



# Control and management of perpetrators





# Purpose and approach



# Approach and focus



- Findings presented this afternoon used the method and approach to appraising research evidence, summarised this morning
- This afternoon's session presents REA evidence on what can be learnt from overseas practice on the *control and management of perpetrators*, ensuring they do not reoffend
- Evidence from the REA is again set in the context of the four Inquiry themes for change: ***Cultural: Structural: Financial: Professional and Political***





# Findings



# Control and management: Cultural



- Community involvement can broaden the scope of disruption strategies beyond law and child protection services
- Treatment responses for adults are not necessarily relevant for young people with sexually harmful behaviour
- Culturally appropriate, community-based treatment services involving family/caregivers in New Zealand and Australia found improved engagement



## Control and management: Structural



- UK has strong legislation and policy for sexual offenders but little evidence on effectiveness of civil orders
- Resources and monitoring mainly focused on high risk, convicted, male offenders
- Attention moving to lower risk, unconvicted in UK, Sweden and Germany
- Registration, public notification schemes and residency restrictions did not reduce reoffending in USA and may work against rehabilitation into communities



# Control and management: Structural



- Sexual offender treatment outcomes more likely to be effective if targeted to specific risk and needs of offenders - the risk, need, responsivity approach
- Some promising results from restorative justice approaches and Circles of Support in Australia, Canada and the USA
- Lack evidence on effective structural responses within health, education and social work and use of sanctions within institutions



# Control and management: Professional



- There have been considerable advances in identifying offenders and victims online through national and international collaboration
- Reports show increases in online abuse reporting, victim and offender identification and site take down





# Control and management: Professional



- More research evidence was found to support Multi Systemic Therapeutic approaches with young people than for the widely used Cognitive Behavioural Treatment therapies
- Further research on management of young people with sexually harmful behaviour within the education system is needed
- While peer abuse is a common experience, little evidence on effective responses was found here



# Case study – client engagement



*In depth interviews with sexually abusive youth and their caregivers at three community treatment programmes in New Zealand found good pre-entry information reduced barriers to participation in treatment.*

*Positive engagement was also facilitated by the quality of the client–therapist relationship, family involvement, using creative and physical activities and ensuring culturally appropriate communication. Issues of cultural difference should be recognised by ensuring that cultural services for ethnic minorities are integrated into all levels of programme delivery.*



## Key messages: Control and management



- *Cultural*: Community involvement can strengthen disruption strategies. Culturally and age specific responses are needed for young people with HSB
- *Structural*: Focus on high risk, convicted offenders. Evidence treatment is mixed but more effective responses address offender risk and needs
- *Financial*: Work is needed on financial implications of different control and management approaches
- *Professional and political*: More research on effective responses to peer abuse required

