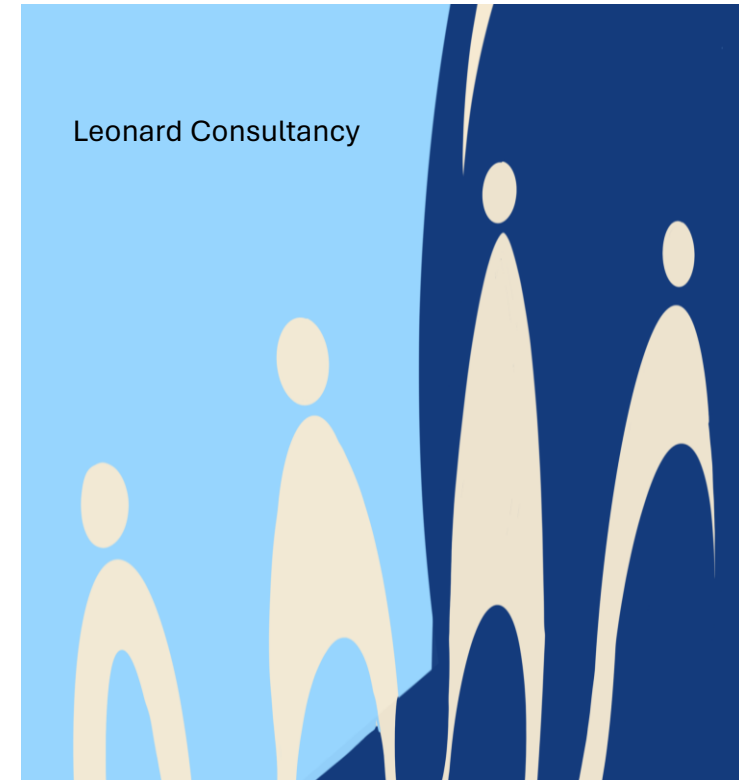
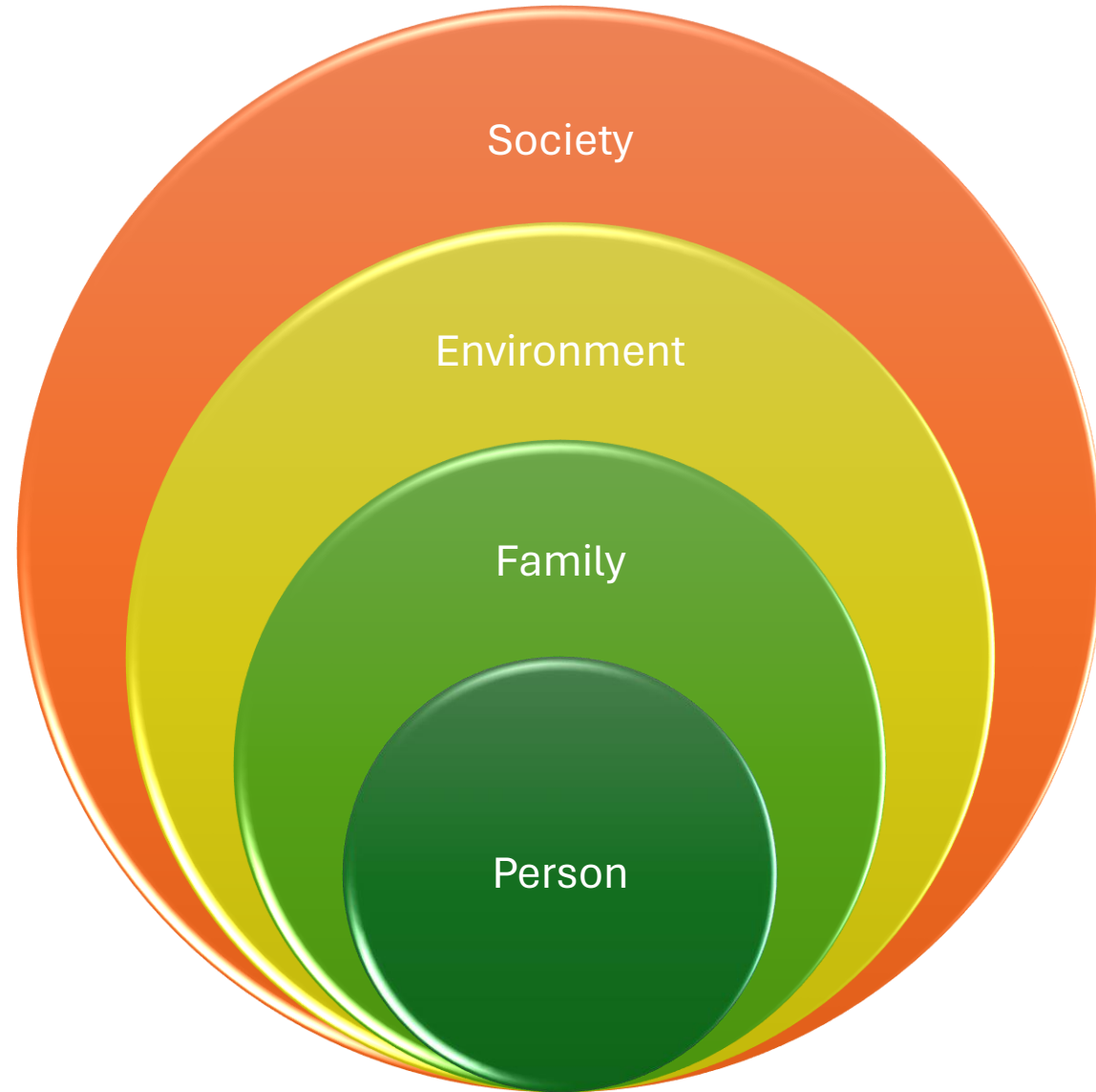


