

Strengthening Analysis in Adult Support and Protection Risk Assessment



Presentation

- Backdrop to the issue
- History of development and implementation of the TILS framework (Types; Imminence; Likelihood and Severity)
- Using TILS in investigative interviewing; chronologies; risk analysis and management
- Exercise
- Conclusion



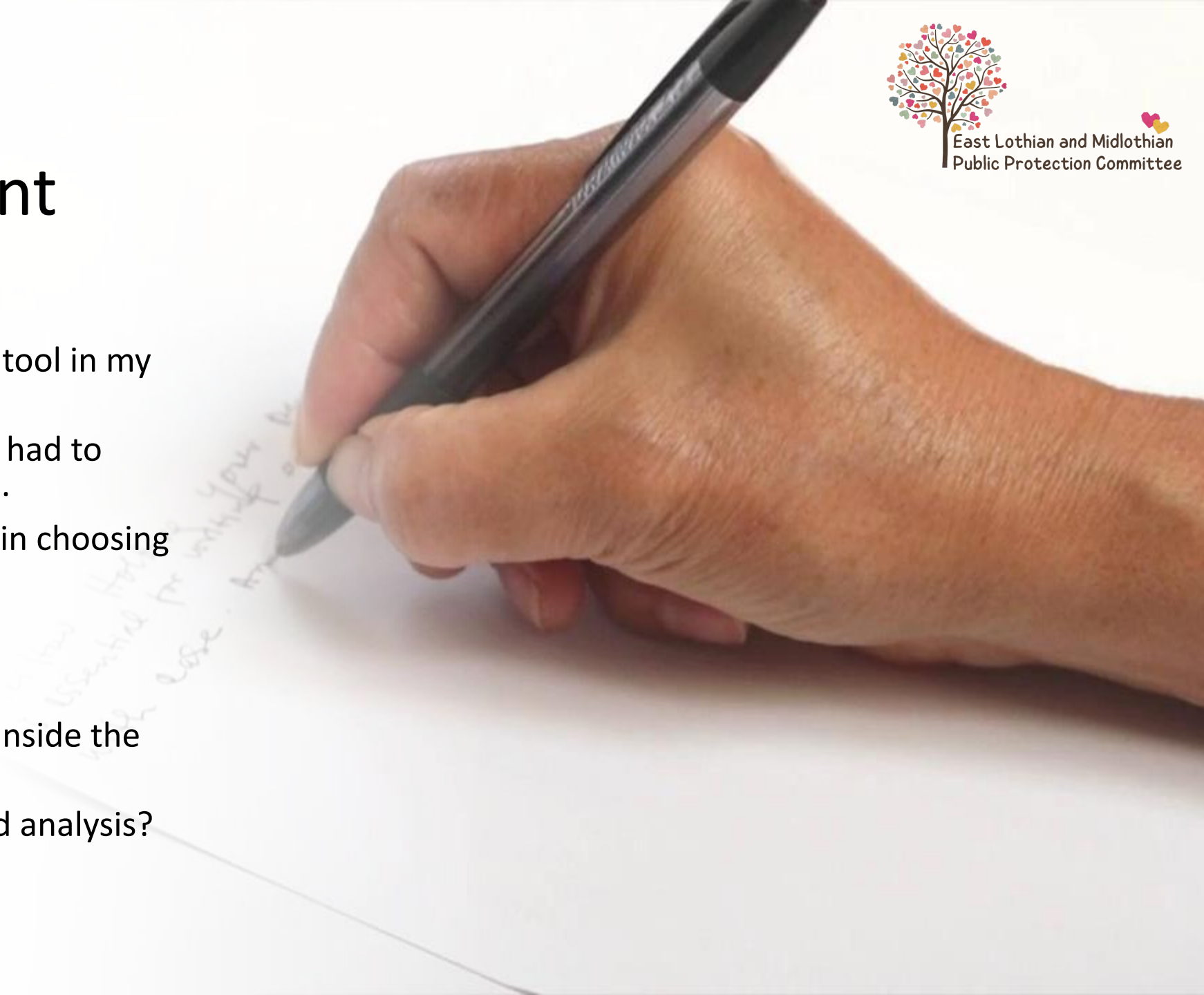
Risk Assessment

24 years ago....

