



Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements

WEST YORKSHIRE



Annual Report 2018-19

Introduction

Welcome to the 2018-19 Annual Report of the West Yorkshire Strategic Management Board (SMB) for Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA).

The foundation of MAPPA is the partnership work between a whole range of organisations, both within and beyond the criminal justice system. By sharing information, jointly assessing risk, and co-ordinating activity, we are in a better position to protect individuals and local communities in West Yorkshire. These arrangements require a considerable investment of time and effort, but they are a key priority.

Whilst Police, Probation, and Prisons hold the prime responsibility for the effectiveness of MAPPA, they are actively supported by a diverse group of organisations including Youth Offending Teams, Children's and Adults Social Care, Health and Mental Health, Education, Home Office Immigration Enforcement, Accommodation and Electronic Monitoring providers, to name just some. The aim is to get the right organisations around the table for each individual case when necessary.

We have maintained our focus on violent and sexual offenders, but have also continued to develop arrangements to manage violent extremists and those convicted of terrorism related offences. The involvement of and arrangements with Mental Health, Learning Disability and Personality Disorder Services have continued to be a significant focus with improvements despite ongoing pressures on all public services. West Yorkshire MAPPA has also been involved in the national efforts to improve multi-agency responses to the issue of Serious Organised Crime which encompasses Child Sexual Exploitation, Human Trafficking, Gun and Drug criminality (including County Lines) amongst other strands.

As well as pooling the professional expertise of these organisations, MAPPA also benefits from the involvement of the Lay Advisor. Their role is to represent the public, by asking questions of MAPPA on behalf of local communities and by developing a sound knowledge of the operation of MAPPA, including observation of MAPP meetings for individual cases.

The MAPPA process commences whilst the offender is in prison or detained in hospital. Victims are informed of key milestones during the sentence, and their views are made known and taken into account when decisions are taken. When release / discharge conditions are being considered, victim safety is of the highest priority. MAPPA processes become more intense when the offender is released into the community, and the management of risk continues to be reviewed by agencies in accordance with the specific risk issues of each case.

It is recognised that no system, however good, can provide a 100% guarantee that an offender assessed as dangerous will not re-offend. However, last year more than 99% of MAPPA offenders did not go on to commit a serious further offence, and we will continue our efforts to reduce the risk posed by dangerous offenders in West Yorkshire. This report is intended to explain how we go about achieving that aim.



ACC Catherine Hankinson
West Yorkshire Police
SMB Chair



Maggie Smallridge
Head of Service,
National Probation Service



Paul Foweather
Yorkshire Prisons Group
Director

What is MAPPA?

MAPPA background

MAPPA (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements) are a set of arrangements to manage the risk posed by the most serious sexual and violent offenders (MAPPA-eligible offenders) under the provisions of sections 325 to 327B of the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

They bring together the Police, Probation and Prison Services in each of the 42 Areas in England and Wales into what is known as the MAPPA Responsible Authority.

A number of other agencies are under a Duty to Co-operate (DTC) with the Responsible Authority. These include Social Services, Health Services, Youth Offending Teams, Jobcentre Plus and Local Housing and Education Authorities.

The Responsible Authority is required to appoint two Lay Advisers to sit on each MAPPA area Strategic Management Board (SMB) alongside senior representatives from each of the Responsible Authority and DTC agencies.

Lay Advisers are members of the public appointed by the Minister with no links to the business of managing MAPPA offenders who act as independent, yet informed, observers; able to pose questions which the professionals closely involved in the work might not think of asking. They also bring to the SMB their understanding and perspective of the local community (where they must reside and have strong links).

How MAPPA works

MAPPA-eligible offenders are identified and information about them is shared between agencies to inform the risk assessments and risk management plans of those managing or supervising them.

That is as far as MAPPA extend in the majority of cases, but some cases require structured multi-agency management. In such cases there will be regular MAPPA meetings attended by relevant agency practitioners.

There are 3 categories of MAPPA-eligible offender:

- **Category 1** - registered sexual offenders;
- **Category 2** – mainly violent offenders sentenced to 12 months or more imprisonment or a hospital order; and
- **Category 3** – offenders who do not qualify under categories 1 or 2 but who currently pose a risk of serious harm.

There are three levels of management to ensure that resources are focused where they are most needed; generally, those presenting the higher risks of serious harm.

- **Level 1** is where the offender is managed by the lead agency with information exchange and multi-agency support as required but without formal MAPPA meetings;
- **Level 2** is where formal MAPPA meetings are required to manage the offender.
- **Level 3** is where risk management plans require the attendance and commitment of resources at a senior level at MAPPA meetings.

