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Violent Offender Orders-Probation Chiefs Association comment 5 August 2009

BBC 1 Breakfast TV transcript of recorded news bulletin run at 6am, 7am and 8am with:
Nick Ravenscroft, BBC Correspondent
Steve Collett, Vice-Chair, Probation Chiefs Association

A new ASBO style order to control violent offenders is coming into effect in England and Wales this week.

13 month old Harry Gilbert was admitted to hospital suffering from head injuries from which he never recovered. His mother's partner, Andrew Lloyd who admitted his brutal murder had previous convictions for violence but they were not as extreme. He's the kind of offender the new orders could have helped to control before he went on to kill.

The most serious violent offenders – those who really hit the headlines – are usually supervised for a long time when they are eventually released from prison on licence. For those whose crimes attract shorter sentences can't be supervised so long even though they may be still a risk to the public. And it's to plug that gap that these new orders are being introduced.

Steve Collett, Vice Chair, Probation Chiefs Association: "There's a very small group of highly dangerous offenders who either target events or people or places and this will provide us with an additional and very welcome tool to protect the public."

A violent offender order can be sought for anyone who has been given a 12 month sentence for a serious violent offence. Restrictions include having to tell police about the change of name or address and being banned from contacting certain people and going to certain places. Breach the order and be jailed for up to five years.

It is thought that more than 100 of these orders could be sought by police every year in England and Wales. Some groups fear that this number will soon begin to grow.

Nick Ravenscroft, BBC News.