

# Dorset



## Annual Report 2014 - 2015





# Introduction

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The Dorset MAPPA Strategic Management Board is pleased to present this Annual Report to the residents of Dorset. Dorset is a low crime area, relative to other counties and the number of sexual and violent crimes committed represents a small proportion of the total recorded crime in this county, but for the victims and their families they inevitably cause a great deal of fear, distress and harm. It is for this reason that protecting the public from offenders that commit these crimes and meeting the needs of victims remains a high priority for the Dorset Police, the National Probation Service, (NPS), Dorset cluster and Prison Services.

The Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements are a significant contribution to the work that takes place. Under these arrangements these Statutory services work closely together with other key partners, including those responsible for Safeguarding arrangements for children and adults, and those who may pose a risk through Extremism activities, to identify, assess and manage violent and sexual offenders. It is never possible to eliminate risk entirely; however what can be expected is that all reasonable steps have been taken to reduce the risk of serious harm to the public from known offenders.

This Annual Report offers an opportunity for MAPPA to demonstrate it is accountable to the community in Dorset for the management of violent and sexual offenders. It sets out statistics showing the number of offenders managed under MAPPA by category and level and describes the work that is undertaken by the agencies involved in the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements. This is evidence of the commitment we have to making Dorset a safe place to live and work

The number of registered sex offenders continues to rise year on year as expected and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. This does not mean that there are any more sex offenders in the community than there were previously but that every sexual offence conviction now results in a requirement to register. Many sex offenders are

required to register for the rest of their lives so will never come out of the statistics.

Sexual offenders cause a great deal of anxiety and although the figures are low the public are understandably concerned about sex offenders in the community and the risk that they pose. There is no typical sex offender and not all sex offenders pose a risk to the general public. The vast majority of sexual offences are committed by offenders who are generally known to their victim either a family member, a friend or acquaintance. Managing the risk posed by sex offenders is complex and cuts across the organisational boundaries of all the authorities concerned. Research suggests however that when offenders have stability in their lives and are well integrated into their community, they are less likely to offend. It is therefore important that all the agencies concerned work together to achieve this. However it is also important that early warning signs are acted upon. The number of offenders returned to custody for breach of licences (recall) indicates the way in which information sharing between the professionals in the statutory and voluntary sectors allows for the rigorous enforcement of licence requirements.

One of the most important partners in public protection are members of the public and it is vital that they are aware of their responsibility to protect vulnerable members in our community by having the confidence to report any concerns and to have faith in their local services to act promptly and appropriately to ensure the most vulnerable are protected. Dorset MAPPA is committed to looking to develop ways in which the community can take on a more active role in public protection.

## **Tina Ridge**

Head of Dorset National Probation Service

## **David Lewis**

Assistant Chief Constable Dorset Police

## **Andy Rogers**

Deputy Director of Custody (South West)

# What is MAPPA?

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## MAPPA background

- (a) 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.
- (b) 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.
- (c) A number of other agencies are under a Duty To Co-operate (DTC) with the Responsible Authority. These include Social Services, Health Trusts, Youth Offending Teams, UKBA, Jobcentre Plus and Local Housing and Education Authorities.
- (d) 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 duty to co-operate agencies.
- (e) Lay Advisers are members of the public with no links to the business of managing MAPPA offenders and 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 by the agencies in order to inform the risk assessments and risk management plans of those managing or supervising them.
- In the majority of cases that is as far as MAPPA extends but in some cases, it is determined that active multi-agency management is required. 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** – (in the main) violent offenders sentenced to imprisonment for 12 months or more; 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 management levels intended to ensure that resources are focused upon the cases where they are most needed; generally those involving the higher risks of serious harm. **Level 1** involves ordinary agency management (i.e. no MAPPA meetings or resources); **Level 2** is where the active involvement of more than one agency is required to manage the offender but the risk management plans do not require the attendance and commitment of resources at a senior level. Where senior oversight is required the case would be managed at **Level 3**.