MAPPA are supported by ViSOR. This is a national IT system to assist in the management of offenders who pose a serious risk of harm to the public. The use of ViSOR increases the ability to share intelligence across organisations and enable the safe transfer of key information when high risk offenders move, enhancing public protection measures. ViSOR allows staff from the Police, Probation and Prison Services to work on the same IT system for the first time, improving the quality and timeliness of risk assessments and interventions to prevent offending.

All MAPPA reports from England and Wales are published online at: www.gov.uk

MAPPA Statistics

MAPPA-eligible offenders on 31 March 2019				
	Category 1: Registered sex offenders	Category 2: Violent offenders	Category 3: Other dangerous offenders	Total
Level 1	2845	1161	-	4006
Level 2	22	8	9	39
Level 3	0	0	0	0
Total	2867	1169	9	4045

MAPPA-eligible offenders in Levels 2 and 3 by category (yearly total)				
	Category 1: Registered sex offenders	Category 2: Violent offenders	Category 3: Other dangerous offenders	Total
Level 2	62	75	28	165
Level 3	4	8	4	16
Total	66	83	32	181

RSOs cautioned or convicted for breach of notification requirements	75
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RSOs who have had their life time notification revoked on application	9
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Restrictive orders for Category 1 offenders	
SHPOs, SHPOs with foreign travel restriction & NOs imposed by the courts	
SHPO	204
SHPO with foreign travel restriction	0
NOs	4

Number of people who became subject to notification requirements following a breach(es) of a Sexual Risk Order (SRO)	0
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Level 2 and 3 offenders returned to custody				
	Category 1: Registered sex offenders	Category 2: Violent offenders	Category 3: Other dangerous offenders	Total
Breach of licence				
Level 2	4	9	4	17
Level 3	0	0	0	0
Total	4	9	4	17
Breach of SOPO				
Level 2	1	-	-	1
Level 3	0	-	-	0
Total	1	-	-	1

Total number of Registered Sexual Offenders per 100,000 population	142
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This figure has been calculated using the Mid-2018 Population Estimates: Single year of age and sex for Police Areas in England and Wales; estimated resident population, published by the Office for National Statistics, excluding those aged less than ten years of age.

Explanation commentary on statistical tables

MAPPA background

The totals of MAPPA-eligible offenders, broken down by category, reflect the picture on 31 March 2019 (i.e. they are a snapshot). The rest of the data covers the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019.

(a) MAPPA-eligible offenders – there are a number of offenders defined in law as eligible for MAPPA management, because they have committed specified sexual and violent offences or they currently pose a risk of serious harm, although the majority are actually managed at Level 1 without formal MAPPA meetings. These figures only include those MAPPA eligible offenders living in the community. They do not include those in prison or detained under the Mental Health Act.

(b) Registered Sexual Offenders (RSOs) – those who are required to notify the police of their name, address and other personal details and to notify of any subsequent changes (this is known as the “notification requirement.”) These offenders are assessed and managed by the police. They may also be managed by probation or health services if they are subject to licence or a hospital order. Failure to comply with the notification requirement is a criminal offence that carries a maximum penalty of 5 years’ imprisonment.

(c) Violent Offenders – this category includes violent offenders sentenced to imprisonment or detention for 12 months or more, or detained under a hospital order. It also includes a small number of sexual offenders who do not qualify for registration. These offenders are assessed and managed by the National Probation Service, Youth Offending Team or Mental Health Services.

(d) Other Dangerous Offenders – offenders who do not qualify under the other two MAPPA-eligible categories, but who currently pose a risk of serious harm which requires management via MAPPA

meetings. These offenders are assessed and managed by whichever agency has the primary responsibility for them.

(e) Breach of licence – offenders released into the community following a period of imprisonment will be subject to a licence with conditions (under probation supervision). If these conditions are not complied with, breach action will be taken and the offender may be recalled to prison.

(f) Sexual Harm Prevention Order (SHPO) (including any additional foreign travel restriction). Sexual Harm Prevention Orders (SHPOs) and interim SHPOs replaced Sexual Offence Prevention Orders. They are intended to protect the public from offenders convicted of a sexual or violent offence who pose a risk of sexual harm to the public by placing restrictions on their behaviour. They requires the offender to notify their details to the police (as set out in Part 2 of the 2003 Act) for the duration of the order.