# *Safeguarding Sexual Behaviour*

*Marcella Leonard MBE*





Experienced  
Observed Taught

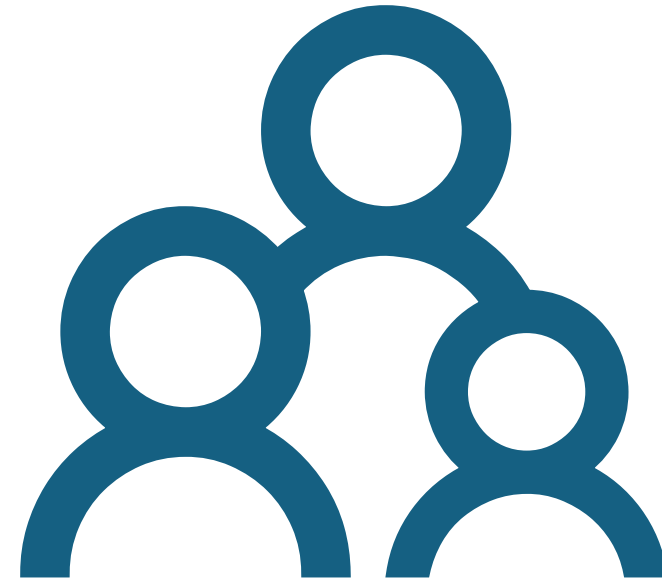
# Health , Disability and Sex

# Sexuality

- Gender
- Sexual orientation
- Sexual interest
- Sexual intention
- Sexual functioning

# Challenges

- Normal
- Deviant
- Disordered
- Cultural
- Societal





# ISSUES IN PRACTICE RE: SEXUAL BEHAVIOURS

- **Ethical issues:**

issues around individual rights and welfare, around public welfare, around inequality and structural oppression

- **Ethical problems:**

these arise when social worker sees the situation as involving a difficult moral decision

- **Ethical dilemmas:**

social worker is faced with a choice between two equally unwelcome alternatives which may have conflict of moral principles

# Communication of Risk





A row of white wooden blocks of varying heights, with one blue block standing upright in the center. The blocks are arranged in a line on a grey surface. The blue block is the tallest and is positioned in the middle of the row. The other blocks are white and have different heights and shapes, some leaning forward. A black rectangular box is overlaid on the image, containing the text "POSITIVE RISK TAKING - V - RISK AVERSION".

