

Electronic Monitoring Research Update

Glasgow Community
Justice Authority (CJA)

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KSO Research

Understanding Electronic Monitoring **An Action Research Project across Glasgow**

Glasgow Community Justice Authority has commissioned a team of independent researchers to undertake a project exploring the local use and understanding of Electronic Monitoring (EM), to strengthen local use of community sentences for adults and young people.

workshops and deliberative community events, to ensure that the voices of all interested parties are heard. The research began in April 2016 and is due to run until the end of December 2016. We will keep you updated on progress

While the focus of this research is in relation to Electronic Monitoring, the work will also serve as a proxy for bringing together partners within an area critical to Community Justice.

The research will include engagement with a range of professional and non-professional stakeholders, using one-to-one interviews, mini-

with the research, including early findings and observations, through these monthly newsletters.

Alternatives to Custody: Making Effective Use of Electronic Monitoring As part of a wider programme of events being organised and facilitated by the Scottish Government, Glasgow CJA will be hosting a half day event in late June, date and venue to be confirmed. For further details, please contact CommunityJusticeAuthority@glasgow.gov.uk

Facts & Figures

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Data collected by G4S show that, in 2015, Glasgow courts imposed over 300 new Restriction of Liberty Orders (RLOs) accounting for 17% of the national total for the year. This compares to 88 orders in Edinburgh, or just under 5% of the national total. Glasgow courts impose considerably more RLOs than courts in any other region.

HMP Barlinnie, Glasgow's largest custodial establishment, imposed 227 Home Detention Curfews (HDCs) in 2015, accounting for 16% of all HDCs imposed nationally.

Movement Restriction Conditions (MRCs), which apply to young people, are imposed very rarely. In 2015, there were 10 MRCs in Glasgow, accounting for 37% of all orders.

What do we already know from existing research?

In 2015, the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research (SCCJR) published a Scottish and International Review of the Uses of Electronic Monitoring (EM). The research looked at the uses, purposes and impact of EM as a community disposal. The research showed that there was relatively good levels of compliance and completion of Orders that require electronic monitoring, but that the chances of successful completion reduced where periods of monitoring were prolonged. The research also showed that electronic monitoring perhaps works best when accompanied by wider programmes of supervision and support to help offenders on their desistance journey, rather than being used as a stand-alone measure. Evidence suggests that EM is also significantly cheaper than alternative custodial options. Perhaps less obvious from the existing research is the perspective of those made subject to electronic monitoring, as well as the views of their families and supporters. The views of victims and the wider community in relation to electronic monitoring, including its perceived effectiveness as a sentencing option, are also largely absent from existing research. It is hoped that by engaging with local partners and communities as part of the current research, we can further develop a more nuanced understanding of how electronic monitoring works in practice, as well as explore how it is perceived, to the benefit of all those involved.

Reference: Graham, H. and McIvor, G. (2015) Scottish and International Review of the Uses of Electronic Monitoring, Report No.8/2015, The Scottish Centre for Crime & Justice Research, Scotland

Next Steps

The researchers will be contacting a number of local partners in the coming weeks to seek their input to the research. If you would like to get involved, please contact the team directly using the details below.

Action Research

The Action Research approach is one that allows a research project to evolve naturally and be guided by emerging findings, as well as to allow those most directly involved in the community to have a say in how the research is shaped. If you have any suggestions for ways in which you or others can contribute to this work, please let the researchers know.

This electronic newsletter has been distributed by the Glasgow Community Justice Authority. To be removed from the distribution list, or to request to be added to the list, please email CommunityJusticeAuthority@glasgow.gov.uk

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