

LONDON'S COMPULSORY SOBRIETY PILOT

CEP Conference on Electronic Monitoring in Europe
“An innovative response to the London Alcohol Challenge”

April 2016

Naomi Simpson and Amit Sethi

Terminology

- MOPAC – Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime
- Magistrates' Court and Crown Court
- Community Orders
- Suspended Sentence Orders
- AAMR – Alcohol Abstinence Monitoring Requirement
- Ambition to reality



Stage 1 – The South London Pilot

- Following the Mayor's successful lobbying for the introduction of a new sentencing power, the AAMR, to tackle the significant problem of alcohol related violence in London, a pilot scheme commenced on the 31 July 2014. **This operated in Southwark, Lambeth, Croydon and Sutton.**
- Allows judges and magistrates to impose a requirement as part of a Community or Suspended Sentence Order to an offender convicted of an offence where the consumption of alcohol was a contributing factor
- The pilot was a 'proof of concept' to test how the courts use the AAMR orders, effectiveness of the tags themselves and compliance rates.
- One year pilot targeting **100 to 150 offenders**

A successful partnership approach



Stage 2 - The London Roll Out

- Up to **600** offenders covering 9* Local Justice Areas and 32 London boroughs
- A phased approach:
 1. April 2016 – South East and South West. London LJAs
 2. July 2016 – West and Central London LJAs
 3. October 2016 – North and North West London LJAs
 4. January 2017 – East and North East London LJAs
- Whilst it is expected that the majority of AAMRs will be imposed by the Magistrates Courts, a small proportion of cases may also be imposed by the Crown Courts situated within London.
- S.76 & s.77 Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012.

MOPAC

MAYOR OF LONDON
OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME

HOW AAMR WORKS

The Alcohol Abstinence Monitoring Requirement

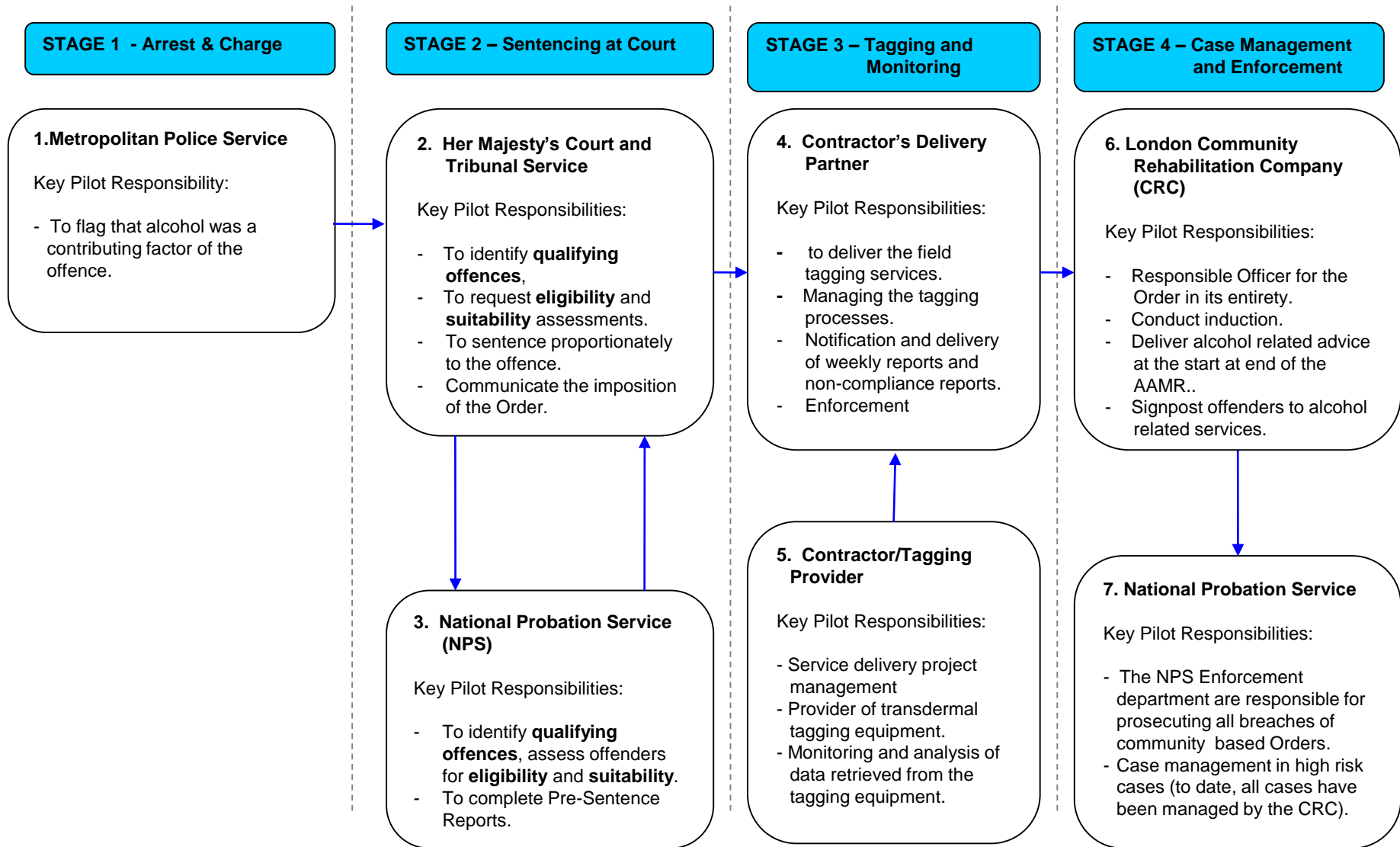
- The Compulsory Sobriety Pilot implements the AAMR in London. This involves fitting a tag to the offender's ankle and monitoring their alcohol consumption for up to 120 days.

