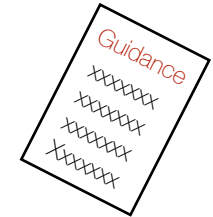


Seven Principles for using tools and checklists to assess risk of child sexual exploitation

1.

The purpose and use of any tool/checklist should be clear to all professionals involved.

Participants in our research told us it was not always clear whether tools were to be used for screening or assessment.

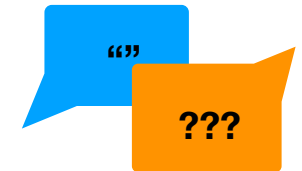


2.

Tools designed to assess potential risk of harm should not include actual indicators of harm, or should separate them from risk indicators.

3.

Professional judgement should be encouraged, in both the tools themselves and the processes and procedures in which they are embedded.



4.

Narrative information should be valued, so that all professionals involved can be clear about the nature of the risk and protective indicators identified.

5.

Narrowly linking risks to individual behaviours can lead to victim-blaming. Assessment work with victims or potential victims and their families should be collaborative and supportive.



6.

Scoring should be avoided, but lists of risk and protective indicators can be helpful, particularly for newly qualified professionals and those with less knowledge around CSE.

7.

Training in the completion and use of tools. Any tool needs to be supported by training and by ongoing opportunities to clarify and receive guidance where the tool raises uncertainty or worries for a practitioner.