



Safe in East Sussex

Safer East Sussex Team Newsletter

In focus – Offending

June 2015

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If you would like to find out more about what the team have been doing, then why not sign up to the new fortnightly e-bulletin.

This complements the current newsletter which will continue to provide an in depth focus on our priority areas.

To sign up please do so at: <http://eepurl.com/bfQM6H>

Introduction to Offending

There are currently 136 prisons in England and Wales. Time in prison is a punishment, but can also help offenders change their ways to become law-abiding citizens.

Punishment is pointless if prisoners go on to offend again when they are released.

Prison sentences, as all sentences, have to meet the five purposes of sentencing. Punishment is one, but reducing reoffending is just as important.

Equipping offenders for life after prison is one of the main challenges. Preparing them to find employment is a known way to reduce the likelihood of reoffending, as in addressing any social problems they may have including alcoholism, drug abuse or homelessness.



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Sentences are given to:

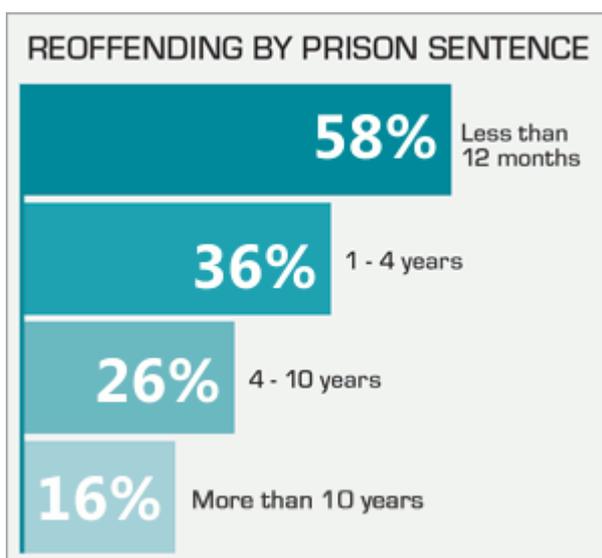
- **Punish offenders**
- **Protect the public**
- **Change an offender's behaviour**
- **Ensure offenders do something to make up for their crime**
- **Reduce crime in the future**

There are three types of offenders on sentences which are managed in the community - those who are serving community sentences, those who are on suspended sentences and those who are on licence (the second part of a 'determinate' sentence, where part of it is served in prison and part on supervision in the community).

As of 1 June 2014 new arrangements were put in place for the delivery of probation services – the 35 Probation Trusts were dissolved and replaced by the National Probation Service (NPS) and 21 Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs). The NPS manages the most high risk offenders in the community and CRCs manage the remainder of the offenders in the community.

Offender managers from the NPS and CRCs work closely with offenders throughout the life of their order or licence to reduce the chance of reoffending and ensure that they obey the requirements of their order or licence. For example, this could include treatment for substance misuse, sticking to a curfew or doing unpaid work.

One of the biggest factors that lead to reoffending are criminals' use of drugs and alcohol, so it is crucial that the sentence they get addresses these problems as well as punishing the offender.



Prison population at 17 April 2015

= 85,432

<http://open.justice.gov.uk/reoffending/offenders-in-the-community/>

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More Local Involvement and Accountability

The justice system is being opened up so that both victims and the public will have more opportunities to have their say. People will also be able to see how it is performing. Specifically: More local involvement and accountability

- Clearer information about how sentencing works and the types of sentences actually given in local courts is being made available, for example through the Making Sense of Justice website.
- Local communities will have access to more information about justice services in their area, for example through Police.uk and neighbourhood policing teams.
- Victims are being given the chance to explain the harm that a crime has caused them, so that sentences can be tailored to help the offender make amends.
- Increased use of restorative justice will allow victims who wish to do so to confront their offender face to face, and make them repair the harm they caused

Reducing re-offending and protecting the public remains the sole purpose of probation.

At the beginning of October 2014, there were 252 offenders listed on the East Sussex Integrated Offender Management (IOM) cohort, with a 13% reduction in the number of offenders classified as Priority and Prolific Offenders (PPO).

The new national measure of adult re-offending shows that 23.7% of the offenders in the East Sussex cohort re-offended within 18 months of the original offence.

The biggest problems facing offenders are secure accommodation, changes to the benefit's system and access to financial support, all of which increasingly place pressure on offenders and their families, increasing conflict and potential risks of re-offending.

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KENT, SURREY AND SUSSEX COMMUNITY REHABILITATION COMPANY

New operating model puts the service user at the heart of their own rehabilitation.