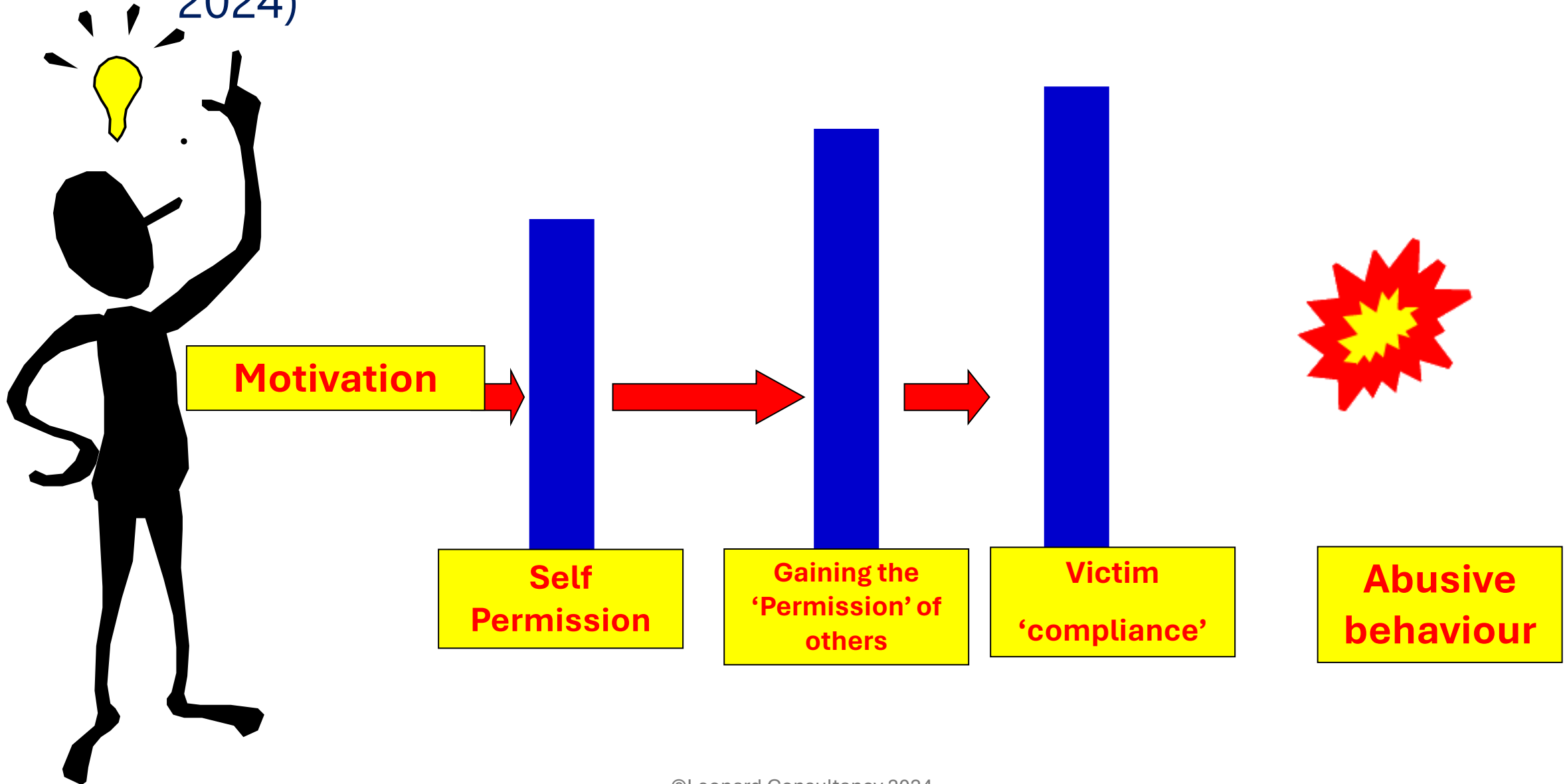
POSITIVE RISK TAKING - V - RISK AVERSION