- CC2 was the risk assessment tool in my community care placement
- A sheet of A4 paper that you had to WRITE in, with an actual PEN.
- Social worker said the skill is in choosing what you write on it

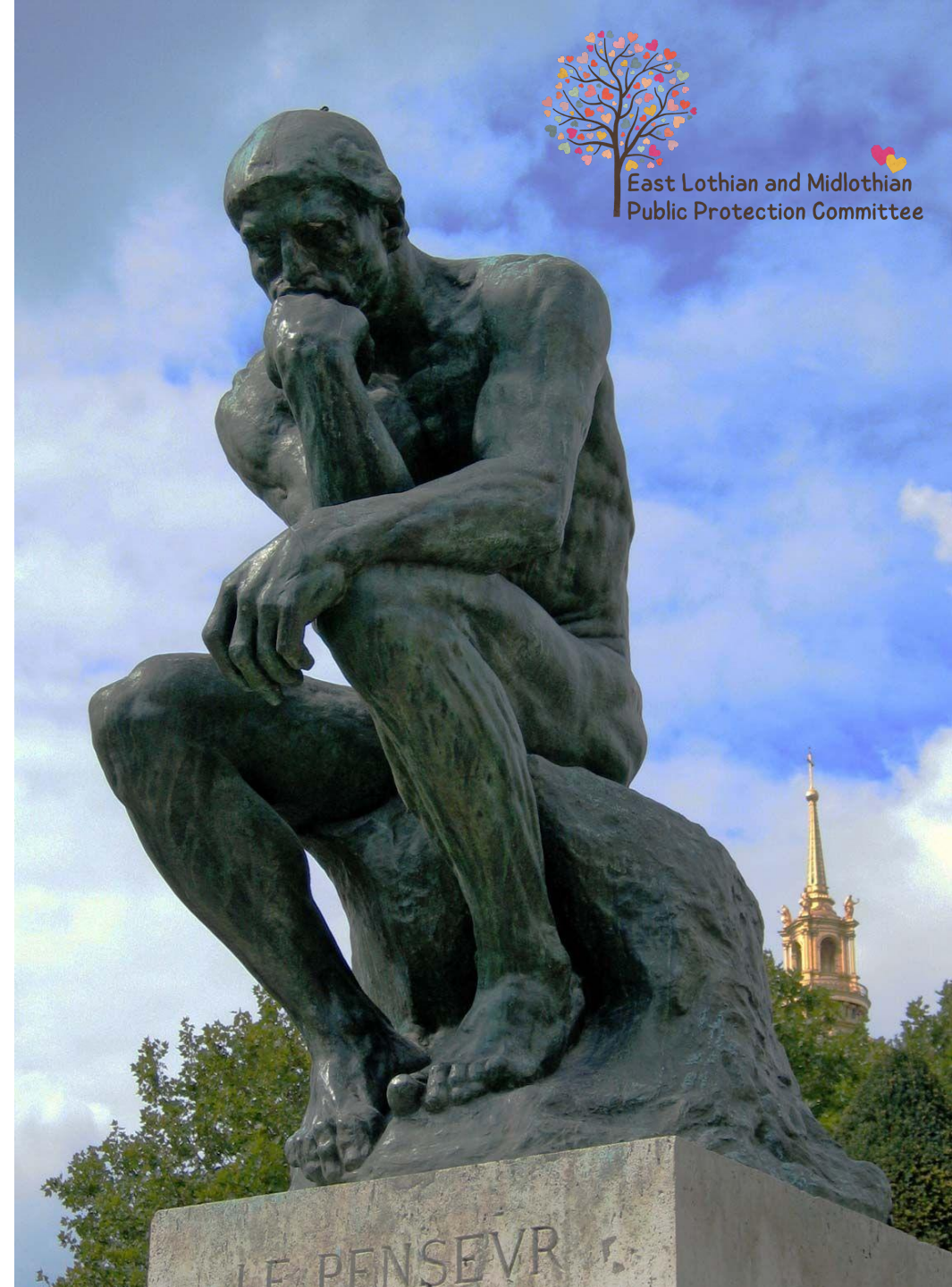
Since then...

