



An tSeirbhís Phromhaidh
The Probation Service

CEP – Expert Group on Sex Offenders



Brian Dack
Assistant Director
Probation Service
20th April 2017



An tSeirbhís Phromhaidh
The Probation Service

Legislation

Sex Offenders Act, 2001

- Part 5. Post-release supervision for sex offenders.

Criminal Justice Act, 2006

- Section 99 – Power to suspend sentences





An tSeirbhís Phromhaidh
The Probation Service



**The Management of Sex
Offenders
A Discussion Document
January 2009**

This is a Discussion Document which reviews the existing situation regarding The management of sex offenders, puts forward proposals for future Developments and invites contributions and observations. It addresses relevant commitments in the Programme for Government.





An tSeirbhís Phromhaidh
The Probation Service

Risk Assessment



- Risk Matrix 2000

- Stable and acute 2007





An tSeirbhís Phromhaidh
The Probation Service

SORAM – Sex Offender Risk Assessment and Management





An tSeirbhís Phromhaidh The Probation Service

Court Reports for Sex Offenders

Sex offenders under supervision

Sex Offender Resettlement Team
(SORT)





An tSeirbhís Phromhaidh The Probation Service



THE MANAGEMENT & SUPERVISION OF SEXUAL OFFENDERS

A Practical Guide for Probation Officers

2007





An tSeirbhís Phromhaidh The Probation Service

Sex Offender Data as of March 30th 2017

	N
1.All Sex Offenders Community	258
2.Sex Off served sentence	183
3.Sex Off Community Section 29	117
4.Sex Off Community no sentence	75
5.Sex Off Prison Supervise post release	193
6.Sex Off Prison Sect 29 post release	102
7.Sex Off Prison Not sup post release	112





An tSeirbhís Phromhaidh The Probation Service

Summary Of Stable Data April 2017

1st Stables	
Year Stable Completed	No.
2010	59
2011	99
2012	90
2013	92
2014	53
2015	50
2016	65
2017	9
Total	517

Risk_Level	Number	%
1_Low	57	11.0%
2_Moderate	316	61.1%
3_High	144	27.9%
Total	517	100%

Subsequent Stables	
Year Stable Completed	No.
2010	9
2011	37
2012	54
2013	53
2014	54
2015	42
2016	41
2017	10
Total	308

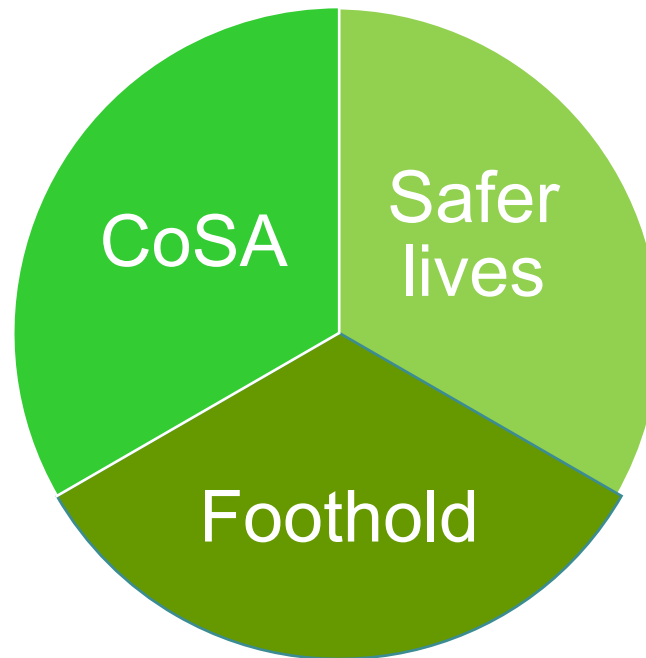
Risk_Level	N	PctN
1_Low	24	7.8%
2_Moderate	199	65.0%
3_High	83	27.1%
Total	306	100%





An tSeirbhís Phromhaidh
The Probation Service

PACE Sex Offender Services





An tSeirbhís Phromhaidh The Probation Service

- A community based non-governmental organisation (NGO)
- Operates three separate services for people convicted of harmful sexual behaviour and who are classified as being of medium to high risk of reoffending
- **They are:**
 - Safer Lives Treatment Programme
 - Foothold Floating Support Service
 - Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA)
- All of these services are funded by the Probation Service





An tSeirbhís Phromhaidh
The Probation Service

- Safer Lives is a treatment programme that runs three groups a week for 8 men per group
- Medium & high risk offenders (RM2000 and/or Stable 2007)
- Range of age and offence type in group (over 18)
- The programme runs on an interdisciplinary, co-facilitated model
- The groups have a rolling intake and last for approximately 14 months

Safer Lives Treatment Programme





An tSeirbhís Phromhaidh
The Probation Service

- Good Lives Model
- Desistance Theory
- Cognitive Behavioural Therapy / Schema Therapy
- Psychodynamic Theory
- Attachment Theory
- Systems Theory (Bio-Psycho-Social Approach)
- Groupwork Theory
- Relapse Prevention

Theoretical underpinnings SL





An tSeirbhís Phromhaidh
The Probation Service

- Provides intensive one to one support for men and women leaving prison
- The support offered is of a practical as well as emotional nature
- Assists the individual to reintegrate into the community
- Assists with the sourcing of suitable accommodation and day-time occupation
- Works with clients who have complex needs including intellectual disability, addiction, homelessness as well as the conviction for sexually harmful behaviour

Foothold floating support service





An tSeirbhís Phromhaidh
The Probation Service

- Two year pilot programme began in January 2015
- CoSA assists individuals who are medium to high risk of reoffending in their efforts to live a life free of crime and harmful behaviour.
- The CoSA model consists of an **Inner Circle** of 5-6 **volunteers** and **Outer Circle** of professionals working with the Core Member.
- The Circle will meet with the Core Member on a weekly basis for 12-14 months
- Volunteers recruited publicly, trained, screened and vetted, supervision and support provided
- Volunteers supports desistance by improving **social and human capital** by providing supporting the development of **positive identity**
- The Outer Circle includes the supervising Probation Officer & the Liaison Garda and other professionals working with the individual as part of the SORAM process

Circles of Support & Accountability





An tSeirbhís Phromhaidh
The Probation Service

- The function of a Circle is threefold:
- To provide moral and practical support for the Core Member
- To monitor the risk of the Core Member
- To hold the Core Member to account for current and future behaviour
- Circles of Support and Accountability have been proven effective in international research in reducing the rate of recidivism in people classified as high risk of reoffending
 - 83% reduction in sexual recidivism,
 - 73% reduction in all types of violent recidivism, and an overall reduction of
 - 70% in all types of recidivism (including sexual and violent) in comparison to the matched offenders. (Wilson et al, 2009)

Circles of Support & Accountability





An tSeirbhís Phromhaidh
The Probation Service

Thank you

Brian Dack

Email: bjdack@probation.ie

Phone: 01 817 3665

