

# Defining and managing high risk offenders – lessons from practice



**A PRESENTATION TO THE IJN GROUP ON  
THE TREATMENT AND TRANSITION  
MANAGEMENT OF HIGH RISK OFFENDERS**

**HELSINKI  
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# Images of Risk



**Classical**



**Modern**



# Risk of What?



- Risk of re – offending - LSIR ( Standard Probation Tool in Ireland- = OASYS)
- Need for tool that addresses risk of Harm – allowing a definition
- Development of PS RoSH and PS Rosh (SO) allowing staff to gauge level of risk and imminence.
- Guided professional judgement tool devised and standard in Probation in Ireland

# RISK of Serious Harm



The Irish Probation Service has selected the following definition of risk, which is drawn from the Metropolitan Police (2003)

## SERIOUS HARM IS

*“.....personal, physical or psychological harm which is life threatening and/or traumatic and from which recovery is usually difficult or incomplete.”*

# A Tool for Practice



- PS Rosh and PS Rosh (SO) are designed specifically for use within community and custodial settings.
- They are also designed to provide the Probation Officer with a grading that indicates the level of action required to reduce risk levels.
- PS Rosh allows for the development of defensible practice – providing staff, partner agencies and stakeholders with confidence in practice.

# Steps



- STEP ONE – Complete LSIR ( RM 2000 and S&A for Sex offenders) - Divert those who have committed DV offences to SARA assessment – *EXIT OR PROCEED*
- STEP TWO – Screen on basis of offending history *EXIT OR PROCEED*
- STEP THREE – Complete assessment of harmful behaviour – *EXIT OR PROCEED ( serious harmful behaviour)*
- STEP FOUR – Final ROSH assessment and assigning of Risk Level

# Cases in practice



## Case A

- 35 Year old man
- Convictions for murder (1)/ serious assault (4)
- Life sentence
- Differential mental health diagnoses/ ?abi
- Issues of drug and alcohol misuse
- Convicted at 24

## Case B

- 48 Year old man
- Convictions for murder (1)/theft (2)/public order(3)
- Life sentence
- Diagnosed with Schizophrenia
- Issues of Alcohol misuse
- Convicted at 24



## Cases in Practice

### Case A

- PROTECTIVE
- In Custody
- Subject to Parole Review
  
- RISKS
- A voyeuristic interest in violence
- A social isolate
- Hard to Engage
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## Cases in Practice

### Case B

- PROTECTIVE
- Motivated
- Engaged with Mental Health Services
- Engaged with Probation
- Positive Family Support
  
- RISKS
- Managing change relationships
- Managing Transition

# Managing Transition from Custody to Community - Challenges



- The challenge of legal frameworks – limitations on Probation Service post release supervision
- ISM – Integrated Sentence Management – building links with Prison Services – preparing release
- Building Links to community and family networks
- Utilising voluntary and community sector, eg *PACE*, *CAP*, *TRAIL*, *Foothold*
- Information Sharing with Gardai (Police)

# Making Sure – Maximising Chances



- An effective offender –probation officer relationship-care and control/support and supervision
- Availability and capacity to respond
- Responding to motivation and risk levels
- Prepare, Prepare,Prepare



## Examples of Inter agency work

Using the SORAM process as a model.

SEX

OFFENDER

RISK

ASSESSMENT

And

MANAGEMENT

- Sex Offenders on Post Release supervision- legislation
- Managed jointly by local Probation manager and local Garda Inspector - collaboration
- Shared risk assessments jointly prepared by both agencies
- Focus on high and medium risk
- Agreed action and monitoring plans – every six weeks
- Meeting Need and Risk – Social Services attend



## Bridge Violent Offenders Programme

A new Probation Service initiative focussing on the community supervision of those convicted of violent offences

- Based in Dublin to commence in Spring 2014
- Joint venture – Probation and Bridge Project
- Post release or post sentence
- Based on PSRosh level 3/4
- Non sexual crimes/ Non DV
- Supported by Court sanction



## Bridge Violent Offenders Programme

A new Probation Service initiative focussing on the community supervision of those convicted of violent offences

- 3 phase Programme
- Phase One – Entry, wrap around, housing, family, adjustment issues, motivation ( 2-3 months)
- Formalised group programme – with individual supervision/ additional modules
- Post programme progression – CE scheme/ external placement with support

# RISK and not risk alone



**IN DEALING WITH THOSE WHO PRESENT A RISK TO OTHERS WE MUST DEVELOP SYSTEMS AND TOOLS THAT WILL HELP MEASURE THAT RISK AND POSITIVELY RESPOND**

**RISK MANAGEMENT MEANS BOTH CONTAINING RISK AND MEETING NEEDS**

**CENTRAL TO BOTH IS THE DEVELOPMENT OF EFFECTIVE SYSTEMS BUT ALSO OF AN EFFECTIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PROBATION OFFICER AND OFFENDER.**

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

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