

# **Sex Offender Community Management in Scotland Feb 2012**

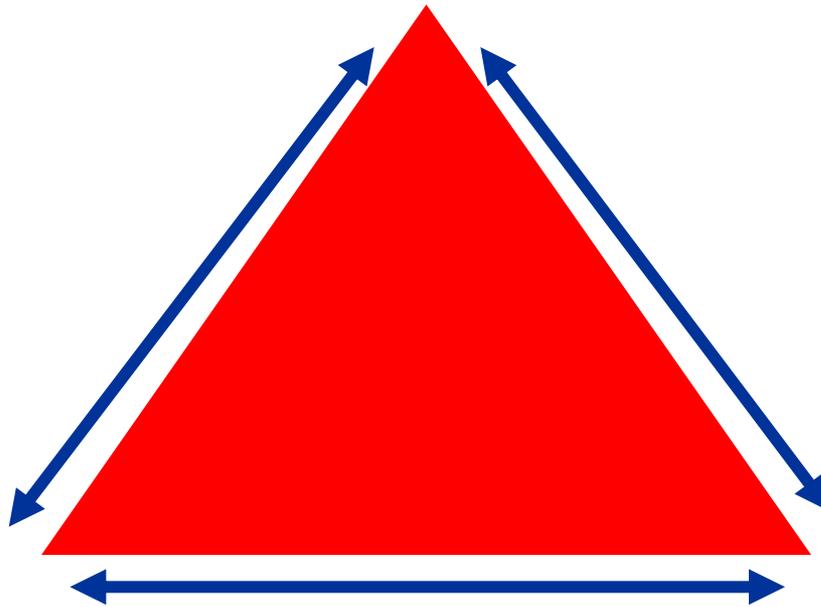
Beth Weaver

[elizabeth.fawcett@strath.ac.uk](mailto:elizabeth.fawcett@strath.ac.uk)

## AIMS

- To scope out some of the implications of desistance research for community management of sex offenders.
- Outline some key findings about what research tells us about the process of desistance and how to support it.
- Sketch out landscape of current approaches to public protection
- Discuss the potential implications of desistance and wider research for practice