- The rise of the computers
- Templates abound- thinking inside the box?
- Have they always encouraged analysis?



This is beginning to sound familiar...

Common theme of assessments having too much description and not enough analysis.



Standards in Social Work Education

Standards in Social Work Education

“3.1 Assess and manage risks to people who receive services, carers, and communities...

Transferable skills:

Analyse the nature of risks and potential for both harm and benefits associated with the circumstances and of planned intervention.”

“3.3 Support the wellbeing, safety and protection of vulnerable children and adults

Transferable skills:

Analyse the nature and level of risk.”

<https://learn.sssc.uk.com/siswe/siswe/assess.html>

ASP and the TILS Approach

- Types of Harm
- Imminence of Harm
- Likelihood of Harm
- Severity of Impact of Harm

TILS- The Grammar of Risk: Drives analytical recording, analytical risk assessment, analytical risk management and analytical articulation of risk at meetings/in discussions.



ASP and Analysis?

Assessments need to be analytical, not descriptive. Analysis here informs risk management planning later.

analysis

/ə'nalɪsɪs/

noun

“detailed examination of the ***elements or structure*** of something”

Undertaken to an extent in the ‘3-point criteria’, but what then?

History of Types, Imminence, Likelihood and Severity of impact (TILS) Framework

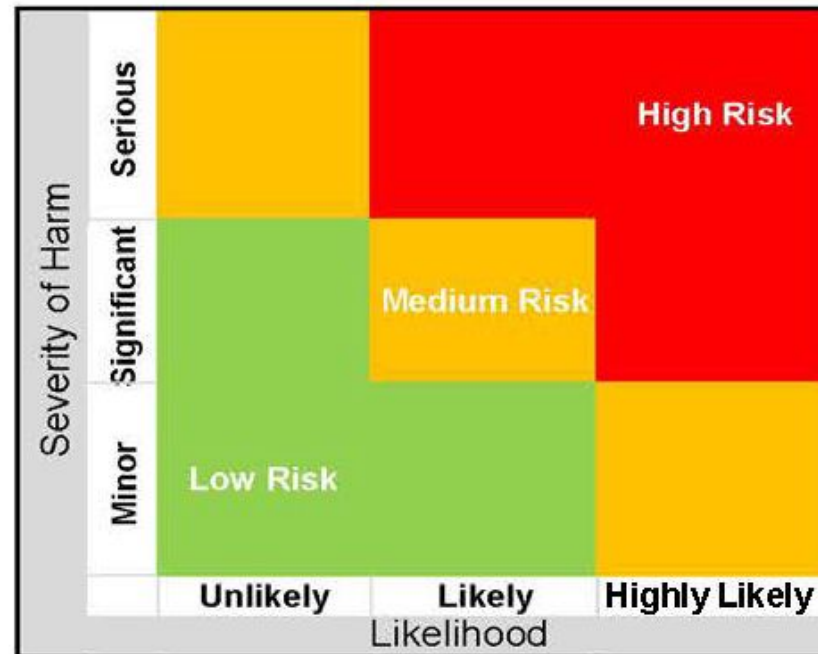
- Previously employed to chair at least the first two ASPCCs for adults and design and deliver ASP training, 'Senior Practitioner' role
- The Complex Risk Assessment was presented by the Council Officer to the ASPCCs
- It was rarely referred to and had areas of repetition (cut n pasting)
- This was reported through committee structures
- APC asked that a replacement is found for the 'Complex Risk Assessment'
- I came across the 'Risk Matrix' and my thinking started...

Risk Matrix and TILS

Risk Matrix (Fig 2a)

Severity of Harm	Likelihood
Serious	Highly likely
Significant	Likely
Minor	Unlikely

(Fig.2b)



In Adult Protection, if in Doubt, Rule It In, Not Out!

