



Tracking Pilots England 2004/5

Steve Birkett

Satellite Tracking Project Manager

National Offender Management Service

Scope of Presentation

- Current use of tracking
- Geographical scope of pilots
- Pilot preparation and guidance issued
- Current position, issues and problems
- Evaluation – aims and interim report
- Improvements to technology
- Proposed expansion to pilots
- Costs of tracking
- Lessons learnt



Current use of tracking



- Prolific offenders
- Domestic violence
- Sex offenders (in Greater Manchester)
- Violent offenders (in Greater Manchester)

Geographical scope of pilot



- Greater Manchester – selected districts
- West Midlands – two districts (Sandwell and Dudley)
- Hampshire Probation/Wessex Youth Offending Team – all of Hampshire/Isle of Wight

Preparation

- Project Initiation Document (PID)
- Business case/project plan
- Funding
- Discussions with proposed pilot areas
- Agreement with service providers
- Testing of equipment
- Agreement of Ministers to proceed

Guidance Documentation



- Statement of Requirements (SOR)
- Service Processes
- Guidance to practitioners
- Guidance to Courts
- Leaflet for offenders
- Leaflet for victims and parents/carers

Current position



- 153 tracking cases to date
- 54 current cases on tracking, including...
- ...4 sex offenders currently being tracked
- 64 cases recalled to date
- 35 completed cases to date

Current Position (2)



- 6 sex offenders tracked to date
- 133 offenders released on licence tracked
- 20 offenders subject to court order tracked
- 29 juvenile offenders tracked to date

Current issues and problems



- Low numbers
- Not ready to track offenders with known victims in real time
- Equipment not yet performing to standard
- GPS signal sometimes lost or inaccurate
- Inadequate coverage of exclusion zones
- Inefficient exchange of information between contractors and practitioners

Aims/objectives of evaluation



- To assess how pilots were implemented
- To assess how well equipment performed
- To examine views of offenders, victims & key practitioners on tracking
- To assess effect of tracking on offenders
- To consider costs and effectiveness

Evaluation - Interim report



- Contract awarded to Birmingham University
- Interim report in April 05. Research undertaken:
 - - face-to-face interviews with over 60 offenders
 - - face-to-face interviews with over 30 staff
 - - attended over 20 key meetings
 - - visited all monitoring centres
- Final report by 31 December 2005

Improvements to technology



- Assisted GPS
- GPRS – ‘broadband for mobile phones’
- Ability for all units to hold location fixes
- Ability to provide more comprehensive coverage of exclusion zones

Proposed expansion to pilots



- Extension to all districts in Greater Manchester and additional districts in West Midlands
- Extension of sex offender pilot to West Midlands and Hampshire
- Inclusion of violent offenders in all pilot areas
- Use of all 3 types of tracking in all pilot areas
- Extend timescale until at least the end of 2005

Benefits of expansion



- Increase rate of take up (target of 40 per area)
- Boost sex offender numbers
- Test exclusion monitoring in all 3 pilots
- Incorporate early use of improved technology
- Broaden scope of pilot to benefit of evaluation

Reduction in costs



- Average daily cost of passive (now retrospective) monitoring, reduced from £68 (€100) in September 2004 to £40 (€60) in April 2005
- Average cost of hybrid (now exclusion) – higher, and subject to current discussion
- Estimated costs of extended pilots come within 2005/06 budget of £2.5m (€3.65m)

Lessons learned to date



- Technology still developing – useful enhancements in prospect
- Technology has potential to track offenders with known victims in real time but needs to be more reliable
- Successful operation needs close co-operation of all relevant agencies