Case vignette

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Overview

- Brief background history
- Management issues:
 - Mobile phone
 - Social media
- Future management
- Other management issues

Mr X

- 23 years old
- Commenced mainstream education but transferred to 'special needs' school
- Diagnosed with Autistic Spectrum Disorder aged 9, and with ADHD aged 11
- Global learning disability diagnosed aged 18 (FSIQ=64)

Special interests

- High level of interest in bin liners from primary school age
- Developed sexual aspect in his teenage years
- Also developed an interest in nappies
- Longstanding interest in buses and bus timetables

Forensic history

- Public indecency 2008 (masturbating in public)
- Public indecency 2009
- BOP (Sexual) 2010 made subject to three year Probation Order
- BOP (Sexual) 2012 masturbating in a bin area, having placed a bag of soiled nappies inside his trousers

Forensic history continued...

- Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act Aug 2012: sexual contact involving a 15y.o. female
- Further BOP charges due to his behaviour and use of social media
- Reportedly followed a lone 21y.o. female in the early hours of the morning

Issues relating to mobile phones

- Financial exploitation: numerous requests by strangers for 'top ups' (telling him that they love him), at times with the offer of sexual contact
- Texting females under the age of 16, using sexualized language
- Taking obscene photographs of himself at the request of others

Mobile phones continued...

- Photographs being taken of Mr X masturbating in public areas (usually bins)
- Spending many hours every day on smart phone, accessing social media sites

Social media

- Facebook: several accounts
- Able to open new accounts rapidly
- OMU aware and Facebook corporate policy is that convicted sex offenders are not permitted to have Facebook accounts
- Posting comments involving suicidal ideas
 - response from others

Social media continued...

- Used Facebook to locate the relative of a young female whose death had been reported in the press
- Travelled to Ayr and caused distress
- Relatives of victim identified him on Facebook, posting threats to kill him

Social media continued...

- Social gatherings of minors identified via Facebook
- Requests for obscene photographs, with which Mr X complied
- Posted obscene image on Facebook
- Sent obscene image to a stranger on MSN Messenger
- Attempting to set up Twitter account

Current situation

- Compulsion Order
- Inpatient in locked forensic LD ward, specified for telephones (no access to mobile phone or internet)
- Has responded well to structured environment
- Discharge likely within the next six months

Future management

- Request special powers to limit access to technology as part of a Welfare Guardianship Order
- 24/7 support
- How to balance benefits of access to social media with risks of exploitation/further offending?

Other management issues

- Patient with history of accessing child pornography – able to build his own computer and has technical skills beyond most of his staff team
- Accessing offence-specific information (which is not illegal)
- Patient filmed masturbating, and video put on You Tube (felt unable to refuse to participate)

Other management issues

• Limits of statutory measures – lack of clarity around legality of limiting access to internet/smart phones when living in the community

