

Conference
Preventing sexual abuse of children
Madrid, 10-11 December 2013

Intervention programmes with young sexual offenders,

Mr Luis González Cieza, Head of research, programs and training, Community of Madrid Agency for the re-education and reintegration of young offenders (Spain)

Summary

Intervention programmes with young sexual offenders

Community of Madrid's Agency for the Re-education and Reintegration of Young Offenders (ARRMI) is the Administrative Body, dependent on the Regional Ministry holding the powers of Justice, which is responsible for carrying out the sentences, both in the community and in custody, determined by juvenile judges. Furthermore, it has the function of advising the juvenile prosecutors and judges throughout the entire procedure.

Offences committed by young people in the Community of Madrid (Spain) have decreased in the last few years. Year after year, the total number of offences diminishes; each type of offence, considered separately, also shows a decrease in number. A major cause has to do with the change in the profile of young people who offend. The profile has changed from having characteristics defined by their "marginalization" in different areas (family, educational, social, peer group, etc.) to a profile with much more normalized characteristics, in which risk factors are more closely related to the personal factors of the young person and the type of offence they have committed. Therefore, it becomes a priority to develop specialized intervention aiming at the real needs -understood as dynamic risk factors- of each case; this specialized intervention is thus differentiated from the global -often generic- intervention that had been carried out previously.

All this leads to the development of a series of Specialized Programmes (child-to-parent abuse, antisocial behaviour, drug use...), among which we can find the present one (Educational and Therapeutic Treatment Programme for Young Sexual Offenders), focusing primarily on the prevention of reoffending. It is a structured cognitive behavioural programme, developed in Modules, Sessions and Activities; it never misses the guideline of individualization, both in its implementation -where deemed appropriate- and in the analysis of each case and clinical intervention.

Finally, it must be highlighted that it is a programme significantly differentiated from those aimed at adults, starting from the premise that, even though some behaviours of sexual abuse or assault by adolescents constitute serious acts, adolescents and young people are still in a process of development and stabilization concerning their social and sexual behaviour. From this perspective, it is interpreted that many of the offenses of sexual abuse or assault committed by young people derive essentially from educational deficiencies and from deficits in communication and interaction skills adequate for the initiation and practice of normalized consensual sexuality. Therefore, this programme is aimed at intensively educating and training young people on aspects of sexual

development that can help them to direct their sexual desires and behaviours in an appropriate way, focusing on the following two elements: improvement of their ability to establish sexual relationships with partners who are willing to have sexual interaction and consent to it (with absolute exclusion of under-aged children), and complete inhibition of the use of force or violence in the context of a sexual interaction.