



What is it?

- One of the nationally accredited groupwork programmes for offenders, which run throughout the country.
- Attending the Community Sex Offender Groupwork Programme (CSOGP) is a requirement of a Community Rehabilitation Order or Licence conditions.
- The Programme is designed to help you to avoid further sexual offending.



How will it help me?

- The programme has been researched and has been found to be a helpful way for men to gain an understanding of their own offending behaviour, and to manage that behaviour.
- This will help you to avoid offending in the future.
- The skills will also be useful in dealing with other problems and difficult situations that you may face.



What will the group involve?

- You will work with approximately 8-10 other men convicted of similar offences.



- You will try new ways of thinking about problems and making decisions.
- You will learn to deal with problems without offending.
- You will learn ways in which you can control your offending behaviour.



How do I get on the group?

- You will be referred at the time your Pre-sentence Report or Parole Report is written.
- You will be required to complete a series of questionnaires, before starting a group. This takes approximately 2-3 hours, and we offer help if you have difficulty with reading and writing.
- The questionnaires help us to allocate you to a suitable group, and you will be required to fill out the questionnaires on three occasions during your Order/Licence.



How long is the group?

- The programme consists of an initial block week when you will have to attend every day, Monday to Friday. This is followed by five full day (or ten half day) sessions at weekly intervals. This is called the Induction Group.



- This is followed by half day sessions, one per week. It may take around two years to finish the whole programme.
- If you are working, evening sessions are available, but it is not possible to do all the Induction Group in the evenings. You would therefore need to take time off work to complete this.
- You will also have meetings on your own with your probation officer before, during and after the programme.
- The group sessions currently take place in Worcester and Shrewsbury. You will be told which centre to go to.



What are the Rules?

There are rules for each group which will include:-

- Arrive on time.
- Attend alcohol, drug and solvent free.
- Treat staff and other members of the group with consideration and respect.
- Not talk to people outside the group about what group members may say in sessions.
- Take part in the work of the group.
- Complete assignments on time.

? What happens if I am ill or cannot attend?

- You must inform your probation officer or the group staff as soon as possible. If you are ill you must get a doctor's sick note and pass it to your probation officer within five working days.

? What happens if I miss a session?

- You have to come to every session.
- If you miss a session, you will need to do a 'catch up' session before you can carry on with the group.
- If you miss a session without an acceptable reason – action will be taken by your probation officer that may lead to you going back to court.

? Do I have any rights while I am on the programme?

You will be treated fairly and equally and you are expected to behave just as fairly towards other people. Disrespectful behaviour such as racism or sexism will be challenged.

You can make a complaint if you feel that you have been treated unfairly or unreasonably. You should try to talk about this to your probation officer first or to their manager. If you are not satisfied with the response you get, you can write to the Chief Officer at:-

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

Group staff are based at:-

- Programmes Unit Telford
01952 299366
- Shrewsbury Probation Office
01743 231525
- Programmes Unit Worcester
01905 613822

For further details about our work please visit our website:

www.westmerciaprobation.org.uk



NATIONAL PROBATION SERVICE
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West Mercia

A National Treatment Programme for Sex Offenders

Community Sex Offender Groupwork Programme

Information for offenders