

WHAT HAVE WE FOUND OUT *about the* ELECTRONIC MONITORING (EM) OF CHILDREN

in the England and Wales

Best interests assessment

Children's needs and interests are assessed as part of the standard assessment frameworks at all stages of the criminal process. Needs related to EM specifically are not considered. EM can be imposed upon children who have failed to comply with other conditions.



Specialised support

Children are supervised and supported by specialized YOT staff, unless they are released on bail without a supervision requirement. In the latter case, children do not receive age-appropriate support.



Target group

There is a lack of clear guidance on the target group of EM. Data shows that its main target group consists of adolescents older than 14 years accused or convicted of serious or repeat offending. EM is sometimes used with children accused or convicted of anti-social behavior offences, or who are younger than 14 years.



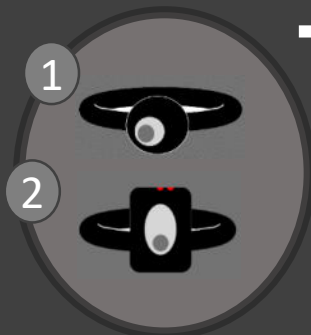
Monitoring protocols

Protocols for monitoring children are mostly the same as adults', with special rules acknowledging children's special legal position (their caregiver is required to be present) and typical living arrangement (residing with parents). There is a lack of a comprehensive monitoring protocol that reflects children's specific needs.



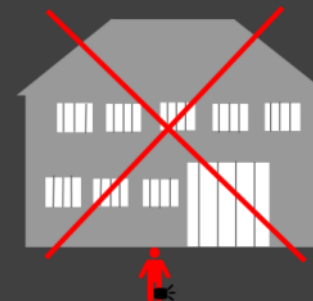
Conditions

EM is a tool to assist predominantly curfew conditions monitored with RF devices. Location monitoring (GPS) has recently been introduced to enhance surveillance over children involved in County Lines and knife crimes.



Alternative to deprivation of liberty

EM is regarded as a tool of multiple purposes, including preventing custody, promoting the rehabilitation of children as well as punishment and risk management. The use of EM in less serious cases raise concerns about net-widening.



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