The development and validation of two screening measures to help in the identification of intellectually disabled (ID) offenders.

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  - Why is AF important
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  - How will this benefit prisoners and the prison service

- Conclusions

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What is the research about?

- Research aim:

    Improve ID assessment within the prison service

- Achieved Via:
  - An evaluation of a new IQ screening tool
  - Development of a new measure of Adaptive functioning

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What is ID?

- ID = Intellectual Disability
- ID diagnosis requires low levels of IQ **and** adaptive functioning (AF).

- **What is AF?**

The DSM-5 defines adaptive functioning as:

'the ability to meet developmental and socio-cultural standards for personal independence and social responsibility'

Adaptive functioning deficits can limit functioning in one or more activities of daily life such as communication, social participation and independent living, across multiple environments such as home, school, work, and community.
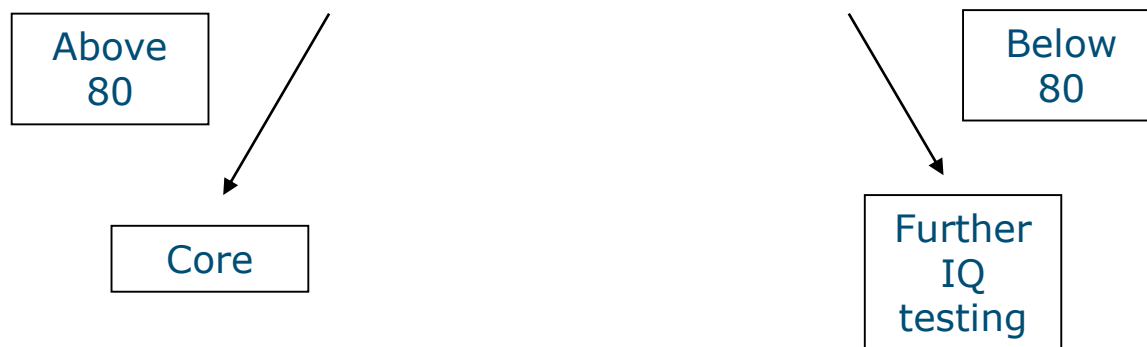
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IQ

Why is IQ important?

- There are 2 types of treatment programmes:

Core	Becoming New Me
Relies on written and verbal skills	Includes simplified techniques, concepts and language.
IQ above 80	IQ below 80

- Important IQ is assessed as wrong treatment means:
  - More likely to drop out, linked to higher levels or re-offending
  - Unethical to place ID offenders into the core programme
  - Treatment places are expensive- not used effectively then it is costly

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Why a new IQ test?

The WASI is currently used as a screening measure

Above 80		Below 80

Core		Further IQ testing

— Requires a trained psychologist to administer it

— Time and resource intensivee

— Need to be fully trained in it's use

- New tool developed by NOMS = NOMS IQ Screening tool

✓ Shorter and quicker than the WASI

✓ Information is already available via the OASys database

✓ It needs to be evaluated before it can be used

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NOMS IQ Screening Tool

- The NOMS IQ screening tool - 7 items from the OASys

1. Problems with reading, writing and/or numeracy.

2. Has learning difficulties

3. Educational or vocational qualifications at or above GCSE level

4. Work-related skills

5. Currently of no fixed abode or in transient accommodation

6. Has difficulties reading

7. Has difficulties with numeracy

- High scores on the new tool indicate low levels of IQ.

- A cut-off of three or above is indicative of an IQ below 80.

- NOMS claim that the OASys ST is able to accurately identify 85% of offenders scoring below 80 on the WAIS-IV

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Evaluating the NOMS IQ Screening tool

Results:

- The NOMS IQ Screening tool was tested to see:
    - If it could place people onto the correct treatment programme.
    - Whether it can predict if a persons IQ is above or below 80.

- Prisoners had already attended treatment, had an IQ score on file and their NOMS IQ Screening tool score was summed.

