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Public Sector Prisons



Community re-integration and release from prison of people convicted of sexual offences.

Trent Study Day.
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Institute of Mental Health

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Governor

HMP Whatton.

Background

- ❑ Worked in CJS in 1986 both in custody and community
- ❑ Currently Governor of a 841 place treatment centre for those convicted of sexual offences
- ❑ Started a PhD at University of Nottingham October 2015 to research the experiences of those people convicted of sexual offences leaving prison and the management of risk.
- ❑ You will I am sure have concluded by the dates above, that I know significantly more about the practice than the research (but I will do my best).

Questions?

- What do we know about the experiences of people convicted of sexual offences returning to the community?
- What do we hope that people returning will achieve?
- What does the research say about desistance factors for this group?
- What services are provided? Are they welcomed back?
- What concerns people about release?

What do we know about the experiences of people convicted of sexual offences returning to the community?

Hostility from media



Teacher drugged and abused 60 pupils at British private school

PREDATOR IN THE CLASSROOM

By Rebecca Camber, Paul Bentley and Paul Thompson

A PAEDOPHILE teacher drugged and molested up to 60 boys as young as ten at a British private school after four decades spent abusing children around the globe.

William Vahby, 64, pled guilty to drugging and molesting pupils before carrying out his sickening attacks during class trips abroad, it emerged last night.

The married teacher appeared to have an immaculate record when he started work at the elite Southbank International School in 2006. In reality, he had covered up a child sex conviction and spent 40 years abusing "hundreds" of youngsters in nine countries.

Vahby committed suicide at a motel in the US last month - just days after confessing. The FBI had been poised to investigate a 10th anniversary exhibition of graphic images of 90 children who appeared to be asleep or unconscious while they were abducted during field trips during 2006.

The photos featured between 50 and 60 pupils at Southbank International in central London, where American-born Vahby taught ten to 15-year-olds history and geography and led trips to destinations such as Nepal and Venezuela.

Last night, outraged parents at the prestigious school discovered by American executives feared they may never know whether their children were abused

Turn to Page 4



Mark Shand and Ruth Powys at charity event in New York hours before his death

Camilla's tragic brother and his secret lover

SEE PAGES 6-7



Demonising all people convicted of offences against children as 'paedophiles'.



What do we hope that people returning to the community will achieve?

- Do we want people to succeed or fail?
- Have we created a 'virtual' prison in the community?



The Virtual Prison?

Typically what restrictions are placed on a person convicted of a sexual offence when they return to the community?

- Sex offender registration
- Licence conditions
- Curfew
- Polygraph testing
- Extended supervision
- MAPPA supervision
- GPS tag

(Plus fear of assault and isolation from the community)

What does the research say about desistance factors from this group of people?

- ❑ Desistance research largely focused on crimes of violence and acquisitive crime (Maruna 2001, 2008, McNeil 2007)
- ❑ But in summary - things that make people stop offending:
 - ❑ Self (choosing to stop. People need a reason to desist)
 - ❑ Maturity (Growing out of it)
 - ❑ Family and partner support
 - ❑ Accommodation
 - ❑ Employment
 - ❑ Good self esteem

But what about people convicted of sexual offences?

Are things any different for them?



- ❑ Laws and Ward 2011, Farmer 2014 and Harries 2015 have started to look at what, if anything, is different for those convicted of a sexual offence.
- ❑ Already indicated that good family support is an important factor in desistance. However, many people convicted of sexual offences have offended in the family or have offended their family members by their actions.
- ❑ Low self esteem is often a factor in a persons offending and the stigmatisation of being a 'sex offender' compounds this.
- ❑ Employment after prison is often a double challenge – An offender but additionally are convicted of a sexual offence.
- ❑ Lack of acceptance by the community and associated support increases risk of reoffending.



What services are provided upon release?

- ❑ Beginning to see the development of COSA – ‘substitute’ community support and accountability
- ❑ Risk need responsively – Develop treatment plans that reflect on individual needs risks and how they are likely to respond.
- ❑ Support to community groups to welcome those convicted of sexual offences but with appropriate public protection safeguards.



What are the concerns people have about their reintegration?

- Public scrutiny
- Accommodation
- Employment

Conclusions

- We are often risk adverse.
- We make it difficult for people to reintegrate.
- There is significantly more scrutiny and surveillance than support and 'care'.
- There needs to be a shift in emphasis if we are serious about keeping the community safe.
- The solution is not just for the criminal justice system, it is for the community.

Thank you.

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