MAPPA is supported by ViSOR. This is a national IT system for the management of people who pose a serious risk of harm to the public. The police have been using ViSOR since 2005 but, since June 2008, ViSOR has been fully operational allowing, for the first time, key staff from the Police, Probation and Prison Services to work on the same IT system, thus improving the quality and timeliness of risk assessments and of interventions to prevent offending. The combined use of ViSOR increases the ability to share intelligence across organisations and enable the safe transfer of key information when these high risk offenders move, enhancing public protection measures. The MAPPA report for England and Wales is published online at: [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

# Explanation commentary on statistical tables

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## MAPPA background

The totals of MAPPA-eligible offenders, broken down by category, reflect the picture on 31 March 2015 (i.e. they are a snapshot). The rest of the data covers the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.

**(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 (666 this year) are actually managed under ordinary agency (Level 1) arrangements rather than via MAPP meetings.

**(b) Registered Sexual Offenders (RSOs)** – those who are required to notify the police of their name, address and other personal details and to notify any changes subsequently (this is known as the “notification requirement”). Failure to comply with the notification requirement is a criminal offence which 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.

**(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 MAPP meetings.

**(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 Offences Prevention Order (SOPO)** – a court may make a SOPO at the time of dealing with certain sexual offenders or when the police make a special application on account of the offender’s behaviour in the community. The full order lasts for a minimum of five years, and can last indefinitely. A SOPO will require the subject to register as a sexual offender and can include conditions, for example to prevent the offender loitering near schools or playgrounds. If the offender fails to comply with (i.e. breaches) the requirements of the order, he can be taken back to court and may be liable to up to five years’ imprisonment.

**(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) Foreign Travel Orders** – these prevent offenders with convictions for sexual offences against children from travelling abroad where this is necessary to protect children from the risk of sexual harm.

# MAPPA Statistics

## MAPPA-eligible offenders on 31 March 2015

|         | Category 1:<br>Registered sex<br>offenders | Category 2:<br>Violent<br>offenders | Category 3:<br>Other dangerous<br>offenders | Total |
|---------|--|-------------------------------------|---|-------|
| Level 1 | 666  | 233                                 | -   | 899   |
| Level 2 | 4  | 6                                   | 2   | 12    |
| Level 3 | 0  | 1                                   | 1   | 2     |
| Total   | 670  | 240                                 | 3   | 913   |

## MAPPA-eligible offenders in Levels 2 and 3 by category (yearly total)

|         | Category 1:<br>Registered sex<br>offenders | Category 2:<br>Violent<br>offenders | Category 3:<br>Other dangerous<br>offenders | Total |
|---------|--|-------------------------------------|---|-------|
| Level 2 | 16   | 14                                  | 7   | 37    |
| Level 3 | 3  | 4                                   | 2   | 7     |
| Total   | 19   | 18                                  | 9   | 46    |

## RSOs cautioned or convicted for breach of notification requirements

21

## Restrictive orders for Category 1 offenders

### SOPOs, NOs & FTOs imposed by the courts

|       |    |
|-------|----|
| SOPOs | 62 |
| NOs   | 2  |
| FTOs  | 0  |

| <b>Level 2 and 3 offenders returned to custody</b> |   |  |  |              |
|--|---|--|--|--------------|
|  | <b>Category 1:<br/>Registered sex<br/>offenders</b> | <b>Category 2:<br/>Violent<br/>offenders</b> | <b>Category 3:<br/>Other dangerous<br/>offenders</b> | <b>Total</b> |
| <b>Breach of licence</b>                           |   |  |  |              |
| Level 2  | 1   | 2  | 0  | 3            |
| Level 3  | 0   | 1  | 0  | 1            |
| Total  | 1   | 3  | 0  | 4            |
| <b>Breach of SOPO</b>                              |   |  |  |              |
| Level 2  | 0   | -  | -  | 0            |
| Level 3  | 0   | -  | -  | 0            |
| Total  | 0   | -  | -  | 0            |

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Total number of Registered Sexual Offenders per 100,000 population | 98 |
|--|----|

This figure has been calculated using the Mid-2014 Population Estimate: Single year of age and sex for Police Areas in England and Wales; estimated resident population, published by the Office of National Statistics on 25 June 2015, excluding those aged less than ten years of age.