The analysis showed that:

- **The NOMS IQ ST can accurately place people onto the correct treatment programme.**
- Using a NOMS IQ score cut off as 3 the accuracy is 95%
- This rises to 99% if a score of 2 is used

- **The NOMS IQ screening tool is an accurate predictor of whether a person's IQ is above 80.**
- Using a NOMS IQ score of 2 the accuracy is 97%
- Using a score of 3 the accuracy is 93%

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So What?!?!?

Advantages for the prison service:

- Those who score 3 or less = IQ above 80 ⟶ Core treatment programme

- Those who score 10 or more = IQ below 80 ⟶ BNM

- NOMS claimed it was 85% accurate, this study suggests even higher accuracy.

- 49/80 of the participants had an NOMS IQ score of 3 or lower.

- If the prison service adopt the tool it would mean that these individuals would not require any further IQ testing – placed straight onto the C-SOTP.

- 5/80 had an NOMS IQ score of 10 or 11 and could be placed straight onto the BNM programme without any further IQ testing.

- 54/80- no further IQ testing = 67.5% of the sample population.

- IQ testing time reduced by a factor of 3 - only a third of the prisoner population would need to be tested using the longer WAIS assessment.

Adaptive Functioning (AF)

Why is AF important?

- Talbot (2007;2008) looked at ID individuals experience of the CJS:

  – Unable to access prison information.
  – Experience difficulties adapting to prison rules and discipline.
  – Some prisoners with ID did not know why they were in prison.
  – Increase likelihood of being victimised.
  – More likely to receive inadequate levels of support.
  – Routinely excluded from certain activities and opportunities.
  – Spend more time alone.
  – Higher levels of anxiety and depression.
  – Increased risk of suicide and/or self harm.
  – Receive inappropriate treatment (drop-out increases recidivism, places are expensive, impacts on sentence length).
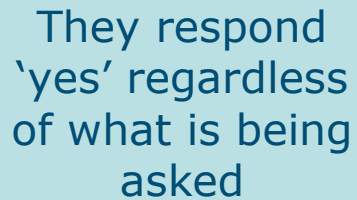 – Most staff expressed concern about the vulnerability of these individuals.

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Why a new AF measure?

- Historical over-reliance on IQ when assessing ID.

- There is no AF assessment that accurately measures AF amongst prisoners.

- Current AF measures are inappropriate for use in prison populations:
  - Items based on community behaviours e.g. obeys traffic light signals
  - They are expensive, lengthy, administered by trained psychologist and no permission to adapt them.

- AFCL developed by NOMS
  - Not been tested and has no scoring procedure.

- Consequently prisoners are not currently being accurately assessed.
  - Affects Treatment decisions
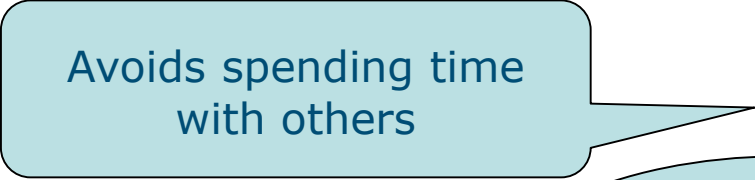 - Experience within prison- if needs are not identified then supports cannot be put in place.

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The Adaptive Functioning Assessment Tool (AFAT)
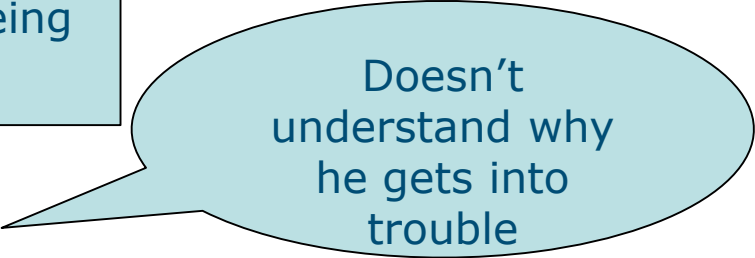
Item Development

- Staff and prisoners described a typical day inside prison:
    - Opportunities to display adaptive behaviour?
    - Make their own decisions?
    - Difficulties they face within the prison?

- Items were developed directly from what each participant had said.

