



The Importance of Evaluation

Introduction

Working in partnership with all Criminal Justice Social Work Services, evaluation has underpinned the various stages of implementation in Scotland. This has included the initial pilot and then the learning evaluation focused on the the initial impact of training on practice.

Based on data gathered from all local authorities in Scotland (2010 – 2013), the RMA published a national report on the use of the LS/CMI in 2014 (see website). Findings reflected distributions and frequencies akin to those in Canada.

However, in-depth analysis identified three areas that merit further investigation:-

- (1) LS/CMI strength information.
- (2) the relationship between risk and supervision levels.
- (3) a detailed examination of case management decisions (routine vs intensive vs RoSH).

Questions Arising

- (1) What is the utility of strength information as recorded on the LS/CMI?
- (2) A detailed examination of the supervision intensity and risk/needs levels
- (3) Do the factors in case assessment support a risk of serious harm conclusion?

What it is



Why



Focus



What we will be doing



Strengths



Strengths are positive traits or circumstances that can make an individual more resilient to adversity.

Strengths disincite an individual from offending due to their value to him or her and therefore they have a valuable role in promoting desistance.

The LS/CMI provides an opportunity to identify client strengths that may promote desistance.

Further analysis of how strengths are scored may support practitioners in their application of the method.

The scoring of strengths within the LS/CMI method and the implications for practice

Profile LS/CMI data in relation to strengths.

Compare strengths with risk & needs levels.

Examine how strengths are incorporated in case management plans.

Supervision



Supervision is a means by which a relationship is established with the individual, to ensure that the individual is engaged in a process of change and compliance.

Understanding the profile of those being supervised may support practitioners in their application of the method and agencies in their development of services.

Examine whether supervision decisions conform to the principles of RNR

Describe distributions & links between risks, needs and supervision intensity.

Place findings within a national context.

RoSH



Risk of Serious Harm (RoSH) is 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.

Examining the risk / need profiles of those identified as meeting the criteria for RoSH vs others.

What are the risk/need profiles of specific groups within RoSH?

Rationale for identifying individuals as posing risk of serious harm

Establish profile of RoSH cases.

Focus on demographics, risks, needs and strengths distributions

Future Directions

In addition to the above analysis, the RMA and Social Work Scotland continue to collaborate on future evaluation. This will focus on determining the extent to which case management and risk management plans are delivered in line with our agreed standards of practice. With the support of Social Work Scotland and the Scottish Government the RMA would aim to further evaluate effectiveness in terms of the impact on reoffending.



Risk Management Authority

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