Assessing ACE: The Probation Board’s Use of Risk Assessment Tools to Reduce Reoffending

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Summary: This paper provides a summary of the recently commissioned independent review to examine the use of the ACE risk assessment tool in Northern Ireland carried out by RSM McClure Watters on behalf of the Department of Justice and the Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI). It will set out the context of the Probation Board’s work, its use of this assessment tool with the Best Practice Framework, and evidence as to the utility of the assessment tool, its efficacy in accuracy of predicting reoffending rates and suggestions for future practice.

Keywords: Risk assessment, probation, courts, evaluation, assessment tool, prediction of reoffending, reducing reoffending, fit for purpose.