They respond 'yes' regardless of what is being asked

Avoids spending time with others

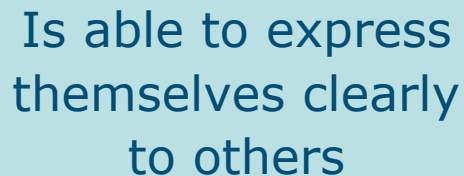Doesn't understand why he gets into trouble

Stays on the topic of conversations; does not go off on a tangent

- A conceptual framework of AF was developed via a review of current AF measures, definitions of AF, literature and discussions with experts.
    - The items were organised under the criteria set out in the conceptual framework

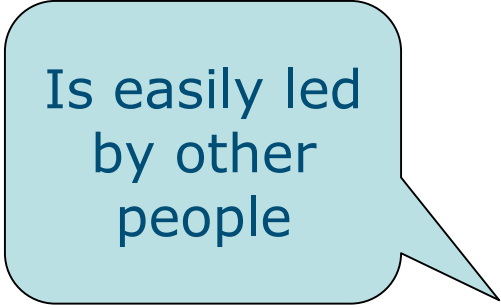| Adaptive functioning domain	Content
Communication	How the individual pays attention
	What the individual understands
	How the individual uses sentences
	How they express themselves
Social Participation	How the individual interacts with others
	How they display sensitivity to others
	How they individual adapts their behaviour depending on the surroundings/people
	How they control their feelings around others
Personal Independence	How the individual presents themselves: how they dress and practice personal hygiene
	How the individual uses time, money and the telephone
	Their overall level of managing within the prison e.g. how they adhere to the prison rues and regime, seeking assistance, use of time.
	How well they can complete prison procedures and get what he wants e.g. filling out applications, ordering from stores, filling out meal sheet
Functioning in Education, Work and Treatment Programmes	Do they need help with reading and writing- what is their ability
	How well the individual can follow instructions
	What is the quality and speed of the individuals work
	How the individual interacts with others
	What is their attention span, do they need thing repeating?

Item analysis

- Originally 115 items were produced.
    - Needed to be reduced for practical reasons – too long.

- Scored as either 0, 1 or 2, depending on how often or well the individual can perform the behaviour;
    - 0 = NEVER, 1 = SOMETIMES/PARTIALLY, 2 = USUALLY

- Some examples of the retained items:

Is able to express themselves clearly to others

Attends arranged appointments

Is easily led by other people

- The conceptual framework states that the 4 domains should be fully covered – all were represented by the 46 items

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How will this benefit prisoners and the prison service?

- The AFAT is the first measure of AF that is suitable to use in a prison setting.

- AFAT can be used in the diagnosis of ID, removing the emphasis away from sole reliance on IQ.

- The AFAT can better inform treatment decisions- Core Vs BNM.

- It can be used to identify supports required for prisoners,

- Since The Prison Service Order 2855 (2005) states:

'It is Prison Service Policy….that disabled prisoners are not discriminated against in any aspect of prison life and that equality of opportunity in accessing all parts of prison life, and in particular to address their offending behaviour and be resettled is offered to all prisoners.'(pg. 5).

- The next step is to evaluate the scale
  - Early analyses indicate that it is valid and reliable - that is, it is measuring what it purports to measure (AF) and the test is consistent

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Conclusions:

- ID and AF are both important in the assessment of ID.

- There is a lack of validated tools used to assess AF in the prison service.

- The NOMS IQ Screening Tool is a highly accurate predictor of whether an individual's IQ is over or above the 80 threshold and placing people onto the correct TP.
  - It doesn't tell you the exact IQ score but it does tell you with a high probability (93% confidence) whether an individuals IQ is above 80.
  - It is a carries many advantages over the WASI- it's quicker and the information is readily available via the OASys database.
  - It will speed up the process of IQ assessment

- The AFAT can be used to assess AF levels which will help diagnose ID.
  - Useful for treatment decisions and support assessments
  - Early analyses suggest that it is a valid and reliable measure

- Both tools need further testing before they can be generalised to other populations

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Thanks for listening ☺

- Any questions???