

Prospectus of Supported Accommodation Services

August 2007



> **Sacro's Supported Accommodation Services – Overview**

Sacro's Supported Accommodation Services are registered with the Care Commission and provide an essential complement to services provided by local authority, other voluntary sector and housing agencies. It is a well established principle that the provision of appropriate accommodation for offenders can be directly linked to a reduction in further offending. Sacro's Supported Accommodation Services are tailored to meet locally identified needs and funding opportunities. They also provide local flexibility in terms of service user profiles and reflect the accommodation available from the local authority or other accommodation providers. The flexibility of these services can also accommodate the changes in service users' needs over time. In practice, this may mean that a service user can experience a range of services which will lead them towards independent living. As a result of tailoring local services to meet local needs, it may be possible to identify models of supported accommodation delivered in some areas which could usefully be replicated elsewhere, with similar beneficial effects.

Sacro is able to provide services for the following offender types:

- Young offenders
- Female offenders
- Sexual and violent offenders
- Offenders subject to electronic monitoring
- Offenders subject to curfew arrangements
- Offenders subject to all forms of post custodial licence, including life licence
- Offenders subject to probation
- Serving prisoners on home leave
- Offenders subject to drug treatment and testing orders
- Accused persons subject to bail supervision
- Individuals deemed to be at risk of offending.

> **Outline of Services Provided**

The following sections outline the different types of supported accommodation which Sacro currently provides. Broadly speaking they can be categorised into two main areas:

- Services provided in Sacro-managed accommodation: i.e. accommodation where Sacro is the 'landlord' and, typically, lease the property from a third party
- Services provided in non Sacro-managed accommodation: i.e. accommodation managed by the local authority, housing association or similar.

Sacro welcomes discussion and interest on the range of Supported Accommodation and related services it provides. As can be seen from the following, there are a variety of different models and styles of service provision which can tailored to suit a broad range of offender profiles and environments. Further information on our services can be obtained from the Senior Manger (Operations) for your area, or our Criminal Justice Advisor at:

trichley@cja.sacro.org.uk.

> **Services Provided in Sacro-Managed Properties**

1 Supported Accommodation for Offenders Within Local Authority and Housing Association Properties

Service Outline and Delivery Model(s)

These services aim to provide differing levels of advice, support, and assistance in order to help individuals acquire the practical and social skills required for independent, offence-free living. Support levels provided vary – dependant on the assessment of the service user's needs – and, as with all of the supported accommodation placements, are reviewed three-monthly. Sacro Supported Accommodation Services currently use the Homes Matrix to assist in targeting intervention and setting priorities with service users. Monitoring can also be built into these services if required.

Sacro can be allocated properties from the local authority, or other accommodation providers. In recent years, Sacro has successfully engaged with housing associations. They have a crucial role to play in the provision of properties for this service user group in order to assist the overall strategy of reducing offending.

The type of accommodation provided also varies dependant on need and availability. At present Sacro manages:

- Two-person flats where there is an element of support but no night cover – effectively requiring residents to have a reasonable level of independent living skills and the ability to live in a shared environment with relatively low levels of support
- Individual 'satellite' flats where service users live on their own and receive support from Sacro staff on a regular and formalised basis.

This form of intervention is suitable for almost all offenders who require assistance – at whatever level – to re-integrate back into the community. It is also suitable for those at risk of custody who require more than just the provision of accommodation. All of these models are suitable for offenders who are, or may be, subject to electronic monitoring. Sacro's experience suggests that higher-risk offenders are generally better managed within the satellite flat model. The individual and two-bed facilities are well suited to offenders on home leave and can be used by more than one person at a time if leave dates can accommodate this.

Funding Mechanisms

Funding mechanisms for these models of Supported Accommodation will generally require service users to be in receipt of state benefits and housing benefit. Sacro currently receive grants from the following areas:

- Local Authority Criminal Justice budget, some of which is 'ring-fenced' specifically for this purpose
- Supporting People budget held within local authorities
- Homeless Strategy budget held within local authorities

While it is not currently the case, there is potential for local authorities to explore the use of Crime Prevention Strategy monies held within different local authority departments.

Current Service Provision

These models of Supported Accommodation are currently delivered by Sacro in the Edinburgh area, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire, Fife, Forth Valley and Highland.

2 Small Hostel Accommodation

Service Outline and Delivery Models

For many years, Sacro has provided accommodation for offenders with associated support and, if required, monitoring, within small hostels. These units are leased long-term from the local authority and are converted dwelling houses in residential areas. Management of these units is not without its problems – given the profile of the service user group. A great deal of work is undertaken by Service staff to liaise with neighbours and others within the local community, in order to address any general or specific concerns. The local police are key partners in the successful running of these resources, given that the residents are often known to them.

Staffing of these units varies according to need and the realities of resources. One is staffed on a full-time basis and the others are staffed between the hours of 8 or 9pm (depending on the unit), to 9am by staff who 'sleep in' during their shift. None of Sacro's small hostel accommodation currently provides waking night cover.

