

Approved Premises

Enforcement, Rehabilitation & Public Protection for your community



A South Yorkshire Probation Area Community Briefing

Approved Premises in South Yorkshire

THE aim of Approved Premises is to protect the public from offenders who pose a significant risk of harm to others.

With the assistance of licence conditions and trained, experienced Probation Service staff, Approved Premises are key to reducing the risk of offenders re-offending.

There are three Approved Premises in South Yorkshire, owned by the Home Office and operated by South Yorkshire Probation Area:

- **Town Moor, Doncaster;**
- **Rookwood, Rotherham;**
- **Norfolk Park, Sheffield.**

The Probation Service work

closely with other agencies, particularly South Yorkshire Police and the Prison Service, to rehabilitate and re-house offenders while helping offenders successfully resettle in the community.

An assessment is made as to whether an offender poses any risk to themselves or the public. Offenders who cause any particular concern to the public will be referred to the local Multi-Agency Public Protection Panel (MAPPP).

Multi-Agency Public Protection Panels bring together key workers from all agencies involved in the management of a particular individual. In addition to probation, police and prisons, who have a statutory duty as

MAPPA's responsible authorities, education, housing, health and social services are all brought together as necessary in the decision-making process.

Approved Premises are not permanent homes for any offenders. They are used in the rehabilitation of offenders, using tested methods of assessment group and individual work to enable them to play a positive role in society when they move on.

As such, they play a key role in the management and monitoring of individuals who would pose a significantly higher risk to themselves and others if they were left to fend for themselves in the community.

Licence, Bail & Condition of Residence

MOST residents of Approved Premises in England and Wales are either on bail, awaiting trial for alleged crimes, or on licence following release from prison.

Bailees are usually directed to live at an Approved Premise by magistrates or a judge at their initial court hearing. Residence is a part of their bail conditions and breaches of the rules lead to bail being revoked and them being remanded to prison.

Licencees are released to Approved Premises when they leave prison, either because they have been granted early release by the Parole Board or they have reached a point in their sentence when they are entitled to automatic release.

Bailees are also subject to the same rules, and breach can lead to revoke of parole and return to prison to finish their full sentence. Some residents may be required to live in an Approved Premise as a condition of their community (non-custodial) sentence.

Our Drugs & Drink Policy

APPROVED Premise residents are only allowed to bring in drugs that have been prescribed to them, and these are handed to staff who administer them according to the doctor's instructions.

Illegal drugs, solvents or alcohol are banned and residents who break the rules may be returned to prison or court.

Your Questions Answered

What are Approved Premises ?

Approved Premises were formerly known as bail and / or probation hostels. They are part of the Crown Estate (Government property) and managed by staff employed locally by the South Yorkshire Probation Board. They provide structured accommodation for offenders under the supervision of the Probation Service. Residents live in a structured regime, which includes an overnight curfew. There is 24 hour supervision by trained probation staff.

What sort of people live in Approved Premises ?

Approved Premises take a mix of male or female residents on bail, license or community orders. By law, we are unable to confirm the specifics of any individual resident's offending history.

Why is this type of accommodation needed ?

Facilities like these are a vital part of the public protection process. They enable successful resettlement of offenders back into the community, while contributing to the reduction of re-offending.

What would happen if Approved Premises were not available ?

Without Approved Premises and positive interventions there would be no facilities for those offenders who require more help to live successfully and safely within the community. Approved Premises are used for offenders who require closer daily supervision by probation staff. However, the vast majority of offenders under probation supervision live in their own private accommodation.

Do residents pose a threat to the public ?

When a place at Approved Premises is found for new residents, an assessment will be made as to whether they pose any risk to the public or themselves. Offenders who cause particular concern will be referred to the local Multi-Agency Public Protection Panel (MAPPP).

This is chaired by an officer from the Probation & Police's Joint Public Protection Unit (JPPU), and attended by local police, senior probation staff and other officials from health, education, social services, housing and the Prison Service as required. At the MAPPP, the offender's case will be discussed in detail and a plan of action agreed that all agencies will follow to manage any risks they pose.

Options for staff include additional daytime curfews or licence conditions which place further restrictions on an individual's movements or activities. The majority of approved premises residents are successfully rehabilitated.

Approved Premises & Post-Release License Conditions & Restrictions

Tailor-made Curfew Periods

Extended curfew periods to assist offender rehabilitation.

Home Detention Curfews

Electronic monitoring of offenders.

Treatments

This can include Mental Health treatment, Domestic Violence, Alcohol Abuse, Drug Abuse treatments and offending behaviour programs.

Sex Offender Protection Orders

An order applied for by the police and granted by the courts.

Behaviour Contracts

Individually tailored contracts for each offender.

Drug Testing

Offenders are regularly tested for illegal drugs and referred into treatment.

Exclusion Zones

Areas are set up that offenders are unable to enter as part of their probation order. Non compliance with this order may result in an offender going to Prison.

Contact restrictions

This prevents offenders having contact with named individuals.

Sex Offender Registration

This is part of the sex offender registration with the police.

Police

Joint management of prolific offenders.

Recall to Prison

Breach of license which results in recall to prison.

If you want to know more...

We have tried to include all the relevant information you might need in this community briefing. If you would like to know more about South Yorkshire Probation Area Approved Premises, or the work of the Probation Service you can contact:

Marion Wright, Director of Operations, South Yorkshire Probation Area, 45 Division Street, Sheffield, S1 4GE. Tel: 0114 276 6911, E-mail PR-unit@syps.org.uk, Web: www.syps.org.uk.