In order to be **eligible** for an AAMR during the course of the pilot, the following conditions must be met:

- Consumption of alcohol must be an element of the offence or an associated offence, *or* the court must be satisfied that consumption of alcohol was a factor that contributed to the offender committing the offence or an associated offence;
- The offender must **not** be dependent on alcohol;
- The court must not include an alcohol treatment requirement (ATR) in the order (ATRs are for dependent drinkers only);
- The offender must live in London;

The Court Team officer will use Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT Tool) to assess the offender for **suitability**.

The key delivery partners and their primary responsibilities within the Pilot



Sentence to Monitoring

At Court:

- AAMR Referrals Form – must be endorsed in Court.
- AAMR Guidance Document– provided to the offender at Court.
- AAMR Leaflets – Provided to the offender at Court.

Fitting the tag:

- Tagging partner will attend the offender's address on the day of sentence (in most cases) or within 24 hours if this is not possible.
- The tagging officer will provide a full induction for the offender when fitting the monitoring equipment.

Responsible Officer (Probation) Oversight:

- The Probation Induction appointment should take place within 3-5 days.
- Identification Brief Advise - conducted by a probation officer at induction.
- Alcohol tolerance conversation – before the offender is de-tagged.
- Enforcement – Legal proceedings are passed to the NPS.

Enforcement

The following acts would constitute a failure to comply with the AAMR:

- A refusal to allow the tag to be fitted.
- Drinking any alcohol.
- Tampering or damaging the Tag or base unit.
- Failure to report to the Tag base unit every 48 hours and allow monitoring to take place.
- Breach proceedings will follow the general enforcement procedures employed by Probation.
- Following a second failure to comply, the offender will generally be summoned to court for breach proceedings.

The South London Pilot - Overview

113

AAMRs
ordered (on
111
individuals)

Average
length of
orders
75 days

Compliance
rate

92%

Only 9 people
breached

Over 6500
monitored
days.

298,000

alcohol readings
with an average
of 45 readings
per day.

95%
completion
rate

Drink Drive,
Assault and
Public Order Act
related offences

33

Average age
of AAMR
cohort

Conclusion & Lessons Learned

Challenges:

- Transforming Rehabilitation
- Tagging the offender on the day.
- Tag wearability.
- Judicial and Probation engagement in some areas.
- Swift enforcement.
- Alcohol flagging.

Key Successes:

- Completion rates
- Compliance rates
- Uptake by partners
- The requirement assists in addressing the trigger to the offence.
- The AAMR is “*another tool your sentencing arsenal*”.
- Monitoring Equipment

Lessons Learned

- It assists in starting a conversation about the offenders’ use of alcohol.
- Probation are a key partner in the implementation of Orders.
- Strong governance, project management and partnership engagement are vital in order to achieve successful implementation.

Q&A



Additional information and contact details

AAMR Project Manager Amit.Sethi@probation.gsi.gov.uk

AAMR Programme Manager Naomi.Simpson@mopac.london.gov.uk

For further information / evaluation and AAMR training and awareness materials, follow the link below.

www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/community-safety/alcohol-and-substances/sobriety-pilot