

*The Homeless Offenders Strategy Team (HOST):
An Interagency Initiative to Reduce Reoffending through Improved
Accommodation and Social Inclusion of Offenders*

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Summary Elsewhere in this journal, Dr. Mairead Seymour describes and discusses some of the practice issues that probation officers have to address in work with homeless offenders. The present paper outlines the relevant context and background to the work of the Probation & Welfare Service in relation to offender accommodation and sets out government policy in the area of homelessness, with specific reference to its impact on offenders. It then describes the development of the Homeless Offenders Strategy Team (HOST) as a specific initiative in this area. The experience of the project so far and future possibilities are also considered. Finally, some current and emerging strategic issues are identified, for future consideration. The discussion is confined here to adult offenders (18 years of age and older). Although they face similar challenges, service responses to those under eighteen are covered by separate policy and structures.