



SOUTH YORKSHIRE

Risk of Harm Area Assessment (RoHAA) Summary Document

*Independent inspection of probation
and youth offending work*

Context:

This document reflects work undertaken during the week commencing 28 April 2008 to examine the quality of Risk of Harm work in South Yorkshire Probation Area. A sample of 80 cases was analysed. This was made up of 45 community orders and 30 licences that commenced during October 2007 and 5 custody cases that were sentenced between February 1st and March 31st 2007.

Key Strengths:

- In all but one case a Risk of Harm screening had been completed; 86% of these had been done on time and 84% were seen to be accurate.
- In spite of shortcomings in the quality of Risk of Harm analysis, the correct classification was found in 87% of the sample. The classification and the MAPPA level, where appropriate, had been communicated to staff in every case.
- Middle management involvement was seen to be effective in the assessment of the majority of high Risk of Harm and child safeguarding cases.
- Referral to Approved Premises was found to be appropriate and effective in relevant high Risk of Harm cases.
- The level of Risk of Harm was reviewed at the required frequency in over 90% of all cases. It had also been reviewed as a consequence of changes that could have had an impact on the level of Risk of Harm posed in 87% of relevant cases. Such changes were swiftly identified and acted upon appropriately in 11 out of the 15 such cases.
- The quality of planning to address the needs of children and the public generally had improved at the review stage with 84% and 81% found to be satisfactory. There continued to be room for improvement however, in planning to address the Risk of Harm to known adults in 33% of relevant cases.
- MAPPA were found to have been used effectively in all but one case; offender managers and others were seen to contribute effectively to these processes.
- In approximately 90% of cases requiring breach action this was instigated and resolved within the target timescales.

Key Areas for Improvement:

- Whilst a full Risk of Harm analysis had been completed in 92% of those cases where one was indicated, this was seen to be accurate in only 54%. This was in part due to a lack of full attention to the nature and level of Risk of Harm posed to children in 36% of the 25 relevant cases and to known adults in 41% of the 27 relevant cases. In addition, in 21 cases the analysis did not draw on other available assessments or information.
- There was room for improvement in almost all of the Risk Management Plans seen. Whilst a plan had been completed in all but one case and 70% used the correct format they were sufficiently comprehensive in only 56% of community orders, 13% of licences and none of the custody cases. Four of the six high Risk of Harm community orders and one custody case had had a plan completed within the required timescale. They had been completed pre-release in only half of the relevant licence cases.

- Home visits were used effectively to safeguard children in only half of the 14 cases where there were such concerns.
- The frequency of appointments conformed to the national minimum requirement in most cases. However, there were 37 assessed as needing a greater level of contact due to the level of Risk of Harm posed at times during the sentence and in only 56% of these was the frequency increased.

Risk of Harm Thread Score:

The overall proportion of Risk of Harm work which was considered satisfactory in South Yorkshire Probation Area was **73%**.

May 2008