

Community Safety Partnership

REPORT

Subject: Alcohol Abstinence Monitoring Requirement

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Security: None

1. Purpose of Presenting the Item

- 1.1 This item is being brought to the Community Safety Partnership meeting to highlight a new Community Sentence for those offenders whose crimes are linked to the consumption of alcohol.

2. Alcohol Abstinence Monitoring Requirement (AAMR)

- 2.1 London experiences disproportionate levels of alcohol related crime, with the highest rate per 1,000 population compared to other English regions and a fifth (20%) of Londoners think that people being drunk or rowdy in public places is a problem
- 2.2 Following the Mayor's successful lobbying for the introduction of a new sentencing power, the AAMR, to tackle the significant problem of alcohol related violence in London, a pilot scheme commenced on the 31 July 2014. This operated in Southwark, Lambeth, Croydon and Sutton.
- 2.3 The pilot was a 'proof of concept' to test how the courts use the AAMR orders, effectiveness of the tags themselves and compliance rates. The one year pilot targeted 100 to 150 offenders

- 2.4 It is envisioned that AAMR will allow Judges and Magistrates to impose a requirement as part of a Community or Suspended Sentence Order to an offender convicted of an offence where the consumption of alcohol was a contributing factor. Whilst it is expected that the majority of AAMRs will be imposed by the Magistrates Courts, a small proportion of cases may also be imposed by the Crown Courts situated within London.
- 2.5 The “Tags” are an ankle bracelet that measures alcohol sweat from the body, reporting its readings back to a monitoring company at two pre-agreed times a day from a base station installed within the offenders home to the monitoring company. These readings are monitored and any breaches are investigated by the company, and reported to CRC. The maximum time for the order is 120 days, with an average of 75 days in the pilot.
- 2.6 If an offender breaches the sobriety order, they can be returned to court where further sanctions can be imposed. These sanctions can include a fine or revocation of the order which will lead to resentencing of the offender. Persistent non-compliance may ultimately result in imprisonment.

3. AAMR phased roll out

- 3.1 The phased roll out across London will be as follows:
- April 2016 – South East and South West. London LJAs
 - July 2016 – West and Central London LJAs
 - October 2016 – North and North West London LJAs
 - January 2017 – East and North East London LJAs

4. Next Steps

- 4.1 To identify which prolific offences and offenders should be targeted for the Order
- 4.2 To ensure local magistrates and partners have timely training for when the AAMR goes live in January.