# Local page

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## Key achievements:

- The high standards which Dorset MAPPA has set have ensured that we have achieved 100% against the timeliness of reviews KPI: The Key Performance Indicators for MAPPA demand that Level 2 offenders who are in the community are formally reviewed via a meeting every 16 weeks and Level 3 offenders every 8 weeks. In Dorset we aim to review Level 2 offenders every 12 weeks and Level 3 offenders every 4 weeks.
- Dorset MAPPA continue to work closely with Circles of Support and Accountability South West (CoSA) - see below for more information. CoSA South West committed to delivering between 4 and 6 CoSAs per year between 2012 – 2015. During the 2014 – 2015 financial year 6 MAPPA high risk of serious harm sex offenders benefited from a CoSA.
- The MAPPA training package, has continued to receive excellent feedback from attendees. The training programme includes a 1 day awareness raising event delivered jointly by the Police MAPPA Detective Inspector and the MAPPA co-ordinator. Bespoke events are also delivered for agencies on request. These are delivered by the MAPPA co-ordinator. This year well over 100 professionals have taken part in the 1 day awareness raising event or a bespoke training event.
- Dorset MAPPA continues to receive high level support from Duty to Co-operate agency staff, as reflected in the KPI measuring attendance at level 2 and 3 meetings over 2014 – 2015 by duty to co-operate agency staff, which demonstrated attendance at over 80% of meeting. We continue to aim for 100% attendance.
- The MAPPA SMB has achieved its objective to audit at least 20 cases being managed at Level 2 or Level 3 over the course of the year. The case file audit has shown examples of excellent practice across Dorset MAPPA and confirms that all cases are managed to a “case well managed” standard.
- A best practice and development programme was rolled out across Dorset NPS over 2014 – 2015. The programme

including a series of workshops for operational staff, MAPPA briefings and question and answer sessions at team meetings and one to one case discussions with the MAPPA co-ordinator. The Victim Liaison Officer and the Lay Advisors were part of the development and delivery of the programme. The programme was very successful with staff reporting that their confidence in supervising and managing MAPPA eligible offenders has increased and that they are now better able to identify and deliver best practice within MAPPA.

## Who are the SMB and what do they do?

The SMB is made up from senior managers from the Responsible Authority (RA), and senior managers from the duty to co-operate agencies (DTC). From the RA representatives include the Head of Dorset National Probation Service (also the SMB Chair for 2014 – 2015), a Senior Manager representing the Dorset prisons, as well as the wider prison estate and the Dorset Police Superintendent responsible for the management of MAPPA offenders and the Integrated Offender Management Team. From the DTCs we have Senior Management representation from both the East and the West Housing Authorities, who also represent landlords across Dorset, Adult social services and Children’s social services, the Local Health Trust, the Youth Offending Teams and Lay Advisors. The group formally meet every quarter. At these meetings progress and developments are fully reviewed via the business plan. The business plan is a working document that all members of the SMB can access at any time throughout the year.

In Dorset members of the SMB take an active role in ensuring that MAPPA is effectively delivered and developed, with each monitoring their agencies engagement with and contribution to, MAPPA. Part of this involves the MAPPA co-ordinator collecting detailed attendance statistics from every MAPPA meeting held. Across Dorset there is a high level of attendance and co-operation by all agencies involved with MAPPA. This is demonstrated via Dorset’s high level performance against the MAPPA Key Performance Indicator set (KPIs), which are fed back to the central MAPPA team on a quarterly basis.



## The MAPPA Co-ordinator:

MAPPA co-ordinator is very much a developmental role, including working jointly with the Detective Inspector responsible for the Police Integrated Offender Management team to deliver MAPPA awareness training to the duty to co-operate agencies across Dorset. The MAPPA co-ordinator also delivers bespoke training to Police staff, Youth Offending Team staff, Prison staff and others on request. These training packages are constantly being developed and changed so that they are completely up to date and meet the needs of participants. These events aim to encourage partnership agencies' involvement with MAPPA to support the protection of the public and specific individuals. This year the MAPPA co-ordinator has worked closely with the MAPPA operational lead for mental health services to develop a bespoke MAPPA awareness raising event. So far two events have been delivered, receiving very positive feedback from the 36 staff who have attended. Due to the positive feedback and identified need for awareness raising across health, more sessions have been planned for 2015 – 2016.

