

IASA's 10-Year Celebration

Florence, June 12 - 14, 2018

Attachment and Adolescent Harmful Sexual Behaviour.

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Topic Clinical practice

A pilot in the use of AAI, parents' interview and TAAI in assessment and intervention with adolescents who display harmful sexual behaviour. The setting is a specialist harmful sexual behaviour service within a national UK child protection charity (the NSPCC).

As the new manager of this multi-disciplinary team, which describes itself as attachment informed, I wanted to see how the DMM model of attachment and Family Functional Formulation could impact upon the assessments currently produced and interventions currently offered by this team.

One case/family was selected as a pilot whereby the AAI for each parent, the parents' interview and the TAAI for the 16-year-old child would be conducted, classified and integrated in to our multi-disciplinary report.

In the course of the pilot I wanted to understand:

- How well families would engage with the additional meetings and the particular style of the interview/s
- Whether referrers to our service would be willing to pay the additional cost/ establish their financial threshold
- How could the concepts and constructs of the AAI/TAAI and DMM be shared meaningfully with a team not yet trained in the model?
- How could the FFF be integrated in to our current assessment reports?
- Whether the new information was useful to referrers (usually social workers) and beneficial to families.

How it uses the DMM

All interviews were conducted by me as a standalone piece of work (i.e. none of the family met me in any other context).

Classification of the transcripts was provided by the DMM community via Pat Crittenden.

Interpretation of individual classifications and Family Functional Formulation was undertaken by me and discussed with the report authors and the wider team in our clinical meeting prior to inclusion in the written assessment.

Feedback would be obtained from the family and referral service once the report had been shared.

What it can contribute to the DMM

We hope it will provide evidence as to how beneficial the DMM can be in understanding the pathway to harmful sexual behaviour and where to focus intervention for the young person and their family and how it can introduce an agreed form of language for the network for describing attachment behaviour. We hope the evidence base could be reliable enough for small scale research in the future.

We commenced the interviews on 25th April and will only publish the full report in late May so the results remain to be seen and will be revealed exclusively at the IASA celebration!