



East Glasgow
Community Health & Care Partnership

NHSGG&C Specialist Children's Services

Forensic Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service

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RISK ASSESSMENT

Jordan McCourt DOB 16.10.92 CHI 6536
c/o Kibble School, Goudie Street, Paisley PA3 2LG

Jordan was assessed By Lorraine Crawford Forensic Social Worker. She was assisted by Jim Hoskins Trainee Psychologist. The author has expertise in undertaking risk assessments. In addition the author has also completed specialist training in the treatment of youths who sexually offend.

It should be noted that this report has been completed using the Estimated Risk of Adolescent Sexual Offence Recidivism (ERASOR) (Worling and Curwen 2001). Forensic research and practice guidelines indicate that structured professional judgment is the approach of choice in risk assessments.

There is considerable controversy concerning the best approach to conducting risk assessments with sexual offenders. Everyone agrees that evaluators should consider valid risk factors and that evaluations based on multiple sources of information are more likely to be reliable than those based on a single source (particularly when the source is the offender). Disagreement arises however on the best method of combining risk factors in comprehensive evaluations. Many of these debates will remain active pending future research (Hanson) (For the Treatment of Sexual Abusers 2000)

The writer and Jim Hoskinson meet with: Mother (Mary McCourt), Cornelius Ehimiage (social worker), Jim Seymour (Key Worker), Subject.

Social work records were also consulted

Behaviour at Interview

Jordan presented as relaxed though wary as to the nature of the interview which was perfectly normal given the details that were being discussed. He was able to sustain a meeting of approximately 45 minutes during which time the following were present:

- Writer
- Jim Hoskinson
- Jim Seymour

Given the smallness of the room in which he was being interviewed and the number of people present Jordan remained calm throughout. It should be noted that Jordan's Key Worker was present at Jordan's insistence.

Account of Offence

Jordan mother claimed that approximately 3 years ago she walked into the bedroom and found Jordan lying on top of his younger sister who was approximately aged 1 at the time simulating sex. It should be noted that Jordan was fully clothed at the time and his sister was also clothed and asleep. There is further documentation with in social work records that there were two separate incidents of Jordan having used sexualized language to girls approximately aged 5 years and 9 years. The police were informed of these incidents but no further action was taken due to lack of evidence.

Jordan for his part denies that he simulated sex with his younger sister though admits that he was lying in the bed next to her. Further he also denied having made sexually inappropriate language to two young girls, though stated that it was his younger brother Ryan who had used in appropriate language.

Relevant Early Background

Jordan is the second eldest of 6 children there being one older brother two younger brother and two younger sisters. Jordan's family reside in a multi storey in area of high deprivation. At times whilst in the home and within the local area I feel it fair to say that Jordan's behaviour was challenging and mum struggled to controls not only Jordan but also his other siblings. Jordan and his younger brother spent short periods of time in care returning home only to be moved again. Jordan has now spent over two years in care. Throughout the years mum has described Jordan as being hyper often truanting from school and presenting adverse behaviours with in the community eventually cumulating in him being excluded permanently from mainstream education and having a number of referrals to the children panel.

Jordan was assessed for and diagnosed as having ADHD and was prescribed medication for his condition. This appeared to have positive benefits

Jordan was initially placed Airth Drive Children's unit 2004 were again his behaviour was challenging. Due to these behaviours he was placed Kibble Education and Care Centre August 2005. Since that time there has been a positive improvement in his behaviour though there has been the odd altercation.

Assessment

The following details evidence and scoring of the individual risk factors related to sexually inappropriate behaviour.

Deviant Sexual interests

Not Present

Adolescents who are sexually aroused by younger children and/or sexual violence are more likely to be at risk of committing subsequent sexual offences (Worthing & Curwen 2000)

Since the reported sexual incidents which were over 2 years ago there have been no more reported incidents. It should also be noted that Jordan denies any involvement in inappropriate sexual behaviour.

Obsessive Sexual Interests

Possibly Present

Adolescent sexual offenders who demonstrate obsessive sexual interests and who are preoccupied with sexual thoughts, behaviours or gestures are most likely at greater risk of further sexual assaults. Furthermore, authors of existing risk-assessments checklists/guidelines for adolescent sexual offenders note that assault supportive attitudes such as victim blame and the belief that sexual assaults are not wrong or harmful are indicators of higher risk (Calder et al Epps, 1997; Perry & Orchard 1992; Plenkty et al, 2000).

