

Challenge of working with sex offenders

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Jersey

- Largest of Channel Islands
- About 100,000 people
- A British Crown dependency
- Has its own legislature- 49 members
- Own legal system

Map of Jersey



History



Tourism



The Jersey Royal



Bergerac



Historic Abuse

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Child's body found at care home

Parts of a child's body have been found by police in a former children's home in Jersey.

Police believe more bodies may be found at Haut de la Garenne in St Martin, which is at the centre of an inquiry into alleged child abuse.

The remains are thought to date from the early 1980s. Police have not said whether they are male or female.



Haut de la Garenne is now a Jersey youth hostel

Watch Police briefing

BBC Jersey
Sport, the things that and much more

JERSEY 'ABUSE' INQUIRY

LATEST NEWS

- ▶ No comment on police
- ▶ Jersey chief officer
- ▶ 'No child murders' in
- ▶ Attorney General demands
- ▶ Court bid for UK action
- ▶ Jersey chief confides
- ▶ Jersey murder inquiry

Headline in the Times June 2017

Horrific child abuse on Jersey ignored by officials



The Jersey Probation Service

- JPACS is a Department of the Judiciary
- Probation Officers are Délégués and Officers of the Court
- The Courts' Social Work Service
- c. 400 clients under JPACS Criminal Justice Supervision
- 34 staff in Criminal Justice (14 part-time).
 - 3 Managers
 - 13 Probation Officers
 - 3 Assistant Probation officers

The type of work we do

- Preparation of Social Enquiry Reports for the Courts
- Supervision of people from Parish Hall Enquiries (mainly children)
- Supervision of Probation Orders 3 months- 3 years
- Community Service Orders- up to 480 hours
- Supervision of prisoners but no post custodial licences
- Non convicted but who are worried about their thoughts/behaviours

Sex Offenders Law 2010

- Notification Orders- (de-notification reports)
- Restraining Orders

How was the Probation Service placed ?

- Small numbers of sex offenders until 2008
- Some training but not delivered to all staff
- New Laws
- Lack of confidence
- Isle Of Man experience
- Difficulty of group work in a small jurisdiction
- 1 to 1 work

Working with a Psychologist

- 6-8 days a year + “drop ins”
- Opt in for staff- a risk but ok!
- Assessment tools- for all ages- RM2000,SA07, AIM, C-PORT
- Training with other agencies
- Learning about theory
- Joint interviews with staff and clients
- Mixing it with practice days

Data

- 162 reported sexual offences in 2018
- 30 prosecutions
- 138 people subject to notification
- 23 supervised by Probation in community (15 contact)
- 28 in prison (19 contact)
- Priority list meetings

Trying to get it right as an organisation

- Environmental Resilience- Johnston + Paton 2003
 - Competence- investing in recruitment, training and looking after staff
 - Meaningfulness- the fit between the needs of the role and the values and attitudes of the worker
 - Professional discretion
 - Impact- how can we empower individuals. Learning not blame

Defensible decision making

- Can't eliminate risk- realism
- Take all reasonable steps
- Decisions need to be informed , balanced , proportionate and just
- Appropriate knowledge and skill
- Standards for assessment, intervention and supervision
- Culture of analysis and professional curiosity (Prins)
- Processes and systems- importance of vigilance
- Culture of rights

Recognising impact on practitioners

- It's not all doom and gloom e.g “compassion fatigue” Figley 1995
- Most workers in Britain do not report psychological harm
- Effective recruitment- age + learning style.
- But 1-1 work likely to lead to extra personal responsibility (Dean and Barnett 2011)
- Therapeutic relationship- giving too much away?
- Allocation practice- generic caseloads
- Reflective and regular supervision. Challenge and support
- Culture of curiosity and learning- Peer support- practice meetings- Mindfulness- eating out!

Developing Skills -Skills study

- Pro- social modelling- Chris Trotter
- Partnership with Swansea University
- Client interviews with Probation Officers are recorded
- Manager and Probation Officer Review tape together.
- General discussion about interview.
- Use of check-list.
- Learning points.

The Skills checklist

- Set up of interview
- Quality of verbal/non verbal communication
- Legitimate use of authority
- Motivational interviewing
- Pro-social modelling
- Problem solving
- Cognitive restructuring

Reconviction data

Two-year reconviction rates of people interviewed by 7 staff with below-median skill ratings, compared with interviewees of 7 staff with above-median skill ratings (N of staff = 14; N of interviewees = 75)

Interviewed by:	Not reconvicted	Reconvicted	%
Staff using fewer skills	15	21	58%
Staff using more skills	29	10	26%

Energy, meaning, self awareness- Loer +Schwartz 2003



Consultancy and Resilience Survey

Maintenance of Resilience

- Workload/Complexity Recognition
- Co-working
- Professional Supervision
- Lengthier Consultancy Slots
- Training in Resilience

Consultancy and Resilience Survey

Beneficial Aspects of Consultancy

- Complex Case Discussion
- Feedback on Practitioner Strengths
- Personal Support/Impact Issues
- Discussion of Mental Health/Psychological Perspectives
- Practice/Research Updates
- Co-working
- Ventilating Frustration
- Feedback from Psychometrics

Consultancy and Resilience Survey

Least Beneficial Aspects of Consultancy

- Feedback from Psychometrics
- Opportunity to Ventilate Frustration
- Co-working
- Complex Case Discussion

Consultancy and Resilience Survey

Recommendations to Promote Resilience

- Workload/Complexity Recognition
- Co-working
- Professional Supervision
- Lengthier Consultancy Slots
- Training in Resilience

Consultancy and Resilience Survey

Challenging Aspects of Sexual Offender Work

- Manipulation/Grooming of Workers
- Denial/Resistance
- Areas of Inexperience
- Discussion of Sexual Motives/Urges
- Concerns of Reoffending

Case Study: Bill

- Social Enquiry Report March 2009
- Indecent Assault on Female Minor
- Possession of Indecent Photographs
- Assessed High Risk of Sexual Reconviction (RM2000)
- Three Year Probation Order Awarded

Bill continued:

- July 2009 to December 2011
- Prison Sentence and Probation Throughcare
- December 2011 to January 2013
- Voluntary Aftercare
- December 2013 to January 2015
- Further Voluntary Contact
- January 2015 to May 2016
- Second Prison Sentence and Probation Throughcare
- May 2016 to September 2017
- Second Period of Voluntary Aftercare

Reflections

- Lead from top- knowledge sharing, curiosity, risk
- Localise approaches- what fits with your community,
- Trust with other agencies?
- Diversity-deportation process
- Networking, legitimacy -Safeguarding , JMAPPA and MARAC
- Defensible decision making
- Distinctive identity
- Good Lives model- reintegration- housing-leisure- employment
- Reputation and shame
- A need to advocate
- Staff as key resource