

Kerry's story (we first met Kerry in Module 1)

Kerry is a 19 year old woman who has a mild intellectual disability. She has recently been diagnosed as having a bipolar disorder. Kerry has a history of childhood sexual assault and was assaulted in her mid teens by a friend of the family.

Kerry had challenging behaviours throughout her school years and was suspended on a number of occasions for episodes of aggressive behaviour. She self-harms and has very low self-esteem. Kerry is well known in the area as she is often seen in the local mall begging for cigarettes, frequently presents at the hospital with minor injuries or ailments and chomes occasionally. Kerry frequently engages in sexual intercourse in return for money or cigarettes.

Kerry's parents feel that they can no longer support her as it is 'destroying' their lives. They have changed the locks on the door so that Kerry cannot return to the family home.

Three days ago the police brought her to the hospital to be admitted to the mental health unit. Yesterday morning she disclosed that she was raped by another patient of the hospital.