



*Developing Work with Sexual Abusers,
Preventing Sexual Abuse*

Does Treatment of Sex Offenders Work?

The Home Office have evaluated the effects of Sex Offender Treatment Programmes (SOTP) in prisons. These have been running since the early 1990s. Their main evaluation looked at the effect of the group programme on men who had abused children. The results showed:

1. Programmes succeeded in increasing the level of admittance of offending behaviour.
2. Thoughts about committing sexual offences against children were reduced, as were levels of denial of the impact on victims.
3. Longer term treatment (about 160 hours) produced results which last longer after release than short-term therapy (80 hours), particularly for those with high levels of deviance.
4. Further evaluation showed that 80 hours' treatment was sufficient for most people with low levels of deviancy.

What about Re-offending?

Research that looks at the effects of large numbers of programmes have found that modern, cognitive-behavioural group treatment programmes reduce rates of sexual re-offending by as much as 40% (Hanson et al, 2002).

What else makes a Difference?

Lifestyle circumstances can impact on re-offending:

- Access to stable housing.
- Opportunities for suitable employment.
- Healthy social and leisure activities.
- Vigilant and appropriate support systems.
- Ongoing booster treatment.

All make a positive impact on a person's own motivation not to re-offend.

Useful Numbers

NSPCC NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION HELPLINE If you have concerns about the welfare of a child, please call on	Freephone 0808 800 5000
POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND	02890 650222
STOP IT NOW! (NI) – Working to prevent sexual abuse. If you have concerns about your own thoughts and behaviours towards children or are concerned about others contact the Stop it Now Helpline on:	Freephone Helpline 0808 1000 900

For further information on NOTA please visit:

www.nota.co.uk