

IOM Newsletter Update

This Worcestershire IOM Newsletter is published by the Worcestershire IOM Strategy Group, which is accountable to the Worcestershire Safer Communities Board. It provides a regular update giving a local and national snapshot of important issues, projects, events, conferences, and new publications.

IOM – Supporting local partners to succeed

Integrated Offender Management (IOM) is the overarching framework that brings together a range of statutory, non statutory and third sector agencies to prioritise interventions with offenders who cause crime in their locality.

IOM builds on and expands current offender-focused programmes, such as Prolific and other Priority Offender (PPO), Drug Interventions Programme (DIP), Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPAs), and Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), recognizing that an offender of concern to everyone may end up being no one's responsibility.

In targeting those offenders - adult as well as young offenders - of most concern in every locality, regardless of whether they are under statutory supervision or not, IOM aims to manage them consistently, using aligned and jointly used local resources to turn them away from crime, punishing and reforming them as appropriate, thereby making best use of resources, reducing crime and re-offending with particular focus on reducing the number of victims they impact on.

IOM brings together agencies involved in tackling the crimes of concern to local communities, by looking at existing programmes and approaches, recognising where work can be simplified and also where there are gaps in the current provision.

Principles of IOM

Community Safety Partnerships have a statutory responsibility to reduce re-offending and local integrated offender management approaches differ from area to area. However the IOM policy statement set out five key principles which should underpin local IOM arrangements.

These are:

- All partners tackling offenders together - local partners, both criminal justice and non-criminal justice agencies, encourage the development of a multi-agency problem-solving approach by focussing on offenders, not offences.

- Delivering a local response to local problems - all relevant local partners are involved in strategic planning, decision-making and funding choices.
- Offenders facing their responsibility or facing the consequences - offenders are provided with a clear understanding of what is expected of them.
- Making better use of existing programmes and governance - this involves gaining further benefits from programmes such as the PPO programme, DIP and Community Justice to increase the benefits for communities. This will also enable partners to provide greater clarity around roles and responsibilities.
- All offenders at high risk of causing serious harm and/or re-offending are 'in scope' - intensity of management relates directly to severity of risk, irrespective of position within the criminal justice system or whether statutory or non-statutory.

Conference Information

The Worcestershire IOM Conference

This conference was held for those practitioners working, involved with and interested in managing offenders. It was held at [Bromsgrove District Council](#) on [Wednesday 9th May](#).

The aim of the conference and workshop was to provide practitioners with an opportunity to identify challenges and discuss potential solutions to implementing IOM approaches across Worcestershire. The event followed on from a West Mercia wide event that took place at [West Mercia Police Headquarters](#) on [26th March](#).

The conference was opened by Phil Kendrick the Acting Head of the Youth Offending Service and there were presentations from Community Safety, Police, Local Criminal Justice Board and Youth Support Services. There were 4 workshop stations that enabled delegates to participate in discussions and highlight any key issues, concerns or barriers to implementing IOM in Worcestershire.



There were a number of common issues that were raised across all 4 work shop stations in relation to barriers to IOM being successful. Most of the issues came under three main headings:

Governance, Roles and Responsibilities

- Confusion of the definition of IOM and lack of understanding of everyone's roles and responsibilities. Police roles need defining. Better information sharing with speedy referral and response. Universal scoping and specific services – who does what where and who do you talk to? A need to initiate conversation. Some agencies need to be convinced of the importance of IOM. What is going to be different?

Resources

- Lack of capacity in the services we refer to. For example St. Pauls Hostel is nearly always full and hostels not always best place for substance misuse.
- Lack of availability of housing as pathway options.
- Better signposting and access to specialist services such as housing and mental health with improved transition of mental health from prison to community. Need clarification about referrals via pathways.
- Funding is very ad hoc

Information Sharing

- Better information sharing with speedy referral and response.
- Joining up the good work in and out of custody with better engagement from the courts.
- Is there a need for an independent identity and location (co-location of staff)?

Capita's National Integrated Offender Management Conference Supporting Offenders with Mental Health Problems

This is a half day briefing attached to a one day conference and takes place on Tuesday 18th September 2012 in central London.

Publications

Publication of Inspection Report - An Inspection of Offender Management in West Mercia was led by HM Inspectorate of Probation and a report was published on 29th June this year. Copies can be obtained from HM Inspectorate of Probation, 6th Floor Trafford House Chester Road, Stretford, Manchester, M32 0RS Telephone 0161 869 1300. Alternative formats are available upon request.

Ongoing work in Worcestershire

- DAAT (County Drug and Alcohol Action Team) money will be used to fund the post of IOM Project Manager/ Co-ordinator for a fixed term of 12 months, to focus on establishing strategic principles and a framework for service delivery.
- Discussions are taking place regarding the co-location of IOM teams. Initially it is likely to be Police, Probation and Pathway to Recovery staff members.
- Feedback on the drug testing in custody pilot scheme, currently running in Telford

Next steps

- There needs to be a focus upon next steps in relation to developing pathways and embedding the work with the ODOC (One Day One Conversation- prolific and other priority offenders/integrated offender management operational teams).
- Identification of the rules of engagement for pathway services and that this could form part of the new County Project Management role.
- Buy in at a strategic level and the processes have to be flexible enough to be tailored to meet the needs of individuals.
- To develop Job Description and Person Specification for IOM Pathways project lead.

The IOM framework is new but in the next newsletter we hope to show good examples of how it is working in practice.

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