

## Integrated Offender Management December 2009

Integrated Offender Management (IOM) seeks to build on the effective partnership arrangements for managing offenders that have been developed over the past 10 years, which include Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), Prolific and Other Priority Offenders (PPO) schemes, and Drug Intervention Programmes (DIP). These programmes bring together Police, Probation, Health, Prisons, and other relevant agencies including the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) to better deliver services, share information, and manage particular groups of offenders that cause concern to local communities. For instance:

- MAPPA focuses on offenders that represent a risk of harm to the public;
- PPO schemes target offenders responsible for high volume crime, especially acquisitive crime such as burglary and robbery.
- DIPs seek to reduce the numbers of drug-using offenders (in particular those who use Class A drugs/opiates).

One of the features of these schemes is the significant involvement of the police in the management of offenders. This goes beyond simply investigating crimes and arresting individuals and includes working together with other agencies to help offenders re-integrate into society. Police activity in these arrangements is primarily around increased surveillance of offenders within these schemes but does often extend to individual support and motivation.

The criteria for inclusion of individuals in any of these groups are tightly defined. Inclusion on PPO schemes, for instance, is determined by the number and type of offences committed by individuals, whereas DIP programmes are about identifying the type and severity of substance misuse. Most, but not all, of the offenders are subject to statutory supervision or custodial sentences. The over-arching rationale for offenders being included in these arrangements is the level of risk of harm and re-offending rather than which stage individuals are at in the Criminal Justice System. There is also significant overlap between the groups and there will be drug users who are also PPO's.

IOM attempts to provide a structure which simplifies the governance and management of offenders who are targeted by these schemes. In particular it focuses on offenders who have been released from short term prison sentences and are not subject to supervision, but who would benefit from both the close supervision of the police and the range of services that can be offered by the agencies that contribute to IOM. IOM is also potentially more flexible in that it can provide 'less intensive' provision to those offenders who have responded successfully to, for example, PPO schemes, but who may continue to require targeted support to remain offence-free. And finally, although there is a national framework, one of the key features of IOM is that the types of offenders and offences to be included within these arrangements are determined by local agencies.

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) commissioned research into the involvement of the VCS in IOM and this was published in March 2009. The findings confirmed that IOM schemes linked with the VCS in a range of ways; from simply signposting offenders to services through to recruiting the VCS as a strategic partner. Further research on the effectiveness and impact of IOM is being conducted and this evaluation is expected in March 2010.

VCS organisations are encouraged to contact their local probation service or police force area to find out more about PPO/DIP schemes and plans for implementing IOM in their locality.

Please contact Malcolm Thomson if you have any queries regarding this briefing:

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## Resources

Further information and guidance relating to IOM can be found at:

[http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/ppo/IOMGovernmentPolicyStatement.p  
df](http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/ppo/IOMGovernmentPolicyStatement.pdf)

The research into the involvement of the VCS in IOM can be found at:

[http://www.barefootresearch.org.uk/IOM\\_and\\_TSE.pdf](http://www.barefootresearch.org.uk/IOM_and_TSE.pdf)