

European treatment and transition management of high-risk offenders

Aftercare Monitoring Re-integration Group Findings

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Introduction

- Our task is to inform you of the areas of work and activity in **the monitoring and management of high risk offenders** which we have collectively identified as good practice, and which might be incorporated into the work of our national and regional organisations.
- Violent and/or Sexual Offending can inflict serious harm on members of the public, as either victims or potential victims and clearly they have a right to protection from such harm.
- What are the pillars upon which productive engagement with Service Users might take place?

Legislation

- Collectively we have identified that a firm legislative basis is necessary for the building of that honest open relationship.
- Legislative basis for information sharing with supporting protocols is essential.

Assessment

- The starting point for most of us engaged with Service Users released from prison in the community is **assessment**.
- The purpose of any risk assessment must be to inform a plan of intervention, to identify what the targets or areas for change might be.
- Service Users need to be made aware that assessments have a dynamic component and that risk levels will increase or decrease depending on the level of compliance with interventions or treatments outlined in risk management forms.

Collaboration Case Management Plan

- Working collaboratively with the risk assessment affords the service user the opportunity to understand his or her own risk level of further offending and the factors which contribute to that risk.
- Understanding is a first step for the Service User in managing his or her own risk.

Case Management Plan

- A Risk/Case Management Plan needs to be worked out collaboratively. This plan should inform and be informed by the conditions of supervision proposed in Court/Prison/Parole Board.

Contract

- An explicit contract with the released prisoner is not just desirable but it is essential.
- The identified risk factors and the specified conditions which are attached to the order of the Court or Prison or Parole Board.
- Duties and responsibilities of each party and provides clarity about expectations.

Supervision and monitoring:

- Supervision has the dual functions of promoting rehabilitation and reducing harm, through restricting liberty as necessary and engaging an offender in the process of change.
- We recognised the care and control functions of the supervising Probation Worker and other players such as Police Officers, Residential Care staff and Addiction Workers.



Supervision and monitoring (2)

- Supervision should support the Service User in developing pro social coping strategies for known trigger situations and in developing relapse prevention strategies.
- Monitoring should identify changes in the Service User's individual situation which could increase the likelihood of serious harm to others.

Risk Management

- Focus should be on:
- Co-operation with supervision
- Emotional state of the Service User
- Social environment and changes to it
- Hostility or affinity towards particular individuals or groups
- Physical state
- Substance misuse
- Victim access

Multi agency working

- Service Users who are at a high risk of offending should be managed through a multi agency approach.
- Monitoring can only be effective if there is regular, transparent and shared collaboration with other agencies or services that have an identified role with the offender. (eg. Prisons, Police, Health Services/Child Protection, Mental Health Services, Employment Services, Addiction Services and Housing and voluntary organisations).
- Fokus in Germany and SORAM in Ireland as examples of such interagency working.

Community Guarantee

- Offenders are citizens
- State/municipal authorities have responsibilities to arrange services according to need.

Treatment

- For some offenders specialist treatment facilities provide effective interventions and these may involve individual, group or family work, or a combination of them. The most appropriate type of intervention will be determined by those factors that are related to offending behaviour.
- Successful re-integration of high risk offenders is about public and victim safety. Monitoring, surveillance, restrictions (such as electronic tagging) and conditions should be used where required.

Conclusion

The working group on aftercare, monitoring and re-integration identified the following standards as essential/desirable for the successful management and engagement with Service Users at high risk of committing offences that could cause serious harm.

We highlighted:

- Legislative Underpinning
 - Assessment- initial and on-going
 - Case Management Plans
 - Offender Involvement based on professional relationship
 - Contract
 - Supervision and Monitoring
- Multi-Agency Working
 - Community Guarantee
 - Focussed Treatment/Interventions
 - Recourse to Courts/Prison Authorities where supervision arrangement have broken down.

Thank you!

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