A Potted History

- People like an acronym
- Memorable acronyms can support work
- TILS was born in Edinburgh
- The multiple Council Officer trainings were used to get a SWOT analysis of the options
- E.g. attaching the GIRFE well being indicators to the assessment tool (Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active Respected, Responsible, Included)
- Conclusion: TILS was preferred to the current Complex Risk Assessment and keep it simple and straightforward. No GIRFE. But kept in 'back pocket' in case of future developments.
- Consultation process encouraged buy-in and supported change management (familiarity before implementation)

Implementation in East Lothian and Midlothian

- Manage the change, familiarise first
- The 'Teaser Trailer' was at the Council Officer forums
- Introduced the framework
- Gave examples of how it could work
- Encouraged revolution (evolution?)- advised to copy and paste a word version into existing templates
- Feedback was positive
- Council Officers consulted on how it should be configured in MOSAIC
- Used Council Officer forum to reflect on the use of TILS months after implementation to support practice



T.I.L.S.: Unpacking the Risk



In Adult Protection, if in Doubt, Rule It In, Not Out!

Why use TILS?

With exams & interviews we are often advised to restate the question in our answer. Why?



In Adult Protection, if in Doubt, Rule It In, Not Out!

Other Options for Supporting Implementation and Strengthening Analysis

Encourage reflection on TILS and articulation of it in:

- Risk recording
- Case notes
- Chronologies
- Risk assessments
- Protection Plans
- Contributions at ASPCC etc
- Supporting Transfer of Learning to Practice tool- promotes concise time efficient reflection in supervision



East Lothian and Midlothian
Public Protection Committee



Aren't imminence and likelihood the same?

No

Imminence Definition:

The state of being about to happen, especially something significant or threatening.

Synonyms: impendingness, proximity, nearness

Likelihood Definition:

The probability or chance that something will happen or be the case.

Synonyms: probability, chance, possibility, prospect, odds

Steven Hoskins

“the origins and even solutions were ***foreshadowed*** in the facts of the murder and in the events leading up to this.”

There was sufficient evidence to justify a ***likelihood*** that Steven would come to harm.

However, a lack of information sharing and analysis of the evidence prevented an assessment of the types of harm, their imminence, their likelihood and the severity of the impact of that harm.

I.e. T.I.L.S.



ASP and Analysis?

Assessments that are analytical, not descriptive, tend to be more useful.

analysis

/ə'nalIsIs/

noun

“detailed examination of the ***elements or structure*** of something”

Risk assessment is the analysis of Types of Harm; Imminence of Harm; Likelihood of Harm and the Severity of Impact of Harm.

That is, T.I.L.S. are the elements or structure of risk analysis.

Reflection Time

- Are your assessment tools/templates encouraging description of the risk or an analysis of the risk?
- Or are they encouraging staff to think 'inside the box'?
- Descriptive assessments can become the norm
- Assessment must include an analysis of the facts, not just a description of them
- Dr Durowse decision making framework on financial harm- analysis is part of what we do, other things like practice wisdom have their place

T.I.L.S. Impact?

“Before T.I.L.S. I knew what the risks were at the end of the APCC. Since T.I.L.S. I know what they are before the APCC.”

Council Officer.

“I really like T.I.L.S.”

Council Officer Trainee

TILS allow you to write less and say more.

AND

TILS allow you to talk less and say more.

TILS and Investigative Interviewing in ASP

Knowing:

- The law that underpins and authorises your practice.
- Importance of the analysis of your chronology informing T.I.L.S. assessment- what do you know, what do you need to find out more about?
- T.I.L.S. framework to frame your analysis of risk and drive your SMART risk management.

Investigative Interviewing: The Code of Practice

Chapter 7: Interviews conducted as part of the adult support and protection process

The purpose of an interview is to establish:

- establishing if the adult has been subject to harm;
 - determining whether the adult is at risk of harm;
 - establishing if the adult feels their safety is at risk and from whom;
 - discussing what action, if any, the adult wishes or is able to take to
 - protect themselves; and
 - discussing what action, if any, others can take to protect the adult
- (Pg. 56-57 of the Code of practice)

Informs
TILS

TILS and Planning and Preparation for the Interview

Review inquiry to date (referral; chronology; assessments; case notes etc.)