What we do Kent, Surrey & Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (KSS CRC) delivers rehabilitation services to people who have committed a criminal offence and been given either a custodial or community sentence by a court. Those we work with are classified as either **low or medium risk offenders**. When we work with them, we call them 'service users', rather than offenders – so beginning their rehabilitation journey at the point of first contact. In a nutshell, we do the following:

- Support up to 15,000 service users every year
- Work with up to 7,500 service users at any one time
- Deliver over 22,000 requirements and 1,800 licence conditions every year
- Employ around 650 people
- Operate across 35 council areas
- Have a network of over 20 offices
- Serve a population of over 4 million people.



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There are two main ways in which we work with service users to deliver the sentence of the court and support rehabilitation.



IN THE COMMUNITY: supporting those sentenced to a community order through supervision, accredited programmes and Rehabilitation Activity Requirement (RAR); supporting those ordered to do unpaid work (called Community Payback).

IN CUSTODY OR RELEASED ON LICENCE: helping those in prison prepare effectively for resettlement and ongoing rehabilitation in the community. Supporting those released on licence to serve the rest of their sentence in the community.

We have developed a range of rehabilitation services for people on probation designed to address the underlying causes of their offending, ensure they pay back their communities and support them to turn away from crime.

All of these services sit within a cohesive framework called My Solution Rehabilitation Programme, MSRP for short. It's our whole approach to delivering rehabilitation support. It's how we deliver the sentence of the court in order to reduce reoffending.



WHAT IS MSRP?

My problem, my solution: MSRP puts the service user at the heart of their own rehabilitation. It works on the premise that to become crime-free, a person needs to understand their reason for offending in the first place and then change how they think about their behaviour.

When they can do this, they are ready to take responsibility for making changes to the way they live their life and can develop the skills they need to live differently. We're here to help – but we can't do it for them.

For further information on KSS CRC and the first edition of InTouch, our newsletter for partners please click on this link

<https://ksscrc.co.uk/media-centre>

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The National Probation Service is a statutory criminal justice service that supervises **high-risk offenders** released into the community.

We work with around 30,000 offenders a year, supporting their rehabilitation while protecting the public.

The National Probation Service was set up on 1 June 2014, along with 21 community rehabilitation companies (CRCs) that manage low and medium risk offenders. We work in partnership with the CRCs, with the courts, police and with private and voluntary sector partners in order to manage offenders safely and effectively.

Together, the NPS and the CRCs have replaced the former 35 probation trusts

We're responsible for:

- Preparing pre-sentence reports for courts, to help them select the most appropriate sentence
- Managing approved premises for offenders with a residence requirement on their sentence
- Assessing offenders in prison to prepare them for release on licence to the community, when they will come under our supervision
- Helping all offenders serving sentences in the community to meet the requirements ordered by the courts
- Communicating with and prioritising the wellbeing of victims of serious sexual and violent offences, when the offender has received a prison sentence of 12 months or more, or is detained as a mental health patient



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SUSSEX INTEGRATED OFFENDER MANAGEMENT (IOM)

Integrated Offender Management (IOM) is about understanding what makes an individual commit crime. By understanding their triggers we can then work closely with relevant agencies (i.e. probation, NHS, Housing) to help prevent re-offending by concentrating and managing each offenders needs. IOM can be broadly split into three areas; high, medium and low.

The Ministry of Justice highlighted that IOM was inspired by the success of Prolific and Priority Offender (PPO) schemes, the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP), Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) and Neighbourhood Policing teams. As a result a number of police forces and probation areas (including Sussex) developed innovative approaches to the joint supervision of offenders. These approaches have become known as Integrated Offender Management.



The Sussex vision of Integrated Offender Management is to provide a consistent and fully embedded multi-agency partnership with the overall aim of reducing reoffending to ensure the safety of Sussex's communities.

IOM enables police, probation, youth offending services, local authorities and other agencies to pool their resources and tackle the root causes of offending in an effective and efficient way.

It is estimated that approximately 10% of the offending population are responsible for half of all crime and a very small proportion (less than 1%) being responsible for one in ten offences. Targeting this cohort will enable resources to be focused in the most efficient way.

<http://www.sussexcriminaljusticeboard.org.uk/iom-in-sussex>

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VOLUNTEER TO HELP YOUNG OFFENDERS

East Sussex County Council's Youth Offending Team (YOT) recruits and trains a number of volunteers to work with young people and families. There are a number of volunteering opportunities within the YOT.

