

Information for Sentencers

Cognitive Skills Booster Programme [CSB]



SOUTH YORKSHIRE

Introduction

The Cognitive Skills Booster Programme (CSB) is a nationally accredited programme for offenders who have previously completed a general offending behaviour programme.

The Programme

The Cognitive Skills Booster programme revisits and reinforces learning from previously completed general offending behaviour programmes:

- By reinforcing problem solving skills, social skills and personal control
- By practising these skills in a group setting
- By assisting other group members to practice their skills.

The programme also enables offenders to plan how to use these skills in their current lifestyles so as to reduce the risk of further offending.

Programme Length

The programme consists of 1 introductory session, between 10 and 12 further sessions of 2 hours duration and a review meeting once the programme has been completed. Offenders will normally attend 2 sessions per week.

When is CSB Appropriate?

The programme is only available for those assessed as suitable by a Probation Officer. Only those who have already completed one of the General Offending Behaviour programmes (Think First, Enhanced Thinking Skills, Reasoning and Rehabilitation) are eligible.

The Legal Framework

Attendance on the programme is a requirement of a Community Order or Suspended Sentence as set out in Section 202 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003. The following words should be used:

“For the duration of the requirement, participate in the Cognitive Skills Booster 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.