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From the Inside:

The purpose of probation approved premises
(hostels)

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Hostels in Context

- Residential semi-secure accommodation for high risk offenders – part of MAPPA
- Bail and license cases – increasingly latter
- Part of the Offender Management Model

Prison → Hostel → Community



Official Purpose of Hostels

- Joint Inspection in 2008 evaluated the work and role of hostels in '*Control, Help and Change?*' concluding that hostels carry out control well; help & change more patchily
- 2005 Probation National Standards:
 - “enhanced supervision as a contribution to the management of offenders who pose a significant Risk of Harm to the public.” (NPD, 2005a:1)
- 2007 Probation National Standards placed hostels into context of OM
 - role = to implement risk management plans & monitor compliance



Work Inside Hostels

- Supporting Public Protection through:
 - Surveillance & monitoring
 - Assessment of risk
 - Delivery of accredited programmes & other interventions
 - Pro-social modelling
 - Provision of life-skills, health, education & employment services (NPD, 2005b)

- What's most important?



Study

- Single case study of a probation hostel over 21 months
- Observation of interactions between residents & staff
– including conversation
- Observation of MARAC (MAPPP) over 1 year (12 meetings)
- Interviews with 24 residents and 17 staff



What People on the Inside Said

- All respondents found it difficult to discuss the role & purpose of the hostel
- Tended to think only of their personal role

- 3 main areas:
 - Rehabilitation & reintegration
 - Supervision & control
 - Risk management and public protection



Rehabilitation & Reintegration

- RSOs esp. believed main role of hostel – PSO rated highly
- Supported offence-based work – SOGP ETS, one-to one etc.
- Inc. internal regime & pro-social modelling
- BUT:
- Residents & Relief RSO: “ what’s that?”
- Consistency in practice?
- Understanding of working roles or hostel work?



Supervision & Control

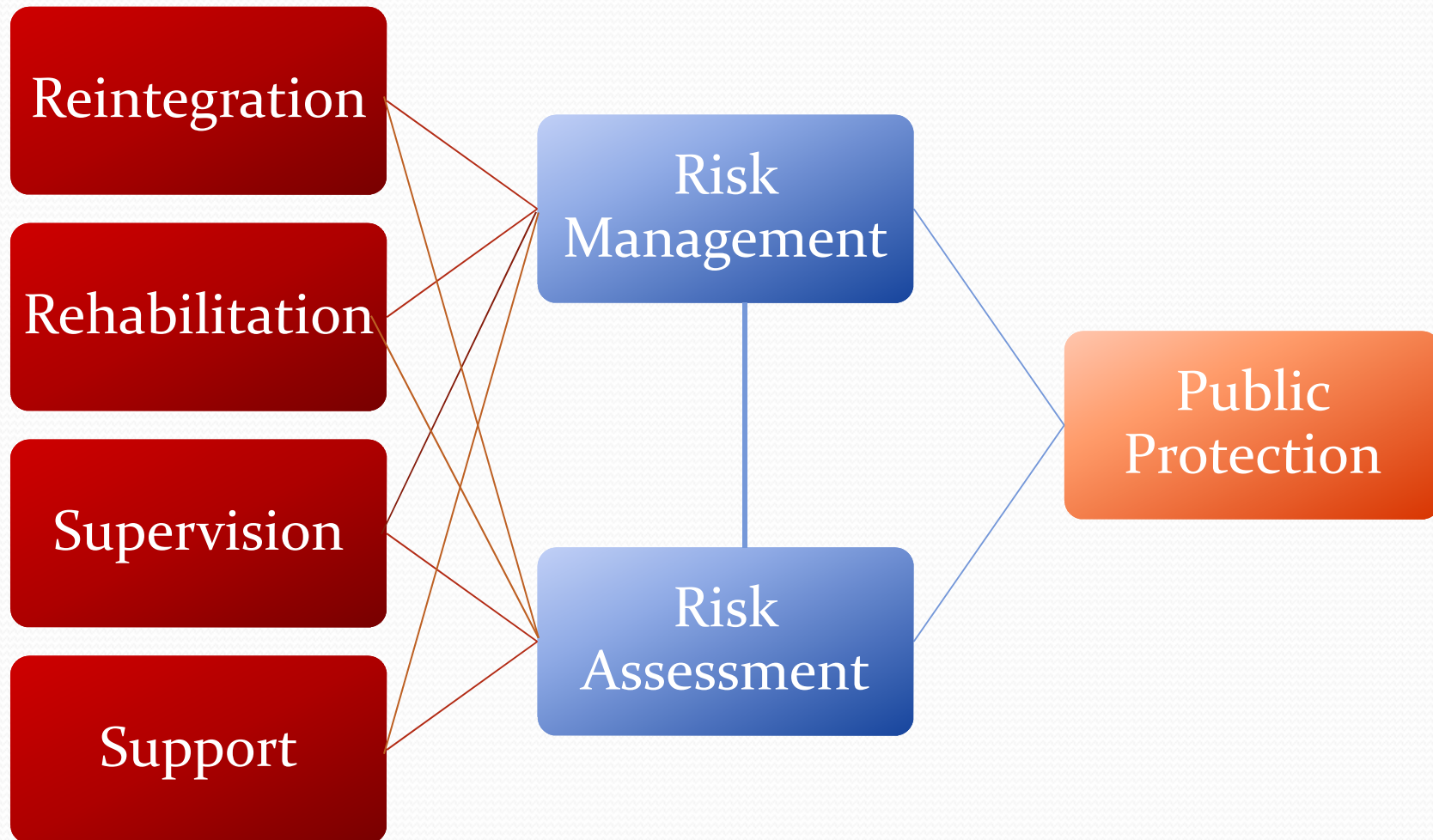
- Hostel staff & MARAC members – intrinsic to rehabilitation & reintegration
- Purpose of admission in MARAC: “detailed observation”
- Able to use hostel & home leaves as “testing periods”
- BUT:
- Residents: supervision = control & reduction of responsibility
 - “They just want to control everything I do” R3b
 - “It’s all about power and control “ R57



Risk Management & Public Protection

- Risk assessment & management referred to heavily in MARAC & SPO
 - context of public protection implicit
- Observation, testing etc fed into risk monitoring
- Overarching principle?
- BUT:
- Residents: warehouses for high risk offenders
 - “R8: It’s just accommodation.
 - R7: Yeah, we’re both homeless. They just want to put us somewhere so we can do these courses”

Incompatible?





Implications

- Despite the variety of perspectives expressed all staff ARE working coherently together in accordance with OM model, NOMS and Ministry of Justice guidance
- BUT:
- Respondents are not aware of this
- They do not know what each other are doing, they have different ideas about the purpose of their roles & the hostel in general (narrow and wide)
- They misunderstand each other & residents do not perceive the significant of their residency



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