



# POST-SENTENCE INITIATIVES FOR SEX OFFENDERS IN THE COMMUNITY: A PSYCHOLOGIST'S PERSPECTIVE

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# Missing sex offender spotted in Duhallow

A CONVICTED sex offender who was missing in a cottage in Midstreet has set off two nights and has been sighted at Midstreet, Kilmuckridge and Salsburgh over the last few weeks.

David W. Kearney and Midstreet were monitoring the movements of Limerick native Richard P. Eric, 47, who was very likely to be seized by the British authorities. Eric was seen in a cottage in Midstreet last Wednesday but by Friday night a jeep arrived and took it out of the field.

The Gardaí discovered that his last known sighting was in Charleville, Malpas recently.

Eric was arrested in the UK of sexually assaulting a 16-year-old girl in 2004 and was sent to prison in 2006. Eric had failed to sign up in England in 2006. However, he had failed to sign up in Ireland and did not notify the authorities of his return to Ireland. He had returned to his native Limerick and applied to



Richard P. Eric.

## Daily Mail

### Why I've gone for a tattoo at 73

BY SANDRA HOWARD

Judge's withering condemnation as he jails two women for 35 years for letting pop star abuse their babies.

# HOW COULD ANY MOTHER BE SO EVIL?



PRINCE HARRY HEADS HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

## Daily Mail

### LITTLE JOHN Memoirs of a lost Britain

# FREE LEGO TOYS

PICK UP YOUR CITY POLICE CAR IN WISH SMITH AND TOYS R US

Fury after Oxford graduate's husband goes free despite grooming hundreds of girls.

# WHY WAS INTERNET PREDATOR NOT JAILED?



Emma's date with Prince William

## Gold Coast The Bulletin

### Judge frees child-sex pervert... so who protects the children now

# Dob in this monster



...and who protects the children now

## Daily Mail

### Dripping tap driving you mad? Don't miss our FREE magazine inside tomorrow

# PREDATOR IN THE CLASSROOM



Camilla's tragic brother and his secret lover

## Britain lets a paedophile migrant apply for asylum



### OUTCRY AT £174 PAYOUTS TO DETAINEES OVER DELAYS IN THEIR CASES

# SEXUAL ABUSE: THE PROBLEM

- Crime Victimization Survey, Australia – 2010-2011
- 2005 Personal Safety Survey
- Small percentages are reported and even smaller numbers will proceed to conviction and custodial sentences.

# KNOWN OFFENDERS

- 2016 NSW Department of Corrections Census - almost 12% of the prison population, just under 1500 inmates, were in custody for sexual assault or related offences in that year.
- As it stands, all will be released to the community at some point.
- No legal Order = no more treatment or support.

# SEX OFFENDER RECIDIVISM

- Relatively low - 13.7% for sexual offences, total recidivism rate 36.9% (average follow up time around five years)
- Treatment can reduce recidivism by up to 50%





**TOUGH ON  
CRIME**

**DANGER**  
Registered  
Sex Offender  
Lives Here  
Report Suspicious Behaviour to  
Authorities



# RISK ASSESSMENT



Static risks

Dynamic risks

Stable risks

Acute risks



# OUTCOMES OF RISK ASSESSMENT

Low

- Low intensity
- Minimum supervision

Mod

- Medium intensity
- Moderate supervision

High

- High intensity
- Intense supervision

# PROTECTIVE FACTORS


- For example:
  - resilient mental health,
  - the capacity for healthy intimacy and
  - an active, productive and prosocial community routine.



# NEW LAWS

## Continuing Detention Orders (CDO) and Extended Supervision Orders (ESO).

- It is important to note that these Laws are not therapeutic in nature but are designed to be management tools that protect the community.
- Conditions are applied regardless of the way in which these factors relate to a person's offending behaviour or risk and in a manner that I believe infringes the human rights of many of these clients without any tangible benefit in terms of protecting potential victims or reducing dynamic risks for reoffence.



Whilst these Orders are designed to apply to high risk sex offenders who pose a serious threat to the community, the reality is they are often sought for and applied to those offenders who have high needs and who don't fit cleanly within the extant framework or treatment initiatives.

Sadly for these cases, these offenders are not given adequate planning or support to address their needs and this will often result in their being placed on subsequent Orders on the assumption that they continue to pose an unacceptably high risk of sexual reoffending.

# DO THEY WORK?

- There is no evidence that these initiatives have any tangible impact on risk.
- Rather, they may serve to increase dynamic risk.
- Recent BOCSAR research (2017) demonstrates 11-31% reduction in odds of reoffending for offenders on Intensive Correctional Orders. BOCSAR concluded that supervision in the community, combined with rehabilitation programmes can result in meaningful impacts on reoffence rates.



# NEED TO COMMUNICATE AND COLLABORATE IN WORKING TOGETHER



# "RIGHT" CBT TREATMENT

- Increases the person's insight into the antecedents to their offending behaviour,
- Allows them to develop accountability in relation to the same,
- Facilitates an awareness of victim impact,
- Addresses deviant sexual interests and patterns of distorted thinking,
- Increases the person's skills to cope with emotional difficulties and life stressors better,
- Improves the offender's capacity for meaningful and mature intimacy, and
- Facilitates the development of a comprehensive plan for future risk management.

# GROUP IS BEST

- Group work is better able to address issues of identity,
- Groups facilitate a sound understanding of offence-related concepts,
- Groups provide important access to social supports,
- Groups better allow for dynamic risk factors to be addressed therapeutically, including self-esteem, social skills development and mastery of self-disclosures with limited judgement and where openness is encouraged.



# THE GAINS

Allam & Browne (1998) – treatment gains can be between 36 and 69%



# TREATMENT PROGRAMME PATHWAY

## Core modules:

- Sexual Abuse Education
- Treatment Readiness
- Relapse Prevention Principles
- Disclosure
- Victim Empathy



CONTINUED...

- Cognitive Distortions
- Autobiography
- Relationships/Intimacy
- Offence Cycle
- Relapse Prevention Planning/Good Lives Planning



## Optional Modules

- Sex Education
- Sexual Self-Regulation/Deviant Arousal Management
- Anger Management
- Drugs and Alcohol
- Emotional Awareness
- Self-Esteem
- Coping Skills
- Internet Offending
- Antisocial Attitudes

# HIGH RISK OFFENDERS...

Are unlikely to get treatment in the community.



## IN SUM...

- Who we are applying these Orders to?
- What responsibility do we have to offer people the kinds of treatment and support that they need to reduce their risk?
- What responsibility do we have to coordinate services and provide post-release planning for people as they move out of prison and how is this funded?
- These Orders should not be used simply to contain people we are uncomfortable with in the community or who we could not offer treatment to in prison,
- These Orders should not be used as a way of managing our most vulnerable, complex and high needs offenders, who need high levels of support and treatment.

# CONTINUED...

- How do we assist offenders to get off such Orders?
- How do we improve through care models of service so that offenders are supported as they transition out of custody and work with community-based agencies?
- If we know that merely restricting and punishing someone does not work to reduce reoffending, at what point do we ask whether we should be doing something differently?
- How do we educate the public that these Orders are not in and of themselves a "fix" to the problem of sexual abuse?
- How do we bring to the forefront a discourse that is accepting of sex offenders and the need to offer these people rehabilitation IN ADDITION to punishing them for their actions, holding them accountable and supporting and protecting victims?

# THANK YOU

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