

# **Linking the Theory with the Reality**

**Junior Smart**

SOS Development manager

# Risk Factors- Behaviour to Watch Out For & Circumstances of Young People

- Missing
- Antisocial behaviour/peer group
- Drug and/or Alcohol misuse
- Lack of Interest in School or Truancy
- Carrying weapons
- Unexplainable New clothing
- Additional mobile phones
- Secretive about friends/peers
- Home address located in high risk area
- Special Educational learning needs
- Suffers with Mental Health issues
- Exposure to Domestic Violence
- History of victimization/being bullied
- Sexually inappropriate behaviour
- At risk of Sexual Exploitation
- Self harm or self neglect
- Violent behaviour
- Family conflict
- Lack of meaningful employment/FE (NEET)
- Goes missing from home/stays out late
- Stopped by Police in company of known Gang Members
- Stopped by Police in High Risk locations
- Found to be in possession of unexplainable cash
- Risk taking behaviour
- Family members involved in criminal behaviour/activity
- Parent mental health or drug/alcohol problems
- Beyond parental/carer control

# Case Study – Client M



- Age: 16
- Finished education with 6 GCSE's
- M has come to your attention as she has just been arrested for possession of a significant amount of Class B Drugs
- Although she wont be imprisoned for the drugs she will be sanctioned assault at the time of her arrest
- M's mother has reported her as missing a couple of times over the last few months she also noted that her behaviour has changed quite a lot recently and she is becoming increasingly secretive

# Her Name is Molly



- Growing up Molly witnessed ongoing domestic violence at home between her parents
- Molly believes she is different from everyone else so she does a lot of communication with people online.
- 6 months ago she formed a relationship with a negative peer and it was his drugs she lost at her arrest. As a result she will have to pay it back through sexual favours
- 6 months from now she will have to terminate her pregnancy and will not know who the daddy is.
- She wants to be able to look in the mirror and likes what she sees.

# Case Study – Client M



- Age: 12
- Came to the attention of the school because he got caught for bringing in drugs in his bag
- He has no previous offences
- There are no signs of absent parenting
- Teachers have noticed he is starting to become distant at school
- New peers seem to be meeting M at the school gate
- M is bright and could do exceptionally well

# His Name is Matthew



- Before he came to Secondary School Matthew was scared of being bullied and robbed because these people got away with it all the time
- Some people in Matthew's area have taken him under their wing and look out for him
- Occasionally Matthew feels under pressure to do what they tell him because he owes them
- Before Matthew turns 16 he will have been attacked and stabbed 8 times 6 wounds of which will be defensive wounds
- 5 months later he will be done for manslaughter

# The grooming line



## Targeting stage

- Observing the child/ young person
- Selection of child/ young person
- Befriending – being nice, giving gifts, caring, taking an interest, giving compliments, etc
- Gaining and developing trust
- Sharing information about young people between other abusive adults



## Friendship forming stage

- Making young people feel special
- Giving gifts and rewards
- Spending time together
- Listening and remembering
- Keeping secrets
- Being there for them
- 'No-one understands you like I do'; being their best friend
- Testing out physical contact – accidental touching
- Offering protection



