

Report

**CEP Workshop
Sex Offenders - an Irish Perspective
Dublin, Ireland
19-22 October 2000**

Sex offenders - an Irish perspective

This workshop was hosted by the Irish Probation and Welfare Service and attended by representatives from countries across Europe.

The main theme of the workshop was the policy and strategy being adopted by the criminal justice system and statutory agencies in Ireland concerning sex offenders. However, each participating country gave a brief outline of what was happening in their own jurisdictions.

The main theme was discussed and evaluated within the context of a variety of critical areas:

- developments in the legislation
- police investigative procedures
- risk assessment and community safety
- adolescent sex offender intervention strategies
- prison based cognitive-behavioural programmes research.

A recurring topic throughout was the variation in intervention strategies followed by different countries and the need for a more explicitly stated policy, which would guide the member countries in their endeavours. Three future directions were identified as being of central importance:

- the need to inform communities that certain strategies can work with sex offenders
- the accreditation of sex offender programmes and their evaluation
- the establishment of an integrated and systematic risk management system for all offenders who come to the attention of the criminal justice system.

This is an edited version of a report which appeared in CEP Bulletin 17 - December 2000.