

Protecting **Essex**



Multi-Agency Public Protection in the county



Staff from agencies in every town work alongside their colleagues to achieve public safety.

The range of participants at each meeting is mirrored at the Strategic Management Board level. The SMB is responsible for the forward planning and governance of the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements in Essex.

The three Responsible Authorities: Probation, Police and Prisons, with the MAPPA Manager, are joined at SMB meetings by those agencies with a 'duty to co-operate':

- **Children Services: Essex, Southend, Thurrock**
- **Essex Housing Officers Group**
- **Job Centre Plus**
- **Mental Health Trusts**
- **Victim Support**
- **Youth Offending Services**

Representatives from other non-listed agencies will also be invited where their contribution to the management plan will enhance safety.



Foreword: the Responsible Authorities

We are pleased to report another effective year for the multi-agency public protection arrangements, MAPPA. The arrangements continue to demonstrate how well partners in the criminal justice system – led by police, prisons and probation – can work together to reduce the risk to the public posed by sexual and violent offenders.

Important in this process are the monthly meetings across Essex which plan for that smaller group of offenders who are assessed as posing a higher risk and need to be managed jointly by the agencies signed up to MAPPA. Drawing up detailed plans, with tasks allocated to individual staff, sharing them with those who are in the best position to protect potential victims and the public, subsequently checking on progress and assigning more tasks, involves time, energy and commitment over many months and sometimes years. Encouragingly, in 2009-10, not one of the offenders jointly managed in this way through MAPPA committed a further serious offence. While this extends the record of excellence that we have been able to report in previous years, logic tells us that offenders remain at risk of re-offending. We will continue to harness the enthusiasm and commitment of our staff to keep this risk to a minimum and ensure that public safety remains our priority.



Mary Archer
Chief Executive
Essex Probation



Jim Barker-McCardle
Chief
Constable



Rob Davis
Governor
HMP & YO1
Chelmsford

Grave offences against his partner: 10 years imprisonment

MAPPA plans to protect the victim and potentially others

Offence: rape, abduction and physical assault of his partner.

Miss A had left their shared address, wanting to end their year-old relationship. Mr. S found her hiding in her mother's house, struck her with a piece of wood, forced her to pack a bag of items, dragged her into his car and drove to his home. When she tried to escape, he punched her around the face. Once in the house the assault continued and culminated in rape. Miss A was only 17 years of age at the time of the assault, some 20 years younger than her assailant. It later transpired that he had assaulted her on many occasions.

In the months leading to his release, the case of Mr S was referred to MAPPA. A plan was needed to manage his return to the community. While in prison he had successfully completed a number of programmes, including the Sex Offender Treatment Programme. It was possible that

this work was leading to a change of attitude towards the victim and to his own behaviour. As a result both the Offender Manager in the community and the Offender Supervisor in the Prison were recommending release on his Parole Eligibility date.