Jordan denies any wrong doing though several sources including his mother state that Jordan has uses sexual inappropriate language and sexual inappropriate language to more than one young girl.

Attitudes Supportive of Sexual Offending**Not Present**

Adolescents with history of sexual offences who believe that sexual assaults are "invited", "desired", "harmless" or otherwise "welcomed" by victims are most likely to continue committing sexual assaults (Calder et al; 1997; Epps, 1997; Perry and Orchard 1992; Prentky et al; 2000)>

Jordan displays no deviant sexual interests. This is born at by his key worker and other staff within the unit which Jordan currently resides with in Kibble.

Unwillingness to Alter Deviant Sexual Interests/Attitudes**Not Present****Ever Sexually 2 or More Victims****Present**

Adolescents who have committed sexual offences against 2 or more victims are most likely at higher risk of re-offending than those adolescents who have committed offences against a single victim. Research regarding this factor is quite consistent. Specifically Rasmussen (1999) found that a number of female victims were sufficiently related to sexual re-offences

Ever sexually assaulted the same victim 2 or more times**Possibly Present**

Jordan denies ever having any sexual contact with his younger sister. Various sources i.e. social worker home career workers state that mum advised them of two separate occasions where Jordan had lain on top of his sister and stimulated sex. Once within the family home and once within his grandmother's home.

Ever Sexually Assaulted the Same Victim 2 or More Times**Possibly Present**

As stated previously.

Threat of or Use of Excessive Violence / Weapons During Sexual Offence**Not Present**

There were no reports that any coercion was used in the reported offences.

Ever Assaulted a Child**Present**

Adolescents who have ever assaulted a prepubescent child are more likely at risk of continued sexual assaults. In their check lists of risk factors Ross & Loss (1991) suggested that offenders who chose young children are at higher risk to re-offend

The ages of the girls Jordan is reported to have acted inappropriately with were aged 1, 5 and 9 Jordan would have been approximately 10 at the time

Ever Sexually Assaulted a Stranger**Possibly Present**

It was reported that Jordan knew 2 of his victims however 3rd victim was unknown to him

Indiscriminate Choice of Victims**Present**

Adolescents who have committed sexual offences against both males and females or against individuals both within and outside of family relationships, or against known and stranger victims, or against victims of a variety of ages (i.e. children and peer/adults) are likely at a higher risk of to re-offend

As documented Jordan is alleged to have committed offences against 3 separate victims.

Diverse Sexual-Assault Behaviours

Possibly Present

It has been reported that Jordan simulated sex and also used verbalized sexual assault on his victims

Antisocial Interpersonal Orientation

Not Present

Adolescent sexual offenders who display an antisocial interpersonal orientation are more likely to be at higher risk of further sexual offences

There have been no reports of any inappropriate sexualised behaviour in recent months.

Lack of intimate peer relationships/social isolation

Not Present

With out intimate peer relationships adolescents are likely to feel lonely and isolated and they may turn to children and or forced sex peers/adults when they desire sexual interactions. Although there is no evidence for a link between broadly defined "social" difficulties and sexual recidivism (Khan & Chambers, 1991; Worling & Curwen, 2000a) it is more likely that the more specific social deficit-inability to form and maintain an emotionally intimate relationship with a peer is related to risk of further sexual assaults.

Jordan has an age appropriate relationship and various friendships amongst his peers.

Negative Peer Associations and Influences

Not Present

Whilst it may be felt that Jordan's current residential placement may bring him into contact with peers that who engage in antisocial behaviours I would venture to say that Jordan does not seek out peers out with his setting with a view to engage in adverse behaviours

Interpersonal Aggression

Not Present

Adolescent sexual offenders who have demonstrated a pattern of interpersonal aggression-in addition to their sexual offence(s) are most likely at higher risk of committing further sexual offences. Adolescents who are aggressive and hurtful towards others may have learned to cope with personal difficulties by relaying on aggressive behaviours. (Bremer, 1998; Epps 1997; Perry and Orchard, 1992; Prentky et al; 2000; Ross & Loss 1991; Wenet & Clark, 1986)

Staff at Kibble speak of a well adjusted and in the main settled and happy young person who acts age appropriately having the normal behaviours of an adolescent. Whilst it may have been true in the past Jordan does not seek to settle any problems he may have by use of force or violence.

