

# Thinking Skills Programme (TSP)

## Information for Offender Managers

### What is the Thinking Skills Programme (TSP)

TSP is the new accredited general offending programme that will replace Think First and ETS in Prisons and Probation.

### What does TSP involve?

The Thinking Skills Programme consists of 19 sessions in total comprising 3 modules of 5 sessions and 4 one-to-one sessions. In addition, offenders will attend pre and post psychometric test sessions and the post programme review meeting with the Offender Manager.

Offenders must attend an individual one-to-one session with a programme tutor before starting the groupwork sessions. This one-to-one session constitutes the programme start and is designed to find out what the offender cares about, explores personal risk factors, gives an overview of the programme and explains the 'Conditions of Success'. The Thinking Skills Programme is a rolling programme and offenders can join at the start of a module. Offenders will be offered one catch-up per module and must attend all the individual one-to-one sessions. The Programme Tutor will be able to support the offender whilst they are on the programme. Non-attendance will be managed by Programme Tutors in line with the 'Conditions of Success' and 'Individual Performance Management'.

### 'Conditions of Success'

Offenders will be expected to agree and sign the conditions of success agreement form. This requires offenders to engage with the following:

- Active Participation
- Open Participation
- Respectful Participation
- Supportive Participation

The programme itself consists of the following 3 modules of 5 groupwork sessions each and an individual one-to-one session at the end of each module.

- Self control
- Problem Solving
- Positive Relationships

On successful completion of the Thinking Skills Programme, the Programme Tutor will complete a post-programme report and identify areas that may inform the sentence plan.

## Who is TSP for?

### Eligibility

TSP is targeted at those with a medium to high risk of reconviction. To be eligible, an offender will have an OGRS 3 score (2yr reconviction) of 50 or above.

### Suitability

The Thinking Skills Programme is designed to address risk, need and responsivity. To be suitable for the programme, offenders must have been assessed as having the relevant offending related needs targeted by the programme. Should an OASys assessment be completed pre-sentence, then offenders should score a minimum of 18 or a minimum score of 10 if at least two of the items score 2. The table below lists the 18 OASys items identified as triggers for suitability for TSP:

Thinking Skills Programme Targets	OASys item
Self Control	11.2 impulsivity 11.7 awareness of consequences
Problem Solving	11.5 ability to recognise problems 11.6 problem solving
Offence free relationships	6.2 close family member has a criminal record 6.5 current partner has a criminal record 7.1 community integration 7.2 regular activities encourage offending 7.3 easily influenced by criminal associates 11.1 interpersonal skill
Perspective Taking	2.6 recognises the impact and consequences of offending on victim, community/wider society 11.9 understands other people's point of view
Emotional Awareness	10.1 difficulty coping 11.4 temper control
Goals and Values	11.8 achieve goals 12.1 pro criminal attitudes 12.6 understanding of motivation to offend
Seeing Whole Picture	11.10 concrete/abstract thinking

A condition to attend the TSP programme requires the making of a Community Order with Supervision or a licence condition for a minimum of twelve months with a requirement for attendance on the programme. The following wording should be used:

“To participate in the Thinking Skills Programme for 19 sessions in accordance with the instructions of the Offender Manager”.