

# Enhancing Probation Supervision with Electronic Monitoring

Lessons learned from pilot in  
Hertfordshire, England

Tessa Webb

Retired CEO Hertfordshire Probation Trust

[Tessawebb11@gmail.com](mailto:Tessawebb11@gmail.com)

Mobile 07917173807

Twitter @webbtessa

# Enhancing Probation Supervision with Electronic Monitoring

- Research findings re Electronic Monitoring
- Hertfordshire Pilot experience
- Observations & findings



# Supporting Desistance

- Service User's desire to desist
- Learning to lead a non-offending life style in the community
- Practical obstacles (housing, money, work, access to health/ treatment support) are tackled
- Supportive relationships important
- Develop & maintain motivation/ hope
- Promote strengths & capability
- Increase Social capital/ positive networks
- Working 'with', not 'on' them

# Fergus McNeill

- Making getting caught more likely - people calculate compliance makes sense
- Combination of support & monitoring accounted for positive outcomes
- EM works best with people who are rational calculators
- Trying to impose external controls without addressing underlying social & personal problems is going to be a flawed strategy

# HMI Probation – It's Complicated

The Management of Electronically Monitored Curfews June 2012

- “they need to be used more creatively and more effectively. This means providing targeted control and restriction and helping offenders to change their behaviour”.

# Hertfordshire



- In 2012 - 1 of 35 Probation Trusts\*
- Overall caseload 3,200
- Integrated Offender Management Caseload max of 200
- Approx 25 GPS Tags worn on a voluntary basis at any one time



# Background

- Been working in partnership with police on the prolific offender programme (C2) since 2007, During 2010/11 began experimenting with GPS tracking, funded through Police Authority
- Service Users agree to wear tag as part of programme.
- September 2011 MoJ gave Hertfordshire Probation the go ahead to expand pilot to use across range of Licences and Community Orders
- Benefits to risk management for MAPPA\* & IOM\* cases
- An additional tool, outcomes cannot just be attributed to GPS tracker, offenders receiving supervision, substance abuse interventions, attending group work programmes, help with Accommodation & Employment, Training & Education

\*MAPPA - Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements – Partnership approach to manage High Risk of Harm Offenders

IOM – Integrated Offender Management – Partnership approach to manage the most prolific offenders e.g. burglary, drug related theft

# Hertfordshire Horizons



HERTFORDSHIRE  
CONSTABULARY

Hertfordshire Partnership  
NHS Foundation Trust



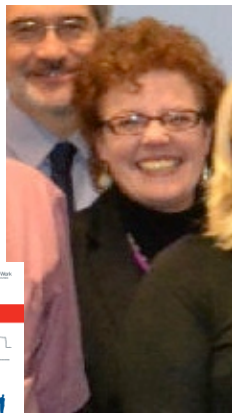
HM Courts &  
Tribunals  
Service



FarmingForAll  
Community Interest Company



Hertfordshire  
Probation Trust



**SOVA**  
SUPPORTING OTHERS THROUGH VOLUNTEER ACTION



St Mungo's



Opening doors for homeless people

County Community Safety Unit



jobcentreplus



safer communities, healthier



**HACRO**

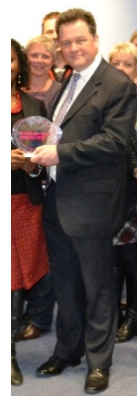
Hertfordshire Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders



David Lloyd



Police and Crime  
Commissioner  
for Hertfordshire





# Guardian Public Services Award – Digital Innovation 2012



# Early IOM indicators

- Hertfordshire IOM demonstrated 68% fall in burglary for IOM cohort, 22% fall in serious acquisitive crime overall in Hertfordshire (2011/12 data)
- Hertfordshire Probation improved Compliance - 79% 2011/12
- Probation Officers able to intervene earlier, e.g. ask why they had visited a known drug dealer, deepen engagement/ disclosure
- Easy to confirm compliance & spot relapse risks e.g. battery charge low
- Opportunity to address relapse risks earlier
- Able to encourage motivation with confidence
- Able to support employment that involved wider travel
- Able to impose restrictions to protect known victims

# Service Users recognised the benefits

- Police 'Stop & Search' reduced, Night time curfew visits stop
- Could use Tag as a reason to say "No"
- Constant reminder of likelihood of being caught – Jiminy Cricket
- Family more supportive, their trust has been broken from past behaviours
- Employment opportunities, supervisor can be more creative





# Integrated Working co-location of Probation and Police shared goals/stronger partnership



- Probation Officers in open plan office at Hatfield Police Station
- Challenges: IT systems operate independently, Culture, recognising and valuing respective roles
- Opportunities to share more information, be more responsive
- Can vary curfew restrictions, see if attending college, treatment provider etc.
- GPS has been agreed to be used Voluntarily
- Reduced Reoffending, Fewer Victims, Safer Communities, Efficiency savings

# Electronic Monitoring

## C.S. Dave Wharton - The future..

- Ministry of Justice new contracts
- Coerced tracking to be piloted as 'proof of concept'
- Legal, technical and procedural details yet to be resolved
- Voluntary tracking likely to continue... Various pieces of evaluation work are under way
- New applications eg tracking in domestic abuse cases
- Sobriety tags
- Transforming Rehabilitation reforms of Probation Services in England & Wales introduce new partnership challenges



# Case study - AB

- AB was PPO/gang member with history of burglary, aggravated burglary and kidnap
- Arrested in April 2012 and signed up to voluntary tracking
- Wore tag for over a year, was able to remove himself from criminal associates, and was not arrested
- With assistance from voluntary sector mentor, has remained crime free, and tag subsequently removed

# Case study - SR

- SR arrested 11 times in 2012 for minor 'nuisance' crimes, theft, damage etc
- Agreed to wear tag, fitted 2012
- Found full-time job, not arrested whilst wearing tag
- Tag removed in April 2013. SR then arrested twice within 10 days for thefts
- Tag re-fitted in May 2013 at request of SR. She believes it is the psychological control she needs to desist from crime

# Case study – DL

- Report of overnight shed burglary, expensive bicycle taken. No witnesses, no forensics.
- Tracking data checked for all wearers – DL found to be at scene in early hours, after protracted walkabout
- From burglary location – data showed him speeding up (10mph) & return to home address
- Early arrest and recovery of bicycle
- Review of track movements prior to the offence, secured his early admission for 30 additional offences of theft from motor vehicles

### References:

Shapland, Bottoms, Farrall, McNeill, Priede & Robinson  
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Bottoms (2001) Compliance & Community Penalties -  
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