Recent Escalation in Anger or Negative Effect

Not Present

As before

Poor Self Regulation or affect and behaviour (impulsivity)

Not Present

As detailed before Jordan was diagnosed as having ADHD for which he was prescribed medication which appears to have a positive effect on his adverse behaviours. I would also venture to say that Jordan has also responded in a positive manner to having structures and boundaries that are in place within the setting were he currently resides.

High Stress Family Environment

It should be noted that Jordan's family in the main are chaotic and involved in criminal activities. Both parents (step father and mother) have served prison sentences and in the past have supported thinking that endorses criminal activities i.e. drug dealing. Other children within the home have also been involved in adverse activities within their local area, fighting racial aggression, graffiti, damage to property etc. However as noted before Jordan is now removed from these pressures and his behaviour has improved dramatically.

Problematic Parent –Offender Relationship / Parental Rejection Not Present

Despite the fact Jordan does not currently reside within the family home both parents remain supportive of Jordan and maintain contact Whilst mum states she would like Jordan to return to the family home admits that it would not be a good environment at this time and it would not be beneficial for his long term future.

Parent(s) not supporting sexual-offence-specific assessment / treatment Not Present

Mum co-operated with the preparation of this report and as stated before support Jordan's current placement as being the place to support Jordan at this present time.

Environment supporting opportunities to re-offend sexually Not Present

Epps (1997) and Ross and Loss (1991) suggested that adolescent offenders who are provided unsupervised access to potential victims are at greater risk to re-offend sexually. Prentky et al (2000) suggested that a highly unstable environment characterized by such factors as abuse, substance use poor boundaries and pornography is likely to higher risk of recidivism.

Whilst Jordan home setting has been characterized with some of the aforementioned risk factors Jordan is currently with a setting that imposes boundaries which as stated before Jordan responds well to.

No Development or practice of realistic prevention/plans Possibly Present

In their risk prediction checklist, Perry and Orchard (1992) noted that offenders who have little awareness of offence-prevention strategies are at heightened risk to re-offend sexually. Prentky et al (2000) suggested that offenders who demonstrate a poor understanding of their offence chain and therefore unable to identify triggers or high markers are at higher risk of re-offending sexually. Justin does not acknowledge ever having behaved in a sexually inappropriate manner verbally or physically.

Incomplete sexual offence specific treatment Present

Adolescent sexual offenders who have yet to complete sexual offence specific treatment are likely at higher risk to re-offend sexually than those offenders who have completed treatment. Recent research has demonstrated that those adolescent sexual offenders who participated in comprehensive treatment that combined family relation ship component along with sexual offence specific interventions were less likely to commit further sexual and non sexual offences (Borduin et al; 1990 Worling & Curwen 2000) To date there has been no specific work undertaken relating to sexual offences.

Conclusion

Jordan is young person who early years were characterized by unstable family environment i.e. Frequent moves chaotic home environment no clear boundaries,

inappropriate use of sanctions regarding his adverse behaviour in short no consistent parenting.

This has led to Jordan being removed from the family home which at this time has benefited his well being. That said it should be noted that family still remain supportive of him and are attempting to moderate their behaviours that has a negative effect on each other.

Jordan denies that he has ever committed any sexually inappropriate behaviour though he was able to admit that he has committed other acts of inappropriate behaviours i.e. fighting assaulting other children, out with control of his parents.

This has led to him being accommodated. In the beginning this appeared to exacerbate his behaviour.

Behaviours rather than alleviate them however since being accommodated there has been a vast improvement in his behaviours.

Home environment in the main has continued to be chaotic though there is evidence that both parents are attempting to modify their adverse behaviours and create a more balanced approach to parenting. Mum for her part acknowledges that her negative experiences as a child have impinged on her ability to parent effectively and this is an area she needs to address in order for her to move on. It was mum that intentionally advised social work of her Jordan's sexually inappropriate behaviour towards his younger sister which must have been difficult for her.

Lorraine Crawford
Forensic Social Worker