In addition, the MAPPA co-ordinator is responsible for the development of the MAPPA operational team. This includes the MAPPA Chairs, (made up of Senior Probation Officers and Police Detective Inspectors), the MAPPA Administrators and the Lay Advisors.

As part of the development programme for the operational team the MAPPA co-ordinator has worked in-conjunction with the Avon and Somerset MAPPA co-ordinator to jointly deliver a MAPPA Chair training event. This has resulted in a Detective Inspector from Dorset Police joining the Dorset MAPPA Chair group. Other staff across Dorset Police and Dorset NPS also took part in the training event as part of Dorset MAPPA's contribution to Police and NPS's staff developmental programmes.

The MAPPA co-ordinator works to the SMB and is responsible for ensuring that the Dorset MAPPA business plan is fully achieved.

## Local operation of MAPPA:

Dorset MAPPA continue to have monthly Level 3 MAPPA meetings, chaired by the Assistant Chief Officer (ACO) for Dorset NPS. They are always attended by the Responsible Authority Senior Manager from Dorset Police and the MAPPA co-ordinator, as well as senior representatives from

Dorset Forensic Team. Senior management attendance ensures that decisions about allocating resources to manage risk can be made instantly, and that senior managers across agencies are fully sighted and involved in the management of the critical few. Every case managed at Level 3 who is in the community is reviewed on a monthly basis (the national target being set at a review every 8 weeks).

In addition, there are four MAPPA Level 2 meetings every month held across the county. These are chaired by the MAPPA co-ordinator, local Senior Probation Officers and the Police Integrated Offender Management Detective Inspector. Dorset aims to review cases managed at Level 2 every 12 weeks (the national target being set at a review every 16 weeks). Prison staff attendance at MAPPA meetings has been excellent, aided in some cases by the use of telephone conferencing facilities and video link. The National Probation Service Victim Liaison Officers (VLOs), significantly the Dorset VLO, also plays a very important role within MAPPA meetings and in the Offender Management of MAPPA designated individuals. The VLO provides the voice of the victim and a balance to reflect the needs of victims within our local community. Other Duty to Co-operate agencies have generally good levels of engagement with small pockets of improvement addressed by the respective safeguarding leads.

Disclosure is considered at every MAPPA meeting in Dorset in line with national guidance. This is monitored centrally as well as via our internal Quality Assurance audit process. Disclosure is the sharing of information about MAPPA offenders with a third party, for the purpose of protecting the public and safeguarding vulnerable adults and children. The third party could be a member of the public such as a victim, an employer, a person forming a relationship with an offender, or a person acting in a professional capacity but not party to the MAPPA. For disclosure to be made the MAPPA group must consider if the disclosure is necessary, proportionate, justifiable, and if agreed, how it will be implemented. On this basis there are times when disclosure is not agreed.

## Quality Assurance:

The MAPPA SMB performance subgroup is led by the Head of Dorset National Probation Service. Its aim is to ensure that MAPPA is delivered across Dorset to the highest of standards, and that where areas for development or improvement are identified, the necessary steps are taken to achieve this. The SMB performance subgroup

includes Lay Advisor members of the MAPPA team. They carry out regular audits of the cases managed at Level 2 and 3 by MAPPA to ensure that robust risk management plans are in place and that all actions are carried out by the agencies involved in managing the case. They also monitor the use of resources so that they are used in the most cost effective manner and make sure the standards set in the MAPPA National Guidance continue to be met.

The Lay Advisors also audit MAPPA meetings by attending Level 2 and 3 meetings. Specifically they consider standard of chairing, the standard of risk management plans, the delivery of these and the involvement of partner agencies. The feedback from MAPPA meeting audits has been very positive to date, with all meetings achieving scores of either satisfactory or good (good being the highest standard). Areas for improvement are always discussed and changes made in line with national guidance.

### [Serious Case Review \(SCR\), sub-group:](#)

The SMB SCR subgroup is led by the Police Superintendent. The group meets every quarter and includes senior representation from the Responsible Authority, housing, health and Lay Advisors. Other SMB members can join the group as required. The subgroup ensures that action plans from any Dorset MAPPA SCR are fully implemented and that the learning from an SCR is used to fully inform best practice across agencies moving forward. Additionally, it reviews any cases where a discretionary SCR could take place, as well as reviewing the learning from non-MAPPA SCRs which could inform MAPPA best practice.

