

# **UNDERSTANDING AND RESPONDING TO SEXUAL HARM PERPETRATED BY YOUTHS: A RESEARCH WORKSHOP**

**(9.30 – 13.00), 11th June 2015**

**Room 3C01, [Frenchay Campus, University of the West of England, Bristol](#)**

Organised by the Social Science Research Group & Centre for Legal Research

This workshop will examine and debate research on youths who sexually harm others. The workshop will start with a discussion of how youths understand sex and appropriate sexual relationships (including issues of consent, what is sexual harm, sexting, where they get their information on sex and relationships from). It will then examine who those youths who commit sexual harm are, as well as, what motivates them, before considering what can be done to reintegrate these youths and prevent them from reoffending. The workshop offers the opportunity to have a broad-ranging discussion, share good practice and network.

## **'Attitudes towards and understandings of sexual violence: A study of secondary school students and staff in Bristol'**

[Dr Rachel Fenton](#), [Professor Phil Rumney](#) & [Dr Kieran McCartan](#) (University of the West of England, Bristol)

This presentation discusses qualitative research recently completed in four secondary schools across Bristol looking at staff and student understanding of sexual harm. This paper will discuss youth understanding of sex and appropriate sexual relationships, including: issues of consent, sexual harm, sexting, where they get their information from, peer pressure and sexual relationships as well as what they think can be done to improve understanding amongst young people on these issues.

## **'Understanding the adolescent sex offender: Factors that distinguish boys who commit sexual crimes from other delinquents and problem teens'**

[Professor Michael H. Miner](#) (University of Minnesota)

This presentation discusses the results of an on-going series of studies that have compared adolescents who perpetrated sexual offenses: with child victims, and with peer/adult victims; with boys who committed non-sexual crimes and boys in treatment for substance use or other mental health disorders. It provides a brief description of attachment theory and related concepts and focuses on study findings that provide a model for how parental behaviour, attachment style, and social interactions influence the development of sexually abusive and coercive behaviour. Our work builds on the meta-analysis by Seto and Lalumière (2010) by fleshing out the contribution of attachment theory, further exploring issues of social interaction and social involvement, and discussing sexuality and early childhood sexual trauma may influence different types of problematic behaviour.

## **'Developing a CSE Youth service for young people who display sexualised behaviour – a framework overview and future plans'**

[Tracy Blackstock](#) (Circles South East Youth Service Coordinator)

For the last thirteen years Circles South East has worked with the Police, Probation and MAPPA to manage high risk adult sexual offenders in the community. In conjunction with SWAAY adolescent residential and treatment unit and Oxon and Bucks Community adolescent harmful sexual behaviour service (CAHBS) we have developed services for young people displaying harmful sexual behaviours. Trained and supervised volunteers work alongside young people, parents/guardians and other services, help address the issues behind harmful behaviours. We support young people aged 12 to 17 years old who have been identified as at risk, or who are already involved in the youth justice system. This workshop will examine the CSE Youth Service framework, by exploring some of the challenges and successes. This session will allow you to review and comment on our emerging model and how it might work in practice.

**[Please Register for this event](#)**

Please contact [Kieran.mccartan@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:Kieran.mccartan@uwe.ac.uk) for more information.