

THE RISK MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY:

Developing best practice for working with serious
violent and sexual offenders



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REDUCING REOFFENDING

The risk of reoffending relates to both the ***probability*** of further offences and also the ***impact*** or severity of these offences.

To reduce the risk of reoffending requires supervision to be based on a robust ***risk management plan*** .

A risk management plan should include ***assessment and analysis*** of those factors which may increase or prevent the probability and impact of further offences and a formulation which provides ***recommendations for action***

Risk management requires ***interagency and multidisciplinary working*** to exchange information and integrate planning.

A FUNDAMENTAL PROCESS ...

The risk management approach is fundamental to the reduction of reoffending and the ***Risk Management Authority (RMA)*** has been established to facilitate the development of best practice.

For serious violent and sexual offenders the process will commence following conviction and, for those offenders who receive an ***Order for Lifelong Restriction (OLR)***, risk assessment and management planning will be carried out throughout their sentence, whether in a custodial or secure setting, or in the community.

WHY DOES SCOTLAND NEED THE RMA ?

- ❑ Public concern with the harm resulting from sexual and violent offending.
- ❑ Need for special measures for offenders considered to be at high risk of serious re-offending.
- ❑ Diversity of professional practices and competing approaches in the assessment and management of high risk offenders.
- ❑ Need for research to evidence and develop best practice.
- ❑ Problems of inter-agency communication, information flow and shared definitions and understanding.

THE ORIGINS OF THE RMA

- ❑ The MacLean Committee (2000)
- ❑ The Expert Panel on Sex Offending (Cosgrove 2001)
- ❑ The Review of the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 1984 (Millan 2001)
- ❑ The Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003

THE MACLEAN RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❑ A new sentence, the Order for Lifelong Restriction (OLR), for lifelong control of any offender considered to be of high risk.
- ❑ Risk management plans for offenders sentenced to an OLR, to ensure appropriate management of risk.
- ❑ A new body, the RMA, to assist agencies in their management of risk.
- ❑ Improved arrangements for the management of mentally disordered offenders who present a high risk.

THE RISK CRITERIA

- “that the nature of, or the circumstances of the commission of, the offence of which the convicted person has been found guilty either in themselves or as part of a pattern of behaviour are such as to demonstrate that there is a likelihood that, if at liberty, will seriously endanger the lives ,or physical or psychological well-being of members of the public at large.”

Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003

THE RESEARCH BACKGROUND

- ❑ Risk Assessment and Management of Serious Sexual and Violent Offenders : A review of current issues. (Kemshall 2002)
- ❑ Audit of Risk Assessment Tools (McIvor et al 2002)
- ❑ Recidivism : A literature review (Loucks 2002)
- ❑ Recidivism Rates amongst Serious Sexual and Violent Offenders (McIvor et al 2002)

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES



**ADVICE TO SCOTTISH
MINISTERS**

**ACCREDITATION
AND
GUIDELINES**

**RESEARCH
AND
TRAINING**

THE STATUTORY FUNCTIONS

- ❑ To develop ***policy*** and to carry out and monitor ***research*** in risk assessment and minimisation.
- ❑ To set ***standards*** and ***accredit*** those people, methods and practices involved in risk assessment and management and to issue guidance to those involved.
- ❑ To ***approve and monitor*** risk management plans for those offenders receiving an Order for Lifelong Restriction sentence.
- ❑ To provide ***education and training*** in relation to the assessment and minimisation of risk.

THE KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- ❑ Crown Office, Scottish courts and procurator fiscals, judges and sheriffs.
- ❑ Police
- ❑ Local authority social work
- ❑ The Scottish Prison Service
- ❑ NHS and private mental health services
- ❑ The Parole Board
- ❑ Non governmental organisations
- ❑ The public
- ❑ Offenders

PROGRESS TO DATE

- ❑ Legislative basis established for the OLR and the RMA functions.

RMA set up as a Non Departmental Public Body (NDPB) by the Scottish Executive.

- ❑ RMA Convener and Board members appointed.
- ❑ Chief Executive and key staff in post.
- ❑ Base established in Paisley.

ONGOING WORK

- ❑ Development of the Accreditation system.
- ❑ Preparation for the OLR legislation to go live in early 2006.
- ❑ Meeting with stakeholders.
- ❑ Developing the research and training strategy.

RESEARCH AND TRAINING

- ❑ Training in the RMA guidelines, standards and guidance.
- ❑ Development of the resource centre.
- ❑ Commissioned research in areas such as
 - : the validation of assessment methods;
 - : the assessment of young offenders, women and those with cognitive impairment.
- ❑ Provision of seminars and courses.

THE NEXT STEPS

To take forward the work of the RMA and to implement the legislation requires us to work with a wide range of agencies, professionals and individuals.

The RMA can only be successful if it can ensure an integrated approach and shared understanding of risk assessment and management.

We look forward to hearing from you!

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