What is it telling you about:

- Types of Harm
- Imminence of Harm
- Likelihood of Harm
- Severity of Impact of Harm

This will inform your areas for discussion during the interview: i.e. what do you know about **T.I.L.S.** so far and what do you still need to know?

Aims and Objectives?

Structured Approach:

Aims (pun intended):
To hit the dartboard and win the game.

Objectives:

To hit the parts of the dartboard in the right order that will win you the game.



Unstructured Approach:

Throw ten darts at the board without aim and hope for the best. Then walk away.

Evidences a rudimentary understanding of the 'what' but not the 'how' or 'why'.

TILS and Investigative Interview Aims and Objectives

Structured Approach:

Set your aims and objectives for the interview.

Aims - the overarching purpose(s) (inform TILS analysis to drive SMART risk management).

Objectives - drilling down e.g. establishing:

- what **Types** of harm(s) is/are the adult aware of.
- how able is the adult to protect themselves and from what (**Likelihood**).
- how often is the alleged harmer seeing the adult could inform an analysis of **Imminence & Likelihood** of harm.
- **Severity** of impact of the harm(s).



Interview Aims and Objectives

AIMS

- Inform T.I.L.S. analysis of risk

OBJECTIVES

- Establish pattern of visits by alleged harmer to inform imminence of risk
- Establish if client has insight into the financial harm (likelihood)
- Client's view on impact of harm

PRACTICE

- Ask open questions about visitors, who is nice etc.
- Conversation about is there always enough food
- Explore insight into impact of when there is insufficient funds

Interview Aims and Objectives

Clarity on your aims and objectives that are TILS focussed allows you to ***reflect in action during the interview*** to keep you focussed.

For example, during an interview you might be thinking:

- “I’m clear on the **T**ypes of harms. Jo’s reaction is flat though: need to ask GP if there is low mood/mental health issues”.
- “She says the Uncle visits weekly. This matches with what others have said: **I**mminence of harm is high”.
- “She doesn’t seem to understand she’s being abused: it’s **L**ikely to continue”.
- “Not clear on the **S**everity of impact of financial harm yet: need to check out other sources e.g. a section 10 request?”

It also allows for reflection on action, after the interview: Do I have any gaps in my TILS analysis of risk?

Analytical Risk Management in Adult Protection in East Lothian and Midlothian

- Risk management guidance
- Approved by the East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Committee
- Key document for guiding risk management work- this training will refer to it

<https://www.emppc.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Analytical-Risk-Management-in-Adult-Protection.pdf>

Chronologies then TILS

What do I put in a chronology?

- One consideration must be will it inform the TILS based analysis of risk
- TILS can therefore inform better chronology practice

Quality Improvement Framework

View from adult with lived experience of ASP

“In a lot of cases the adult is not spoken with face-to-face about risk, to get a true sense of what the risk actually is. Some adults take risks because they have no power to change anything, and no one listens to them to understand their behaviour. Other times it is a cry for attention and help. People only see the risk without understanding the behaviour behind it.” (Pg.29)

S2b- ascertainable wishes and feelings- getting these, in a trauma informed way, enriches chronologies. This paves the way for a more forensic TILS based analysis of risk.

Quality Improvement Framework

- 5.1. Chronologies. What strong looks like:

“significant life events for the adult at risk of harm”

“identification and analysis of patterns of adverse harmful occurrences for the adult at risk of harm – for example, repeated financial harm”

“a person-centred approach that reflects the views of the adult at risk of harm. “

- 5.2. Chronologies. What weak looks like:

“lacking in identification and analysis of patterns of harm and risk”

“exercises that do not reference the views of the adult at risk of harm.”

TILS, the Voice of the Adult and Chronologies

- Knowing what the adult's ascertainable wishes and feelings (s2b) on significant events involving risk of harm are can better inform TILS
- E.g. if the adult can not identify they have been harmed or what they can do about it, this tells us that harm is more likely
- Chronologies that contain the adult's ascertainable wishes can be useful in informing an analysis of risk

Chronologies Informing TILS

- If the significant events are noted on a chronology and are happening more frequently, this informs the analysis of increasing and high imminence of harm
- If the impact of the significant events are noted on a chronology and they are becoming more severe over time e.g. from distress to self-harming to suicide attempt, this informs the analysis of and increasing and high severity of impact of harm

TILS and SMART Actions

Analysis of the interaction between the TILS factors informs SMART actions

E.g.

