

Introduction

Not for the first time, there is current high level of interest and concern about women in prison in Scotland.

At this time there is a dual concern to reduce the number of women in prison, and to redesign the custodial estate for women.

To do this, an understanding of the needs that contribute to women's offending is necessary.

In order to guide intervention and service design, can we identify who are:

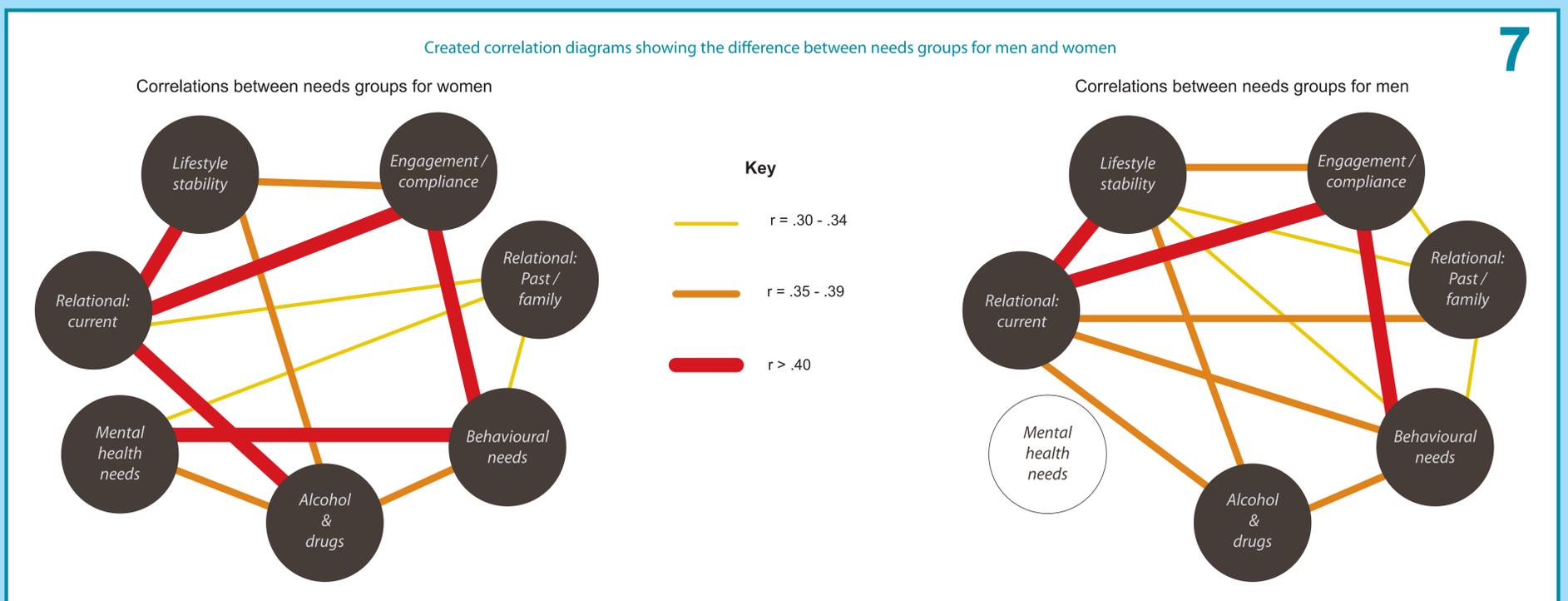
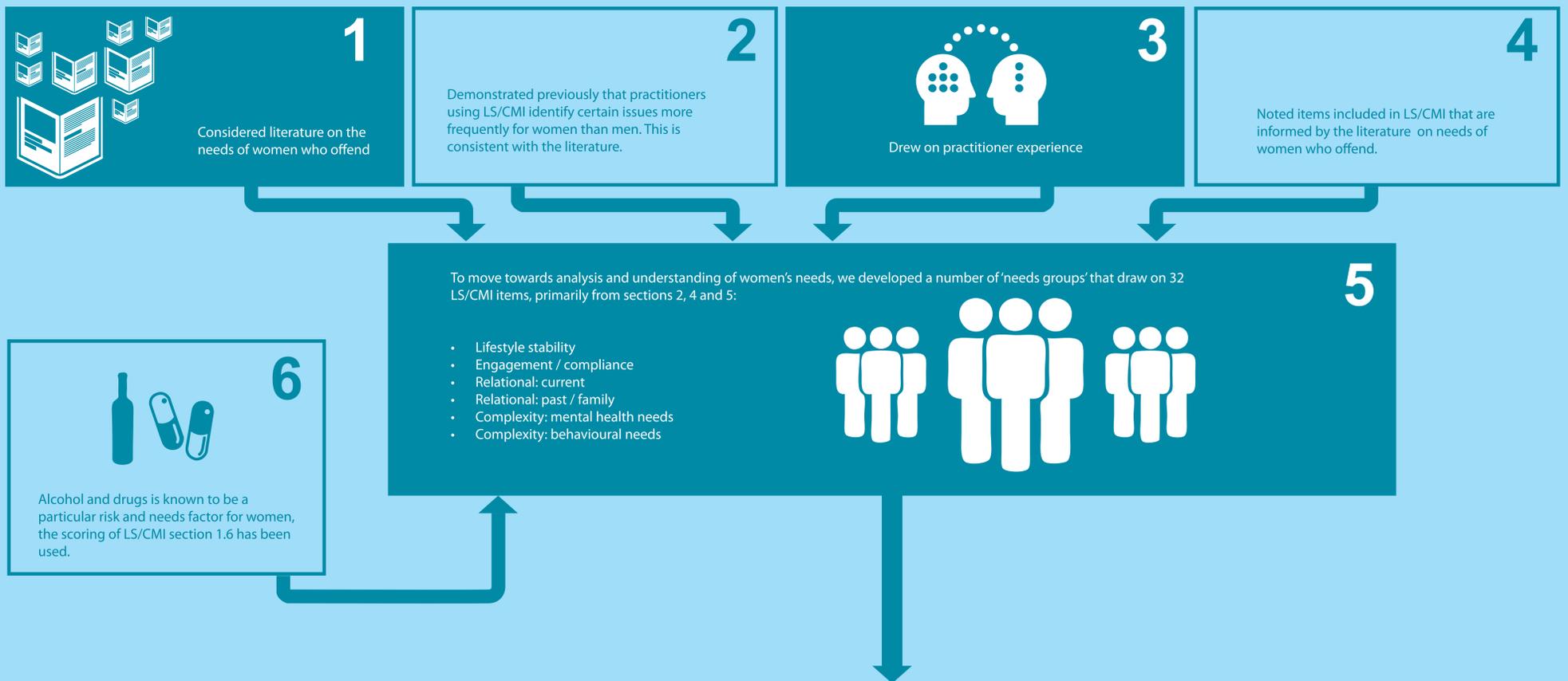
- lacking in human and social capital
- vulnerable
- complex
- challenging?

Questions Arising

The FRAME practice process emphasises identification, analysis and evaluation as key components of risk assessment. Can we apply this approach to the analysis of needs?

Can we move on from using the LS/CMI to identify gender-responsive items to analysing what this means about women's needs?

What we did first



What do these diagrams mean?

The strength of the relationships in **RED** is moderate ($r_s > .40$) (Martin & Bridgemon, 2012). This means for example that a statistically significant proportion of the variance of drug and alcohol issues is explained by current problems in relationships ($r_s = .447, p < .001$). All correlations displayed in diagram 1 (women) and diagram 2 (men) are statistically significant, that is the coefficients are significantly different from zero ($p < .001$) with Bonferroni Correction applied. Practically, this means that the different factors are interrelated, i.e. those with more vulnerabilities in one needs factor are likely to report more vulnerabilities in other needs factors.

Conclusion

While both men and women seem to experience a multitude of vulnerabilities across different factors, the relationships between women's needs factors are more complex and more intertwined than those amongst men. The question then arises whether these factors might differ across gender.