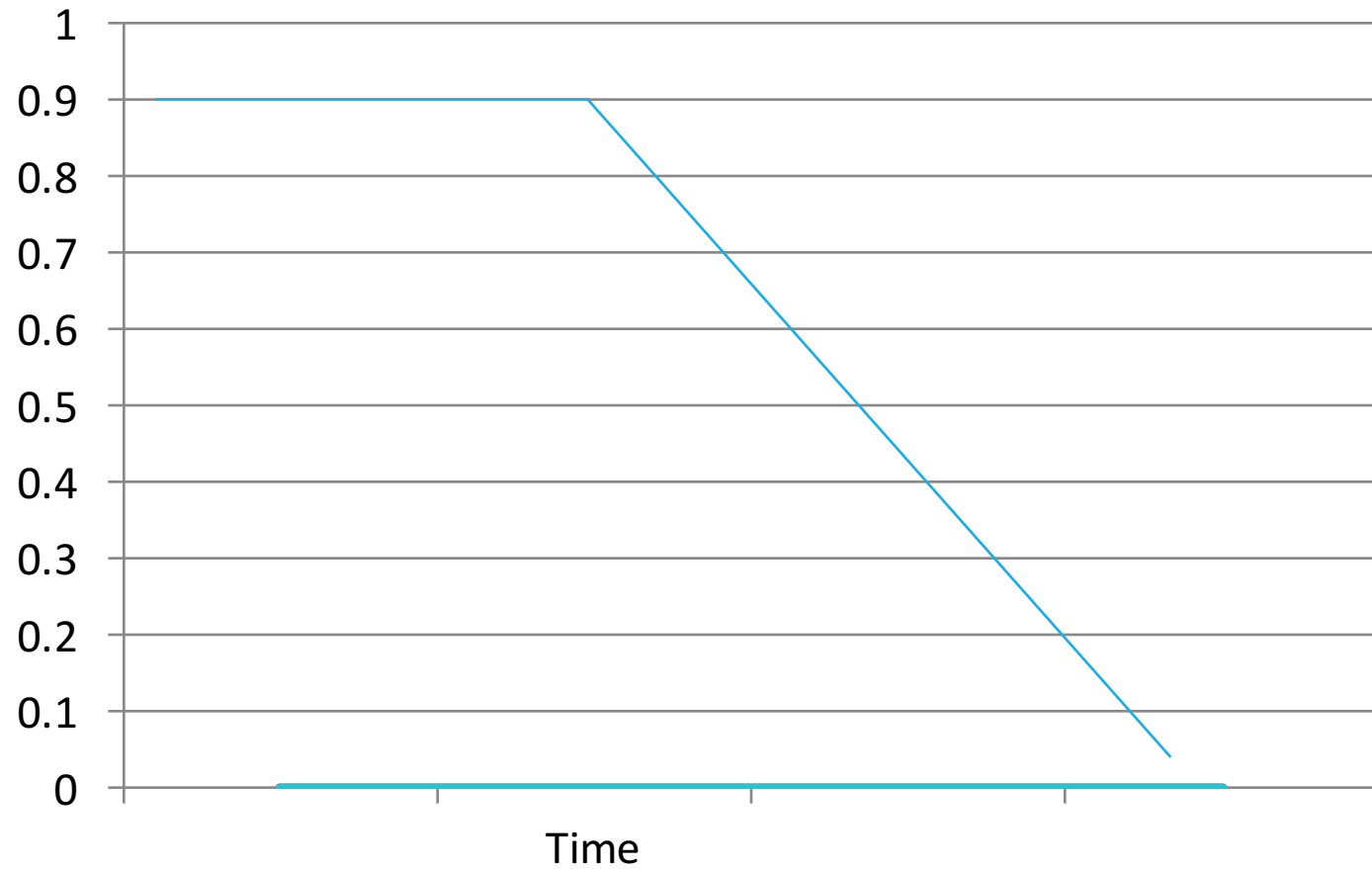
May be the result of the sole emphasis on group treatment.

A one size fits all approach.

Over prescriptive manualised approach constrains the ability of those delivering it to adapt to the particular needs of individual participants.

Group treatment may also 'normalise' individuals' behaviour.

'Aspirin' model of impact



So what does work?

Treatment should not be expected to have the same effect on all sexual offenders.

Success can depend on various factors, including the treatment climate, programme delivery, and how the participant responds to treatment.

Risk, Needs and Responsivity principle.

Comprehensive understanding of the factors most associated with recidivism in each individual case and tailoring a programme to the needs of each person.

Skilled, experienced therapists delivering community based programmes with a sufficient flexibility.

Robust clinical governance to maintain programme integrity.

Strength based, desistance and solution focussed approach.
Systemic & holistic interventions

Possible model of impact?