### [Circles of Support and Accountability:](#)

Dorset MAPPA works closely with Circles of Support and Accountability South West (CoSA). CoSA is the communities response to the risk of serious harm and reoffending posed by convicted sex offenders who live within the community post sentence. CoSA is recognised as being an effective way to ensure that sex offenders have the support of the community and are held to account for their offending and subsequent actions so they are safely reintegrated within the community. CoSA work with the highest risk sex offenders identified via MAPPA. There has been an active number of CoSAs running across Dorset for several years now with very positive results for communities, the volunteers and the offenders.

Every referral to CoSA is fully discussed with the MAPPA co-ordinator, who works closely with the CoSA co-ordinator. In Dorset the CoSA co-ordinator is a probation Officer seconded into CoSA from Dorset NPS All referrals to CoSA in Dorset must first be agreed with the MAPPA co-ordinator, working on behalf of Dorset MAPPA SMB. All offenders who received a CoSA have a Police Offender Supervisor and the majority also have a NPS Offender Manager. They will be actively involved with review meetings.

### [CoSA case study](#)

Offender X: In December 2011, X was convicted of offences of downloading indecent images of children. X was sentenced to a Community Order with requirements to complete three years supervision and the Thames Valley Sex Offender programme. Following sentence and further assessment, he was not considered suitable for the Thames Valley Sex Offender Programme (TVSOP). Having been convicted in 2008 of contact offences against children, he was already subject to the Sex Offender Register.

X was assessed as posing a high risk of causing serious harm to children by the NPS and Police. He was assessed as lacking internal risk management skills and the following risk factors were identified: loneliness, boredom and emotional congruence with children. X was referred to CoSA by his NPS Offender Manager (OM), in May 2014 with the aim of reducing social isolation, building confidence and increasing access to support.

The focus of the Circles' work has been: introductions and building trust, establishing boundaries, motivational work to assist X in his quest for paid employment and to find appropriate social activities/groups to attend, social skills development so that he can build appropriate relationships with adults, relapse prevention and accountability. The CoSA share all information from group meetings with Police and NPS. This has really benefited the risk assessment and risk management process. The CoSA has had a very positive impact on X, the volunteers can see the difference that they are making and Police and NPS really value the contributions the CoSA has made to X, his ability to manage the risk he poses and relapse prevention.

For more information about CoSA, including information on how to become a volunteer, please

visit their website: [www.circles-uk.org.uk/local-projects/south-west-england](http://www.circles-uk.org.uk/local-projects/south-west-england)

## ViSOR

Dorset MAPPA is committed to maintaining and developing the excellent information sharing that takes place between the three agencies that make up the Responsible Authority – Police, NPS and Prisons. In recent years all three agencies have gained access to a shared national data base where minutes of all MAPPA meetings on offenders are stored. Dorset's commitment to developing the use of this database is reflected in the business plan which aims to increase the number of staff who are able to access this across Police, Probation and the Prisons.

## Victim Liaison Officers (VLO):

In Dorset we have one VLO, who is a very important member of the Dorset MAPPA team. She is employed by the NPS and is a qualified Probation Officer. We also link in with VLOs based around the country to ensure that the victims of all the offenders that we manage via Dorset MAPPA are fully represented at meetings.

## A few words from the Dorset VLO:

MAPPA is an over arching principle which is present throughout my work with victims and the Victim Contact Scheme. I provide NPS Offender Managers with recommendations for no contact conditions and exclusion zones. These conditions can be central to reducing perceived fear and further psychological harm to victims. I know that my work within MAPPA provides reassurance for most victims as they know that all agencies are working together. Victims are told that all agencies have the same information and work from the same risk management plan to ensure that victims are safe and the public is protected. Victims are also reassured knowing that their confidentiality is respected; MAPPA protects them and their information which further reduces psychological harm. The whole MAPPA process is a huge protective factor for victims; this includes current victims, previous victims and potential victims.

