Offender Tracking in England 2004-2006

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NOMS National Offender Management Service

Working together to reduce re-offending

Introductions

- Steve Birkett – Tracking Pilots Project Manager – National Offender Management Service – Home Office

- Carolyn Smith – Local Pilot Project Manager – Greater Manchester Probation Service

- Jeff Ballard – Local Pilot Project Manager – Wessex Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme (ISSP)

Scope of Workshop Presentation

- What did we do in England, why did we do it, and who did we do it to?
- What can the technology do and cannot do?
- How should the right expectations be set?
- Who should be involved in the creation of a tracking service?
- What are the important components of a successful tracking service?
- What are realisable benefits of tracking?
- What are the important developments in tracking technology e.g one piece kit?
- What does the future hold?

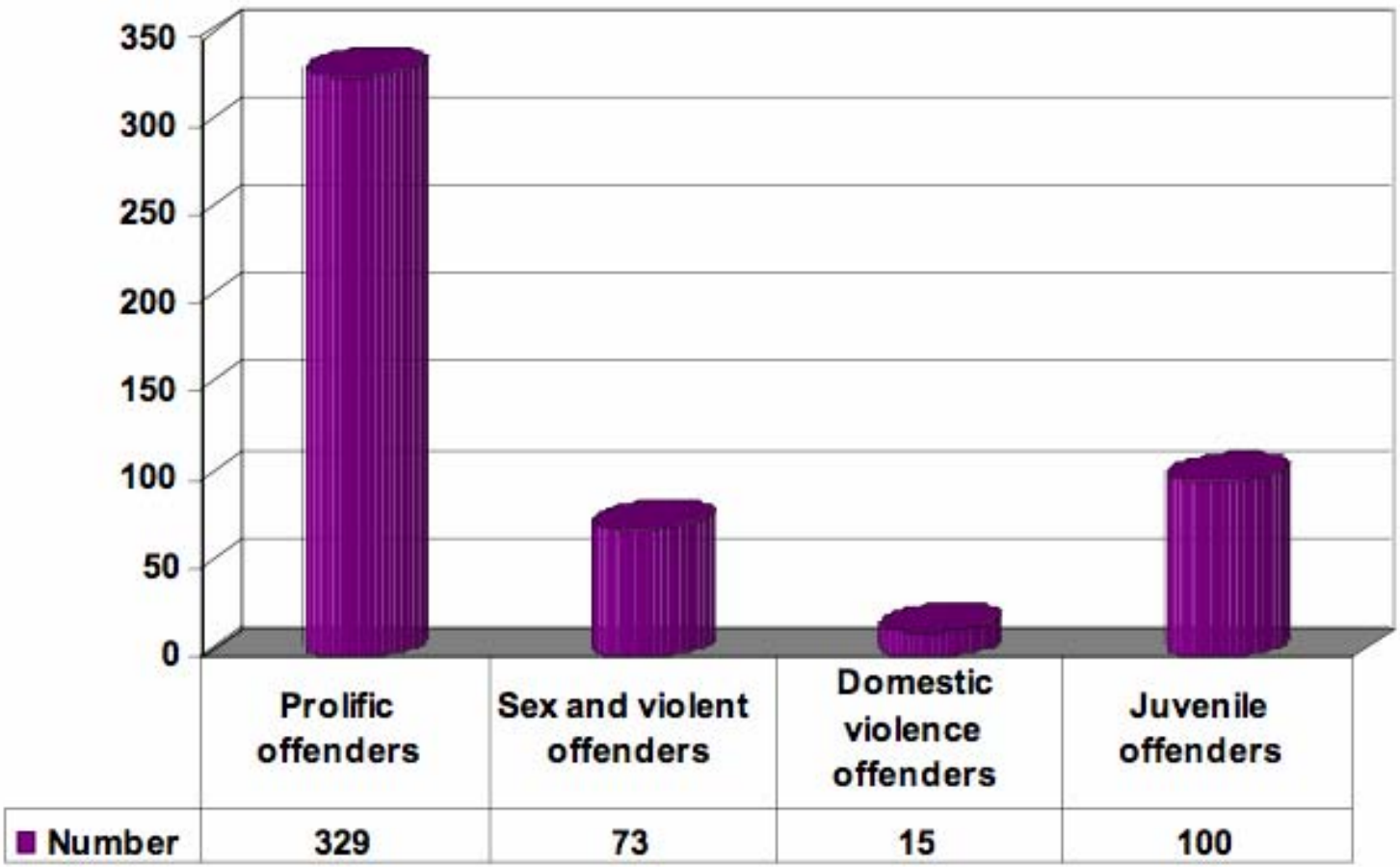
Tracking Pilots – what did we do?

- When – September 2004 to June 2006
- Where:
  - Greater Manchester – selected districts
  - West Midlands – selected districts
  - Hampshire and Isle of Wight
- How many – maximum of 40 offenders at any one time in each area
- Average caseload – 80 in the 3 areas over last 12 months
- Total number – 517 offenders

Why did we do it?

- Search for effective alternatives to custody for those on the border of imprisonment
- Increasing concern for public protection, particularly of victims
- Provide means of monitoring whereabouts of prisoners released on licence – for deterrence and aiding investigation of crime
- Provide means of monitoring compliance with an exclusion requirement, either as a community sanction or on licence

Who did we do it to?



What the technology cannot do

- Prevent re-offending
- Prevent an offender or entry to exclusion zone
- Provide complete and accurate coverage of an offender's movements 24 hours a day
- Pinpoint an offender's location
- Tell us what the offender is doing

What the technology can do

- Provide the most robust means of monitoring compliance with an exclusion zone, short of personal surveillance
- Provide the most robust means of monitoring an offender's movements, short of continuous surveillance
- Act as a deterrent on re-offending
- Provide location information that may rule offenders in or out of criminal investigations

What are the realisable benefits of tracking?

- Additional tool – backs up prohibitions in a supervision /risk management plan
- Triggers intervention to interrupt offending and protect victims
- Provides intelligence to rule offenders in or out of investigations
- Provides effective means of enforcing exclusion requirement
- Reduces prison population

How should the right expectations be set?

- Ensure that tracking is used to supplement comprehensive risk management plans
- Be clear as to what the technology can or cannot do
- Develop a media handling strategy
- Undertake extensive training programme for stakeholders
- Explain fully the implications to any potential victims

Who should be involved in creation of tracking service?

- The Authority (Ministry of Justice in UK) – policy and technical input
- Probation Service/Youth Offending Team
- Police
- Electronic Monitoring Contractors
- Victims

What are the important components of a successful tracking service?

- Comprehensive preparation and training
- Clarity of stakeholder roles
- Full participation of all stakeholders
- Provision of full up-to-date guidance
- Production of easily understandable and usable quality data
- Viability on a cost benefit basis
- Delivery of a consistent, workable and enforceable service

What are the important developments in tracking?

- One-piece units
- Improved means of monitoring exclusion zones
- Increasingly sensitive GPS equipment
- Improved mobile phone location systems
- Alternative tracking systems – inertial sensors, LORAN
- Inclusion of proven geographical information systems
- Galileo – new European satellite network – due 2012

Offender Tracking – What is the way forward

- Public protection paramount, particularly for victim
- Strive for continual technical development, but work within, and accept, limitations
- Reduce need for offender management of equipment
- Be flexible, and produce scheme adaptable to local needs
- In England – exploration of options – possible use of further pilots or pathfinders