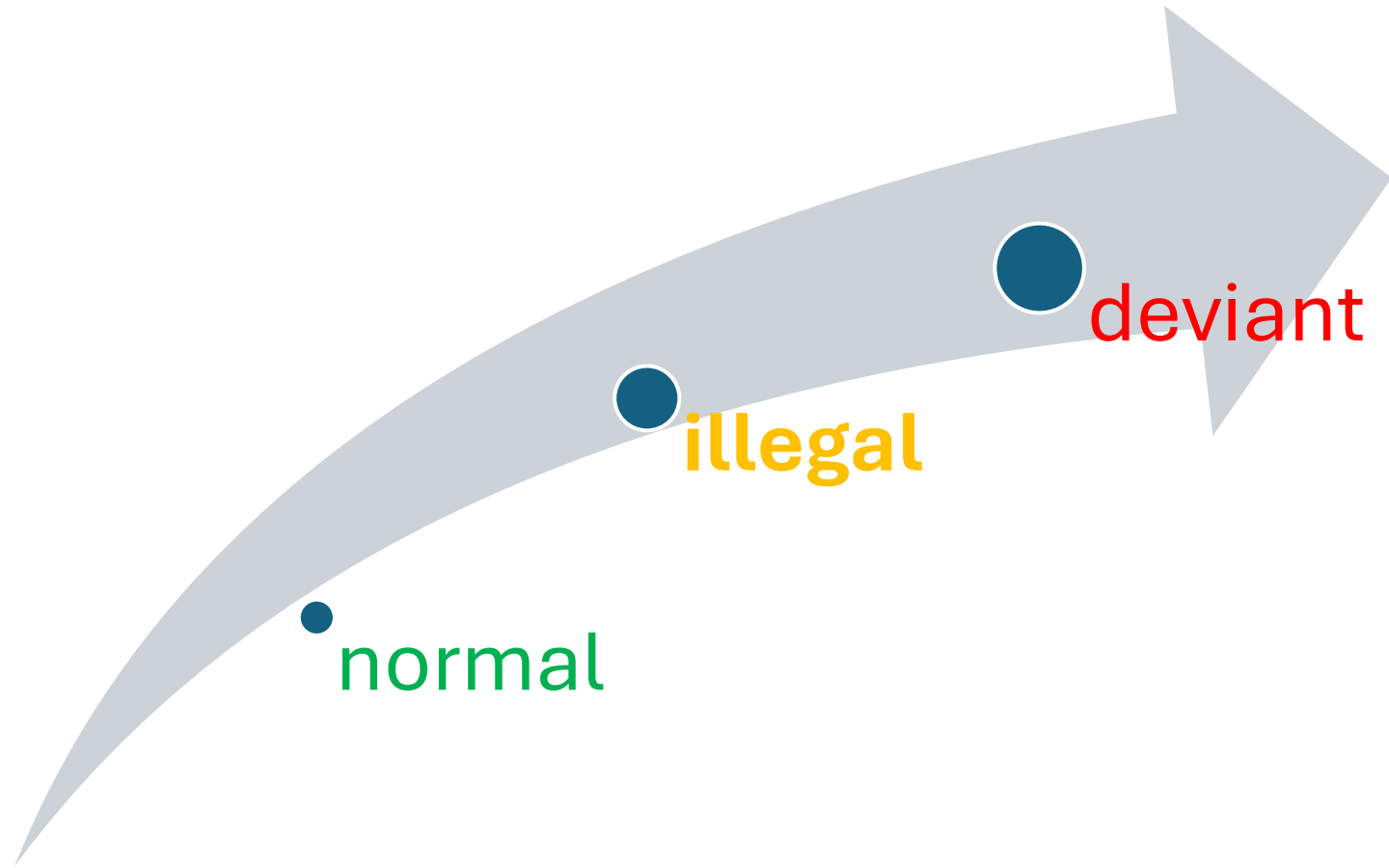
---

Risk assessment is an estimation of an individual's risk potential based on our understanding of the balance between certain conditions that we assume to be risk factors and certain other conditions that we assume to be protective factors all of which have relevance to the harm potential of the individual in question.