## Loving relationship stage

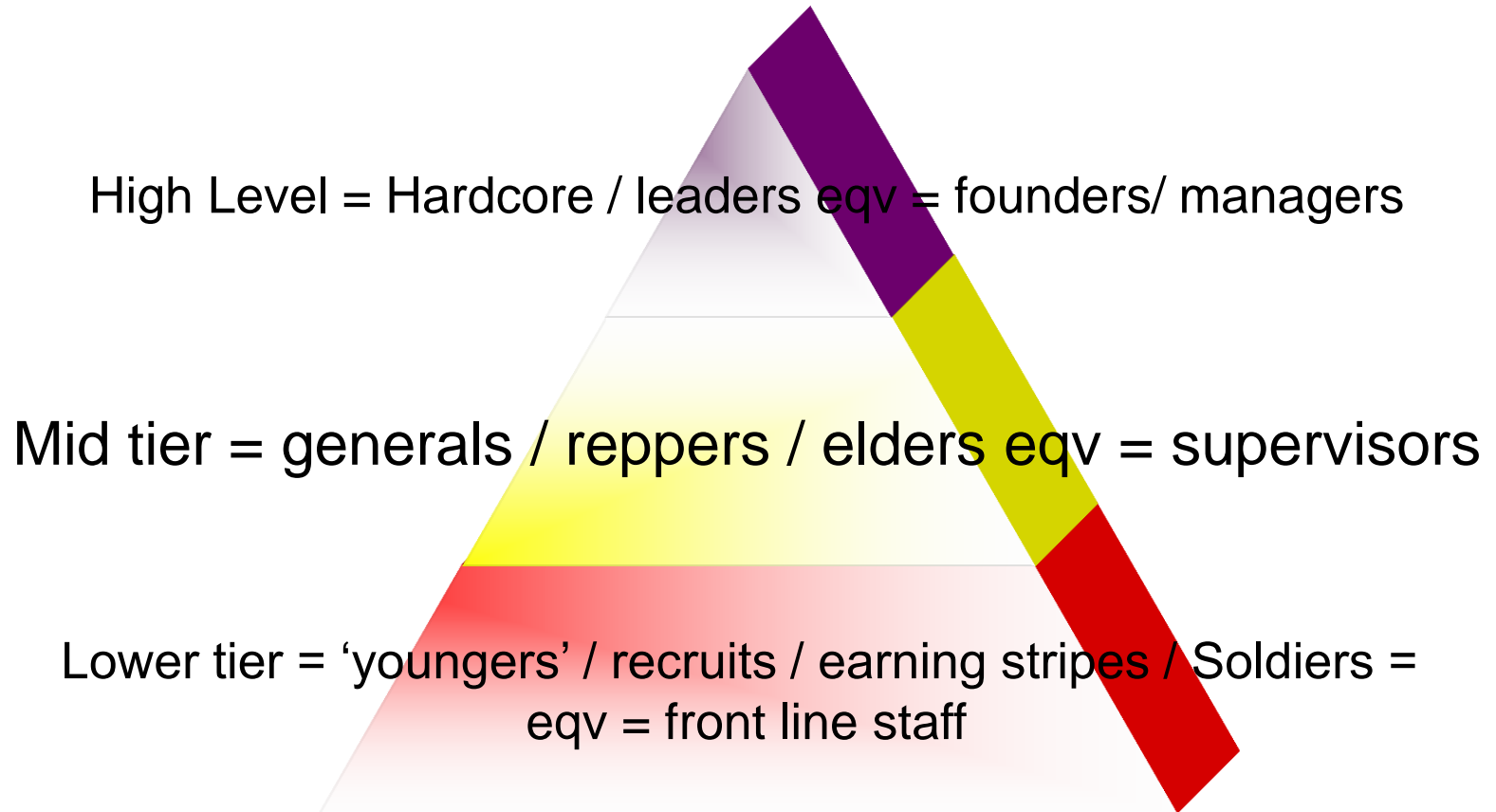
- Being their boyfriend/girlfriend
- Establishing a sexual relationship
- Lowering their inhibitions – eg showing them pornography
- Engaging them in forbidden activities – eg going to clubs, drinking, taking drugs
- Being inconsistent – building up hope and then punishing them



## Abusive relationship stage

- Becomes an 'unloving' sexual relationship
- Withdrawal of love and friendship
- Reinforcing dependency on them – stating young person is 'damaged goods'
- Isolation from family and friends
- Trickery and manipulation – 'you owe me'
- Threatening behaviour
- Physical violence
- Sexual assaults
- Making them have sex with other people
- Giving them drugs
- Playing on the young person's feeling of guilt, shame and fear

# Gang structure (OCN)



**Outer Group**



Most Susceptible  
to Support

Most Susceptible  
to Consequence

Influenced by  
need / music /  
culture / Cliques  
/ Become a  
victim / witness

Repercussions  
e.g.  
imprisonment /  
have to act up

Non  
involvement  
/ Not  
Affected

Visualisation /  
Acting up /  
Attracted but on  
periphery

Acting out /  
Carry out / Fully  
involved

Most Susceptible  
to Consequence

Most Susceptible  
to Support

# Questioning & Challenging

**Adapt your approach and your question:**

**Compulsive Versus Propulsive Factors**

**Emotional Versus Factual Leverage**

# **Tackling Serious Youth Violence and Gang activity requires:**

- **Early identification, prompt intervention and consistent follow through**
- **A co-ordinated, multi-agency response**
- **Pathways out – a range of services geared at providing support**
- **A range of targeted interventions including prevention**
- **Enforcement and compulsory criminal justice measures – must be intelligence led and effective**

# Key Steps

- Ask for Advice and Guidance
  - Safer Communities Team
  - Violent and Organised Crime Unit
  - Go online – SCT's, CRP's, EGYV – get support!
- Speak to other professionals
- Hold a Professionals Meeting if required
- Ensure you are happy that any risks you have identified are being addressed
- Don't be afraid to challenge.....

# **The Big Questions that People Rarely Ask**

- **What are the key things my client wouldn't want to tell me or show me?**
- **How can we be sure we are providing the right support?**
- **What are the inherent blockages that need to be overcome?**
- **Who are the key people we need to communicate with?**
- **If this plan of action goes wrong what is the next plan of action?**
- **If this service isn't up to scratch, how will I know and who will I speak to? What steps will I take?**

# Measuring Success?

- Reduced firearms discharges
- Reduced fatalities and woundings
- An increase in the average age of gang protagonists
- Effective prosecution of major gang protagonists
- Targeted relationship education to vulnerable young people established in schools serving gang-affected neighbourhoods and all school staff trained in recognising key signs of gang involvement and counselling
- Increased communication flow from the community
- Increase in numbers of vulnerable gang associates dealt with effectively by Child/Adol. Servs./Safeguarding Board
- Increase in gang protagonists diverted to alternative, legitimate, opportunities

**O.K That's it!**

**Any Questions?**

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