A referral order is the community sentence most often used by the courts when dealing with 10 to 17 year olds, particularly for first time offenders who plead guilty. Referral orders require that an offender must agree a contract of rehabilitative and restorative elements to be completed within the sentence.



Referral Order Panel Members

When a young person offends and receives a Referral Order from Court, they must attend a Referral Order Panel to agree a contract of work they must undertake while they complete the Order (an order can be any length between 3 – 12 months).

Youth Offender Panels are made up of 2 trained members of the local community and an officer from the

YOT. Panel meetings take place at Hampden Park and Hastings YOT offices, and community venues. Panels meet with the young offender, their family/carers and, where appropriate, the victim(s) of the crime, who are actively encouraged to take part. The panel will then review and monitor the contract at regular intervals throughout its duration culminating in a Final Panel Meeting.

Referral Order Panel Volunteers need to be enthusiastic and motivated to assist us in helping young people move away from crime.

Appropriate Adult Volunteers

Young people under the age of 17 must have an Appropriate Adult (AA) with them when they are detained in custody and interviewed by the police. An AA can be a family member, however, if they are not available or not appropriate to attend custody, an AA Volunteer is contacted.

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An AA is a positive and important role. An AA is not just there to observe! The role is to ensure that the young person:

- Understands what is happening to them and why;
- To support, advise and assist the young person particularly while they are being questioned;
- To help the young person communicate with the police;
- To observe whether the police are acting properly, fairly and with respect for the rights of the young person and to tell them if you think they are not.

Being an AA requires people to be flexible, patient and excellent communicators.

Reparation Volunteers



Volunteers work alongside our Reparation and Unpaid Work Team. The team organise local activities with partner agencies for young people to complete for the benefit of the community or activities requested by victims of crime. The aim of the work is rehabilitate young people but it also acts as a punishment as well. A few of the local activities we currently run are filling charity boxes to send to other countries, painting benches and helping maintain large gardens and public spaces.

The team are always interested in hearing about possible new projects. If any one reading this has a local project they would like us to work with them on, please contact Ben Wyatt (contact details below).

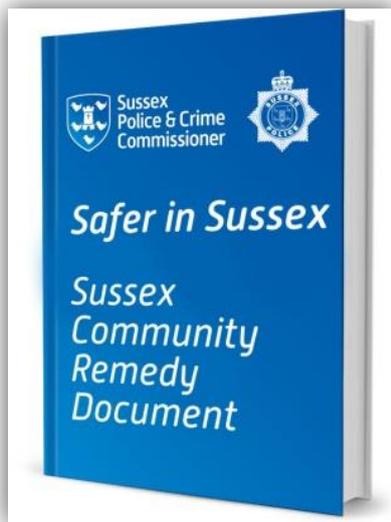
Interested?

All YOT volunteer vacancies are advertised through the East Sussex County Council job site <https://www.accesseastsussex.org/jobs/index.aspx>

For an informal discussion about volunteering with the YOT please contact

Ben Wyatt on 01424 726520 or ben.wyatt@eastsussex.gov.uk

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Community Remedy is primarily aimed at first time offenders, and is intended to encourage them to take responsibility for the consequences of their actions.

The Community Remedy gives victims a choice in what happens to the person who has committed an offence against them.

This approach also ensures that victims get justice swiftly and offenders have to face immediate consequences for their actions, which could make them less likely to reoffend in the future.

Out-of-Court disposals reduce the burden and expense placed on the criminal justice system and all relevant partners by offering a proportionate and faster approach to low level crimes and anti-social behaviour.

Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner, Katy Bourne, carried out a public consultation in August and September 2014 to find out what out-of-court sanctions residents wanted to see included within the Community Remedy document for Sussex.

There are now five Community Remedy options for Sussex:

- **Personal/Community Reparation e.g. repairing or paying for damage caused**
- **Restorative Justice e.g. parental contract, shuttle conference**
- **Receiving a written or oral apology**
- **A local rehabilitative or diversionary activity e.g. an acceptable behaviour contract, educational assignment or other forms of rehabilitation.**
- **Another agreed and proportionate activity specified by the victim.**

<http://www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/police-crime-plan/community-remedy-document/>

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Diary Date

999 Weekend will take place on Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th July and is expected to attract thousands from across the region.

The event has become a favourite in the local calendar and gives the opportunity for visitors to meet members of the emergency services and get an up-close look at 999 response vehicles

The event is organised by Sussex Police, East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, South East Coast Ambulance Service, Maritime and Coastguard Agency, RNLI and supported by Eastbourne Borough Council.

- For more information <http://www.999display.co.uk/about/>
- Follow on Twitter @Sussex999Events

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