

Other information

Our staff keep information about you in paper records and on computer. We keep all records safe and secure. If you want to find out about seeing this information please ask your responsible officer.

Do we use video recording?

We use video recording to film all programme sessions on video. We use the tapes to check that programme tutors are delivering the programme correctly. No-one except the tutors' supervisor and a Home Office auditor sees the tapes.

Diversity

The Greater Manchester Probation Trust is committed to valuing and respecting people's differences.

If you have concerns about race, religion, culture, gender, sexual orientation or child care issues which may affect your taking part, please discuss this with your responsible officer.

Your rights

You have various rights while you attend the programme.

You have the right to be treated fairly and without discrimination.

The Greater Manchester Probation Trust will not accept any racist, sexist or other discriminatory behaviour towards you, either by staff or fellow group members. If at any time you feel you have been unfairly treated, you have the right to make a complaint.

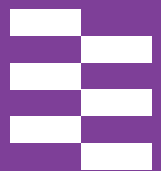
If you have a complaint about the Greater Manchester Probation Trust please speak to your Programme Manager who will try to help. If you are not satisfied you can ask to talk to the unit manager. If you are still not satisfied, ask for the leaflet called 'Making a Complaint'.

Further information

For more information about anything in this leaflet, please talk to your responsible officer.

COVAID

Information for GROUP PARTICIPANTS



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PROBATION
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What is COVAID?

COVAID is a group work programme for male offenders who have offended by using violent or aggressive behaviour after drinking alcohol.

This type of offending often happens at weekends in town centres around pubs or clubs but also happens in lots of other situations.

How will it help me?

- ◆ you will look at how you think and feel and how this links to when you become aggressive
- ◆ you will learn ways to manage angry feelings
- ◆ you will learn ways to control your drinking
- ◆ you will be able to reduce your chances of getting into trouble after drinking in future.

Before starting the programme

Before joining the group you will have a meeting with one of the group workers. The group worker will gather information about your drinking and offending to help you to understand your specific problems. The aim will be to reduce your chances of becoming violent or aggressive in future.

Information about the group

- ◆ you will be in a group of up to 11 other men led by two probation staff
- ◆ each session lasts 2 hrs 15 mins
- ◆ there are 10 group sessions then a few weeks later, a final group session
- ◆ learning takes place through group discussions and exercises led by staff.

What I need to do

- ◆ you need to be willing to participate in the programme and sign up to a programme contract
- ◆ you must want to do something about your alcohol related behaviour.

There is some work to do in between sessions to practice the skills you will learn on the programme, however this takes very little time. It involves making a note of how much you drink and noticing when you become aggressive or violent.

What if I cannot attend?

Inform your responsible officer immediately.

What if I am ill?

Get a doctor's note (not a self certificate) and give it to your responsible officer within 7 days of your missed appointment.

What happens if I do not attend?

You will need to give your responsible officer an explanation straight away. If your explanation is not accepted you may receive a warning letter or be dealt with by a return to Court, or for Breach of Licence.