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](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.