

Young People – The Opportunities and Challenges of Tagging

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Agenda



- An Overview of the Use of Tagging for Juveniles
- Electronic Monitoring
- ISSP – An example of how a Curfew can be used as part of a sentencing package
- HMIP Inspection of Electronic Monitoring & Challenges Raised
- Discussion

Curfew Order for Juveniles



- Requires a young person to remain in a specified place for a set period of time
- Can be used as:
 - ✓ A community sentence in its own right
 - ✓ Alongside other community sentencing options
 - ✓ As a condition of Bail
 - ✓ As a Licence Condition on release from custody in certain circumstances

Curfews cont ...



- Can be given between 2 – 12 hours per day
- Can last up to 6 months
- Can be electronically monitored at the request of the Court
- Should be strictly enforced to National Standards by Case Managers

Purpose



- Restricts Liberty
- Assists in changing behaviour – the Courts view Curfews as a valuable tool to change the behaviour of a juvenile who is out at night causing anti-social behaviour
- Disrupts the offending behaviour of prolific and persistent offenders through strict monitoring and enforcement
- Protects & reassures the community
- Assists Police

Electronic Monitoring



- Monitors Curfew compliance
- Violations can be addressed quickly, which reinforces the message to young people
- Immediate response initiated with police in bail cases, helping to protect the community
- Can (in some instances) work to the young persons advantage by providing an alibi – although caution must be maintained in these circumstances

Misconceptions



- The tag provides a means of tracking the young person's whereabouts outside of the home.
- The young person can remove the tag without alerting the control centre.
- Case Managers 'let people off' for curfew violations
- Young people like being tagged, it is a badge of honour.

ISSP– an overview



- Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme (ISSP) is a programme designed for prolific and serious young offenders
- ISSP is a community based programme that offers the Courts a rigorous alternative to custody as an attachment to a Community Order, or part of a Bail package
- ISSP can also be a licence condition during the community part of a Detention and Training Order (DTO)

What sets ISSP apart?



- 25+ hours of supervisory input per week
- Minimum of 2 surveillance checks per day
- Extensive use of curfews with electronic tagging
- Interventions tailored to the needs and lifestyles of the young people
- Partnership with the Operational Police Units (intelligence units) with regular meetings and daily information sharing if required.

Supervision



25 hours minimum per week involving the following elements:

- Education/employment/training
- Offending Behaviour Programmes
- Family support
- Restorative Justice
- Interpersonal Skills
- Other - Drugs
 - Alcohol
 - Health

Surveillance



How does tagging help?

- Creates structure in the young person's life and therefore the young person is more likely to be able to comply with daytime requirements of the programme
- Curfew can take some pressure off parent or carer
- Allows family work to take place in the home
- Provides re-assurance to the community
- Assists Police

General Challenges



- Should young people be tagged – human rights issues
- Youth Offending Team staff not always in favour of tagging – raising issues of welfare – v – punishment
- Young people do not like tags
- Enforcement relies on good communication between two separate agencies

HMIP Inspection - Challenges



An enormous amount of effort has been put into establishing good communication between the YOT and the EM provider. It is recognised that this is essential to maintain the integrity of this community sentence. However, despite this work the Inspection found that the Electronically Monitored Cufew could be better integrated into Offender Management by:-

- YOTs providing the EM Contractor with relevant information on vulnerability and risk of harm to others
- YOTs routinely informing EM Contractor of decisions regarding enforcement and reasoning on rare occasions when they decide to act against the given standard
- EM Contractors providing clear information to Offender Managers including simple summary on all cases.

Challenges – cont ...



- The inspection also detailed a need to develop a ‘smarter’ approach to compliance and enforcement and that this could be achieved by working to tighter and transparent boundaries, but with more discretion available in appropriate individual cases.

Discussion



- How much information should be conveyed to young people about the enforcement and National Standards related to their tag?
- Are the National Standards too lenient?
- How much information on a young person's circumstances should be passed to an external contractor?

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