



NATIONAL PROBATION SERVICE
for England and Wales

Cheshire

The national picture: "What Works"

"What Works" is a Home office policy to ensure that 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

This is the third programme delivered in Cheshire to be nationally accredited, meaning research has proved that the methods, principles and techniques used are effective in reducing re-offending. By 2004, Cheshire will only deliver programmes that are nationally accredited.

A national target of 60,000 has been set for the number of offenders completing accredited programmes by 2003/4, with 30,000 of these being subject to Community Punishment Orders.

An evaluation of the DID Programme found that it reduced the anticipated rate of re-conviction by half, to only 14% after two years. This compares very favourably with the 21% re-conviction rate for drink drivers sent to prison and 28% for those given other community penalties. The study also showed that 89% of those who started the DID Programme completed it.



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Drink Impaired Drivers Programme

Information for Courts

Drink Impaired Drivers Programme (DID)

This is an accredited, offence specific programme. Drink impaired drivers account for 15% of all road fatalities and 6% of all road accidents (Cheshire County Council, Road Safety Unit, 2002).

Its aim is to teach offenders new skills and techniques:

- to stop them from drink driving
- to increase their knowledge of alcohol and its effects
- to plan effectively
- to control their thoughts, feelings and actions
- to promote safe driving.

Suitable offenders

The programme is aimed at drink drivers who have committed between two and four offences and first time offenders if the drink drive offence is aggravated i.e. twice the legal limit and/or involved in an accident

Rigorous assessment of offenders during the preparation of Pre-Sentence Reports is essential. There is evidence that putting the wrong offenders on this programme can increase re-offending. First time drink drivers, those who have committed five or more offences, or have a serious alcohol problem, are unsuitable for the programme.

Case Managers will not propose a Drink Impaired Drivers Programme (DID) unless the offender is sufficiently motivated to change.

Pre-Sentence Reports

Where appropriate, Pre-Sentence Reports will contain proposals for offenders' attendance on the DID Programme as an additional condition in a Community Rehabilitation Order or Community Punishment and Rehabilitation Order with a Schedule 2(3) condition of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000. It is not appropriate for these Orders to be made as a result of a Specific Sentence Report.

Programme Content

The DID Programme is delivered to groups of up to ten offenders. It tackles the way drink drivers think and behave and aims to change behaviour by increasing their knowledge about alcohol and driving and by teaching problem-solving skills.

It runs for 20 - 26 sessions, comprising four pre-group, 16 group and up to six post-group sessions.

Attendance

Offenders must attend the full programme. The programme design allows two failures to attend. These sessions can be caught up individually, so that the offender can rejoin the main group. More than two absences require the offender to re-start the whole programme. Unacceptable absences are dealt with in accordance with National Standards and offenders are returned to Court after the second missed session.

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

Assessing individual progress

Before the group sessions start, offenders see their Case Managers at least four times to assess motivation and attitude and to fill out a questionnaire. At the end of the group work, a written report is discussed between the group tutor, the Case Manager and the offender. At the end of the programme another questionnaire measures the offender's knowledge of alcohol and attitudes towards offending.