

Criminal Justice Services
ASSESSING HIGH RISK OFFENDERS (SWSG RA4 Form)

NAME: Richard Leon	REF NUMBER: XXX
DATE: xx/xx/xx within a month of conviction.	SOCIAL WORKER: Prison Social Worker

OFFENCE:

Mr Leon was convicted of 4 charges of Lewd, Indecent and Libidinous Practices and Behaviour Contrary to Civic Government Act 1982. The victims were his nieces aged 6 and 9 years and two of their friends aged 7 and 10 years. The Indictment states that he induced the children to remove their clothing and expose themselves. Exposed his private member to them and induced them to take photographs etc.

Scottish Criminal Record Office information indicates a previous conviction for Lewd and Libidinous behaviour when Mr Leon was 16 yrs. He claims to have no memory of the offence and it has not been possible to obtain any information about the offence from records.

When assessing the risk of harm we are considering:

- the **behaviour** that is of concern
- the **likelihood** of that behaviour occurring
- the **circumstances** in which the harmful behaviour might occur
- the **degree of harm** that might be caused
- **who** might be harmed.

Information required

If, at the time of the initial assessment of risk of harm (Form 1835), full information about the offence and previous behaviour was not available, this information should now be sought and RA4 updated. Where information is absent this should be noted together with the reasons why.

When completing this form **Indicate sources of information and their reliability, accuracy and validity.**

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Describe and detail current offence(s) and characteristics. *Where there has been a previous serious offence, particularly of a different nature this should also be described.*

What actually occurred immediately before, during and after the event?
 Where and when?
 Who was present and involved?
 Any weapons, poisons or chemicals used?
 Any unusual/bizarre aspects?
 Was it planned or impulsive, details of planning?
 What triggered the offence and what were the reasons the offender gave at the time?
 The offender's thoughts and feelings before, during and after the event?
 The offender's attitude to the offence(s) and victim(s) at the time of the offence

Mr Leon had returned to live with his parents following the breakup of his marriage. He frequently babysat his nieces at weekends while their mother [his sister] went shopping with their parents. He had previously induced his two nieces to remove their clothing and “pose” for him. On this occasion they had two friends around to play with them. The children were all female aged 6,7,9, and 10years. They were playing in the garden when he invited them to his bedroom as “it had more room” and induced them to remove their clothing and expose themselves while he took photographs. He then exposed himself to them.

Mr Leon said that the children were dressed in skimpy clothes and were very provocative. He said it was “ just harmless fun” He thought the children were “leading him on” and enjoyed the experience.

Later that day the 10 year old told her mother about the photographs and she immediately contacted the police. All of the children gave similar accounts of what happened to the police. Mr Leon did not deny his behaviour. His sister and parents demanded that he leave immediately and he moved into B+B accommodation.

Analyse current and previous offences

Sadistic or explosive rage.
 Victim(s) random or targeted.
 Victim(s) groomed/stalked.
 Degree of planning and preparation.
 Unnecessary violence/aggravating features.
 Power and control factors eg the desire to have their own way.
 Victim characteristics eg gender, race, age or occupation.
 Triggers/reasons.

There is evidence that Mr Leon groomed his nieces over the time that he lived with his parents. He frequently bought them sweets and toys and played computer games with them. Although he and his sister had never been friendly with each other he went out of his way to be helpful to her and was always anxious to “give her a break” by babysitting. She is a single parent on a low income and he also loaned her a large sum of money.

Prior to abusing the children he frequently nagged them about their “bad manners” or “untidiness “in order to control them. They would then respond by being anxious to please him. The abuse of the children’s friends appears to have been impulsive as there is no evidence that he had any influence on their presence that day.

Mr Leon acknowledges feeling frustrated and angry before the offences because of communication from his ex-wife’s lawyer regarding a claim for a share of his assets.

Analyse offending patterns

Similar to previous offences in terms of type of offence, victim and circumstances?
 Other non-violent offences and any patterns and connections.
 Serial or single offender.
 Particular triggers or reasons.
 Escalation of offending/seriousness.

Mr Leon has one previous conviction for Lewd and Libidinous Behaviour when he was 16yrs. There is no information available regarding this offence and he claims to have no recollection of it. However the nature of this offence indicates that the victim would have been a child. There is evidence of escalation in this offence as it involved children whom he had not had opportunity to groom previously and also appears [according to his nieces] to be the first time he exposed himself.

Assess offender's attitude to offending (now)

Denial, blaming, indifferent, justified.
 Offender indicates that repetition is likely.
 Offender's understanding of seriousness of behaviour and why it is wrong.

