

REVEALED SECRET PROBATION SCHEME FOR SEX OFFENDERS

HIDE AND SICK

DANGEROUS sex offenders are being secretly placed back within communities in Dublin as part of a trial funded by the Probation Service – without parents being informed of their past.

The *Sunday World* has learned the so-called ‘Circles of Support and Accountability’ (CoSA) trial, costing an estimated €215,000, has seen paedophiles described as “medium-to-high risk” placed in community settings.

The convicted sex attackers are then monitored by groups of between five to six volunteers as they rejoin society in a bid to “reduce” their risk of re-offending.

The inner circle of volunteers facilitate the paedophiles’ practical needs by helping them access employment and housing.

Parents are not warned that the person introduced into the community is a convicted paedophile, for fear of a public backlash.

Last night, the scheme was blasted by parents in Redcross,



LOCAL PASTOR: Roland Heaney
Co. Wicklow, where notorious child rapist Gerard Cleere joined the local church while concealing his past from parents – three years prior to the trial commencing.



Parents kept in dark as paedos placed in towns under the radar

EXCLUSIVE: BY PATRICK O’CONNELL

Worried
Worryingly, two separate members of the congregation this week claimed that, within months of joining the church, Cleere was seen “placing his hands on a child” outside the church, while he also attended the home of another parishioner to give guitar lessons to his son.

One parent told the *Sunday World*: “I am very worried about the manner in which Gerard Cleere entered our church and parents weren’t told when authorities here found out who he was.”

“After we found out who Cleere was we learned a number of people in the church had been monitoring him.”

“We did some research and found out that this is something that happens as part of a programme run all over the world called CoSA.”

“We were told Cleere wasn’t part of a CoSA programme, but the circumstances were very similar.”

“Parents needs to be warned if a sex offender is living in the area.”

The CoSA scheme – which is already in practice in countries such as Canada, England, Wales, The Netherlands and Belgium – has been credited with reducing re-offending behaviour by researchers.

It was previously piloted by the HSE in the north-west, where a sex offender was placed within a ‘circle of trust’ involving a priest and four community activists who co-ordinated work for him that involved gardening and cleaning gravestones.

Local parents were not told of their new neighbour’s sick past, with the scheme relying on self-disclosure to keep the offender in check.

Last night, a Justice Department spokesman admitted the under-the-radar scheme had been in operation for more than a year.
“The Probation Service in partnership with a Community Based Organisation is piloting the use of CoSA with suitable individuals who have been convicted for sexual offences and are under court ordered supervision to the Probation Service. The pilot commenced in early 2015 and is for a two-year period, at which stage an evaluation will be completed,” they said.

According to supporters, the scheme aims to reduce the social isolation felt by medium-to-high risk

offenders, thereby reducing the risk of re-offending. However, a similar scheme run by experts following the release of Gerard Cleere ended in disaster because local parents were not kept in the loop.

Sex offender Cleere’s attempts to re-integrate were abruptly ended when he was assaulted outside his Laragh home by the parent of the child he allegedly placed his hands on outside Redcross Church.

The assault led to local pastor Roland Heaney calling a meeting of the congregation two nights later, which was also attended by Philip Larragy – a chaplain at Arbour Hill Prison in Dublin who is now CEO of the organisation Prison Release Partnership Ltd.

“Churches have a responsibility to protect people within the church, especially children,” he continued.

“If an offender poses a risk, there needs to be an appropriate amount of risk management. We use a contact and arrange for the person to have a mentor within the church.”

However, he continued, this does not mean that the ex-offender is “named and shamed.”

“All of us come to church with our sin, none of us are made to stand up and publicly confess what we have done,” he emphasised.

Mr Larragy this week declined to comment on Cleere’s case and referred our queries out to Redcross Church.

Assaulted
In a previous interview, Mr Larragy explained how he has helped reintegrate convicted sex offenders into society through local organisations, using methods similar to the Circles of Support and Accountability scheme.

“Since we started, we have supported nine people following their release from prison,” he said.

“Five of those have settled into churches. The good news is that none of those people have re-offended. That is a significant statistic.

“That person was in our church and he arrived in our church before any discussions had taken place.”

“What we did do was we put [mon-

itoring] measures in place when we found out. He came to live in the area and he came to the church building and that’s how it was.

“It wasn’t a placement, there was no contract, we didn’t enter into a scheme with anybody.”

“After I found out who he was and that Philip was in some way on board, I then turned to Philip and that’s how it happened.”

The man who assaulted Cleere this week told the *Sunday World* he has no regrets that his actions forced the child rapist out of the church and out of Laragh.

and then two nights later Roly [Roland] Heaney called a meeting of the congregation and said one of the congregation had been very violently assaulted after a person had found out he was a paedophile.

“I had already gone to Gorey Garda Station and told them what I had done.”

“I stood up at the meeting and I said it out straight that I was the one who had assaulted him and that I had previously made my concerns about his presence known in the church.”

“At first there was a chorus of boos over what I had done, but then another member of the congregation got up and said he was 110 per cent behind what I’d done.”

“And then someone else got up and said he was shocked by what he’d heard because Cleere had been in his home giving his teenage son guitar lessons.”