The court must be satisfied that an order is necessary to protect the public (or any particular members of the public) in the UK, or children or vulnerable adults (or any particular children or vulnerable adults) abroad, from sexual harm from the offender. In the case of an order made on a free standing application by a chief officer or the National Crime Agency (NCA), the chief officer/NCA must be able to show that the offender has acted in such a way since their conviction as to make the order necessary.

The minimum duration for a full order is five years. The lower age limit is 10, which is the age of criminal responsibility, but where the defendant is under the age of 18 an application for an order should only be considered exceptionally.

(g) Notification Order – this requires sexual offenders who have been convicted overseas to register with the police, in order to protect the public in the UK from the risks that they pose. The police may apply to the court

for a notification order in relation to offenders who are already in the UK or are intending to come to the UK.

(h) Sexual Risk Order (including any additional foreign travel restriction)

The Sexual Risk Order (SRO) replaced the Risk of Sexual Harm Order (RoSHO) and may be made in relation to a person without a conviction for a sexual or violent offence (or any other offence), but who poses a risk of sexual harm.

The SRO may be made at the magistrates' court on application by the police or NCA where an individual has committed an act of a sexual nature and the court is satisfied that the person poses a risk of harm to the public in the UK or children or vulnerable adults overseas.

A SRO may prohibit the person from doing anything described in it, including travel overseas. Any prohibition must be necessary to protect the public in the UK from sexual harm or, in relation to foreign travel, protecting children or vulnerable adults from sexual harm.

An individual subject to an SRO is required to notify the police of their name and home address within three days of the order being made and also to notify any changes to this information within three days.

A SRO can last for a minimum of two years and has no maximum duration, with the exception of any foreign travel restrictions which, if applicable, last for a maximum of five years (but may be renewed).

The criminal standard of proof continues to apply. The person concerned is able to appeal against the making of the order and the police or the person concerned are able to apply for the order to be varied, renewed or discharged.

A breach of a SRO is a criminal offence punishable by a maximum of five years' imprisonment. Where an individual breaches their SRO, they will become subject to full notification requirements.

Individuals made subject of a SRO are now recorded on VISOR as a Potentially Dangerous Person (PDP).

(i) Lifetime notification requirements revoked on application

A legal challenge in 2010 and a corresponding legislative response means there is now a mechanism in place that allows qualifying sex offenders to apply for a review of their notification requirements. Persons do not come off the register automatically. Qualifying offenders may submit an application to the police to review their indefinite notification requirements. The police review the application and decide whether to revoke the notification requirements. This decision is made at the rank of Superintendent. Those who continue to pose a significant risk will remain on the register for life, if necessary.

Individuals will only become eligible to seek a review once they have been subject to indefinite notification requirements for a period of at least 15 years for adults and 8 years for juveniles. This applied from 1 September 2012 for adult offenders.

West Yorkshire MAPPA in action

How MAPPA Operates Locally

There are three MAPPA units in West Yorkshire – Bradford & Calderdale, Leeds, and Wakefield & Kirklees.

The Strategic Management Board (SMB) in West Yorkshire is chaired by a senior manager from one of the Responsible Authority Agencies (National Probation Service, Police, Prisons) with the current chair being an Assistant Chief Constable from West Yorkshire Police. The role of the SMB is to ensure the quality and effectiveness of MAPPA work in West Yorkshire.

It is impossible to eliminate all risk when offenders are being managed within the community, but the three responsible authority agencies are fully committed to ensuring that, through MAPPA partnership, risks are reduced.

Those agencies, West Yorkshire Police, National Probation Service - West Yorkshire and the Prison Service in Yorkshire and Humberside, have worked hard to develop clear and effective communication mechanisms and to build a strong professional relationship with other agencies.

The **Prison Service in Yorkshire and Humberside** prepares offenders for release from prison and provides key release information on hundreds of prisoners each year in advance of their release back into Yorkshire and Humberside, as part of an agreed and managed joint process with community agencies.

Through **National Probation Service - West Yorkshire (NPS-WY)**, MAPPA has access to a range of interventions and group activities, some of which seek to restrict offenders' actions and behaviours, others try to help offenders change the way they behave. Licence conditions can impose restrictions on offenders such as exclusion zones. National Probation Service - West Yorkshire also works closely with victims of crime who have been affected by either a serious violent or sexual offence.

MAPPA enables **West Yorkshire Police** to coordinate with other agencies and contribute to the effective risk management of sexual and violent offenders. West Yorkshire Police take a lead in the management of Category 1, Registered Sexual Offender MAPPA cases. Officers who know the offender will contribute to risk assessment and action planning. Regular contact takes place between Probation Officers and Police staff across West Yorkshire.

