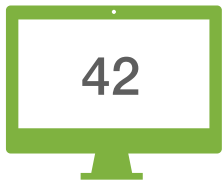# The use of tools and checklists to assess the risk of child sexual exploitation: What do professionals think?

Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse

A small sample of professionals…

Online surveys completed

42

17

Professionals interviewed

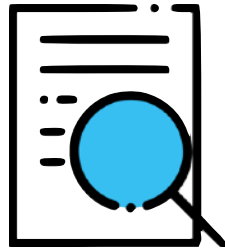**…revealing at least 19 different tools and checklists in use for screening and/or assessment.**
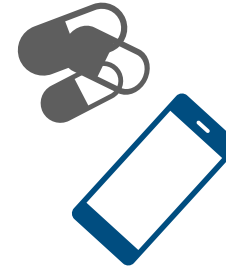
Other connected research includes…

Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation: Understanding risk and vulnerability. (Brown,S.J et al, 2016)

Wales National Review of SERAF. (In development)

Although there was general support for the use of tools and checklists, there were some recurring issues raised by professionals, including:
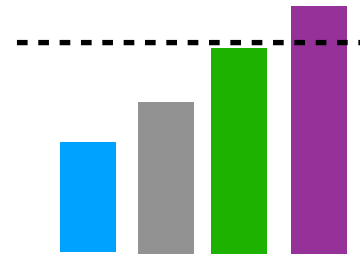
Assessment of young people is **not consistent,** with variation across locations and services as to who completes the tools, the completion process and the actions that result.

Some tools **exclude potential indicators of risk** such as online/social media communication, gaming, drug and/or gang involvement, deprivation, disability and sexual attitudes.

Tools can **'screen out' some young people** inappropriately if they are completed by a single professional or agency with limited information.

It can be **difficult to reach a threshold** that will trigger support from Children's Services.

There is **little emphasis on protective factors or strengths** of young people, their families and the immediate environment.

To read the full study, please visit www.csacentre.org.uk