



NATIONAL PROBATION SERVICE
for England and Wales

West Mercia



*Information for
Sentencers*

Evidence of Effectiveness

This is a programme using approved material from Canada. Research on the original programme produced evidence of a significant impact upon re-offending:

For Serious Abusers

A reduction of 46% in new convictions

A reduction of 54% in offences of violence

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**Offender
Substance Abuse
Prevention
Programme**

For further details about our work please visit our website:

www.westmerciaprobation.org.uk

? What is the Offender Substance Abuse Prevention Programme (OSAPP)?

OSAPP is a specialised programme designed to reduce the abuse of drugs and alcohol. The original programme has already been accredited in Canada and it is now accredited for use in England and Wales.

The scheme is **available in Worcestershire and Telford from 1 September 2004** with the first programme beginning on September 28.

This programme is available only to offenders subject to Drug Treatment and Testing Orders. It does not need to be made a condition of the order but will be an important part of the treatment plan which the offender will sign. This is the group who require the most intensive intervention and structured activity in order to reduce their substance misuse.

Accredited programmes are those programmes which have been developed under the 'What Works' initiative and to which the Correctional Services Accreditation Panel has given approval. Approval is only given to those programmes which are based on sound research evidence and employ approaches which are effective in changing the way offenders think and behave and contribute to reducing reconviction rates.

? Who is eligible?

The Pre-Sentence report will identify those for whom a drug treatment and testing order is appropriate. OSAPP will normally be an automatic requirement of such an order. However there may be those whose literacy levels would make participation difficult. The Pre-Sentence report will advise you of how literacy deficiencies will be remedied.

? What does the programme involve?

The core OSAPP programme runs for 24 sessions and provides:

- Pre and post assessments
- Alcohol and drug education
- Self management skills
- Social skills
- Individual counselling
- Job skills and lifestyle development
- Planning and application of skills
- Relapse prevention and management

? How does an offender access OSAPP?

All offenders subject to Drug Treatment and Testing Orders, on or after 1 September 2004, who are resident in Telford or Worcestershire, will be considered for OSAPP once sufficiently stabilised and a place is available.

? How is attendance enforced?

National Standards apply to attendance on the programme and in default, enforcement action will be taken. The offender is required to attend all 24 sessions, all the assessments and may be required to attend an additional ten sessions to reinforce and consolidate learning from the programme.

■ Diversity

The aim is for all candidates and participants to derive maximum benefit from the programme. Attention will be paid to particular issues of access to and participation in OSAPP for example by those with primary carer responsibilities, women, those from minority ethnic communities and those with disabilities.