# FINKELHOR - Four Preconditions (adapted Leonard 2024)





# Assessment of what lies beneath?

The perceived risk

&

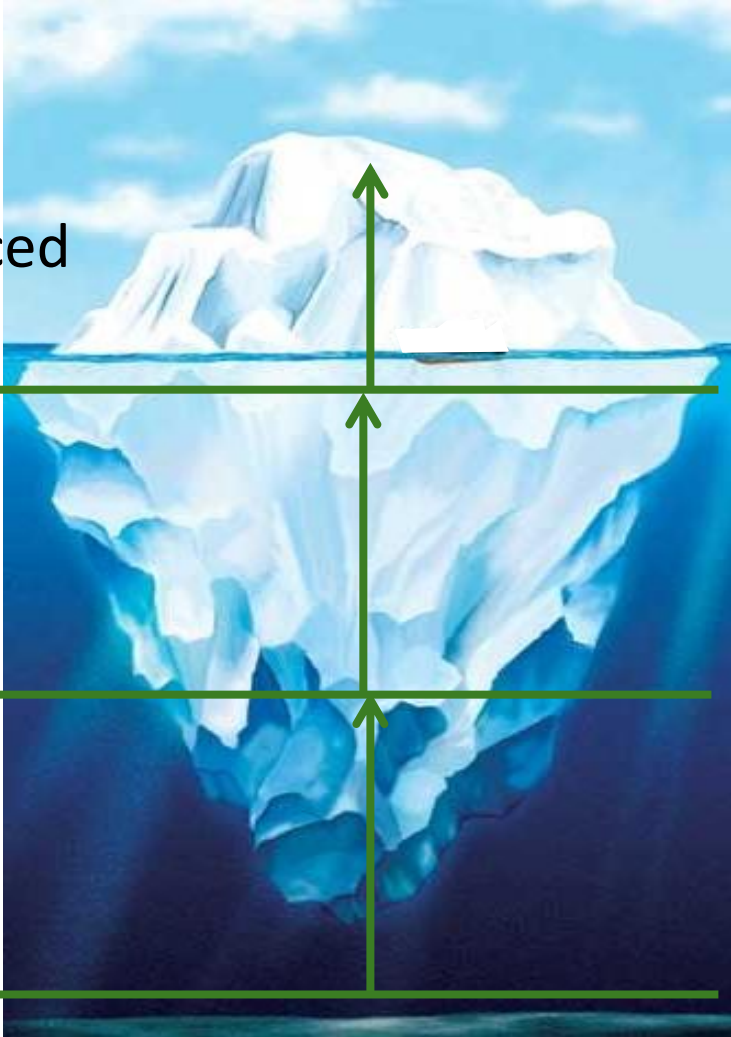
Defines the organisation  
Response

What we see  
What the victim experienced

The Conditions

The actual risk

The Drivers





STATIC – BASELINE  
RISK



DYNAMIC – INFORMED  
BY SOCIAL HISTORY



ACUTE – IMMEDIATE  
PRESENTING RISK

Risk management is the operationalisation of hypotheses derived from the risk formulation, the purpose of which is to prevent or limit potentially harmful outcomes, achieved by a combination of treatment, supervision and monitoring and, if relevant, victim safety planning.



# Challenges

- Sensory
- Behaviour without cognition
- Medication
- Sex education
- Ignore
- Over analyse
- Past trauma
- Asexual
- Staff are safe



# Investigation v Assessment

What is restrictive  
for one person is  
not for another

What is needed  
for safety today  
may not be  
needed tomorrow

# RIGHTS BASED APPROACH TO RISK ASSESSMENT / MANAGEMENT

- Fairness
- Respect
- Equality
- Dignity
- Autonomy
- Empower
- Promote independence
- Individualised

## What is Developmental Trauma?

Developmental Trauma is the term used to describe the impact of early, repeated abuse, neglect, separation and adverse experiences that happens within the child's important relationships



# The seven pieces of the Developmental Trauma puzzle are:

1. Sensory development
2. Dissociation
3. Attachment Development
4. Emotional Regulation
5. Behavioural Regulation
6. Cognition
7. Self Concept & Identity Development

## Sensory Development



In summary, many traumatised children with sensory problems cannot regulate their fear response or their body's reaction to fear; nor can they regulate their primitive bodily functions like heart rate and temperature.

So lets think what happens to these sensory memories as we get older?

As we return to childhood?



Acknowledge



Create safety



Listen to  
understand



Support



Inform  
others

# Safeguarding Sexual Behaviour

- Acknowledge sexuality
- Rights based
- Policy and Procedures in practice
- Discover – disclose
- Assess not only investigate
- Intervention not only restriction
- Recognise inappropriate – abusive behaviour
- Risk Manage
- Awareness of bias



Thank you