

## Your Right To Know

Offenders are normally informed of the assessed level of risk - which might vary over time - and can talk to Probation Staff about this at any stage. However, the Service may reserve the right to withhold information if other people would be affected.

## Equal Opportunities

Derbyshire Probation Trust is committed to ensuring that it operates fairly and consistently and avoids discrimination on the grounds of race, nationality, ethnic origin, gender, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation or any other improper ground.

If you feel you have been discriminated against, please discuss this with a member of staff and this will be dealt with accordingly.

## Dealing with Complaints

If you have a problem, please speak to a member of staff.

If you wish to take the matter further, please ask for the leaflet which tells you about our Complaints Procedure.

## Your Views are Important

We are committed to continuous improvement in all areas of our work. Your views on how we might provide a better service are most welcome.

### Contact:

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Derbyshire  
Probation Trust



# Assessing Your Risk of Harm

Information for Offenders

## Why Does The Probation Service Carry Out An Assessment Of Risk Of Harm?

The aims of Derbyshire Probation Trust are:-

- protecting the public
- reducing re-offending
- the proper punishment of offenders in the community
- ensuring offenders' awareness of the effects of crime on victims and the public
- rehabilitation of offenders

These aims go together. To achieve them, and to protect the public in particular, we must assess whether a person is likely to commit further offences, and what harm to victims might result if they do. We also have to look at the chances of someone harming themselves, or people who work for the Probation Service and partner organizations. These assessments shape how the Service will work with you.

## When Is An Assessment Carried Out?

A Probation Officer or other responsible person has to carry out an assessment in every case where someone comes into contact with the Service as a result of an offence. This includes:

- Specific Sentence or Pre-Sentence Reports
- bail and hostel assessments
- supervision on a community sentence
- release from custody on Home Detention Curfew (tagging) or Licence
- supervision on a Licence after a custodial release

Often a risk assessment is first made when a Report is prepared to help the court decide on sentence. It takes into account anything that suggests there is a risk of re-offending and harm being caused. A proposal in the Report will suggest how these risks can be dealt with, and what work might need to be done through

a community or custodial sentence to reduce them.

## How Is Risk Assessed?

The Officer carrying out the assessment will pay attention to the most recent offence, and any history of crime or significant events, including who had been harmed and in what way. This is particularly important if the offending has been sexual, violent or dangerous towards other people. The Officer will also look at whether someone's present circumstances or behaviour suggest it is more or less likely they will offend again in the light of any problems there have been in the past.

Everyone interviewed is asked to say if they think they will re-offend, and what needs to be done to stop this happening, including what they will do themselves.

Taken together this leads to a decision that there is a 'Very High'; 'High'; 'Medium' or 'Low' risk of harm.

## Managing and Reducing Risk

Whilst a person is in contact with the Probation Service the risks that have been identified will continually be looked at. Risks can change as circumstances change. Although the Probation Service will work with you to reduce the chances of committing further offences, and lessen the possibility that other people will be harmed, the final responsibility for achieving this is yours.

If there is thought to be a high risk of harm to

members of the public the Probation Service will give more frequent reporting instructions. There may be extra conditions to supervision too. Behaviour that puts other people at risk can result in a return to court or recall to prison.

## Sharing Information About Risk

Information about a person known to the Probation Service is normally treated as confidential and not shared without agreement. However, when someone is sent to prison information is passed between the Probation Service and Prison Authorities. And there are other legal exceptions when it will help to prevent crime or injury. If there is the possibility of harm to other people, including children, information can be shared between Probation and the Health, Education, Employment and Social Services, the NSPCC, some housing providers, and the Police. Where the risk is significant this might happen at a meeting held for the purpose under Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). In very serious cases where the risk concerns a prisoner due for release the Public Protection Unit at the Home Office may be notified.

Exceptionally, the Probation Service may disclose information to other people if this is necessary to protect somebody from being seriously harmed.

The Service also has a duty to victims of crime. The victims of an offender sentenced to a year's imprisonment or more for a sexual or violent crime are consulted about their views.

If someone is thought likely to harm themselves Probation Staff will inform prisons and/or relevant medical authorities.