

The national picture: 'What Works'

'What Works' is a Home Office strategy 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.

Accreditation

The Internet Sexual Offender Treatment Programme (i-SOTP) is nationally accredited by the Correctional Services Panel. Research has proved that the methods, principles and techniques used are effective in reducing re-offending.

Should you require this information in another language or format, e.g. large-print, Braille, etc, please contact the Contracts Officer, details as below.

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



NOMS National Offender
Management Service

Working together to reduce re-offending



CHESHIRE

Accredited Internet Sexual Offending Treatment Programme (i-SOTP)

Information for Courts

Accredited Internet Sexual Offending Treatment Programme (i-SOTP)

This is an accredited programme for male offenders aged 17 and over who have been convicted of sexual offences related to the use of the internet.

Group formation is determined by age, e.g. 17 – 21 years and 21 years plus. Provision of groups for the former age range will be determined by sufficient referral numbers.

Programme Content

i-SOTP is an intensive programme, delivered to groups of up to 10 offenders. It comprises 35 sessions, each of 2 hours' duration, during which the offender will:

- be challenged about his attitudes and offending behaviour.
- analyse his offending to identify relevant risk factors.
- learn new ways of managing the risk situations and feelings that have led to offending.
- develop an action plan detailing strategies for avoiding re-offending.

In addition, the offender is required to complete further work in between sessions.

Eligible Offenders

Offenders convicted of any of the following offences are eligible for i-SOTP:

- taking or making indecent photographs of children.
- possession of an indecent photograph of a child.
- causing or inciting child prostitution or pornography.
- arranging or facilitating child prostitution or pornography.
- controlling a child prostitute or a child involved in pornography.

Rigorous assessment of offenders is essential. Those offenders considered to pose a Very High Risk of Harm (or High Deviance level following post sentence assessment) will continue to be referred to the existing Sex Offender Programme (N-SOGP) as they will require increased treatment time. As a result, a minimum of 2 years' supervision will be required in order to ensure that the relevant programme can be completed.

Pre-Sentence Report

Where appropriate, Standard Delivery Reports will contain proposals for an offender's attendance at a "Sex Offender Treatment Programme of up to 60 sessions".

For those whose offences pre-date the implementation of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (1st April 2005), the programme can be provided as a condition of a Community Rehabilitation Order or Licence.

For those whose offences post-date 1st April 2005, the requirement can be provided to those subject to a Community Order with a Supervision and Programme requirement or Licence.

Attendance

To complete the programme successfully, offenders must complete every session and also meet regularly with their Offender Manager.

During the programme, if an offender misses a session he must do an individual catch up session before continuing. No more than four sessions can be completed via a catch up, or the offender will have to start the programme again.

Unacceptable absences are dealt with in accordance with the Probation Service's National Standards.

Assessing Individual Progress

Before the group starts, offenders are required to complete a psychometric assessment. Following completion of the programme, they are required to repeat this exercise. These assessments indicate the impact that the programme has had in terms of changing attitudes and behaviour of the participants. Results are shared with the offender and Offender Manager through the provision of a Post-Programme Report.