
ESRC Knowledge Exchange Series

Event 1: Scotland

Closing remarks & discussion

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Review of aims of ESRC Knowledge

Impact series

- To review the current evidence of best practice from the English and Scottish pilots, the schemes implementation in Wales, as well as the ongoing consultation process in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.
 - To review issues of access and take-up.
 - To review the impact and outcome of public disclosure in the UK, and what this means for the consultation process ongoing in both Northern and the Republic of Ireland.
 - To review the impact on sex offenders.
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A big thank you to our partners...

- ESRC
 - UWE, DMU & Cardiff universities
 - Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers;
 - National Organisation for the Treatment of Abusers (Executive Branch & Northern Ireland Branch);
 - National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children;
 - Northern Ireland Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders;
 - Circles UK;
 - Stop it Now!;
 - Public Protection Arrangements Northern Ireland;
 - Staffordshire and West Midlands Probation Trust;
 - Risk Management Authority;
 - Probation Board Northern Ireland;
 - Welsh Centre for Crime and Social Justice;
 - Risk Management Authority;
 - Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (Northern Ireland)).
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Access & Targeting

- Focus on hard to reach and extreme places to advertise
 - Work on embedding material
 - How and why successful campaigns have worked?
 - Personal contact with disclosure officers
 - Impact on other policy changes need to be considered
 - Survey of public attitudes on sex offenders/offending.
 - Better understanding of “community”
 - Parents need to be more responsible for child protection
 - Role of grandparents in child care/protection
 - Role of social media
 - Postive outcomes not volume of outcomes
 - Functional fear
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Development and use of impact measures

- Public reassurance & public policy
 - What are we actually trying to measure? And is it attainable?
 - Re offending behaviour
 - Wider impact than sex offenders
 - More standardised access to training
 - Better measurement
 - More effective use of other services
 - Political context
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Sex offender disclosure & community management

- Disclosure pilot “badly badged” Sex offender management
 - Child protection issues
 - Wider scope often included in procedures
 - Keeping children safe from ‘Violence’
 - Conceptually and morally easier to understand
 - Moves away from “othering” sex offenders

 - Reinforce child protection issues

 - Impact of MAPPA working well
 - Information sharing

 - Offender compliance
 - knowledge

 - Desistance
 - Denial?

 - Policy, practice, research- public engagement
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Main points & moving forward

There are a number of points that came out of today's discussion that 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 labelling 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 conviction 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.
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Future events and related materials

■ Events

- Northern Ireland, Belfast – 3rd May 2012 (hosted by PPANI)
- Wales, Cardiff – September (hosted by WCCSJ)
- England, Birmingham – November (hosted by SWM Probation)

■ Website

- Main website (to be up and running start of march)
 - You tube channel (mid-end march)
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