

Considerations for Assessment

Alleged abuser

- History of offending, including sexual
 - History of childhood trauma, abuse, attachment difficulties
 - Relationship history (intimacy deficits – emotional or sexual)
 - Emotional self-regulation/ management (e.g. mental health, substance misuse, anger, stress)
 - Sexual self-regulation/management (e.g. sexual preoccupation)
 - Congruence with children (for male perpetrators only)
 - Issues of power and control (e.g. violence/aggression)
 - Sexual interest in children
 - Distorted scripts/views of sex and children (gender, sexual entitlement)
 - Social isolation/difficulties in social relationships
 - Previous intervention or treatment
 - What's changed? (in relation to non-recent allegations)
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- How did they get to know this family?
 - Evidence of grooming behaviour?
 - How does partner describe them?
 - How do others perceive them?
 - How do they describe the child?
 - Lovingly? Appropriately?
 - Harshly? Putting them down?
 - How do they behave towards the child?
 - Evidence of 'grooming behaviour'?
 - Favouring, spoiling, buying treats
 - Punishing, singling out, scapegoating, putting down, blaming, controlling, resenting
 - Play fighting, tickling
 - Dominating care of child
 - Does this fit with the child's description?
 - Does this fit with what you already know about the situation?

Non-abusing parent/carer

- Relationship with child/ren
- Availability – emotional and practical
- Capacity to protect
 - mental health
 - substance misuse
 - learning or other disability
 - domestic abuse
 - self esteem
- Does she believe or can she imagine?
- Relationship history
- Dependency issues
- History of trauma, (sexual) abuse, attachment, loss
- Knowledge of sexual abuse
- Religious/cultural beliefs
- Language barriers
- Economic and political status
- Social support and wider family networks

<p>Child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signs and indicators of sexual abuse (see tool) • How vulnerable is this child? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age • Gender • Ability/disability • Emotional and behavioural difficulties • Attachment/ relationship with non-abusing parent • Social isolation • History of family dysfunction • Additional barriers such as race, religion, culture, language <p>In what way might <i>this</i> child be vulnerable to being groomed?</p> <p>What might someone who is grooming <i>this</i> child say to them to stop them telling</p>	<p>Family dynamics/situation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open and positive? Closed? • Parental absence • Domestic abuse, mental health, substance misuse • Family secrets • Anxieties • Hierarchy • Who's 'in charge' in reality and as described? • Religious or cultural values? • Who cares for who? • Violence/fear • Attunement and relationships • Attitude to sex • Sexual boundaries • Sexual knowledge • History of maternal abuse • If this happened, how might it have happened? • What is your hypothesis? • <i>When</i> is it reported to have happened? • What time is it reported to happen? • Does it fit with any changes in family dynamics? • Does it fit with any major events/incidents in the family? • Has there been relationship breakdown? 	
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