



**Sex Offender Public Disclosure: Learning from the UK pilots & international research**

# **Public Perceptions, Media Framing and Policy Responses to Risk**

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# What is the knowledge exchange network for?

- ▶ To bring researchers, practitioners and policy makers/implementers closer together
- ▶ To exchange good practice and emerging ideas
- ▶ To 'network'- challenge, critique and develop
- ▶ To network for influence and impact with key decision makers

# The current network- who we are

- Three universities, supported by other key academics in UK and abroad
- Key statutory and third sector partners with expertise and interest in the area, spread across the UK plus Southern Ireland, and associate partners
- Those who were pilots, those currently implementing, those considering such schemes (e.g. Northern Ireland)
- Those who have some responsibility for sex offenders, or their victims, families and child protection



## Partner Organisations



# Organisation of events and activities

- **Four Events**
  - Access, impact and value-added (*Scotland - Feb 2012*)
  - Localism, community and reintegration (*Northern Ireland – May 2012*)
  - Devolution, Context, and Partnership Networks (*Wales – September 2012*).
  - Public perceptions, media framing, and risk policy formation (*England – November 2012*).
- **Website** - publications, briefing notes, presentations, etc  
<http://www1.uwe.ac.uk/hls/research/sexoffenderpublicdisclosure.aspx>
- **Online Discussion boards and publication by ATSA, available on website**
  1. Public awareness of sex offender aetiology, policy and practice. (*April*)
  2. Public disclosure and minority groups. (*June*)
  3. Sex offender reintegration. (*October*)
  4. Transnational policy, practice and information sharing. (*January*)
- **U Tube for public outreach**
- **Final conference in 2013.**

# Some themes and thoughts so far

- The Knowledge Exchange network seems to be reinforcing:
  - A public health approach to sexual violence
  - The need for greater community engagement around sexual violence
  - That current interagency methods seem to be working well
- The Knowledge Exchange network seems to be suggesting:
  - Local policy and initiatives directly focused on communities may be helpful as well as broad national schemes.
  - Targeting and engaging the media to influence and frame the debate.
  - The need for more impact research on disclosure and greater understanding of attitudes to it in the community as well as community usage of it.
  - Learning from national and international research about the use and effectiveness of sex offender policy and responses.

# Focus of today

- Update on the public disclosure scheme- but also broader views on engaging the public.
- Awareness, education, dialogue, partnership?; and countering media framing.
- Policy led evidence or evidence led policy? What is the balance in this sensitive area?
- Learning lessons- can we? Do we?
- Innovation and testing- new approaches including desistance and community engagement models.

# Structure of the day

- Our key speakers.
- Our partners who are providing the workshops (and how will this work).
- Exchange: Discuss! Ask! Challenge! Enjoy!
- Join our final online discussion.