

Name of Tool	Sexually Harmful Adolescent Risk Assessment Protocol (SHARP)
Category	Youth Assessment: Sexual Violence Risk (Awaiting Validation)
Author / Publisher	Richardson
Year	2009

### Description

- The SHARP has been updated and is now a 62-item structured assessment tool that evaluates sexually harmful behaviour of male adolescents aged between 12 and 19 years.
- The tool is appropriate for use with young persons diagnosed with learning disabilities or other psychiatric disorders ([Richardson, 2009](#)).
- The tool is appropriate for use in community and secure settings ([Richardson, 2009](#)).
- The SHARP is intended for use by a range of professionals involved in the assessment or case management of youth who display sexually harmful behaviours such as psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers and criminal justice professionals
- The formulation of risk of the individual is characterised as 'low,' 'moderate' and 'high.'

### Age Appropriateness

12-19

### Assessor Qualifications

The tool is intended to be utilised by a range of professional groups who are involved in the assessment and case management of sexually harmful young people.

No further information pertaining to assessor qualifications.

### Tool Development

- The SHARP was developed in the UK and is a derivative of the former Risk Assessment Matrix (RAM) which was devised by the author of the SHARP. It was subject to empirical evaluation in respect of sexual re-offending (see [Christodoulidies et al., 2005](#)).
- The measure is guided by the Structured Professional Judgement (SPJ) approach and the Risk, Need, Responsivity (RNR) Principle ([Andrews and Bonta, 2010](#)). The conceptual foundation of the SHARP is that sexually harmful behaviour is linked with and dependent upon the sexual development of the young person ([Richardson, 2009](#)).
- Items present in the tool have been derived from clinical and empirical knowledge of risk assessment and child and adolescent general development.
- To date, there have been no validation studies on this measure; although the measure was not intended to predict risk for sexual recidivism ([Richardson, 2009](#)).

## General Notes

- The SHARP acts as a guide for the case management process; however, it does not generate probabilities of reconviction or predict sexual reoffending.
- Author advises that the tool is in use at three NHS forensic adolescent mental health services (Richardson, personal communication, January 2012).
- For more information, the author can be contacted via email: [graeme.richardson@ntw.nhs.uk](mailto:graeme.richardson@ntw.nhs.uk)