“Mr Larragy then got up and said that two other ex-offenders had been reintegrated through a church in Dublin and there had been no re-offending.”

“But the fact of the matter is there is no way I can accept that a paedophile would knowingly be allowed mingle

The Probation Service in partnership with a Community Based Organisation is piloting the use of “Circles of Support and Accountability” (CoSA) with suitable individuals who have been convicted for sexual offences and are under Court ordered supervision to the Probation Service. The pilot commenced in early 2015 and is for a 2 year period at which stage an evaluation will be completed – Dept of Justice



EXPOSED: Sex offenders like Gerard Cleere are placed in positions of trust



DISTURBING: Ladder used by Anthony Luckwill to spy on school children

PAEDO WAS SPYING ON CHILDREN

EXCLUSIVE: BY ALAN SHERRY

THIS IS the ladder paedophile Anthony Luckwill was using to look into a school playground before he had to flee this week after being attacked by an angry mob.

The serial child predator, who has clocked up half-a-dozen child sex offences in Ireland, Wales and the Channel Islands, moved into a house in Rathcoole, on the outskirts of Dublin, this week. The house backs directly on to the playground of Holy Family National School. Schools in the area had sent letters to parents this week warning them of Luckwill’s presence in the area.

The 43-year-old spoke to the *Sunday World* when he was released from prison last month, after serving two years and nine months of a four-and-a-half year sentence for sexually assaulting two teenage boys.

He pretended he was a casting agent and convinced the boys’ parents to leave them at his apartment in Navan, where he later molested them. One of his victims later tried to take his own life as a result of the abuse.

Several irate parents told the *Sunday World* how parents were disgusted that Luckwill had moved in beside a school.

“You can’t have scum like him in the village,” one mother said.

“The garden looks directly over the playground in the school. It must have been like a picnic for him.”

A mob knocked up to the home where Luckwill was staying on Friday afternoon and attacked him.

A local man who was there said: “He had a ladder on the oil tanker at the back garden looking on to the schoolyard. My two sons are in that school. We found out where he was and gave him a bit of local justice. He got the s*** kicked out of him.”

Abused
“He didn’t say anything. The guards took him away for his safety. He hid himself under a towel when he was taken away.”

“How can you let someone like him be so close to a school? We’re glad he’s gone, but you’d wonder where he’ll head next.”

Locals told how the house he was staying in was previously home to paedophile priest Fr Noel Reynolds, who abused more than 100 children in eight different parishes in Dublin. It is currently owned by a childhood friend of Luckwill, who said he could live there. However, following Friday’s incident Luckwill has moved out.

Republican Sinn Fein (RSF), the political wing of the Continuity IRA, said one of their members was part of the group who attacked Luckwill. He was “caught in Rathcoole and given a few slaps by a member of Republican Sinn Fein”, said an RSF spokesman.

It is understood the majority of people



PREDATOR: Anthony Luckwill
who called to the house were not members of RSF.

Luckwill’s criminal history includes a conviction for possession of child pornography in Wales in July 2003 and a separate, but similar, charge in court in Swansea a year later.

He was then sentenced to two years for possession of child pornography at the Circuit Criminal Court in Dublin in 2005.

At Caernarfon Crown Court in Wales, in 2006, he was sentenced to 33 months for two breaches of a sexual prevention order.

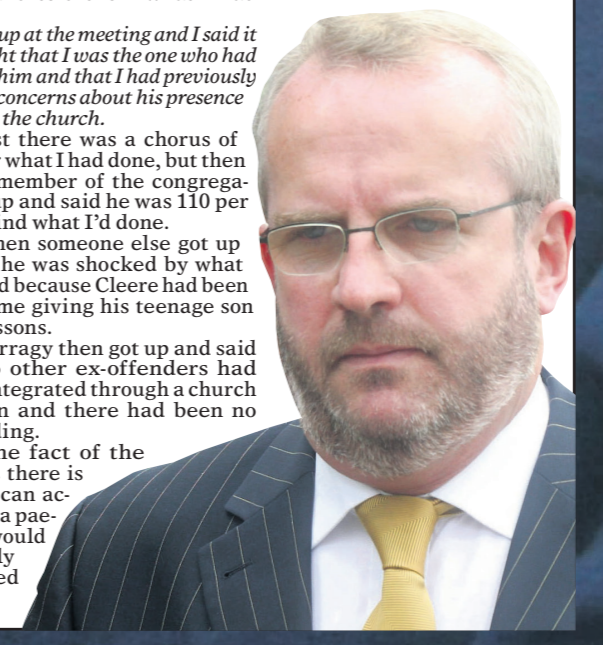
In 2012, at Guernsey Magistrates’ Court he was sentenced to five months on a charge of enticing a child under the age of 14 to commit an act of gross indecency.

In 2013 he was sentenced to four-and-a-half-years for sexually assaulting two boys.

However, when confronted last month, Luckwill insisted he had changed his ways.

“I’m finished with the dirty stuff,” he told our reporter.

“I am sorry for what I did. “And I do want to apologise to my victims... I absolutely want that in the paper.”



RESIDENT EVIL: Gerard Cleere lives among community