- Types will inform the choice of action
- Imminence will inform timing of action and frequency of review of the impact of the action
- Likelihood will inform how necessary an action is
- Severity will inform how restrictive the action needs to be

Below is a case study and an example of how TILS can be used to clarify risk:

- John is 80. He lives alone. The police have found him walking outside, lost and confused four times in October 2022. Each time he was unable to tell them where he lives.
- The police alerted the council contact centre. John lives in a small town with a few friends but his family live in Canada.
- It transpired that John was found walking and lost first in early 2022, but he was able to tell his neighbour where he lived after a spell of confusion. This seemed to have been a one off.

Case Study (cont'd)...

- In 2022 family say they have had reports of him being found, initially lost and confused but then able to orient himself, on a monthly basis.
- In Sept-October 2022 this escalated to every few weeks with John having to be taken home half the time as he couldn't say where he lived. The community and family chose to protect John themselves up until now.
- GP has not yet seen John, but says he has always been healthy, does not drink alcohol and this sounds like early onset dementia as urine sample shows no sign of UTI. John has an appointment with the memory clinic in a month.
- Each time he was found this year he was only in his dressing gown & slippers. A driver also reports almost hitting him.

Type of Harm	Physical (exposure to the elements)
Imminence of Harm: (Low, Medium or high)	High
Supporting Analysis:	The pattern of frequency of being found walking, lost and confused has increased, now without adequate clothing in cold weather.
Likelihood of Harm: (Low, Medium or high)	High
Supporting Analysis:	The pattern of frequency of walking outside, due to being confused, has increased to twice weekly, now without adequate clothing in cold weather. GP thinks it is likely there is dementia, which looks like is deteriorating
Severity of Harm: (Low, Medium or high)	High
Supporting Analysis:	Could lead to death or hypothermia.

Type of Harm	Physical (Being hit by a car)
Imminence of Harm: (Low, Medium or high)	Medium
Supporting Analysis:	Risk of being hit by a car: This is a one off. But the risk is new. Not able to predict whether this will happen again, but it is in the context of increasing confusion.
Likelihood of Harm: (Low, Medium or high)	Medium
Supporting Analysis:	Being hit by a car: This is a one off. But the risk is new. Not able to predict whether this will happen again, but it is in the context of increasing confusion. Medium.
Severity of Harm: (Low, Medium or high)	High
Supporting Analysis:	Could lead to a fatality or severe injury.

Inspection Findings

“The quality of risk assessment had improved significantly following the implementation of the Type, Imminence, Likelihood and Severity (TILS) framework. Subsequent risk management work needed improved.”

East Lothian 2023

“Risk assessments were supported by effective tools and templates that promoted high quality work in this critical area of practice.”

Midlothian 2024

Group work



Exercise

- Based on the case study agree what types of harm there are.
- Out of however many types of harm you have identified, as a group pick two types of harm and fill out the tables that follow the case study to unpack their imminence, likelihood, and severity of impact.
- One type of harm for each of the two tables.
- 20 mins for exercise

In Conclusion...

TILS can be threaded throughout risk management and underpin stronger risk management practice to inform:

- How to produce better chronologies
- More analytical assessments
- Clearer, more concise and focussed discussions about risk with other professionals e.g. at an ASPCC



Any questions?



Our website – empppc.co.uk

Concerned about a child or adult?



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East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Committee Website



Our website – who it is for?

This website is for staff, volunteers and decision makers who work in East Lothian and Midlothian and who need to know more about Public Protection. It includes procedures and guidance documents, and resources to learn more about Adult Support and Protection, Child Protection, Violence Against Women and Girls and MAPPA (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements).

This website is also for members of the public who want to know what to do if they are concerned that a child or adult might be at risk of harm. This could be from abuse or neglect caused by another person, self-neglect or self harm or the child or adult may be at risk and need support and protection.