

Welcome to Network, the Risk Management Authority's newsletter with updates on the latest developments in our work to support partner agencies in the delivery of effective risk practice

The RMA promotes and supports defensible and ethical risk practice to reduce reoffending and the harm that it causes



I am delighted to welcome you to Network. In this issue we highlight the informative conference we held recently regarding emerging evidence on the use of LS/CMI in Scotland; information on our Fundamentals of Risk Practice training; details of a new research study on RSVP; and the publication of updated Standards and Guidelines. This is the first in a series of newsletters so we hope you enjoy them!

We look forward to working with and supporting our partner agencies throughout the year.

Best wishes,

Yvonne Gailey
Chief Executive

Conference Update



The RMA was pleased to host a conference on the Level of Service / Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI) in October 2015. The focus of this free event was what we have learned and what we can learn further about implementation practice. The RMA would like to extend their gratitude to our key speaker, Dr Kevin Williams for his valuable contribution and to all those that attended for their insight and participation.

We want to build upon the success of this event so we will keep you posted on the future developments and learning opportunities provided from this wealth of developing research data.

Full details of the event including presentations and posters are available on our website ([click here](#))

Fundamentals of Risk Practice Training



In conjunction with key partners, the RMA are developing a suite of training courses designed to support risk assessment and management practice with individuals who present a risk of serious harm. The training provision includes the following:

- 3 day course for criminal justice social workers;
- 2 day course for offender management police officers;
- 1 day for MAPPA level 2 and 3 chairs.

Each course is designed to provide a grounding in the principles and process that should be evident when assessing risk of serious harm. For practitioners, the training aims to equip them with skills and confidence in applying these principles in practice. The training content is consistent with the Standards and Guidelines for Risk Assessment and Management published by the RMA.

To date we have delivered courses in Glasgow, Hamilton, Ayr, Stirling, Edinburgh, Inverness, Dundee and Perth, with more planned to bring the total number of trained practitioners to over 500. Feedback so far has been overwhelmingly positive, so a big thank you to all our partner agencies and delegates for helping to make the delivery of this training a real success.

Risk of Sexual Violence Protocol (RSVP) - Study published

A real world study of the reliability, validity and utility of a structured professional judgement instrument in the assessment and management of sexual offenders in South East Scotland. The study was part funded by the RMA and the Forensic Network.

Authors: Rajan Darjee, Katharine Russell, Lauren Forrest, Erica Milton, Valerie Savoie, Emily Baron, Jamie Kirkland & Stewart Stobie

The Risk for Sexual Violence Protocol (RSVP; Hart, Kropp, & Laws; Klaver, Logan, & Watt, 2003) is a Structured Professional Judgment (SPJ) instrument for the assessment and management of individuals considered to pose a risk of sexual violence. It is widely used in Scotland in criminal justice and forensic mental health settings, particularly for more complex or concerning cases. However there have been very few studies on the reliability, predictive validity and utility of the RSVP.

The current study was of 109 individuals considered to pose a risk of sexual violence who were assessed using the RSVP by the Sex Offender Liaison Service (SOLS), based in Edinburgh, between 2006 and 2013, and then prospectively followed up for an average of 3 1/4 years.

The study is an important contribution to the evidence base in Scotland.

Full details of the study are available on our website ([click here](#))

Standards and Guidelines



The RMA publish Standards and Guidelines to support the assessment and management of risk posed by individuals who offend. We have recently developed new reporting processes for OLR risk management planning and annual reporting, streamlining arrangements by removing the need for two separate reports. A key change is a new format of Risk Management Plan to include a progress record, which will enable lead authorities to more readily evidence/record deliverables and change.

The changes will be implemented with the release of updated Standards and Guidelines for Risk Management, which will be published in Spring 2016. Updated Standards and Guidelines for Risk Assessment will follow in Summer 2016.

Order for Lifelong Restriction

In Network we will provide regular updates on the Order for Lifelong Restriction (OLR). The OLR is a sentencing option that was introduced in Scotland in June 2006 by the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003. It provides for the lifelong supervision of serious violent and sexual offenders, to manage the risk that those individuals pose.

198 Risk Assessment Orders

149 individuals sentenced to an OLR

138 active OLR cases
136 in secure conditions
2 in community settings

75 individuals have completed the punishment part of their sentence

(figures from introduction of legislation in June 2006 to 31 December 2015)

Full details about the OLR are available within our annual report ([click here](#))

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