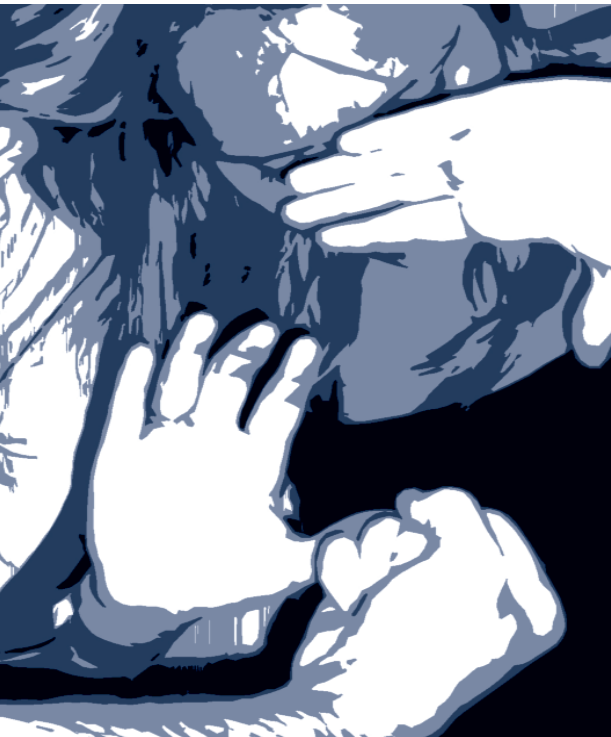
Help for Victim

Probation's Victim Contact Unit had remained in touch with Miss A during this time. Through them, she was able to request conditions to be added to his licence: that he should not contact her and that he would be excluded from entering the town where she lived.

Concerns

Of concern to MAPPA agencies was that while in prison Mr. S had started a new relationship with another young woman, Ms. T, who had a 12 year old son. As part of his release plans, she was offering him a home. The address was obviously unsuitable:

- It was within the proposed exclusion area.
- It was not known whether she was aware of his offences and the potential risk he posed.
- It was not known whether Mr S posed a general risk to children.





MAPPA had additional factors to consider in this case:

- Disclosure of offences to a new partner.
- Domestic violence
- Child protection: concerns in relation to the new partner's son.
- Ensuring no contact with previous victim and maintaining an exclusion zone around her home.
- Accommodation issues because of exclusion zone.

MAPPA plans

Immediate actions were planned: The results would feed into the Parole Board's decisions about release.

- The Police would visit Ms. T to establish what she knew about Mr. S, and undertake a full disclosure of his offending on the basis that he posed a risk to women, particularly when in a relationship.
- The Offender Manager would advise Mr. S that he would not be allowed to live at Ms.T's address.
- Children's Service agreed to undertake a full assessment as to whether Mr. S posed a risk to the son.

Actions

Police Officers from the Public Protection Unit found that Ms. T had full knowledge of the offences and that he had disclosed all the details to her. She had been visiting Mr. S in prison during most of his sentence, sometimes accompanied by her son, although he was apparently unaware of the offences. Ms. T was told that Mr. S would not be allowed to live at the address for the duration of his licence: not only because of the exclusion zone, but Children's Services considered it inappropriate for the son to live in the same house. They required a more in-depth assessment following his release.

Safer address found

Probation secured a place for Mr. S at a specialist hostel. The Parole Board, having considered the MAPPA actions, were of the view that he could be managed safely in the community.

Regular checks

Mr. S was released from prison in January 2008 and in the months that followed, his case was regularly reviewed at Level 2 MAPPA meetings. Children's Services continued with their assessment and subsequently concluded that he posed no risk to the son (now 14) and that there could be no objection to him living in the same household.

Moves on

Five months after his release, Mr. S moved out of the Approved Premises into independent accommodation. The relationship with Ms T had continued throughout, despite not being able to visit her in the exclusion zone.

Probation's work continues

The Probation Service continued their work with Mr. S right through the Licence period. He attended their Thames Valley Sex Offender Treatment Programme. As agreed with Children's Services as part of their assessment, Ms. T attended the Partners Programme provided by Probation, to give her the necessary insight into his behaviour.

Police visits

With the expiry of the licence, contact with Probation has ceased, but as a Registered Sexual Offender Mr. S will be subject to visits from the Police Public Protection Unit indefinitely. He remains in a relationship with Ms. T and they have since moved away from the area where the assault on Miss A took place.

