

SHAPING THE FUTURE

2019 ATSA Conference | Wednesday November 6 | 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

A-13

The Links between Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Girls

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This presentation will be interactive. We will summarize the prevalence of harmful sexual behaviour committed by girls and discuss the development of a set of standardised tools designed to assess their needs. Drawing on the results of Barnardo's Cymru*/ National Lottery UK Girls' Research Project, the presentation will examine the personality, social functioning and abuse specific characteristics of girls displaying HSB, drawing out the similarities and contrasts between them and adolescent boys. Based on this information, recommendations will be made for assessment and longer-term support needs of girls who display HSB.

Learning Goals:

- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to identify personality, social functioning and abuse characteristics of girls displaying harmful sexual behaviour.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to compare and contrast with adolescent males displaying harmful sexual behaviour.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to utilise assessment materials for use with girls displaying harmful sexual behaviour.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to identify areas of longer term intervention, engagement and recovery strategies for girls with harmful sexual behaviour.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to understand gender as a variable in sexual abuse and recovery.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to identify factors that impact upon dual concerns of CSE and HSB and gain increased understanding of taking a developmental approach in this area of work.

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Sharron Wareham is a qualified social worker with experience of working with children and their families within the statutory and voluntary sector. Sharron has over 14 years experience of direct work with children and young people in the harmful sexual behaviour field and has published and presented widely on this topic. Following her role of Service Practitioner at the Taith Service Sharron was employed as the Research Practitioner at the service in 2012, where she was involved in the development of a series of assessment measures and intervention resources to be used with females who display harmful sexual behaviour. This was a first in the field and represents a major advancement in the assessment of adolescent females who display harmful sexual behaviour. Most recently Sharron has been part of a research team involved in working alongside boys and young men impacted by CSA/E to improve, identification, assessment and intervention. Sharron currently works for Barnardo's Cymru Better Futures Service as the Children's Services Manager for Taith (HSB), Seraf (CSE) Gobaith (CSA) and South Wales Police and Barnardo's Missing Children's Service. She is chair of the National Organisation for the Treatment of Abuse (NOTA) Wales and is actively involved in advancing research and best practise with children and young people who are impacted by sexual abuse across all of 'it's domains.

Anthony Beech, D.Phil, C.Sci, FBPsS, C.Psychol, is Professor Emeritus at the University of Birmingham, UK. He has as authored around 200 peer-reviewed articles, 50+ book chapters and 10 books in the area of forensic science/criminal justice. His particular areas of research interests are: risk assessment; the neurobiological bases of offending; reducing online exploitation of children; and increasing psychotherapeutic effectiveness of the treatment given to offenders. In 2009 he received the Significant Achievement Award from the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers in Dallas, Texas, and the Senior Award from the Division of Forensic Psychology, British Psychological Society, for recognition of his work.

Rachel Marcarian is a Children's services practitioner working at Barnardos (a UK Children' charity) in South Wales. She has a number of years experience of working with young people displaying harmful sexual behavior, and those at risk of sexual exploitation, involving assessment and intervention, offering reports, undertaking psychometric testing, and training. Here, she has written and delivered training to a variety of professionals, including collaboration with the NHS, Children's Services, and the Youth Offending Service. Her current role involves working directly with children and young people impacted by sexual abuse across all of its domains as well as delivering prevention work to children in mainstream school settings. Most recently she has also been involved in a research team undertaking research into young people impacted by CSA/E. Particularly, working alongside young people to improve identification, assessment and intervention.

Rachael Phillips is a Children's services practitioner working at Barnardos (a UK Children' charity) in South Wales. She has over 17 years experience of working with children and their families within the statutory and voluntary sector in the UK. Her current role involves working directly with children and young people impacted by sexual abuse across all of its domains as well as delivering prevention work to children in mainstream school settings.

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Most recently she has also been involved in a research team undertaking research into young people impacted by CSA/E. Particularly, working alongside boys and young men to improve identification, assessment and intervention, and developing a series of assessment tools and a workbook resource to be used by professionals working with this largely hidden group, and also presenting the findings and resources to other professionals and partner agencies.