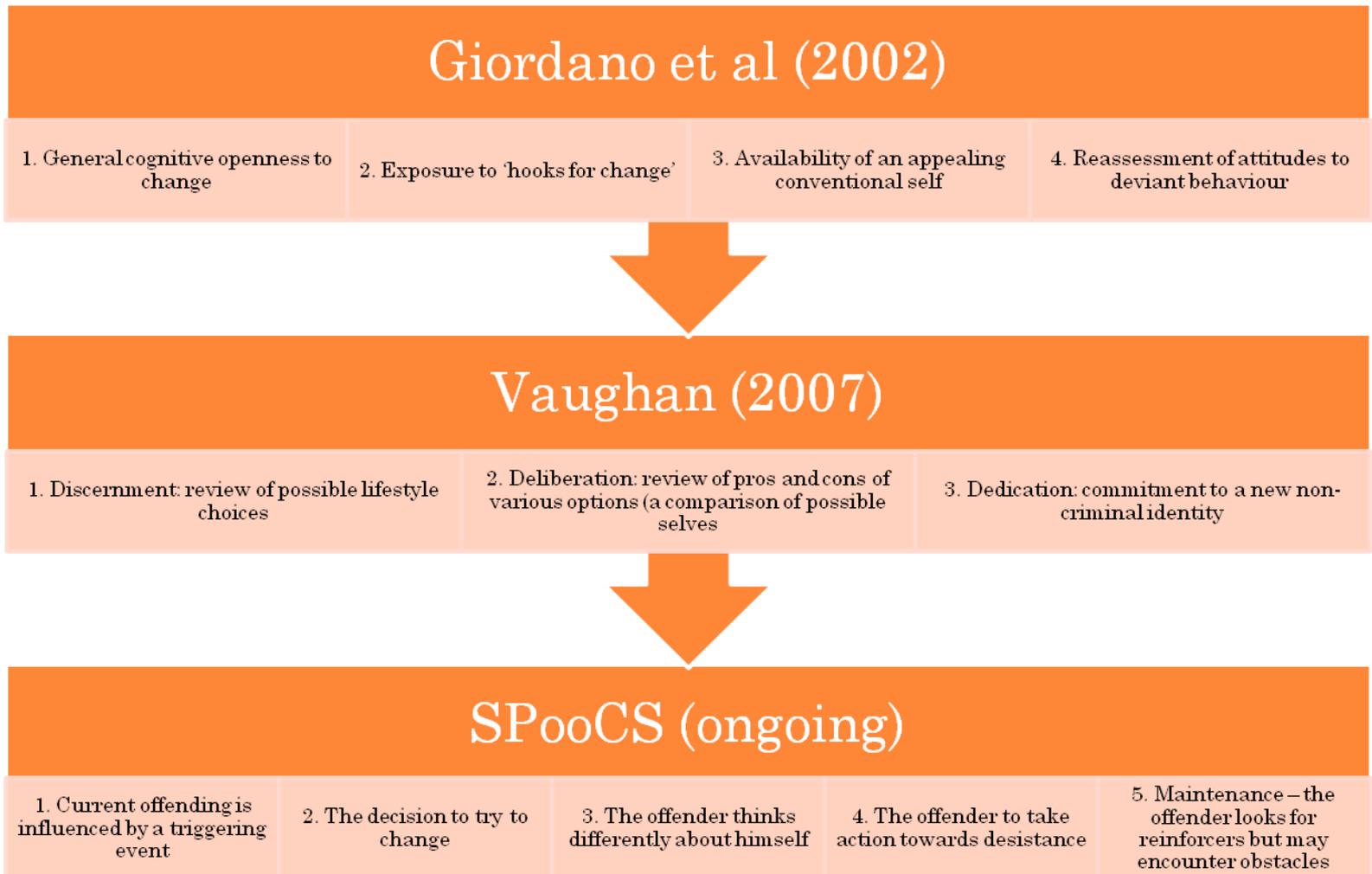
Age and Maturity



Subjective Narratives,  
Attitudes and Motivation

Life Transitions and  
Social Bonds

# THREE MODELS OF DESISTANCE PROCESSES



## Bringing it all together....

- Hope is a critical factor in desistance and can promote agency (Burnett and Maruna 2004; Farrall and Calverly 2006; Lloyd and Serin 2011; LeBel et al 2008).
- Personal and professional relationships are key to change.
- Desistance requires supportive relational networks and the development of social capital (Barry 2010; Weaver forthcoming).
- Desistance requires not just opportunities to acquire social capital but also to expend it - generativity (Barry 2010; Maruna 2001; McNeill and Maruna 2008).

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# Offenders' Perspectives (Kemshall and Wood 2007)

- Valued attention to their personal and social problems, and to their personal goals, needs and desires
- Saw a balance between internal and external controls as key to their effective risk management
- Understanding the relationship between such controls and the management of their behaviour promoted compliance
- Focus on enhancing self efficacy, agency, self control - participatory methods.

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## Current Practice - MAPPA

- *'most cases were managed through a range of restrictive interventions .....[which] were necessary, but they needed to be balanced by a focus on protective factors such as involvement in positive activities and constructive interventions designed to reduce the level of risk presented by the offender in the longer term ...and .....when no longer subject to MAPPA*
- Over-reliance on short-term restrictive measures can threaten people's longer-term rehabilitation & may even exacerbate their risk of offending

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## New Directions?

- Protective Integrative Strategy (Kemshall 2008) - blending external controls with long-term change based approaches
- Promoting safety for victims and offenders & greater long-term efficacy of interventions and self-regulation
- Develop & build on protective factors - individual, family and community

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# A Constructive Approach to Practice.

- Moving beyond the individual and their perceived cognitive deficits.
- Looking beyond the interventions and operations of service.
- Focussing on what individuals, their families and volunteers may be able to contribute (Clinks: [www.clinks.org](http://www.clinks.org); Prison Reform Trust 2010; Uggen 2004; Weaver 2011; Weaver forthcoming).

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# Implications and opportunities for supporting desistance in practice

- Developing motivation and maintaining hope are key tasks for professionals
- Build on personal strengths and resources and utilise strengths and resources in social networks and communities
- The process of change occurs in the interpersonal context of personal and professional relationships
- Focus on process of change, not on process of service delivery.
- Pursue an individualised but not individualistic approach.