

Youth, risk and rapid assessment: street workers as assessors and change agents in a community setting

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ICAA VENICE – NOVEMBER 2004

Why?

- Want an evidence base for our activity
- History of assessments – quality?

**”Time to make
contact with
young people”**



**”Time to write
the report”**



What?

Draft for field testing, July 1998

SUBSTANCE ABUSE DEPARTMENT

WHO/SAB and UNICEF
in collaboration with UNAIDS & UNDCP

**The Rapid Assessment and
Response guide on
psychoactive substance
use and especially
vulnerable young people
(EVYP-RAR)**



SOCIAL CHANGE AND MENTAL HEALTH
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Draft for field testing, December 1998

SUBSTANCE ABUSE DEPARTMENT

Joint WHO and UNAIDS Project

**The Rapid Assessment
and Response guide
on substance use
and sexual risk behaviour
(SEX-RAR)**



SOCIAL CHANGE AND MENTAL HEALTH
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

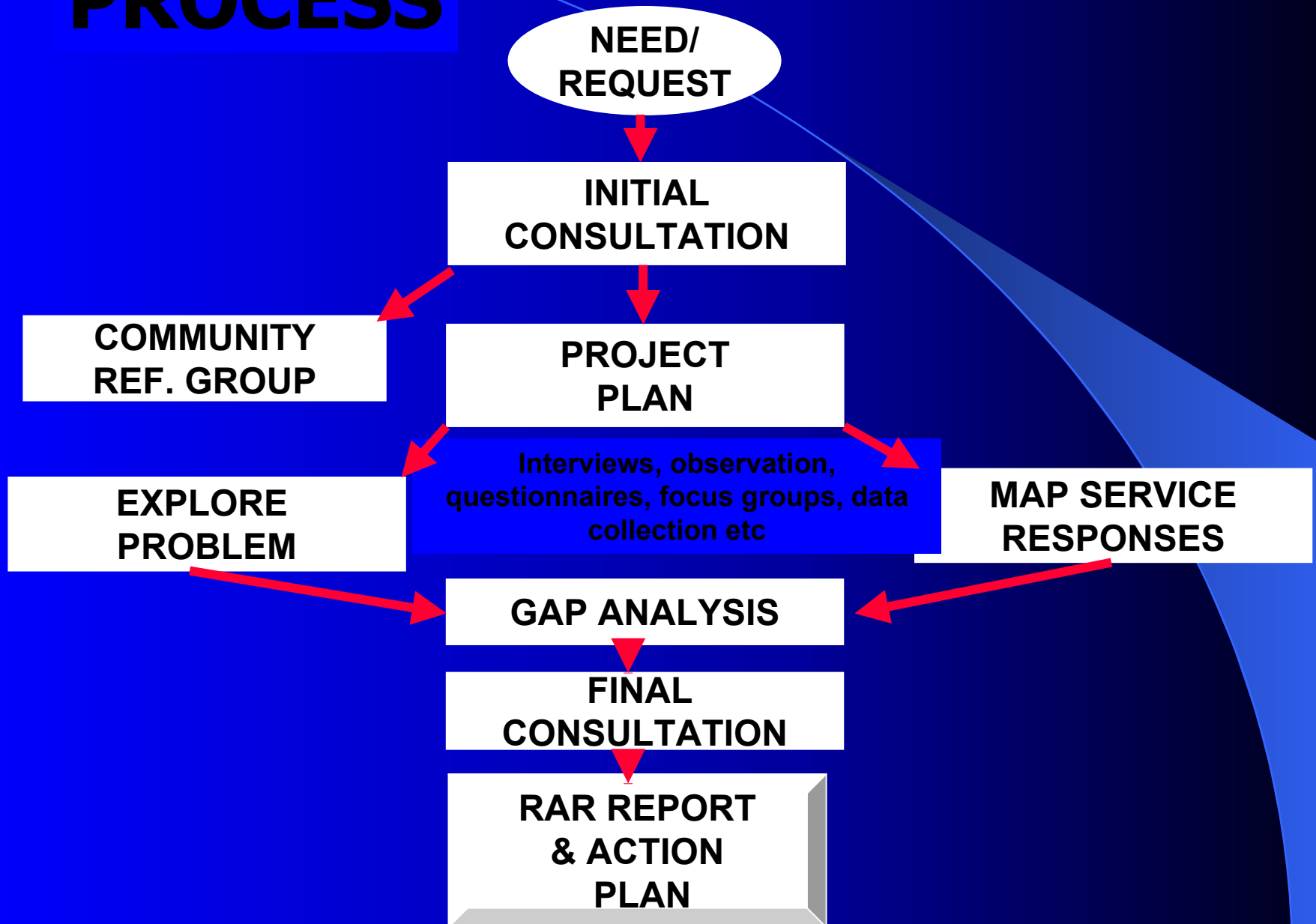
Features of RAR

- Rapid
- Action oriented
- Identifies and strengthens local responses
- Uses existing data
- Multiple methods and data sources
- An investigative approach
- Practical adequacy not scientific perfection

RAR → HKH?

- English → Norwegian
- Researcher focus → supervised practitioner focus
- Utilise the skills & strengths of the team re choice of methods
- Develop assessment skills in the agency

PROCESS



USING DIFFERENT ASSESSMENT METHODS..

PHASE 1

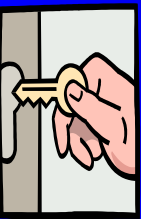
GATHER EXISTING INFORMATION



INITIAL OBSERVATIONS



KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS



FOCUS GROUPS



PHASE 2

FOCUS GROUPS



INTERVIEWS



ONGOING OBSERVATION



SURVEY



ANALYSIS

ANALYSIS

So far....

- Two pilot studies in Bergen:
 - Young people drugs, crime & youth culture
 - Young people drugs and mental health

So...can streetworkers do rapid assessments?

- Yes – and have some very useful skills.
- Challenges include
 - Not just youth perspective
 - Gathering existing info & mapping services (boring!!)
 - Report writing

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