

25 sex offenders sent back to jail

TWENTY-FIVE registered sex offenders, including three in the most serious category, have been sent back to prison in the last 12 months for breaching the terms of their licence.

Another 11 violent criminals were also returned to jail for breaching the terms of their Sexual Offences Prevention Order, a set of restrictions dished out by judges to stop convicted crooks reoffending.

But convicted crooks, including rapists, paedophiles and violent criminals living in Essex, did not commit further serious offences during the past 12 months.

However a report, released by the Multi-Agency Public Protec-

By **GINA MARDEN**

Crime reporter

gina.marden@nqe.com

tion Arrangements, showed there is room for improvement.

The agency is made up of police, probation and prison representatives responsible for monitoring serious offenders released from prison.

However, Det Chief Insp Paul Johnson, of Essex Police's public protection unit, said the breaches didn't always mean offenders had committed crimes or targeted victims.

He explained: "You don't have to commit an offence to breach a prevention order.

"If an offender is seen to be a heightened risk because of their behaviour, then action can be

taken. Breaching an order doesn't always equate to another victim.

"For example, if an offender is not allowed in parks due to the terms of their order and they enter a public park, they may be sent back to prison."

Figures in the report showed the agency is monitoring 999 criminals living in Essex.

Of those 742 are registered sex offenders, compared with 735 last year, 238 are violent criminals and 19 are classed as "dangerous".

The agency is monitoring ten, including seven sex offenders and three violent offenders, which are considered to be the most dangerous and at highest risk of re-offending.

Bail hostel 'is managed well'

OFFICIALS from the agency insist staff are managing offenders' well at the Felmores Bail Hostel, Pitsea, despite the facility making unwanted headlines.

Last month a resident was arrested after allegedly hurling roof tiles and scaffolding poles in a five-hour rooftop protest.

Weeks later two thieves, Michael Archer, 32, and David Cannon, 38, were sentenced to five years for burgling a severely disabled pensioner at her home

in Church Park Road, Pitsea. The pair were living at the hostel, after being released on licence for similar offences.

Most notably, convicted rapist Rory Griffin had been out of jail 13 days after serving a five-year sentence for raping a teenager, when he struck again.

Griffin, who was living at the hostel, raped a woman in nearby Northlands Park in May 2006. He was jailed for 12 years.

Essex agency manager Allan

Taplin said: "I wouldn't agree offenders at Felmores aren't being managed well.

"I'm not sure what we would do without premises like Felmores. It would be a big problem because we wouldn't know where these offenders were."

Robin Brennan of the Essex Probation Service said he condemned the recent incidents at Felmores, but said there had been relatively few incidents in the hostel's 30-year history.