These hostels are intended to house those service users who require a higher level of support and/or monitoring. Residents may have a range of complex issues linked to their offending behaviour. These may include:

- Alcohol and/or other substance misuse issues
- Family relationship problems
- Continuing offending
- Chaotic lifestyle etc.

Residents of these units tend to be aged between 18 and 30 and have a significant involvement in offending. They will be subject to some form of statutory community supervision or post-release licence, and may be the subject of electronic monitoring. The residents will, usually have committed a range of 'general' offences. As such Sacro avoids placing sexual or violent offenders within these small group environments.

Funding Mechanisms

Funding for small hostels is expensive given the need to provide adequate staffing levels and cover. Funding for small hostels comes directly from the Local Authority Criminal Justice budgets.

Current Service Provision

Sacro currently has a seven-bedded hostel in Edinburgh, a four-bedded unit in Dunfermline, Fife and a four-bedded unit in Kirkwall, Orkney.

> **Services Provided in non Sacro-Managed Accommodation**

1 Floating Support

Service Outline and Delivery Model(s)

By definition, Floating Support provides a flexible support service wherever it is required. The model is particularly effective when used to support younger offenders, who literally have no settled accommodation of their own. Sacro staff can provide the support to the service user wherever they are living at the time. This can include very temporary living accommodation such as staying with friends/relatives etc., until a more settled or suitable accommodation environment can be established. During their intervention, Sacro staff can expect to provide support in relation to a wide variety of topics and issues as agreed with funding partners including: assistance with finding (more) permanent, appropriate accommodation; budgeting; lifeskills; signposting to other agencies and possibly assistance with some criminogenic issues. Some of Sacro's services describe Floating Support in terms of 'Housing Support' although, in practice, the services are virtually the same.

Funding Mechanisms

Funding for Floating Support can emanate from a variety of sources. Sacro currently receive grants for Floating Support from the following areas:

- Supporting People budget held within local authorities
- Homeless Strategy budget held within local authorities
- Local Authority Criminal Justice budget.

Current Service Provision

Sacro currently provides Floating Support in the Forth Valley and Fife. It also provides similar services funded by both Homeless Strategy and Supporting People monies in Dumfries and Galloway.

2 Supported Tenancy Service

Service Outline and Model of Delivery

The Supported Tenancy Service assists key agencies involved in the risk management agenda, such as social work, the police and housing, to support and monitor sexual offenders within the community. Referrals are made to the service by Criminal Justice staff (usually Throughcare Teams), or housing services, prior to an offender being released into the community. Sacro staff then undertake a suitability assessment for the service and report back to social work. Social work, the police and housing then work together and a suitable property is identified for the offender upon release. Properties initially come from the Temporary Homeless stock although in theory, properties could be accessed from housing associations given the new NASSO arrangements.

Once the offender is released, Sacro provides an element of support (with issues such as community re-integration etc), and monitoring. Sacro staff visit the offender within his local authority tenancy, both on a planned and unplanned basis and report back to social work. Statutory staff relay any issues or concerns into the Risk Management Agenda via the MAPPA.

Funding Mechanisms

These services may be funded by one agency or by multiple agencies. At present, the Service is jointly funded by social work and housing via the Supporting People budget. There is potential however to explore alternative funding streams, for example Community Safety Monies.

Current Service Provision

The Supported Tenancy Service is currently delivered across the Fife Council area.

3 Intensive Support and Monitoring Service (ISMS)

Service Outline and Model of Delivery

The Intensive Support and Monitoring Service (ISMS) is a bespoke service which aims to provide high levels of support and monitoring for offenders assessed as being at very high risk of re-offending and/or harm. Service users for ISMS will all be on some form of post-custodial licence and may well be deemed – under the MAPPAs – to be one of the ‘Critical Few’. The Service caters for young offenders (aged 16 plus) as well as adult offenders.

ISMSs are essentially designed around the individual needs of prospective service users and funder/stakeholder requirements. The services provide support and monitoring within a property identified, and usually supplied by, the relevant local authority. Given the high-profile nature of some of the service users, they are, on occasion, located within a different geographical area from the commission of the offence(s) and/or victims.

ISMS can provide 24 hour per day, seven day per week intervention where it is assessed as required, either on a one-to-one or two-to-one staff/client basis (depending on service user's identified risk). A typical ISMS will operate in this manner and only reduce the level of monitoring when instructed by the MAPPAs or local authority. Sacro's intervention will include ongoing feedback to the local authority on how the service user is responding to the service. Sacro will also provide other information and assessment in relation to the perceived risk the service user poses to, and within, the community.

Funding Mechanisms

Funding for these services is provided by local authorities, often with the assistance of one-off grants – specifically for this purpose – from the Scottish Executive.

Current Service Provision

ISMSs are currently provided in the West of Scotland, Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire, and the Highland region.

Tim Richley

Criminal Justice Advisor, Sacro.

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Sacro National Office
1 Broughton Market
Edinburgh EH3 6NU

Telephone: 0131 624 7270
Fax: 0131 624 7269
Email: info@national.sacro.org.uk
Website: www.sacro.org.uk



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