

# **Understanding Public Disclosure of Sex Offender information in Ireland: Localism, Community and reintegration**

**Newforge Country Club - 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2012**

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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
- 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



# 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>
- **Discussion boards**
  - 1: Public awareness of sex offender aetiology, policy and practice. (18<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> *April*)
  - 2: Sex offender reintegration. (*June*)
  - 3: Public disclosure and minority groups. (*October*)
  - 4: Transational policy, practice and information sharing. (*January*)
- **U Tube for public outreach**
- **Final conference in 2013.**

# Understanding Public Disclosure of Sex Offender information in Scotland: Access, impact and value-added (1/02/2012)

There are a number of points that came out of the Scottish event which can be taken forward and discussed in regard to Scotland responses to the scheme and in relation to the other ESRC events:

- ▶ 1. There needs to be greater community engagement around the understanding and management of sex offenders.
- ▶ 2. Material needs to be better advertised and the format reconsidered, especially for hard to reach populations and in terms of using up to date social media.
- ▶ 3. Is the labeling and branding of the scheme appropriate or "fit for purpose"?
- ▶ 4. The list of applicants needs to be broadened beyond parents (i.e., grandparents).
- ▶ 5. We need to understand what the role and purpose of the scheme is (public protection, preventing reoffending etc).
- ▶ 6. Need to measure impact in a variety of ways beyond reconviction data, using both hard and soft measures.
- ▶ 7. The scheme needs to be discussed and measured outside of the political context; it needs to be discussed in its own terms.

<b>Introduction</b>	Yvonne Gailey, CEO, RMA
	Hazel Kemshall, DMU
<b>Key note speakers</b>	Lorraine Murray, Ipsos MORI Scotland <i>Scottish Pilot overview and key learning points</i>
	Willie Manson, Stop It Now! Scotland Update on Disclosure Implementation in Scotland
	Beth Weaver, Strathclyde University Overview of sex offender community management in Scotland
<b>Breakaway Discussion groups</b>	Access and targeting, extending the take up of the Disclosure Scheme
	Development and use of impact measures to measure the effectiveness of limited disclosure schemes
	Sex Offender Disclosure and the broader community management of sex offenders
<b>Conclusions</b>	Kieran McCartan, UWE

# Online discussion 1: Public awareness of sex offender aetiology, policy and practice. (19/04 – 01/05)

- ▶ How interested are the public in the disclosure scheme? Are some, more engaged publics, more interested than others
- ▶ Does there need to be better engagement between practitioners, policy makers and academics in the fields of sexual violence and the public? If so, how could this be done?
- ▶ There needs to be better public engagement through the media, with the media needing to be more invested in telling all sides of the sexual violence story.
- ▶ There is an issue about how we get the broad/general public to engage with discussion.
- ▶ There seems to be a gap between what the public disclosure scheme does and what it is claimed that it does.
- ▶ Media representations of public concerns do not seem to match the reality of public concerns, especially in regard to the disclosure scheme.
- ▶ There seems to be a gap between what the government and policy makers want to do, or what they think that the public want them to do, and the reality of public concerns/actions.
- ▶ The USA experience of full disclosure was discussed as a cautionary tale in the context that the national government seemed to go too far too soon and lost state government/local support for the adaptation's to the Adam Walsh act.
- ▶ There is a need to use, and improve, schemes that already work with offenders in the community (MAPPA) rather than develop new ones from scratch.
- ▶ Is the public disclosure scheme, and therefore public understandings of sex offenders as well as their management, about public protection/risk prevention, punishment, treatment and/or reintegration?
- ▶ We need to seriously consider how sex offender disclosure impacts upon all impacted individuals .

# **Understanding Public Disclosure of Sex Offender information in Ireland: Localism, Community and reintegration (03/04/2012)**

This event will take a dual stream approach with one addressing northern Ireland related issues (issues of localism, with particular reference to the 'troubles' in Northern Ireland and policing, offender management, community activism) and the other addressing the Eire (cross border issues, the development of public disclosure scheme, austerity and a focus on particular Irish issues (i.e., cultural attitudes to sexuality, sexual abuse).

This event will examine the social mechanisms that either reintegrate or exclude sex offenders.

# Timetable for the day

- ▶ 10.00 - 10.20 Formal start to the day - Cheryl Lamont (PBNI) , Kieran McCartan, (UWE)
- ▶ 10.20. – 11 *Cultural attitudes to sexual offending and their impact upon offender management in Ireland* (Marie Keenan, UCD)
- ▶ 11.30 – 12.15 *Community responses to sex offenders in Northern Ireland* (Anne-Marie McAlinden, QUB)
- ▶ 12.15 – 1.00 *Policing and public disclosure in Northern Ireland* (D/S Alistair Wallace, PSNI)
- ▶ 1.45 – 2.30 **Workshop session 1**
- ▶ 2.40 – 3.25 **Workshop session 2**
  - **Workshop 1 & 5** - Access and targeting: the reality of community engagement any sex Offender disclosure scheme in Northern Ireland. Chaired by AnneMarie McAlinden (1)/Ruth McAlister (5) & Alister Wallace
  - **Workshop 2 & 6**- The impact of disclosure on sex offender rehabilitation and reintegration. Chaired by Shadd Maruna (2)/ Mark Farmer (6) & Kirsty Hudson
  - **Workshop 3 & 7** - Protecting the public (?): The relationship between public disclosure and the management of offenders in the community. Chaired by Kieran McCartan & Marcella Leonard
  - **Workshop 4 & 8** - Cross boarder issues in the reality and impact of Sex offender disclosure in Ireland. Chaired by Marie Keenan & Hazel Kemshall
- ▶ 3.30 – 4. 00 Conclusions, discussion and Q&A - Kieran McCartan, Hazel Kemshall & Kirsty Hudson