

Enforcement

- Offenders are required to attend every session.
- If an offender misses a session they must complete a 'catch up' session before resuming the programme.
- If an offender misses more than two sessions they must repeat the group work programme.
- If an offender misses sessions without an acceptable reason, enforcement action will be taken by their case manager in line with National Standards for the supervision of offenders.

Legal framework

- Attendance on the programme is a condition of a community rehabilitation order under Schedule 2 (2) of the Powers of the Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000.
- The following wording should be used for this additional requirement:

"in accordance with instructions given by the supervising officer to complete one full Drink Impaired Drivers Programme in accordance with Schedule 2 (2) of the Powers of the Criminal Court (Sentencing) Act 2000."

Diversity

West Mercia Probation Area recognises that women, minority ethnic offenders, those with a disability or other special needs may have additional issues. These issues will be fully addressed in order that they derive maximum benefit from the Drink Impaired Drivers Programme.

National Probation Service
West Mercia Area
Stourbank House
90 Mill Street
Kidderminster
Worcs DY11 6XA

Tel: 01562 748375
Fax: 01562 748407

For further details about our work please visit our website:

www.westmerciaprobation.org.uk



NATIONAL PROBATION SERVICE
for England and Wales

West Mercia

Drink Impaired Drivers' Programme

Information for Sentencers



What is it?

- The Drink Impaired Drivers Programme is a nationally accredited group work programme that is supported by individual pre and post-programme work.
- It aims to reduce re-offending amongst drink drive offenders by the use of educational groups and cognitive behavioural methods. Research has shown that these are effective in improving thinking and problem solving skills, and reducing the risk of further offending.
- The monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of this work is an integral part of the programme.



Who is it for?

- Offenders aged 17 or over whose current offence involves driving whilst over the prescribed limit, failing to provide a specimen, driving whilst unfit, being drunk in charge of a vehicle, and aiding, abetting or attempting any of these.
- Defendants should normally have at least one similar previous conviction.
- The Drink Impaired Drivers Programme is available to first offenders where there are aggravating features which are offences involving a road traffic accident and/or a high blood alcohol level.



What are the aims of the programme?

- To confront participants with issues relating to drinking and driving.
- To enable participants to develop their problem solving skills and apply these skills to real situations to reduce the risk of future drink driving offences.



What are the objectives of the programme?

The programme works with participants to:

- Increase offenders' knowledge about the effects of alcohol.
- Encourage a constructive change in attitude towards the use of alcohol.
- Encourage positive change in patterns of drinking and related behaviour.
- Develop an increased awareness of the variety of ways in which participants can resist undue pressure to drink more than they wish.
- Enable them to recognise the implications of their drinking on themselves and others, particularly the potential victims of road accidents.

Drink Impaired Drivers' Programme

- Increase understanding of the drink-driving offence and recognition of the effect of alcohol on essential driving skills.



How is it delivered?

- The programme consists of four sessions of individual pre-programme work, which is delivered by the case manager. This is followed by a pre-session and fourteen weekly sessions of group work of two hours duration. Once this has been completed, up to a further six sessions of individual post programme work is delivered by the case manager.



How is an individual's progress evaluated?

- Through the use of psychometric testing before and after the programme, and by regular communication between the case manager and staff who deliver the group work programme.
- A written report is prepared on completion of the group work phase. This is reviewed with the offender and it guides post-programme supervision.