

# Information for Sentencers



SOUTH YORKSHIRE

## Addressing Substance Related Offending [ASRO]

### Introduction

The Addressing Substance Related Offending (ASRO) Programme is a nationally accredited programme for offenders whose crimes are associated with their use of drugs or alcohol.

### The Programme

ASRO examines the circumstances in people's lives that lead to substance misuse and crime, e.g. personality traits or environmental factors. It focuses on the 'triggers' to drug or alcohol use rather than on the use of the substances themselves.

ASRO aims to identify and alter these triggers by:

- **Enhancing motivation to change;**
- **Teaching self control skills;**
- **Teaching relapse prevention skills;**
- **Encouraging changes in lifestyle.**

Prior to attending ASRO offenders undertake specific work to address:

- **Attendance issues;**
- **Familiarisation with the programme and model of change;**
- **Introduction to the material;**
- **Motivational work.**

All courses are rigorously monitored and evaluated in order to ensure their effectiveness.

### Programme Length

The programme consists of 20 group sessions each of which lasts 2½ hours. Sessions normally run twice a week. Offenders also need to do homework, which is an integral part of the programme.

In addition there are pre and post programme psychometric tests.

### When Is ASRO Appropriate?

All offenders should be assessed for suitability by the Probation Service. The assessment process for ASRO should ensure that offenders meet the criteria. These are:

- **Medium to high risk of re-offending;**
- **Use of one or more substances;**
- **Offending that is directly related to substance misuse or where it increases the likelihood of re-offending.**

### The Legal Framework

Attendance on the programme is a requirement of a Community Order or Suspended Sentence in accordance with Section 202 Criminal Justice Act 2003.

The following words should be used for this additional requirement:

**For the duration of the requirement, participate in the Addressing Substance Related Offending (ASRO) Programme, in premises approved by the South Yorkshire Probation Board, in accordance with the instructions of the responsible officer, for not more than 30 days and whilst participating, comply with the instructions given by, or under the authority of, the person in charge of the programme (Section 202 Criminal Justice Act 2003).**

This requirement will be enforced and the Order returned to court if the programme is not completed.