



NATIONAL PROBATION SERVICE
for England and Wales

Cheshire

The national picture: 'What Works'

'What Works' is a Home Office policy to ensure all probation and prison practice is effective and based on properly researched evidence of success in reducing re-offending.

Common features of 'What Works' programmes include:

- reduced re-offending
- improved public protection
- seamless execution of the sentence of the Courts
- greater public confidence in community punishments.

Tried and Tested

The Sex Offender Programme (N-SOGP) is nationally accredited by the Correctional Services Application Panel. Research has proved that the methods, principles and techniques used are effective in reducing re-offending. By 2004, Cheshire will only deliver nationally accredited programmes.

A national target of 60,000 has been set for the number of offenders completing accredited programmes by 2003/2004, with 30,000 of these being subject to Community Punishment Orders.



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Enforcement, rehabilitation and public protection

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Accredited Sex Offender Group Programme (N-SOGP)

Information for Courts

Accredited Sex Offender Programme

This is an accredited programme for adult offenders convicted of sexual offences against children or adults.

The Sex Offender programme aims to **stop** the offender committing further sex offences.

Programme Content

The programme consists of two stages and is delivered to groups of up to 10 offenders.

Stage 1 is the Core Groupwork Programme in which the offender will:

- complete between 32 and 36 full day sessions organised into 4 blocks.
- be challenged about his attitudes and behaviour.
- learn new ways of coping with risk situations and feelings.
- analyse and identify relevant risk factors.
- learn how to make clear decisions to avoid difficult places, situations and patterns of behaviour.

Stage 2 is a Relapse Prevention Programme in which the offender will:

- complete 12 weekly sessions of 3 hours duration each
- assess in detail strategies for avoiding re-offending.

Pre-Sentence Reports

Where appropriate, Pre-Sentence Reports will contain proposals for offenders' attendance on the Programme as an additional condition in a Community Rehabilitation Order with a Schedule 2(3) condition of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000.

Suitable Offenders

The programme is designed for any adult male sex offender who has been convicted in an adult court or has reached adulthood during a custodial sentence.

Rigorous assessment of offenders at the pre-sentence or pre-release stage is essential.

Some offenders who have already completed accredited sex offender programmes (e.g. in Prison) may be eligible for direct entry on to the Relapse Prevention Programme.

Attendance

To complete each part of the Programme successfully, offenders must attend every session and also meet regularly with their Case Manager.

In the Core Programme, if one session is missed, the offender must do an individual catch up session before continuing. If more than two sessions are missed, he will have to start the whole block again.

In the Relapse Prevention Programme, two missed sessions and the offender must start the whole module again.

An offender is allowed a maximum of three attempts to start the Programme.

Unacceptable absences are dealt with in accordance with the Service's National Standards and offenders are returned to Court and/or prison on or before two unacceptable absences.

Assessing Individual Progress

Before the group starts, offenders are required to complete a psychometric assessment. They are required to do this again after completing all sessions. These assessments indicate the programme's impact in terms of changing the attitudes and behaviour of participants. Results are shared with the offender and Case Manager.