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

A small sample of professionals...

- Online surveys completed: 42
- Professionals interviewed: 17

...revealing at least 19 different tools and checklists in use for screening and/or assessment.

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.

Other connected research includes...

- Wales National Review of SERAF. (In development)

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