

Worcestershire Integrated Offender Management Newsletter

Summer 2013 Edition

Integrated Offender Management, or IOM, is a partnership working approach to reducing reoffending. In operation across the county, it is tackling those offenders at greatest risk of reoffending, reducing that risk through a concerted, real time approach and thereby reducing future crimes and future victims. IOM is not a completely new approach to reducing reoffending, but builds on, and provides a way of ensuring that there is greater coherence between established multi-agency offenders focussed programmes such as Prolific and other Priority Offender (PPO), Drug Interventions Programme (DIP), Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), and Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC). Significantly all offenders are potentially in scope, regardless of whether they are subject to statutory supervision or not.

This edition of the Worcestershire IOM newsletter gives local examples of good practice amongst partner agencies in tackling reoffending. It also provides information about forthcoming national conferences, local events and ongoing delivery work taking place across the county.

Some IOM success stories across Worcestershire

North Worcestershire

SB is a 22yr old male who's offending history included aggravated burglary, vehicle crime and violence. He also had substance misuse issues involving cannabis and alcohol. He was registered as a Prolific and Priority Offender (PPO) in April 2012, and was sentenced to a short spell in custody, which was his first time as a serving prisoner. Whilst on statutory supervision he completed the Willowdene Farm Project in Shropshire and obtained a number of vocational certificates. This project works with offenders of 18 years and over who have been sentenced by the Court to a Community Order and with offenders who have released on licence from prison to serve the rest of their sentence in the community. They have committed different types of offences such as burglary, violence, car crime and sex offences.

In addition he received intense support from Youth Support Services (YSS) and his Probation Offender Manager. He was removed from the IOM Scheme in June 2013 after completing PPO-IOM exit strategy. He thoroughly enjoyed working at Willowdene and responded well to structured support from his Offender Manager and YSS keyworker. No offending since January 2013 and no intelligence to suggest any involvement in criminality.

EW is a 26 year old female who was a non statutory offender. Her offending history included theft and shop theft to fund heroin addiction. She was offered intense support by the Police IOM team who spent a lot of time with her supporting her with attendance and encouraging engagement with

keyworkers from the Criminal Reduction Initiative (CRI), which is a social care and health charity working with individuals, families and communities across England and Wales that are affected by drugs, alcohol, crime, homelessness, domestic abuse and antisocial behaviour. She was dealt with robustly for theft of ice cream and sentenced to 12 weeks custody. Upon release intense management resumed and she was also referred to Women's Aid and YSS. She was supported with job searches and gained employment in a local pub as a waitress. There has been no offending since January 2012 and she is now clean from drugs and having regular unsupervised access with her children. She is being offered continued support by CRI.

MB is a 52 year old male who was an entrenched thief and distraction burglar with years of dishonesty and burglary offences. He was designated PPO status in 2004 when the scheme started. Following a string of burglary dwelling offences, he was released on a lengthy licence in September 2011 with various PPO conditions that were removed incrementally as his risk reduced. He received targeted support from YSS, who assisted him in securing independent accommodation. He was funded for a Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) card and fork lift truck course and as a result there has been no further reoffending. He was removed from the scheme in October 2012 after successful PPO-IOM exit strategy.

DG was wanted on recall to HMP for 4 weeks. Information received from Stonham Housing and developed through weekly multi agency tasking meeting resulted in him being located and arrested by Police IOM Team within 2 hours and returned to HMP Hewell.



South Worcestershire

LN is a 19 year old male from Worcester who had police warnings for IOM, self harm, and anti social behavior (ASB) with known offences of criminal damage, breach of ASB, possession of a controlled drug and theft. There is a family history of suicide therefore he often had cycles of depression and paranoia. His drug use included cocaine, speed, weed, petrol and solvents. He frequently lost control over his own behaviour and worried he would do something 'serious to harm himself or someone else. In 2012 he made three serious suicide attempts and also spent three short spells in prison. Whilst there he was offered support and treatment for his mental health difficulties but refused all assistance. He was prescribed an anti-depressant/anti-anxiety medication through his GP, but quickly stopped taking them. He was designated IOM status in October 2012 and was initially classed as a non statutory offender and therefore referred to YSS. He was allocated a support worker who was able to focus on employment and who also encouraged him to attend 12 anger management course sessions because anger had been a major factor in his offending.

He also attended the Fold Care Farm scheme on a voluntary basis for 4 weeks. This scheme, based at Bransford near Worcester, commenced in January 2013, and initially offered nominals on the IOM scheme to attend for a 12 week period to obtain an NVQ in Horticulture. However it was quickly identified that if the Fold was to obtain accreditation status and future funding it had to self-recruit. So far 7 recruits out of 11 have completed the course and the scheme is seeking accreditation. LN also engaged on a weekly basis with the CRI and was residing at St. Paul's Hostel where he had a support worker to assist with a move on plan. In May 2013 he was made subject to 12 Month Suspended Sentence Order with 12 months supervision and a specified activity of 25 sessions at Willowdene Care Farm.

