Desisting from Abuse: What stopping violence and abuse means for men and their partners: Implications for Practice

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This workshop will present findings from a series of interviews with 12 men who have ‘successfully completed’ UK perpetrator programmes. The interviews (supported by evidence from partners and from project staff) examine what ‘stopping violence and abuse’ actually means as far as these men and their partners are concerned, and what, on a daily basis, enhances or undermines processes of behaviour change. Drawing on wider theoretical and empirical studies of ‘desistance’ from offending behaviour more generally, the workshop will examine the applicability of desistance research to programmes or interventions for domestic abuse perpetrators.

The workshop will then outline what might be termed a ‘desistance-focused approach’ to working with men, i.e. one that acknowledges the core risk factors which they present to themselves and others, but which also seeks to harness men’s strengths as motivational factors to enhance their commitment to desist from violent and abusive behaviour.

Relevant publications informing the basis of this workshop include:


Morran, D. (2016)

‘Programmes for Domestic Violence Perpetrators” in
C. Trotter, F. McNeill and G. McIvor (eds)
Beyond the Risk Paradigm in Criminal Justice