Mr Leon continues to minimise the seriousness of his behaviour and is still blaming of his victims. He stated that there is no possibility of a repetition because he does not wish to return to prison. Mr Leon now understands that his behaviour was serious but this seems to be only due to his sentence. He shows no understanding of why his behaviour was wrong nor of the harm done to the children.

Assess attitude to others

Degree of empathy.
 Hatred of other groups eg ethnic minorities.
 Need for control and domination.
 Family relationships.
 Isolation.
 Jealousy or unrealistic attachments.

Mr Leon seems capable of showing empathy for others and has been supportive to other members of the sex offender groupwork programme. He seems anxious about being rejected by his family and is very concerned about how his friends will respond to knowledge about his offending. However he shows no empathy for his victims. Mr Leon appears to have been extremely controlling in his relationship with his wife. He also demonstrated this in his relationship with his nieces and generally expresses the view that women cannot be trusted. Mr Leon seems to lack any meaningful friendships with anyone and will be quite isolated on his release from prison. He has not expressed any hatred of other groups.

Consider *mental health issues*. Indicate if the offender has been diagnosed as having a specific mental health problem or whether you suspect that she/he might have one.

Specified mental illness.

History of psychiatric intervention.

Response to medication/treatment.

Low intelligence or low emotional intelligence.

Stress.

Delusions and fantasies.

Paranoia.

Depression.

Obsessions - weapons, pornographic sexual/violent material.

Mr Leon shows no evidence of mental health problems.

Consider *substance misuse*

Presence or absence.

Significance in terms of offence (under the influence, offence committed to purchase).

Previous response to treatment.

Mr Leon has no history of substance misuse

Making judgements

The factors listed above can only act as a prompt for consideration and weight given to each factor will depend on the offender and the offence. In making judgements about risk of harm, social workers should consider the following:

Risk of reoffending

General risk of reoffending (RA1).

Risk of specific serious offences being repeated, based on analysis of offending patterns.

Likely frequency of serious offence being committed.

Risk Matrix 2000 indicates a high risk of reoffending.

Risk of what?

What behaviour is of concern (be specific).

Mr Leon's failure to understand his responsibility for his behaviour and of the harm done is of concern.

Who is at risk?

Specified or unspecified individuals/groups.

Prepubescent female children

*Under what circumstances?****What are the consequences? Children may be sexually abused.***The likely degree of harm.
Who would be affected?***Mr Leon should not have unsupervised contact with prepubescent female children.****Under what circumstances?*The likely triggers.
Risky situations or circumstances.***When Mr Leon feels that he is not in control of his situation he becomes angry and frustrated.***

What factors (personal and environmental) could increase the risks?

Being allowed unsupervised contact with children. Feeling out of control.

What factors (personal and environmental) could decrease the risks?

Never being alone with children.
Gaining more understanding of offence “triggers” and how to manage this.
Learning how to develop adult relationships.

What action is needed to reduce risk?

What criminogenic needs can be addressed?

Mr Leon should continue to attend the groupwork programme to gain understanding of his offending cycle, the moods, thinking, situations, events, and disinhibitors that allow him to offend and develop a clear strategy to avoid reoffending.

What action can the offender take or the supervising officer take with the offender?

The supervising officer should keep abreast of Mr Leon's progress on the groupwork programme and reinforce his learning. The supervising officer should help Mr Leon develop a safety plan taking account of the moods, feelings, thinking errors, situations, places, events and disinhibitors, that allow Mr Leon to offend and develop a coping strategy for each risk factor. Together they should ensure that he is familiar with the content of the plan and able to implement it. The supervising officer should also assist Mr Leon to develop a support network.
The supervising officer will also indicate additional conditions to his extended sentence licence.

What action can others take eg police, health or child protection professionals?

Mr Leon will require to register with the police and will be placed on the sex offender register. The police will complete a risk assessment and will visit Mr Leon at his home. Police, child protection professionals, supervising officer and any other relevant agencies or professionals will meet to share information and develop a risk management plan.

Changing the environment eg. moving house/area?

Mr Leon will be homeless on his release. He is however in a position to rent or buy in the private sector. His supervising officer will wish to ensure that his chosen accommodation is suitable and is likely to ask for an additional condition to his licence" that he live only at accommodation approved by his supervising officer.

NEXT STEPS

Who needs to be informed of the risk?

Social Work Children and Families Team where the victims reside. [Circ 18]

Who will take a lead responsibility in risk management?

The Supervising Officer

What will happen next?

Risk assessment will be updated prior to release and a risk management case conference convened that will include the police and social work sex offender liaison officers, prison social worker, children and family social worker, supervising officer and any other relevant professionals.