

Action plans in correctional practice - in search for action and plan The case of Denmark

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This presentation

- The (theoretical) content in an action plan
- The logic around the action plan
- Why examine action plans?
- High expectations but limited outcome
 - Results from one (two) studies
 - Explanations / a broader perspective
 - A few words on methodology



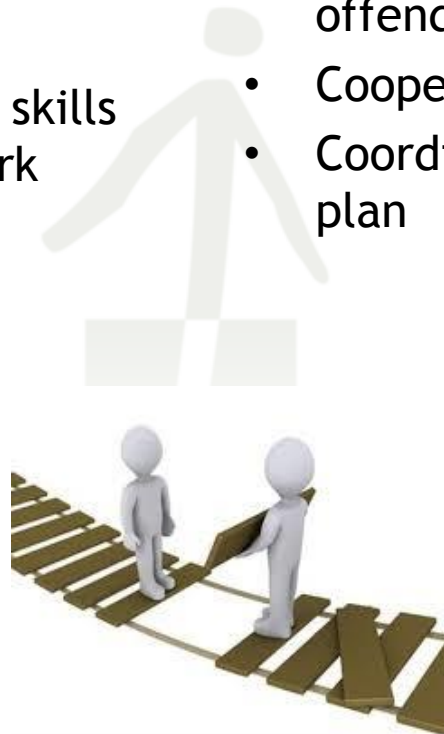
The (theoretical) content - two interrelated parts

Establish (construct?) the situation

- Housing
- Financial situation
- Education
- Employment
- Leisure activities/social skills
- Family and other network
- Physical wellbeing
- Mental health
- Substance abuse

Assess the situation

- Reasons for offending
- Evaluation of resources, barriers for change, risk of re-offending
- Cooperation partners
- Coordination of resettlement plan

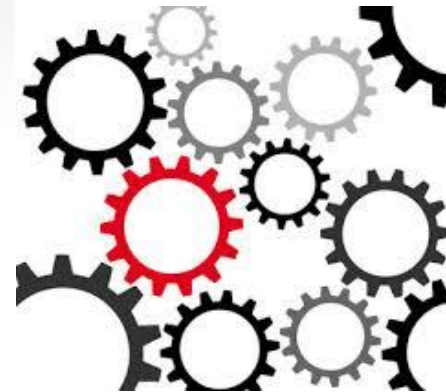


The logic around the action plan

1. Knowledge is necessary for planning and action
2. Systematic/written knowledge is functional and shareable
3. Functional and shareable knowledge is a good foundation for solid planning
4. Solid planning leads to more, focused and better action
5. More, focused and better action leads to successful resocialisation
6. Successful resocialisation means lower risk of reoffending

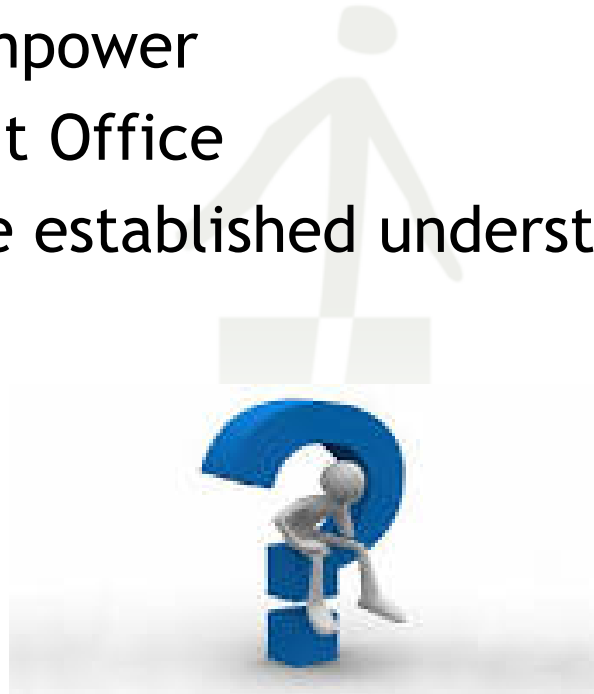
Also a tool for securing:

- Inclusion through co-working
- Empowerment
- Technologies of the self?



Why examine action plans?

- A central instrument - organisational and professional level
- Heavy on manpower
- National Audit Office
- Challenge the established understanding



Results from one (two) studies

Big challenges in relation to intentions on:

- Overview of goal and direction for the resocialisation process
- Account for professional assessments
- Stick to a rather short and precise description with relevant, professional and current information
- Bridge between the two interrelated parts - establish the situation and the assessment part
- Inclusion of the client?

How are these challenges conveyed?

- The minimalistic style
- The messy style
- The unbalanced style
- Professionalism versus a more personal approach
- The irrelevant style

- The overall view: is that all we have to offer?
- Where is the action and what about the planning?

The minimalistic style - for use or simply a duty?

Housing: Evicted from current flat

Financial situation: Social benefits

Education: No

Employment:

Leisure activities/social skills: Computer

Family / network: Parents live in Falster

Physical wellbeing:

Mental health: The inmate says, he suffers from
ADHD

Substance abuse: Cannabis

Housing: Rented flat - rent ok

Financial situation:

Education:

Employment: Chef

Leisure activities/social skills:

Family / network:

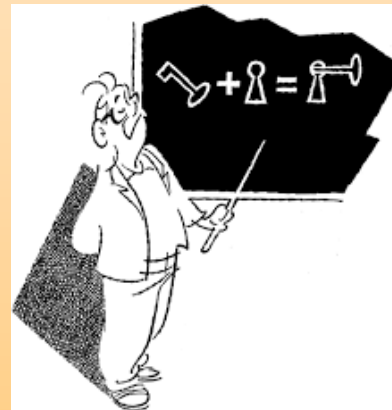
Physical wellbeing: Suffers from Asthma

Mental health:

Substance abuse: %

Explanations /a broader perspective

- Reflection of general practice?
- Can complexity be reduced?
- Organisational framework?
- Documentation discipline?



A few words on methodology

1. **Quantitative analysis** on 405 action plans randomly selected (2011) - degree of filling in information
2. **Text analysis** based on more than 250 action plans randomly selected (2011) - what information is written down?, how?, phrases?, comprehensibility?, professionalism?, inclusion of client? etc.

