

Introduction

Risk of serious harm (RoSH) is defined as

“the likelihood of harmful behaviour of a violent or sexual nature, which is life threatening and/or traumatic, and from which recovery, whether physical or psychological, may reasonably be expected to be difficult or impossible”

It is of central importance generally (and specifically in relation to the anticipated extension of MAPPA) that the practice process for the assessment of risk accurately and defensibly identifies those who pose a risk of serious harm. At the same time, the process needs to be dynamic and responsive to change.

From a sample of 22,785 assessments (July 2015) we can consider evaluations about the focus of case management, including decisions about the need for an assessment of risk of serious harm (RoSH).



The RMA had a close involvement in the introduction of the LS/CMI in Scotland and in designing the RoSH material. Evaluating its use is a priority issue for the organisation.

The Practice Process

Identify

risk/need and other factors

Analyse

the pattern, nature, seriousness and likelihood of offending

Evaluate

against the RoSH criteria

Conclude

Review

Routine case management

Awareness of risk

Intensive case management

Attentive to risk

Further assessment of RoSH

Detailed scrutiny of pattern, nature, seriousness and likelihood, and imminence of offending, evaluate against the RoSH criteria to identify those who meet the criteria (9.3.3)

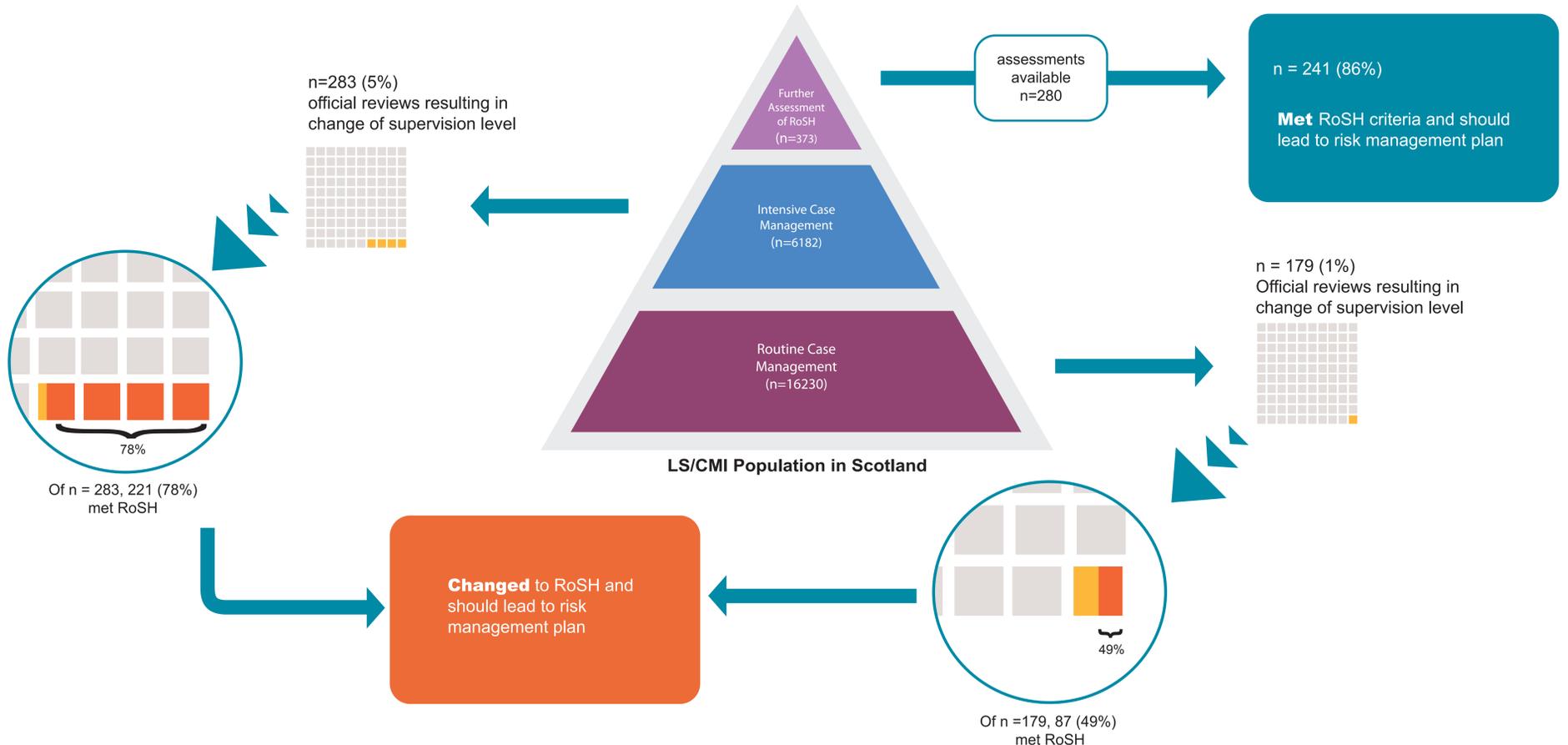
Yes

Develop risk management plan

No

Revert to appropriate level of case management

What happened in practice - the conclusion stage of LS/CMI



What does this tell us about practice?

Risk assessment is a dynamic process: the evaluations and conclusions of 7.3.2 of the LS/CMI are therefore subject to on-going review.

When practitioners conclude that a RoSH assessment is needed, in 86% of cases they subsequently deem that the criteria are met. This may indicate that practitioners are identifying the critical few who need elevated levels of supervision

The practice process is dynamic and open to review. The data clearly show that practitioners adhere to the process and where new information comes to light, practitioners review their conclusions.



Risk Management Authority

<http://www.rmascotland.gov.uk>