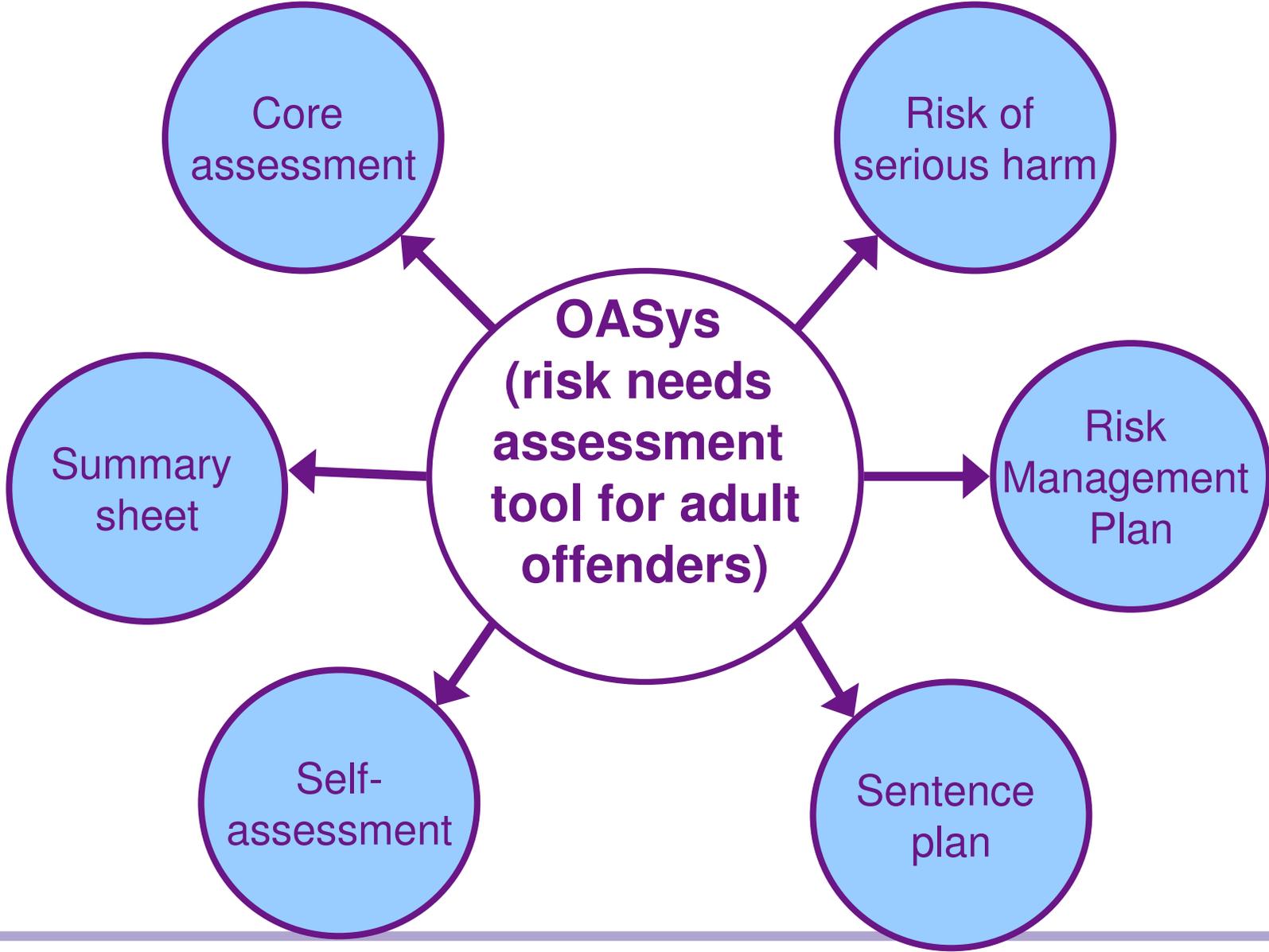


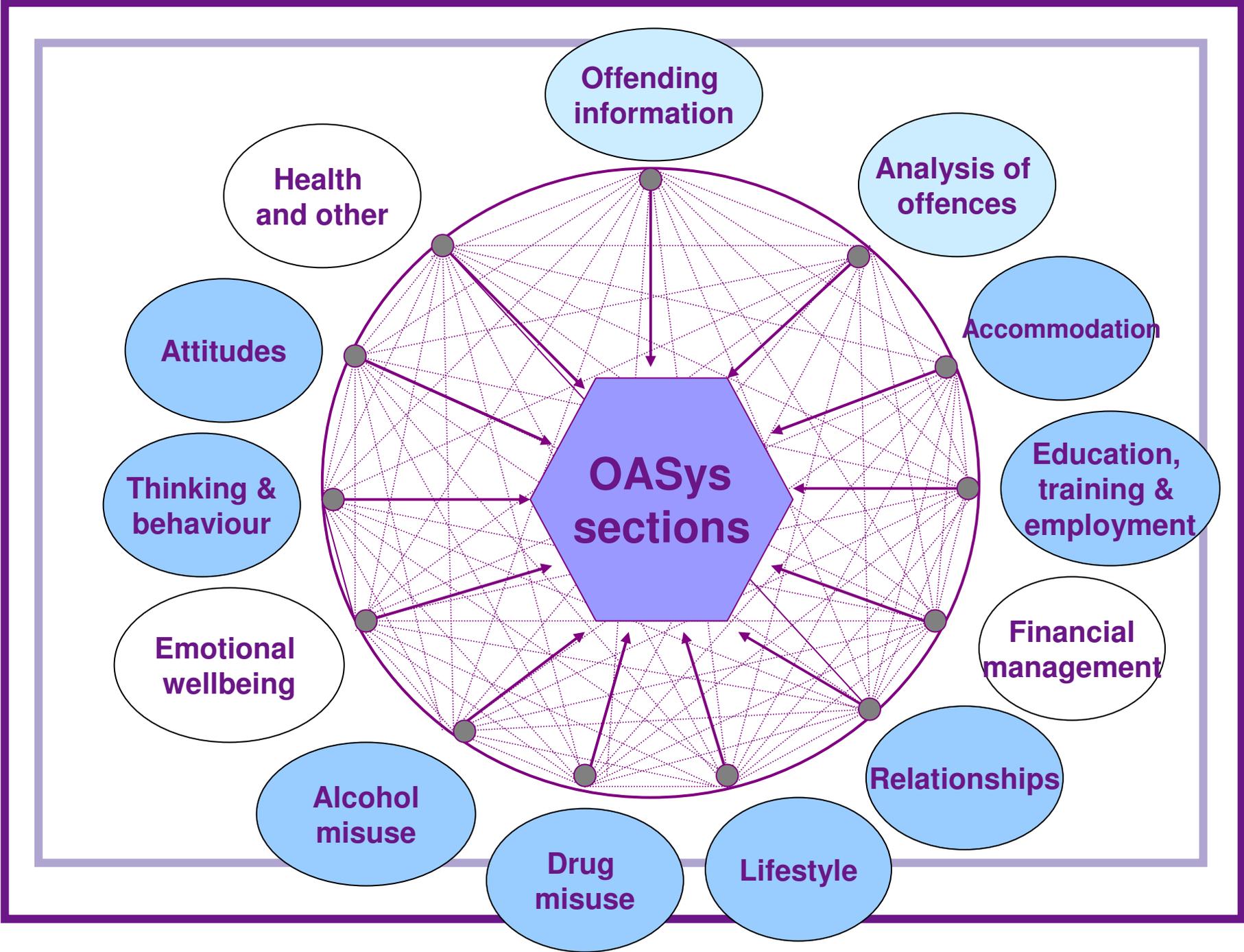
The Offender Assessment System (OASys): Workshop

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Workshop structure

- The content of OASys – slides
- The content of OASys – copy of form
- Discussion points





Assessing risk of serious harm

- In addition to measuring likelihood of reoffending, the assessment is used to identify whether the offender poses a risk of serious harm, under what circumstances and to whom any risk of harm exists.
- It focuses upon the likelihood of life-threatening and/or traumatic events, requiring assessors to make informed judgements as to whether the risks to various groups (children/public/known adult/staff) are low, medium, high or very high.
- Where risks are identified, a Risk Management Plan has to be completed, documenting how the risks will be controlled.

Sentence planning

- Integrating sentence planning into the overall process of assessment helps the practitioner by making clear links between these two essential aspects of case management.
- The initial sentence plan records:
 - Objectives and interventions matched to needs
 - Motivation, capacity to change and positive factors
 - Victim issues
- The review sentence plan also records:
 - Compliance and behaviour
 - Reoffending
 - Review of objectives

Self-assessment questionnaire

- Questions 1 to 27 of the SAQ cover a range of social and individual problems, encompassing accommodation, employment and finances, relationships and lifestyle, as well as values, perceptions, reasoning, beliefs, attitudes and goals. All 27 questions are prefixed by the phrase 'Are any of these a problem for you?', and in addition to the yes/no response, the offender is asked to consider a further tick box asking 'Is this problem linked to your offending?'
- The SAQ also includes a final question (Q28) asking the offenders whether they think that they are likely to offend in the future, with a four-scale response ranging from *definitely not* to *very likely*.

Developments following 2008 Strategic Review

August 2009

- Layered Assessments – Standard and Full - where assessment detail is tailored to the type of offender. Standard has 20 scored questions and Full has 40 scored questions (compared to 73 in legacy OASys).
- Fast Reviews - allows the assessor to complete review assessments in shorter timescales where there have been no significant changes to the offender's circumstances during the last review period.

May 2010

- Basic Assessments for offenders in the community who did not previously receive an OASys assessment – contains OGRS3, RoSH Screening and a basic Action / Referral Plan.
- Basic Custody Screening for offenders serving <12 month sentences. Currently being used by a small number of prisons.

Discussion points

1. How much resource can/should be dedicated to assessment?
(Need to consider practitioner time and IT costs)
2. Which offenders should be assessed?
3. Are different levels of assessment required?
4. How often should assessments be reviewed? Are full reviews required?
5. How much resource can/should be dedicated to quality assurance?
6. To what extent should offenders be engaged in the process?
How best can this be done?