To demonstrate how working within MAPPA helps victims I contacted a victim where MAPPA has recently ended and discussed their experience. They started by saying, *'you were my voice which took the stress away from me'*. It is hard to overstate the importance of this comment when you consider the potentially stressful situation that victims find themselves in. Within the context of their contact with the VLO, the victim then said, *'I*

*feel I was lucky - I had one person from the start to the finish'*. They described the positive aspect of *'seeing the same face'* throughout the process and the consistency this gave them. They also appreciated not having to deal with numerous different people and the associated retelling of the same information. They compared this with other agencies they worked with where they described dealing with ten different people from the same department. They finished by talking about knowing which agency to contact in order to access specialist services - *'you gave me the practical advice I needed'*.

## The Lay Advisors:

During the course of 2014 – 2015 we have sadly said good-bye to one of our Lay Advisors, Gabrielle, who completed her second term in post. Dorset MAPPA SMB are very grateful to Gabrielle for the time and energy she contributed to ensuring MAPPA across Dorset is delivered to the highest possible standards to achieve safeguarding of the vulnerable, offender rehabilitation and public protection. We are currently requesting Ministerial approval for our existing Lay Advisor to continue in post for a second term. As a result of Gabrielle's departure we launched a campaign jointly with Avon and Somerset MAPPA, to recruit new Lay Advisors to Dorset. The campaign has now concluded and we are pleased to have been able to offer two members of the public, subject to Ministerial approval, the opportunity to be Lay Advisors within Dorset MAPPA.

Lay Advisors are members of the community, who by reflecting the views of the community, play a crucial role in MAPPA processes and express these views by attending the MAPPA SMB meetings. The Lay Advisors' feedback is a standing agenda item for Dorset SMB. Lay Advisors are volunteers and are not therefore paid for the time that they dedicate to MAPPA. Lay Advisors are not required to have formal qualifications, just strong interpersonal skills, a balanced and objective approach and a genuine interest in making a contribution to public safety and public protection.

Dorset Lay Advisors have always been very valued members of the MAPPA team. They have always played a very important role within the development of Dorset MAPPA, making significant contributions to the audit process by undertaking both case file audits and auditing MAPPA meetings.

## A few words from the Lay Advisor:

Richard has been a Lay Advisor for Dorset for 3 years, including the period 2014 – 2015. Richard says:

Lay Advisors observe all aspects of MAPPA and act as a critical friend.

Lay Advisers observe a number of MAPPA meetings each year, but as per MAPPA guidance we are not allowed to contribute. We are however able, and do, feedback to the Chairs our views on the performance of participating organisations, and the effectiveness of the Chair to maintain and keep to the agreed process. I imagine it can be quite disconcerting for the Chairs to have an independent person watching their performance but I consider this to be an essential and useful contribution. We also report back to the MAPPA co-ordinator and to the Senior Management Board (SMB) any concerns or compliments we may hold. This year I have had concerns about some organisations sending staff that do not carry enough authority to make effective decisions. This issue has since been addressed. I have also fed back compliments regarding the high quality of the Chairs in Dorset who hold a challenging process together.

When I started I found the delivery of MAPPA across Dorset to be effective and robust. As the three years has passed I have seen numerous staff changes in the contributing organisations but I consider the process remains robust and improved.

Dorset MAPPA SMB would like to thank both Gabrielle and Richard for important contributions over the past year.

## Dorset MAPPA Case Study

Dorset MAPPA recognise that the public are often frustrated by the sentences received by offenders who pose a high risk of serious harm. Many members of the public are also unaware that for the majority of violent offenders, at the end of their sentence period, Police and Probation have no statutory powers to work with them regardless of whether they continue to pose a risk of serious harm to the general public or known victims. Regardless of the statutory powers available, Dorset MAPPA manage offenders who continue to pose a risk of serious harm at the end of their sentence, where there continues to be multi agency involvement, as Category 3 offenders. It can be very difficult to actively manage the risk posed by Category 3 offenders as they do not have to work with the professionals involved.

Securing their compliance with the multi agency group and agreed risk management plan is very much reliant on the skills of the professionals involved to work closely together and motivate the offender to engage. In some cases the most the multi agency group can achieve is close monitoring and good information sharing. This can in turn lead to potential victim(s) being identified before an offence has taken place and disclosure being agreed and/or steps taken to protect the identified person/group.

