

what does TVP involve?

The programme requires active involvement and participation. Programme staff have been specially trained for this area of work. You will be talking to them about yourself, exploring your thinking, feelings and sexual offending in detail. You will be taught ways of achieving control over your abusive behaviour.

Before starting the groupwork part of the programme, you will be required to sign an agreement which covers all the rules about attendance and taking an active part. These rules will be explained to you by the programme staff.

You will be told of the dates of the groupwork and where it will be held. You will have to make arrangements to attend and may have to alter any other commitments to enable you to take part during the day and in the evenings. There will be work for you to do between groupwork sessions.

what happens in a group?

A group usually consists of eight offenders. There will be two programme staff running the programme blocks.

You will be involved in both individual and group exercises, looking at video material, and rehearsing new skills to deal with problems.

Each session of the programme is recorded on video. The tapes are securely stored. They are intended for use by programme staff to check on progress, and to audit the programme.

Interpreters

If English is not your first language, and you would like an interpreter present in court or at meetings with the Probation Service, please ask how this can be arranged.

If we can help.....

The Probation Service will always seek to understand your individuality as a person and work towards helping you get the most out of the programme.

If you have a comment or complaint to make about the way you have been treated, please discuss this first with your Case Manager. Should you wish to take this further you can ask to speak to the Senior Probation Officer at the probation office. Unresolved complaints are overseen by the Prison and Probation Ombudsman Office.

The Thames Valley Programme

Community Sex Offender
Groupwork Programme

A National Probation Service
Accredited Programme

Information for

people taking part



NATIONAL PROBATION SERVICE
for England and Wales

What is the Thames Valley Programme?

The TVP groupwork programme aims to change sexually abusive behaviour.

If offenders remain as they are and make no changes in their attitudes and activities, or do not fully understand why they committed their sexual offence(s), then experience, research statistics and history indicate that they are likely to re-offend against a past, current or new victim.

The overall aim is to reduce the risk of further sexual offending. It is intended for adult male offenders from a variety of backgrounds and differing ages, who have committed a range of sexual offences.

Some participants may be on a Community Rehabilitation Order or on Licence following a period in prison.

There is a Partners Programme available for female partners of offenders or significant female family members.

(See separate leaflet.)

The three linked aims of the programme:



the programme

pre-group work:

This is undertaken with your Case Manager individually. You will be required to complete a number of questionnaires, lasting up to four hours. These will tell staff which blocks of the programme you need to undertake. You will also be expected to carry out weekly tasks until you begin the groupwork.

pre-programme meeting:

This is held two weeks before the Foundation Block group. You and your Case Manager will meet the programme staff at the location of the group and sign an agreement which covers rules of attendance and participation.

other meetings:

There will be other formal meetings between yourself, your Case Manager and Programme Staff as the need arises. There will be a final meeting when you have completed all the blocks of the Programme.

the groupwork programme is made up of separate, but linked, blocks:

■ Foundation Block

A full-time two-week period, Monday to Friday. There is a break for lunch. If you miss a single day of this Block you will have to repeat this part of the programme. Repeat absence will result in enforcement action.

■ Victim Empathy Block

Two sessions per week for four weeks. Each session is two hours. If you miss a session you will have to complete "catch-up" work.

■ Life Skills Block

Twenty sessions of two hours each. If you miss a session you will have to complete "catch-up" work.

■ Relapse Prevention Block

One evening per week for six months. Each session is two hours. If you miss a session you will have to complete "catch-up" work.

You will be expected to repeat parts of the programme as deemed necessary for your progress.