

Useful contacts

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Changing Lives for Safer Communities

Enhanced Combination Order

What is this order?

The **Enhanced Combination Order** was first introduced on 1st October 2015 in the Court Divisions of Armagh & South Down and Ards.

From 1st October 2018 the Enhanced Combination Order area was expanded into the North West in the Court Divisions of Strabane, Londonderry and Limavady.

The aim of Enhanced Combination Order is to divert offenders from short-term custodial sentences by offering Sentencers an existing community option in a more intensive package with a focus on rehabilitation, reparation, restorative practice and desistance.

Who would be supervised under this order?

The assessment for the Enhanced Combination Order pilot will be completed by a Probation Officer preparing a Pre-Sentence Report (PSR).

People who will qualify for supervision under this order include those with:

- A chaotic lifestyle.
- Multiple needs.
- Motivation to change.
- And where a custodial sentence of 12 months or less is being considered.

How does it work in practice?

In practice an Enhanced Combination Order will comprise:

- Weekly contact with a Probation Officer, which can be reviewed depending on level of compliance after a set period of 26 weeks. The duration of the supervision element must not be less than 12 months nor more than 3 years.
- A robust and bespoke case plan will be drawn up.
- A restorative approach. This can include a range of activities including a letter of apology, mediation or face to face meeting with victims.
- There will also be a community service element. The unpaid work will be carried out at an accelerated pace.
- An accredited programme, if assessed as appropriate.
- Curfew will be imposed in appropriate cases. Curfew enforced by electronic monitoring if assessed as required.
- Other activities such as attendance and engagement with appropriate mental health organisations and family/parenting work.

Partnership

The Probation Board works closely with partners including the PSNI, the Courts, Barnardos, NIACRO and Community Restorative organisations to deliver the Enhanced Combination Order.