With the support of a number of partnership agencies working together within the IOM framework, he has now sustained further independence accommodation (with St Paul's Hostel), is nearing completion of his anger management course and is attending the Willowdene Care Farm project regularly. He has also undertaken voluntary work three days each week with St Paul's furniture project. He has now established a structured lifestyle and is regularly attending all his daily appointments. Positive feedback continues to be received from agency providers about his attitude, commitment and desire to actively participate in offending focusing work and to enhance his employment and educational skills. The police have very little intelligence to show any criminal activity and he has not been arrested since April 2013. A PPO/IOM exit strategy is in place.

AW is a 40 year old male from Worcester, warnings for: PPO, IOM, violence, mental health, weapons and self harm with known offences of burglary other than dwelling, handling and receiving stolen goods, assault and theft. His initial convictions date back to 1990 and following a 10 year prison sentence he was released from custody in 2008 and went on to study Law at University. Unfortunately lost his part-time job and was unsuccessful in securing alternative employment, which meant he was unable to pay his rent and had no option but to leave the course. He couldn't support his previous daily living standards and demonstrated little effort in trying

to secure a regular income. In addition he relapsed back into heroin use which likely resulted in him returning to acquisitive crime in order to fund his dependency. He was nominated as a PPO in November 2012 and during that year he was arrested 11 times and spent 6 spells in prison, engaging with the prison psychiatrists and the Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice and Throughcare (CARAT) workers. Once back in the community he had no fixed address and was sofa surfing. His mental state had deteriorated suffering from depression, anxiety and paranoia. Police initiated a full psychological assessment which highlighted a personality disorder, enhanced by his drug misuse. In consultation with the prison service a support package was put in place by the IOM team for his release in February 2013. The IOM team applied for funding to obtain accommodation at a guest house, in Worcester to enable them to work closely with him.

He was also given a YSS support worker to assist with benefits. This was revoked in March following a further arrest. Contact was then made by the IOM team with his family out of Worcester and bail was granted by the court. Regular contact was maintained by a drug worker, the police and his solicitor. The IOM team have since been able to support a move back to Worcester into a bail hostel and provided him with a mentor to assist further with securing suitable accommodation. He has not breached since his arrest in March and is engaging with the Police IOM team on a weekly basis. He will still require ongoing encouragement with attending appointments and obtaining a mental health referral.

AC is a 22 year old male from Malvern. A Multi-Agency decision was made in October 2012 to designate him as an IOM on South Worcester. He has warnings for IOM, weapons and drugs with known offences of theft. He was arrested 10 times in 2010, 8 times in 2011 and 5 times in 2012m, stating he likes being in prison. However since being on the IOM scheme he has been arrested only once. Probation, Police, CRI and St Paul's Hostel workers have all been supportive in addressing any signs of re-offending and a voluntary referral to the Fold Care Farm scheme was completed in February 2013. A statement from AC made in May 2013 reads:

What the Farm means.

"My name is (blank blank) and I have been coming over to the Care farm (the fold) for a few months. I really enjoy coming here and have learnt a number of things since I have been coming. Also the staff here are great and so are the volunteers and I think it shows how much they care about what they do because they come every week. Simon is wicked and he is on a level. And Kevin is also a laugh. I think they are both legends and have a lot of respect for what they do. See I am one of those kind of lads who tell it like it is. I truly believe if I was not coming here, I would still be living a life of crime and flat out on the smack (heroin) Even though I don't do a lot and it takes me a while to get settled, I have gained a lot of knowledge and think if I was not coming here I would of not stopped using. I has been six weeks this Friday that I have not used and much better in myself. Coming here has twice a week helps me deal with my problems and speaking with people who don't judge you and they try to understand you see all my life I have had people judge me and look down at me!

But when I am here I have not seen, heard or witnessed any of what I have done in my past. So I just want to say a big thank you to all at the Fold and also not forgetting the chef who has done countless dishes that were all nice, so again a big thank you to you. I am not even gwoing to lie, know it sounds bad but I am not even bothered about the qualification, yeah it would be good to have, but I am just happy coming here and getting stuck in to what ever need to be done. If I were not to come here I would be back in Jail I think”.

YSS (Pathways) Case Study

DW is a male PPO who transferred to the Worcester area after release from prison. He has a history of burglary offences and is a former heroin addict. He has come out of prison wanting to make life changes and commit to a new start in the area. Main action plan objectives were agreed with his, his Offender Manager & Pathways Keyworker. He completed several courses while in prison, including welding courses. He has been looking for work and has been regularly visiting Pertemps along with other job searches to find something suitable. He enjoys welding and is currently looking into working on a self employed basis along with another person who renovates VW vehicles.

