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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON CRIME PROBLEMS
(CDPC)

Council for Penological Co-operation
(PC-CP)

**THE ASSESSMENT, MANAGEMENT AND INTEGRATION
BACK INTO THE COMMUNITY OF INDIVIDUALS
WHO HAVE COMMITTED SEXUAL OFFENCES**

by
Kieran McCartan & Marianne Fulgstved

Introduction

- a. Indicate that sexual abuse is an international and transnational issue (prevalence and scope)
- b. Talk about international differences in risk assessment, sentencing, treatment, management and integration
- c. The importance of sharing good practice and knowledge - especially in the council of Europe area
- d. Aims of the report
- e. Methodology of the report
- f. Partners and collaboration linked to the report (EuroPris, CEP, IATSO ?)

Basic principles

- a. Note the range and variations of policing, policy, sentencing, imprisonment, community integration, management and definitions across the 47 countries.
- b. Aim is to provide some recommendations on what is considered good practice.
- c. Not requirements in policy and practice, rather advice and considerations on “standards”

Definitions

- a. The importance of person first language - “person who has committed sexual abuse” or “person who has committed a sexual offence”
- b. The importance of a life course, health/public health approach rather than a purely punitive approach
- c. Discuss the challenges of responding to sexual abuse;
 - a. The psychology of abuser and what that means in terms of offending
 - b. Differences between “thinking” and “doing”
 - c. Difference between “viewing” and “doing”
 - d. The gap between offending and policy/laws, focusing on what that means in practice
 - e. Transnational differences in definitions, laws and sentencing
- d. Discuss the challenges of sexual abuse, especially Highlight the variety of types of sexual abuse dividing into some main categories/definitions;
 - a. “paedophiles” vs “child sexual abusers”
 - b. Child Sexual Abuse vs Child Sexual Exploitation (also thinking about gangs, organised crime, networks and solo offenders)
 - c. Rapists and adult only offenders
 - d. Contact vs non-contact offenders
 - e. Child Sexual abuse imagery offenders
 - f. Mixed offenders
 - g. Individual differences in offending (male, female, age, mental illness, learning difficulties, etc)

Should we have a section that links to policing???

Risk Assessment

- a. There should be a clear risk assessment policy and procedure in place for all individuals convicted of a sexual offence
- b. There should be a consistent approach to risk assessment tools used - within and between countries
- c. The risk assessment tools used should be reliable, valid and relevant to the population being serviced
- d. Identify some of the core risk assessment tools per population
- e. Risk Assessment should be conducted by a trained individual
- f. Risk Assessment should be reviewed and be up to date
- g. Risk assessment should be used in the sentencing, treatment, management and integration back into the community of people who have committed sexual abuse
- h. Risk assessment should be used to support the risk management of offenders and not the allocation of resources in a service

Management in prisons

- a. Sentencing guidelines
- b. Safety and security in prison - incl, vulnerable prisoner status, access to treatment, hierarchies within the system, sex offender only vs mixed prisons/wings, etc
- c. Policies for high risk prisoners,
- d. Policies and practices linked to “celebrity” or “well known” prisoners
- e. Risk management, harm reduction and support within prisons
- f. Support and desistance structures for offenders upon release - do all individuals get access to the same services and support? Does it change by offence? Does it change by risk level?

- g. What are the transnational relationships for offenders from inside the Council of Europe area and for those outside of the council area in council area prisons - rights, responsibilities practices?
- h. Prisoner voice and the hearing the person who has committed a sexual offence

Management under probation

- a. Safety and safeguarding rules regarding management in the community - residency, employment, education, access to technology, etc
- b. Clear transition policies and practices from prison to probation and then off probation
- c. Clear risk management plans and roots to accountability
- d. Multi-agency working and communication with police, community groups, treatment providers and local/regional/national policy makers
- e. Clear definition for the role of probation in the management of people who have committed sexual abuse and relevant risk levels
- f. Support and desistance structures for offenders upon release - do all individuals get access to the same services and support? Does it change by offence? Does it change by risk level?
- g. What are the transnational relationships for offenders from inside the Council of Europe area and for those outside of the council area in council area prisons - rights, responsibilities practices?
- h. A place-based approach that focuses on local/community networks
- i. The role of registration, data sharing and the challenges of disclosure (and advice on what disclosure should look like)
- j. Probationer voice and the hearing the person who has committed a sexual offence

Data collection, data sharing and partnership working

- a. All data collected by Prison and probation on the offender, through their management, should be GDPR compliant
- b. There should be a consistency in what data is stored on the offender and why - should also consider how long this data is held for
- c. Consideration of registration and community notification/disclosure policies in the council of Europe region
- d. There should be data sharing agreements within countries between police, probation, police and offender orientated services
- e. There should be data sharing agreements between countries within the council of Europe region about what should be shared, how quickly, the process and mechanisms for actively sharing this information.
- f. There should be data sharing agreements between countries outside of the council of Europe region and the Council of Europe about what should be shared, how quickly, the process and mechanisms for actively sharing this information.

Victims, families, neighbourhood, etc.

- a. Greater community education on the reality of sexual abuse, the warning signs and the reality of people who commit it as well as victim support
- b. Recognising abuse and trauma in the lives of individuals who have committed sexual abuse and the impact that that will have upon them
- c. There should be support for victims and their families post reporting but also linked to the offender's release
- d. The impact of secondary traumatisation on communities [especially in high profile cases] and the family of perpetrators as well.
- e. Community engagement and integration programs like CoSA

Staff - selection, training, etc.

- a. A mechanism for determining what staff work with this population and why, also that staff can opt out of working with this population with no consequence to their career
- b. There should be staff training related to all staff working with individuals who have committed sexual abuse - including, aetiology of offending, grooming, Adverse experiences, trauma informed care, Good Lives/Strengths based approaches, desistance and offence paralleling behaviour
- c. Access to supervision and support while in the field
- d. Staff training related to resilience and work life balance

Work with the media and the general public

- a. All policies and practices linked to the management, treatment and integration of people who have committed sexual offences should be publically available/accessible
- b. There should be relevant and appropriate advice and support services linked to sexual abuse
- c. Media training should be incorporated into the training of key staff and there should be a designated "spokesperson" to comment on the issues, or case, if needs be - particularly important for high profile, celebrity or contentious cases
- d. Should be a "media" policy that covers all aspects of the offender's journey through the system
- e. All "high risk" releases should have a media strategy developed in advance

Research and development

- a. There should be a clear research and evaluation plan in place for each of the 47 counties in regard to the sentencing, imprisonment, treatment, management of people who have committed sexual offences.
- b. The research and evaluation should use the most appropriate methodology to answer its main question and should, where relevant have a service user voice (staff, offender or victim).
- c. Prisons and probation should carry out their own research and evaluation, but where appropriate this should be in partnership.
- d. This research should be published and freely available.
- e. The Council of Europe, periodically, should review this research and comment on consistency in policy and practice.
- f. Where possible this research should be independent and/or externally verified/validated