The MAPPA Units coordinate meetings, undertake administration of MAPPA and provide a MAPPA Chair who objectively guides the meeting to develop a robust Risk Management Plan for each MAPPA Offender and holds agencies to account for completing the actions they have agreed to undertake. There is also a WY MAPPA Coordinator who acts as a bridge between the SMB and MAPPA agencies, supporting operational, policy and strategic development in accordance with SMB requirements and national MAPPA guidance, as well as acting as a single point of contact for other MAPPA areas and forging links at regional and national levels.

About the Responsible Authority Agencies involvement in MAPPA

How West Yorkshire Police works with MAPPA

West Yorkshire Police is committed to ensuring the safety of the public and MAPPA is an important way in which police and other agencies can co-ordinate their work in order to contribute to the effective risk management of sexual and violent offenders. The five West Yorkshire Police Districts take the lead in the management of MAPPA cases overseen by the Safeguarding Central Governance Unit.

The five policing Districts, namely Leeds, Bradford, Kirklees, Wakefield and Calderdale routinely co-ordinate local policing actions in order to address the risk posed by MAPPA managed offenders.

In practice, every MAPP meeting is attended by a Detective Inspector and, as required, other officers who know the offender and their offending history will attend the meeting and contribute to the risk assessment and action planning. The Detective Inspector is accountable for ensuring that actions relating to the police involvement in the management of the offender are carried out as agreed. Outside the MAPPA meetings, regular contact takes place between Probation Officers and the local Police to ensure that each plan continues to be robust and effective so that the public remain protected.

Effective risk management of MAPPA cases necessitates very close cooperation and understanding between agencies, not only during the MAPPA meetings, but also throughout daily activity around offender management. West Yorkshire Police has worked hard to develop clear and effective ongoing communication with the other responsible agencies within MAPPA, namely National Probation Service - West Yorkshire and the Prison Service, and has worked hard to build a strong professional relationship with other agencies subject to a duty to cooperate responsibility.

Considerable investment has been made in the use of the national ViSOR database as a means of sharing information and more effectively managing sexual and violent offenders by the Police, NPS - WY and Prison Service. This development is continuing and ongoing.

West Yorkshire Police remains committed to ensuring that, through a strong and effective MAPPA partnership, we reduce the risk, as much as possible from offenders who are being managed within the community.

How NPS-WY works with MAPPA

MAPPA is an essential element in how NPS-WY manages high risk violent and sexual offenders in the community as the NPS caseload is mainly comprised of these cases. Probation Officers work closely with relevant agencies outside meetings to inform risk assessments and risk management. However, Duty to Cooperate (DTC) agency participation in the meetings enables full information sharing that provides the broadest perspective of the offender, their movements and actions. Through the meetings we can implement and refine risk management plans to most effectively manage each offender.

MAPP meetings have the authority to harness resources from partners and DTC agencies to deliver the risk management plan and can help to determine and coordinate appropriate actions for each organisation. Meetings provide a comprehensive view of each offender and agencies get an excellent overview, including understanding the overall risk management plan and contributing their own intelligence about the offender's behaviour. This third party information is vital in managing high risk offenders in the community, and ensures that by working together we are able to effectively protect the public.

An example of how this works in practice is in securing access to important services such as healthcare or accommodation. Staff at an appropriate level from relevant partner agencies are involved in the MAPP meetings and therefore decisions can be made immediately to fast track appointments with agencies, housing provision or other vital actions that can reduce reoffending. As meetings are held before offenders are released from prison, they also provide time for planning across a range of local services. All agencies are acting in partnership to achieve the best outcomes.

MAPPA has access to a range of interventions, some of which seek to restrict the offenders' actions and behaviours whilst others try to help the offenders change aspects of the way they behave. The NPS, in conjunction with the West Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Company, offers a number of group activities which address specific aspects of offending behaviour, these include:

- Medium and high intensity domestic violence groups
- Anger management and alcohol fuelled offending groups
- Groups for sex offenders
- Groups to address substance misuse (alcohol and drug) related offending including Stop Binge Drinking and Drink Impaired Drivers
- Groups to address Thinking Skills and one-to-one sessions to address behaviour associated with hate crimes

Licence conditions – Every offender released from prison is released on Licence. Licences can have additional conditions added which include exclusion zones, residence requirements, non-contact conditions protecting the victim or preventing association with other named people, requirements to allow access to / remove computer equipment - to name a few.

