

Accredited Sex Offender Programmes

Introduction

We now run 2 types of accredited programme in South Yorkshire for Sex Offenders. Following sentence we assess offenders to decide which one is suitable to address their offending. A generic requirement to attend the sex offender programme is therefore needed in all cases.

The NSOG [Northumbria Sex Offender Group] Core Treatment Programme

This is a programme based on a model developed in Northumbria and has been running in South Yorkshire since 2002. The programme caters for a wide range of sexual offenders and offers differing levels of intervention according to offenders' levels of risk and deviancy. It can be completed by offenders on Community Orders and by those on licences of sufficient length.

Programme Length

The programme is lengthy and demanding and consists of 2 groupwork elements:

- **A core programme of 144 hours** divided into 4 modules:
 - My Offence
 - Cycle of Offending
 - What's Changed
 - Risk FactorsOffenders complete a mixture of thematic exercises and personal work here.
- **A Relapse Prevention Programme of 36 hours** for those who have successfully completed the Core Programme or other equivalent work e.g the Sex Offender Treatment programme in Prison or a programme of structured individual work.

When Is NSOG Appropriate?

All offenders should be assessed for suitability by the Probation Service. Offenders for these programmes should be male and aged 18 or over and have committed a sexual offence against either an adult or a child. Sexual offences include those where there has been no physical contact e.g indecent exposure:

The Internet Sex Offenders Programme

This programme is for offenders who have been convicted of offences which include the viewing, making, possessing or distributing indecent images

of children through the medium of electronic communication. This offending includes other forms of technology for example telephone technology.

The programme is an important element in the overall management of the offender. Programmes staff and Offender Managers work closely throughout to review progress and address risk

Programme Length

The Internet Sex Offender Programme is 70 hours divided into 6 modules:

- Motivation and Values
- What needs did offending meet
- Victim Awareness
- Emotional and Relationship Skills
- Relapse Plan
- Life Plan

The Legal Framework

A 3 year order is strongly recommended to ensure completion of the groupwork element and any follow-up work or monitoring required.

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 Accredited Sex Offender Programme, in premises approved by the South Yorkshire Probation Board, in accordance with the instructions of the responsible officer, and while 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.

Should a custodial sentence be passed on an offender where there assessment suggests that he would be likely to re-offend and would benefit from an extended period of post release supervision in addition to the custodial term, the court may wish to consider a sentence in accordance with section 85 of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000. For a sexual offence committed after 3rd April 2005, the public protection provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 may be applicable.