

Programme Integrity or Programme Integration? The need for a co-ordinated approach to work with domestic violence offenders.

David Morran, University of Stirling, Scotland

Summary

Current practice in criminal justice social work tends to emphasise the value of cognitive behavioural interventions, preferably delivered in structured group work programmes, as being the standard for increasingly effective interventions with offenders. This article acknowledges the value of programmes, but urges caution and the need to pay attention to the integration of such programme work with other interventions, including probation case management and inter-agency communication and co-operation. Specifically, the author reports on the findings of a study of a domestic violence offenders' programme in Scotland, and points to a range of programme integration and case management issues arising. The article concludes by drawing lessons for practice, including implications for maximising probation effectiveness, particularly in terms of more integrated working.