Work with Victims – Liaising with victims is a key part of NPS-WY work. Anyone who is the victim of offenders sentenced to 12 months or more or detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 for a specified sexual or violent offence is contacted by the Victims Services Unit. The contact offered includes regular updates for the victims so they know what is happening to the offender – if their sentence has changed, if they are approaching parole, if they are moving prison or location and when they are released, including their licence conditions. Contact continues when offenders are released and until the end of their licence period. The Victim Services Unit also ensures that victims' views are raised in all appropriate forums including Parole Board hearings and MAPP meetings.

How Yorkshire and Humberside Prison Service works with MAPPA

Over the past twelve months, the Prison Service in Yorkshire & Humberside has continued its commitment to working with community partners, aimed at increased protection of the public from dangerous offenders. This commitment is strongest in relation to preparing offenders for release from prison, and ensuring adequate notice and advance briefings are passed to the Police and Probation in agreed cases.

The Prison Service has continued contributing to ViSOR. In relation to serious crime, the sharing of information and intelligence between the key agencies is now agreed normal practice. Additionally, this joint approach by the key Criminal Justice Agencies has been extended to include and jointly manage extremism and counter-terrorism.

In meeting these commitments over the past year the Prison Service has supported and provided key release information on hundreds of prisoners in advance of their release back into Yorkshire & Humberside as part of an agreed and managed joint process with the community agencies.

Additionally, prison managers have made significant contributions to the strategic planning of MAPPA within Yorkshire and Humberside, contributing to joint training, business planning and clear communication to increase public confidence. Training has been continued and developed to increase the knowledge and skills of prison staff across the public protection arena, including awareness on domestic violence and abuse, extremism, and raising understanding of the joint approach to protecting the public. Prison staff have made an increased commitment to external and joint training, in particular working alongside our Police and Probation partners.

MAPPA Case Study

XX was a Foreign National Offender (FNO) with no recourse to public funds who had declined to sign immigration documents to qualify for housing so the only accommodation available following release from prison was via Home Office Immigration Enforcement (HOIE) under S10 arrangements. XX was assessed as a Very High Risk of Serious Harm (ROSH) to staff / the public and High ROSH in relation to others. Risk to staff related to multiple physical assaults on staff from range of agencies. XX had received several short sentences and was released previously mainly on Post-Sentence Supervision (PSS) not Prison licence due to time served. There were many concerns re immigration status, language issues, Mental Health (MH) etc with numerous attempts made to undertake a range of assessments. However, XX generally declined to participate in them, became hostile & refused disclosure of medical records. The most recent conviction resulted in custody with a brief licence period before PSS.

XX was referred into MAPPA by the NPS under Category 3 (Other Dangerous Offenders), initially at Level 2. Concerted efforts were made to secure an Approved Premise (AP) placement but not accepted due to risk including a recent conviction for arson endangering life. The case was referred for Critical Public Protection Casework but did not meet criteria although it was acknowledged that XX had multiple & complex needs. HOIE attended MAPP meetings & made efforts to resolve an asylum application but XX's country of origin could not be confirmed so it was extremely difficult to deport as that requires acceptance by the "home" country. The FNO team at HMPPS became involved, argued that the AP option should be looked at again and as a result of the previous barriers this required escalation to a Level 3 meeting.

From the L3, 2 NPS directors were tasked with reviewing the AP referral but declined it again so MAPPA escalated the request to the NPS Executive Director who directed an AP to accept the case, agreeing additional staffing but with the caveat move on accommodation had to be in place as the AP placement could not be indefinite. Concerns were then raised as to how XX would get to the AP from prison given the risk to the public was deemed Very High (previously carried / used knife in offending). The Prison were not able to agree to a request to provide escort and even though MAPPA escalated it to the Governor it could still not be facilitated. HOIE / NPS / Police had no provision or powers to detain either so the issue was escalated by the Head of the FNO Team to a Prisons Director who agreed to provide escort. In order to provide more effective community management, arrangements were made to see XX at a Police Station which also provided for staff safety. Fire safety checks were required at the AP and any other accommodation XX moved on to.

