



# **‘Offence Paralleling Behaviour’ (OPB)**

**One-Day Coaching Support Package Brief**

**2020**

**WrightLink Ltd.**

PERFORMANCE SUPPORT,  
TRAINING & RESEARCH

*Children’s Services, Youth Justice,  
Criminal Justice, Community Safety*

## 1.0 Practice Support Workshop Aims

The focus of this coaching package is to support practitioners to develop the theory and knowledge base surrounding **'Offence Paralleling Behaviour' (OPB)** for those cases of young people held in secure establishments (e.g. HM Prison Service, Secure Children's Homes, Secure Training Centres, Secure Hospitals).

OPB is a contemporary approach to dynamic risk assessment practice that focuses on the 'flow' (also referred to as the 'developmental sequence') of current behaviour which is akin to the notion of an offence chain that is understood in terms of the function the behaviour serves for the individual, rather than the morphology (i.e. what the behaviour 'looks like') whilst in custody.

OPB case formulations therefore look systematically at the relationship between current day-to-day functioning and the way an individual was functioning at the time of their offence, which is in direct contrast to more commonly deployed risk assessment practices which place emphasis upon 'past behaviour' to inform licence conditions upon discharge from custody and MAPPA risk management plans, for example.

OPB features within ASSET Plus risk assessment framework under 'wider/other concerning behaviours', however no further information regarding OPB has been provided by YJB via ASSET Plus training support packages, as this is a new framework of risk assessment from the field of forensic clinical psychology, and not youth justice/social work/probation practice.

It is important to acknowledge that there is currently limited scrutiny of the OPB framework within a risk assessment context, or with respect to an evaluation of its role in treatment planning or provision. That said, OPB is a developing area of forensic risk assessment practice worthy of consideration for those young people being held within secure environments, which may help to offer a fuller picture of the assessed risk of future harmful behaviour towards others when developing forensic case formulations/hypotheses.

## 2.0 Course Overview:

- An introduction to Offence Paralleling Behaviour (OPB)
- Exploration of how OPB may be used in the risk assessment process
- Exploration of how OPB may be integrated into treatment/intervention, including how OPB is used when conducting assessments of treatment/intervention progress in custodial settings



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