

Practising Offender Supervision

Response to the Review of Research

Tony Grapes

PERSPECTIVE

- Operational and policy experience
 - OM Model, Standards and specs
- Europe

Operational and policy experience

- 39 years
- Probation officer (9), team leader (5), senior manager (13), policy development (7)
- Prisons and probation and NOMS
 - OM Model, National Standards, specs
- Local, regional, national, international
- Innovator-developer

Europe 2008 on

- Twinning
- DOMICE

DOMICE (1) - What

- Developing Offender Management in the Countries of Europe
- Jan 2010 – Feb 2012
- “In Search of Case Management”
 - 11th of 10 regional projects
 - Across the whole “correctional journey”
 - Every EU jurisdiction + accession + others

DOMICE (2) - How

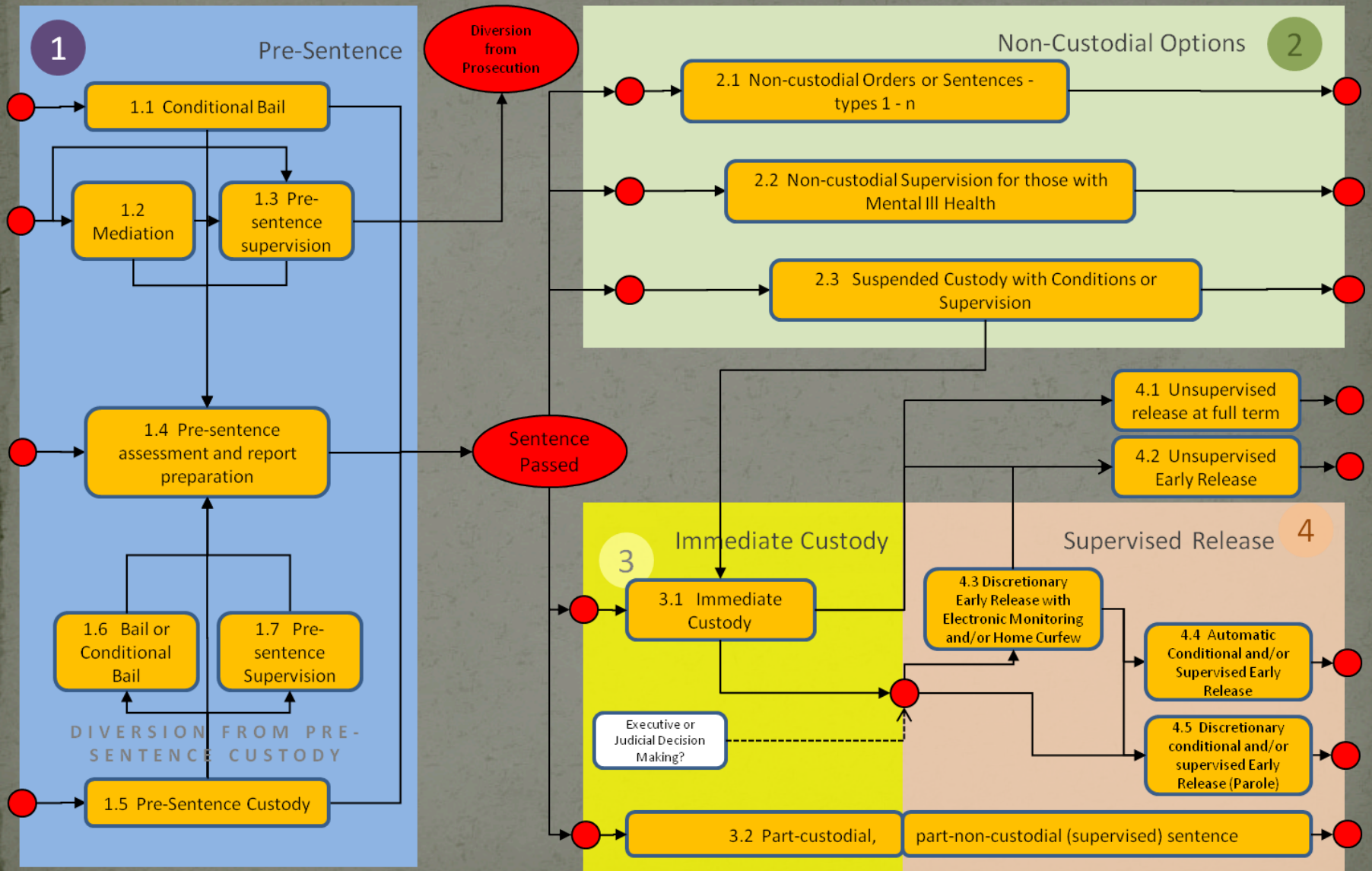
- Literature Review
- Interviews (34/40)
 - What you learn depends upon who you talk to
- Focus Groups (5)
 - Rotterdam, Barcelona, Sofia, Copenhagen, Frankfurt



DOMICE (2) - How

- Literature Review
- Interviews (34/40)
 - What you learn depends upon who you talk to
 - You don't know what you don't know
- Focus Groups (5)
 - Rotterdam, Barcelona, Sofia, Copenhagen, Frankfurt
- System Maps (1 + 34)
 - http://www.cep-probation.org/default.asp?page_id=281 or via CEP Home page or put DOMICE into Google

DOMICE - System Map - (Jurisdiction) (date)



DOMICE (3) Findings

- Language and concepts – custody, sentence, supervision.....case management?
- Diverse systems – big/small, mature/developing, complex/simple
- Diverse practitioners; increasingly diverse providers
- Continuous flux
 - Increasingly complex, technical and technological
 - Multiple changing outcomes
 - Increasing scrutiny and accountability
- Fragmented and incremental; evolves but rarely designed; no overall responsibility for design
- Weak supervision and quality assurance
- Under-resourced
- Parochial despite increasingly mobile populations
- Under-researched – a problem identifying “best practice”

RESPONSE

The activity we do the most of is
the one we know least about

A little disappointed

....but not surprised

(but we don't know what we don't
know?)

What's this all about?

- New products preferred to improving existing ones
- “Supervision” taken for granted
- Absence of research culture
 - the moral high-ground/self-evidently a “good thing”
 - gap between practice and academia
- Secrecy and trust
- Punishment and condemnation = common sense
- Unpalatable results – no quick fixes, slow, skilled and expensive

What does this mean for the future?

- Evidence base remains weak
 -so providers are insecure
 -and staff lack confidence
- Learning opportunities are lost
- The impact of competition?
- Close the research/practice gap
- Encouraging enthusiasm in some developing jurisdictions
- All to play for

THANK YOU
....and good luck

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