Before these plans could be implemented, XX's MH deteriorated but the language barriers and resistance to assessment made it hard to reach a medical opinion, with an eventual position that 2 Psychiatrists made assessments that were completely at odds with each other. MAPPA was able to escalate this to NHS England who initiated an independent assessment by a psychiatrist who spoke XX's language and this resulted in a diagnosis of MH issues and Personality Disorder issues. This led to XX being sectioned under the MH Act and provision of a specialist placement in a secure residential setting being made. Following diagnosis, XX became more cooperative and began to accept treatment and support. Measures to manage risk were implemented and the response to staff was much improved. Immigration issues are still to be resolved and if there is a need for move-on planning at some point in the future then it will need continued agency cooperation. MAPPA continues to facilitate this via Level 2 meetings.

Overall, this example demonstrates the complexity of some MAPPA cases, the range of agencies often involved, the extent of work required by MAPPA agencies to find resolutions to issues and the level some barriers have to be escalated up to before solutions can be found / agreed. However, it also shows very clearly that MAPPA provides an excellent forum based on sound legal principles to ensure robust risk management plans are developed and the public is protected as far as is possible. It also demonstrates the difficulties agencies face in dealing with the realities of finite resources, the appropriate boundaries of law and in balancing the proportionality of institutional response between individual rights and reasonable restrictions to protect the public.

A Lay Adviser's Perspective

As I write these remarks, I am nearing the end of my first term as Lay Advisor. I noted in my last report that Serious Case Reviews (SCR's) were underway. The lessons learnt were consolidated and shared across agencies. The lessons to be learnt document, shared earlier this year, included seven highlighted paragraphs of observations and six distinct learning points. Ultimately, no organisation or arrangement is perfect, and so are judged by how open and willing they are to be self-critical and how well they learn from exercises like SCR's. On the first point, I felt satisfied in the openness and willingness of colleagues to be self-critical, to analyse systemic failures with an open mind and to acknowledge lessons that needed to be learnt. As to what each agency has done since to strengthen their systems through the lessons learnt, I hope to hear updates from colleagues from different agencies at the next Strategic Management Board (SMB), as we have passed the 6-months mark since the consolidated lessons-to-be-learnt document was shared across agencies and cascaded within their structures.

In my remarks last year, I had also reflected on the state of flux in government generally and in the position of Lord Chancellor specifically, with 5 holders of the office since a few months before my appointment in this role. As I write this year's report, the trend continues with another name added to this tally. This, coupled with 3 Home Secretaries in 2 years, does leave the Offender Management space without stability at the top. It will be satisfying if I were able to reflect on greater stability, clarity & consistency of policies, greater availability of competent resources with a long-term plan, and improving ways of working, in the next 12 months.

Recently, I also participated in a consultation on MAPPA Level-1 management of cases. The consultation was prompted by critical remarks by the Chief Inspector of Prisons about the meaning and value of Level-1. It was an interesting meeting – one of a handful – in this case hosted in Leeds and attended by colleagues from different parts of the North and parts of the Midlands. Among other things, the consultation meeting also saw interesting discussions about borderline cases – such as those that might benefit through active contribution of more than one agency or high resource availability from more than one agency but where the professional judgement of those involved in setting the level, coupled with guidance in favour of placing the case at the lowest level possible, can contribute to risk. A consensus appeared to emerge in favour of a much more granular approach as to which agencies were needed, at what level, and why, in each case, rather than abstracting the case to a level. Up to a point, and while this was not the emphasis of this consultation, there also appeared suggestion to be circumspect when thinking of MAPPA categories too as there would be offenders who would need different kind of management based on whether or not they were also regarded violent, besides their other serious offences. We shall know soon what the nation-wide consultation reveals.

Among the various cases I examined this year, I also came across one which involved a former clergyman convicted of a number of sexual offences. The Church he was associated with no longer allows him to be an active officer in its work but I was surprised to learn that the offender could not be prevented from wearing a clerical collar or using a title indicative of office in a church. Following escalation of the issue by the local MAPP Panel, the SMB Chair questioned this with Senior Church Officials and was advised there was no longer legal provision to “de-frock” or prevent these actions by former clergy. They acknowledged it was a position they were unhappy with and were working to change, accepting this was likely to be a concern raised by national investigations into Child Sexual Abuse.

No doubt criminals are capable of using falsehood and will always find ways around laws / rules where they can. Britain is a modern society but without a modern constitution and significant reliance on precedence in law. It occurs to me that it is in the interest of both the public and the institutions that law is in keeping with the modern society to which it applies and no other kind of law or established traditions in any organisations should supersede or bypass modern law. However, despite the inevitable gaps in legislation, MAPPA agencies locally continue to strive to effectively manage the most serious sexual and violent offenders where they continue to pose a risk to the public by seeking to cause harm or break the law through their behaviours.

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