



### **The Integrated Treatment and Management of those Convicted of Sexual Violence.**

There has been considerable transformation in our response to the treatment and management of those convicted of sexual violence since 2009. The following is a summary of the current continuum and structure of integrated and multi-disciplinary interventions. It includes comprehensive risk assessment, treatment intervention, risk management, supervision, support and monitoring over three stages.

#### 1. Pre-sanction (Court)

Where an individual is found guilty of a sexual offence, the Probation Service, at the request of the presiding Judge, prepares a Pre-Sanction Report. Pre-Sanction Reports make recommendations to the court. They draw on a variety of sources including An Garda Síochána, the Book of Evidence, other relevant professionals, the individuals' family, and in-depth interview (s) with the individual who has been convicted.

#### 2. Custody

Typically, there are between 400 to 450 individuals convicted of sexual violence in the Irish Prison Service at any one time. They are located in the Midlands and Arbour Hill prisons. Both prisons work together to provide a National Programme of Excellence in order to reduce risk of re-offending and enhance public protection to the greatest possible extent. This programme, known as the 'Building Better Lives' (BBL) programme has operated since 2009 and is based on international best practice. Typically, an individual participating in the BBL will undergo six to eight hours of risk assessment which identifies an individuals' risks, needs and protective factors. This assessment informs treatment over three stages. Stage 1: 'Exploring Better Lives' (EBL) enhances motivation and further identifies treatment targets. Stage 2: 'Practicing Better Lives' (PBL) includes 60-70 sessions of in-depth therapeutic and risk relevant work. Stage 3: 'Maintaining Better Lives' (MBL) support maintenance of progress. The programme can be delivered as a group or individually, depending on the person's needs. The BBL programme includes a high degree of challenge and support for participants, includes family meetings, and there is regular review and monitoring of the participants progress. It also includes the development of a comprehensive risk management and resettlement plan. Key to engagement in the work is acknowledgement that an offence was committed. Those who continue to deny their offence are instead subject to risk assessment and management interventions as appropriate.

From 2016, the EBL will be facilitated jointly in the Midlands prison by the IPS Psychology Service and the Probation Service. Individuals will then transfer to Arbour Hill prison to complete the PBL which is facilitated by the IPS Psychology Service. Individuals will then complete the MBL in either Arbour Hill or the Midlands prison. The MBL is currently facilitated by the Probation Service in Arbour Hill.

Before release, individuals convicted of sexual violence often have their cases considered by the Parole Board. They will also be subject to multi-disciplinary case conferences. Of the total number of individuals convicted of sexual violence, 178 currently in custody will be required to participate in post release supervision with the Probation Service. Those subject to post release supervision will have 'handover' meetings by the Probation Service to ensure a safe transition to the community. The remainder do not have post-release supervision, but all have notification requirements to An Garda Siochana.

### 3. Post custody

There are currently 258 individuals convicted of sexual violence under the supervision of the Probation Service in the community. During the period of Probation supervision, remaining areas of risk and need are identified through risk assessment and may be intervened with through individual intervention with their Probation Officer and / or some of the following initiatives:

Sex Offender Risk Assessment and Management (SORAM): Developed by An Garda Siochana and the Probation Service for joint assessment and management of those convicted of sexual violence within the community, SORAM comprises of representatives from An Garda Siochana, the Probation Service, Tusla (Child and Family Agency), the Health Service Executive and the Irish Prison Service. The National Office operates from Harcourt Square and provides day to day management and oversight of the programme. The structure operates nationally in all 28 Garda Divisions. Local SORAM teams convene on a regular basis to review risk and protective factors and develop case management plans for individual convicted of sexual violence who reside in the community.

Safer Lives Group Work Treatment Programme: A community based therapeutic group work programme for men who have been convicted of sexual violence drawing on the 'Good Lives Model' of offending behaviour. Three programmes are running including two in Dublin and one in Cork.

Foothold Floating Support Service: Provides support to access and maintain accommodation in the Greater Dublin area for high risk, high need individuals convicted of sexual violence.

Trail: Accommodation and support service for homeless and difficult to place individuals, with a particular emphasis on those convicted of sexual violence.

Circles of Support and Accountability (COSA): COSA provides a combination of support and safety to moderate to high risk individuals convicted of sexual violence who are isolated in the community. The COSA concept is that a core member (the individual) is part of an inner circle of support (typically volunteers) which in turn is supported by a professional circle (Probation Service and an NGO).

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