Offender Y is an example of a case managed by Dorset MAPPA firstly as a category 2 case and then as a category 3 case. Y was first referred to MAPPA for management via Level 3 arrangements in 2013. At that time he was subject to a 16 month prison sentence for non-MAPPA qualifying offences. He was also subject to a hospital order under s.37 of the mental health act 1983 for an offence of Robbery. The agencies involved with MAPPA were children's services across Dorset, learning disability services, adult social services, Police, Probation, mental health services and in the latter stages, the responsible local housing authority. Level 3 management was deemed necessary in the first instance due to the complex nature of the case and the need for senior management resourcing and over-sight. The case was moved to Level 2 after 6 months.

Y had a very long list of previous convictions for offences which demonstrated that he posed a risk of serious harm. As well as this, there had been several allegations over the years for a range of sex offences. Whilst none of these allegations led to conviction for sex offences (for reasons including the vulnerability of the victims and impact of Court proceedings), Y was considered to pose a risk of sexual harm. There were also allegations of domestic abuse, but no convictions. Taking into account all of the evidence available, including in-depth psychological assessments, Y was assessed by the MAPP group as posing a high risk of serious harm towards children, female with whom he was in a relationship and the public. The risk assessment was shared in full with Y.

After a period of time in a secure hospital and after his licence period had ended, Y applied for a mental health tribunal. Despite the reservations of the multi agency group, who assessed Y as posing a high risk of serious harm, the tribunal discharged him. The hospital unit, for the benefit of public protection agreed that Y could continue to reside with them and undertake treatment where willing, until appropriate accommodation could be secured. Y agreed to this on the understanding that demonstrating his ability to

comply with agencies would benefit the multi agency group's ability to secure an appropriate housing tenancy for him. The responsible local authority were invited into the MAPPA group and, working in line with the Dorset MAPPA housing protocol, they prioritised finding appropriate accommodation for Y in order to support the risk management plan and achieve public protection. Once accommodation was sourced the multi agency group undertook a full risk assessment and an appropriate behaviour contract was drawn up with Y to support him in maintaining his tenancy.

The MAPPA group worked together to ensure that when Y moved back into the community from the hospital environment, all victims and potential victims were fully protected and a robust risk management plan in place. This involved:

- The Police allocating a dedicated Offender Supervisor to the case. They took over from the NPS OM at the end of NPS's statutory involvement. Police also agreed to act as the lead agency when Y became a category 3 offender.
- Children's services across Dorset worked together in a co-ordinated manner to ensure that all identified children were fully protected. Children's services, with the support of the Police also worked with Y and his family who, whilst very supportive of him did not accept the risk assessment. Police and children's services worked with them so that Y and his family were aware of why restrictions were necessary with regards to children within the family and what he had to do in order for these restrictions to be reviewed. The family and Y were also fully aware of the consequences of failing to comply with the restrictions put in place by children's services.
- Learning disability services secured a robust package of support and monitoring for Y in the community. This included daily support to aid independent living. They also, with the agreement of the multi agency group and with agreed disclosure,

secured an appropriate voluntary placement.

- All agencies worked together to identify any potential victims and presented this in a timely manner for disclosure to be considered as part of the management process.

The multi agency group continued to meet with regards to Y every 12 weeks formally as a minimum to review the risk assessment and ensure the risk management plan was suitable, in line with any changes. The group would also meet informally where necessary. Whilst Y did not appreciate the intrusive nature of the multi agency group working together, significant the Police Offender Supervisor's support and monitoring role, as a result of the dedication and skill of the multi agency group staff to developing productive working relationships with Y and the motivational work they did with him, he remained engaged with the group. In 2015 the multi agency group were able to reduce the risk of serious harm assessment to medium and were also able to agree that there would be no further value to be added to continuing to manage the case via level 2 arrangements. Y was therefore deregistered. This was agreed on the basis that if there was any change which would negatively impact on risk, Y would be referred back for level 2 management.

This is the longest period during which Y has been in the community without reoffending. Y continues to do well post deregistration.

### Thank you:

Once again, we would like to thank all of the professionals working across the Responsible Authorities and the Duty to Co-operate agencies for their commitment to delivering MAPPA to a very high standard across Dorset for the purpose of achieving public protection.

**The MAPPA report for England and Wales is published online at:**

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