They produced a business idea which involves bed conversions in VW caravanettes. He lives in a fairly remote area, and it was identified that he would need to learn to drive and pass his test to help move this plan forward. He was referred to the YSS Pathway Project where the keyworker helped and supported him to obtain lessons following an assessment from an approved driving school. He had a series of lessons and then passed his test in December 2012. He told his keyworker that he felt the IOM team had supported and helped him to reach this goal.

He also feels he is now on his way to achieving the next stage-introducing him to business start up enterprises with his keyworker giving him advice on business start up. He and his colleague have now produced a business plan. He is also working towards his CSCS which will support him in any field he decides to move into in the future.

Feedback from Client: “Thank you to (named Key Worker) who has helped me move forward towards reaching for a goal which I feel very enthusiastic about”.

Conference Information

Transforming Rehabilitation - The Future of Integrated Offender Management Wednesday 18th September 2013 in Central London

Capita's National Transforming Rehabilitation Conference looks at the Government's response to the Transforming Rehabilitation consultation and its impact on the criminal justice sector. The Ministry of Justice proposes redesigning approaches to offender management, increasing the involvement of the private and voluntary sectors in work towards reducing rates of re-offending.

During this period of fundamental change, this event is perfectly timed to deliver an update on the remodelling process currently underway in probation and offender services, and will prepare practitioners for the challenges ahead.

Reducing Reoffending 22nd October 2013 Local Government House, London SW1P 3HZ

Community Safety Partnerships and local government continue to have a key role in the co-ordination of Integrated Offender Management programmes and linkages with the Troubled Families agenda, but the increasing role of the private and voluntary sectors alongside the statutory providers is leading to a complicated landscape.

The LGA's Reducing Reoffending conference brings together practitioners, policymakers and influencers to consider how these new relationships might work effectively to provide a stronger set of partnerships to reduce reoffending rates. Delegates will have the opportunity to learn about the Government's reform programme, learn how the private and voluntary sectors can contribute, and hear from the most innovative practitioners.

Recruit with Conviction Conference 19th and 20th February 2014, Leicester

Employment for people with convictions can reduce reoffending rates by between a third and a half, yet many barriers still exist. This conference will enable us to come together to bring you the latest in good practice, hear from employers who already 'recruit with conviction' and provide us with an opportunity to debate issues, break down barriers, whilst facilitating the very best networking, all in the unique No Offence way. Featuring high profile speakers, engaging workshops and our exhibition hall 'The Market Place,' for networking and sharing over two days. For more information Tel: 07505 708772 or email: works@no-offence.org

Local Events

One Day One Conversation (ODOC) Workshop 13th June 2013

A workshop for Worcestershire IOM practitioners, which was held at County Hall, raised a number of practical issues. For example identifying key leads for non statutory offenders and obtaining input from Job Centre Plus and Benefit Agencies. It was thought that links also need to be established with Children's Services and mental health for the North Worcestershire ODOC. Two further workshops are expected to take place, working with the CRI, Police, Probation and CSPs to share best practices, anomalies etc.

Ongoing work in Worcestershire

Integrated Offender Management Partnerships

Coordinator (based at Wyre Forest) - This County wide post has been created for a fixed term of 12 months to develop a framework for operational service delivery to identified IOM offenders, in line with the seven pathways to reduce re-offending. To work with identified leads within a variety of partner agencies to develop working arrangements and overcome barriers across Worcestershire.

In the next edition of the IOM newsletter there will be an update from the successful candidate.

Co-location of IOM teams (Police Probation and CRI Pathway to Recovery)

North Worcestershire - In Kidderminster it is proving beneficial being located in the same office and communication between agencies has further improved. In Redditch, Police and Probation are co-located and a tasking meeting takes place each Monday morning where CRI attend and call in when required.

South Worcestershire - The team is fully located in Worcester Police Station and initial signs are good.

Drug Testing - Following a successful pilot scheme at Telford, drug testing for cocaine and/or opiates started in custody suites in North and South Worcestershire on 1st November 2012. Overall the process appears to be working well, and there will be an update on this initiative in the next edition of the IOM newsletter.

Wyre Forest Community Payback Project - Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership joined forces with West Mercia Probation Trust to offer local groups the use of a team of Community Payback workers. Offenders who took part had been sentenced by the court to carry out unpaid work for the crimes they committed. St Oswald's CE Primary in Kidderminster was one of the successful applicants for the scheme. The offender's project at the school was to clear a small conservation area with a pond. They also cut back overgrown bushes around the site and produced four trailers full of cuttings, which were sent off to be recycled. Joel Marshall, Head teacher at St. Oswald's CE Primary School said: "The work carried out has opened up much more space. The extra visibility allows teachers to keep a close eye on children playing in the gardens and it's much safer for them. We are delighted to be involved in the Scheme and I would certainly recommend others applying. Many of the parents have noticed the work and we've received really positive feedback."

Community Payback Projects were also completed on Betty Dawes Hill in Stourport, Springfield Park in Kidderminster and Walshes Community Hall, Stourport. The initiative will be extended to other parts of the County in due course.



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