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REDUCING REOFFENDING

EU Project News

Welcome to our first newsletter from the ISEC Reducing Reoffending project. We are hoping this will be a good way to bring you news of how the project is progressing and we hope our European partners will contribute too.

LJMU have captured the learning from Action Learning Set 1 in a 20 page report which has been translated into Dutch and Italian

ACTION LEARNING SET I - THE HAGUE

The first Action Learning Set took place in The Hague on 7 Feb 2013.

LJMU have captured the learning from the event in a 20 page report which has been translated into Dutch and Italian.

After the first ALS in The Hague, Dutch colleagues wanted to know more about some of the ways in which Knowsley supports domestic abuse cases. Here is some of the information we shared . . .



Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) - high risk cases benefit from a multi agency response. Whilst not a requirement, most areas use this approach for domestic abuse, anti social behaviour and hate crime. The MARAC heard 204 cases in 2012.

We have tried to use **Integrated Offender Management** to support perpetrators of domestic abuse. If an offender is being released from prison we will contact the victim to help us to judge the risk and, if necessary, take the case to MARAC. This works well but we need to find ways to include other lower levels of offender as well.

Another recent development is called **Operation Encompass** and this considers the welfare of any children of school age in the house at the time of the domestic incident. The police officer attending the scene alerts a teacher at the children’s school that an incident has occurred.

Although not always done with the consent of the parent/carer, the officer does tell them that the information will be passed to the school. The school responds by either actively supporting the child or by monitoring the child. Each case is judged on its merits. Operation Encompass referrals were made for 141 children in the first 101 days of operation.

“It’s really important and inspiring to hear from other countries”

If any partners want to know more then please contact colleagues in Knowsley.

RESEARCH INTO CANNABIS USE AND CULTIVATION IN KNOWSLEY . . .

Knowsley is commissioning some research through LJMU in relation to cannabis use and cannabis cultivation with the following **key objectives**

- (i) Explore with stakeholders, the current pathways and services that exist across Knowsley in relation to cannabis, and identify any issues, for example gaps in provision, access, awareness/knowledge or any unmet needs
- (ii) Explore community perceptions and attitudes towards cannabis, including the scale of the problem locally, the tolerance within our communities and awareness of wider issues linked to cannabis, for example local gun crime
- (iii) Explore cultivation in terms of the profile of cultivators, the market they operate within, Organised Crimes Groups (OCG's) and the Motivation(s) behind cultivation



Although this research is not part of the EU project, it is learning that could have an impact on reducing reoffending and we will be happy to share the (anonymised) results with our partners.



MENTORING PROGRAMME AND LIFE CHANGE PROGRAMME

The Integrated Offender Management team (IOM) has referred 47 Prolific Priority Offenders to MALS.

There have been some early success stories with twelve of those at liberty engaging immediately. Several have taken up the life change programme and the intuitive recovery programmes.

Knowsley's IOM team has referred 47 Prolific Priority Offenders to MALS

Several high risk MAPPA offenders (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements) have been referred to MALS. Also, local Policing Inspectors have been asked to nominate offenders they consider could benefit from the mentoring scheme.

MALS has sent letters to all Prolific Priority Offenders who are in custody offering to visit them in prison.

OHUB UPDATE

A presentation by the software developer, Saadian, to Community Safety Partnership leads and senior officers from Merseyside Police and Merseyside Probation was held on 30 April 2013. There was great interest in adopting OHub for the Merseyside region.

Discussions are ongoing to overcome the technical and data protection challenges to allow OHub to be updated automatically with information from key Police, Probation and Prison IT systems.

Contact details:

If you have questions about this issue of the Newsletter or news for the next, please send by email to:
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for the attention of Yvonne Mason, Reducing Reoffending Coordinator