

The Hidden Nature of Sibling Sexual Abuse: When Sexually Harmful Behaviour Masquerades as Consensual Sexual Experimentation with Christiane Sanderson Saturday, 14th May 2022, 1000-1630 ONLINE EVENT

Introduction

It is estimated that one third of sexual abuse is perpetrated by children. However, in order to clarify the differences between consensual sexual experimentation from sexually harmful behaviour, it is essential to understand both typical and atypical sexual development in children and young people. This workshop will examine the nature and dynamics of sibling sexual abuse by children and young people, its impact and long-term effects. We will distinguish between typical age appropriate consensual sexual curiosity and sexual experimentation in contrast with **atypical** sexual behaviour which is **non-consensual and sexually harmful**. The aim is to enable practitioners to identify sexually abusive behaviour between siblings and help clients differentiate this from consensual sexual play.

The workshop explores the role of grooming and will examine how such abuse is normalised by being presented as consensual sexual exploration and experimentation. Strategies, such as enticement through playing games that lead to sexually harmful behaviour with other children, will be unpacked to provide a deeper understanding of how non-consensual sexual experimentation can make it harder for children as well as parents and carers to legitimise this as sexual abuse and respond appropriately. To achieve this, we will examine how primary caregivers can talk to their children in an age appropriate way about sex and sexuality to help protect them from sexually harmful behaviour. In enabling survivors to identify their experience as sexually abusive they can begin to legitimise their abuse and understand how it has impacted them and begin the journey of recovery and healing.



Delegates will learn:

- The difference between age-appropriate consensual sexual exploration versus atypical non-consensual sexual behaviour between siblings
- The role of grooming and ‘normalisation’ of sexually harmful behaviour
- How to talk to children about sex and sexuality to help protect them from sexually harmful behaviour
- The long-term effects of sibling sexual abuse
- How primary caregivers can respond when sibling abuse is disclosed
- How legitimising the abuse can facilitate recovery and healing

Christiane Sanderson BSc, MSc. returns for the fifth time to Bramham Therapy as one of our most popular speakers. She is a senior lecturer in Psychology at the University of Roehampton, with 26 years of experience working with survivors of childhood sexual abuse and sexual violence. She has delivered consultancy, continuous professional development and professional training for therapists, counsellors, social workers, health professionals, parents, teachers and solicitors, the NSPCC, the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Committee, the Methodist Church, the Metropolitan Police Service, SOLACE, the Refugee Council, Birmingham City Council Youth Offending Team, and HMP Bronzefield. She is the author of numerous books on shame, trauma and dissociation, sexual and domestic violence and child sexual abuse.

Open to psychological therapists (including trainees) from all modalities and health professionals

N.B. Online only

Fee for online attendance: early bird before 14th April 2022: £85; or after £95

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