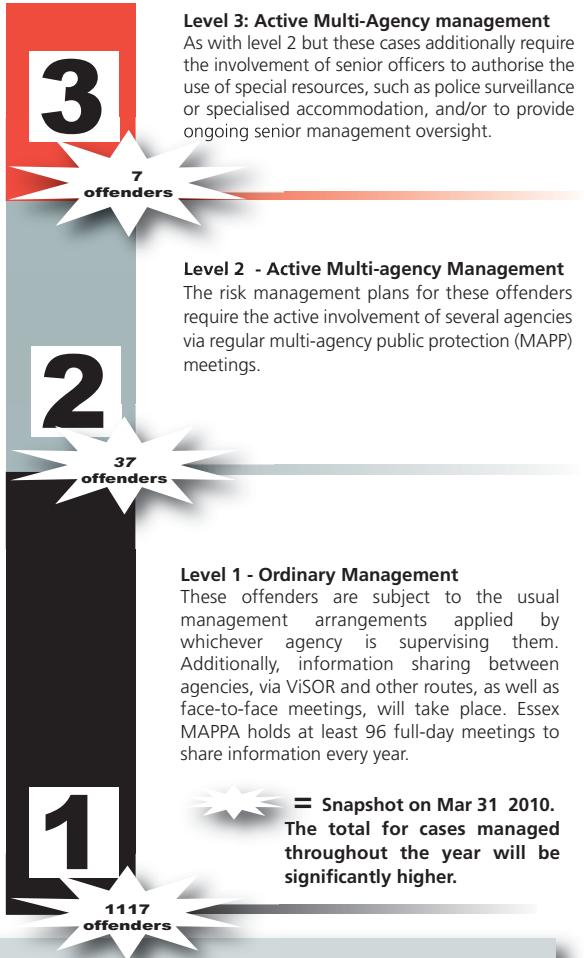
What Risk?

Assessing risk determines whether offenders are managed at level 1, 2 or 3

The few most dangerous offenders receive the greatest degree of scrutiny and oversight.

If any MAPPAs offender's risk increases, they will be managed at a higher level. Reducing risk sees them at a lower level of management.

Such flexibility is possible with the continual oversight and discussion provided by the MAPPAs process.



Levels 1,2 and 3 in Essex

The main thrust of Essex MAPPAs is the use of the Level One Information Exchange meeting. It is a tried and tested method of managing the risk of a high volume of Essex offenders.

Of the 877 MAPPAs referrals this year, every case was discussed at a Level One Information Exchange Meeting at least once, but the vast majority on many other occasions. These are managed by one agency.

After discussion, some will be designated as Level Two offenders, which will entail further planning between the agencies to manage

the risk they pose, and regular reporting back on work completed, with exchanges of up-to-date information. While a large number of offenders were discussed at this level during the year, the majority were eventually managed at Level One, with good agency liaison.

Other offenders - a tiny proportion - were discussed at the highest level or risk, Level Three, during the year. Some were convicted of sexual offences, some of other forms of violence. By the end of the year, the snapshot shows 7 at this level.

HOW IT WORKS

- MAPPA are a set of arrangements to manage the risk posed by certain sexual and violent offenders. They bring together the Police, Probation and Prison Services in Essex into what is known as the MAPPA Responsible Authority.

- A number of other agencies are under a duty to cooperate with the Responsible Authority. These include: children's services, adult social services, health trusts and authorities, youth offending teams, local housing authorities and certain registered social landlords, Jobcentre Plus, and electronic monitoring providers.

The purposes of MAPPA are:

- to ensure more comprehensive risk assessments are completed, taking advantage of co-ordinated information sharing across the agencies; and
- to direct the available resources to best protect the public from serious harm.

The MAPP Arrangements manage the risk posed by certain sexual and violent offenders.

WHAT HAPPENS

Offenders eligible for MAPPA are identified and information is gathered/shared about them across relevant agencies. The nature and level of the risk of harm they pose is assessed and a risk management plan is implemented to protect the public.

In most cases, the offender will be managed under the ordinary arrangements applied by the agency or agencies with supervisory responsibility. A number of offenders, though, require active multi-agency management and their risk management plans will be formulated and monitored via MAPP meetings attended by various agencies.

For further information, explanation, or to relate any concerns, contact Essex MAPPA 01245 452767



WHO ARE THE MAPPA OFFENDERS

Registered sexual offenders (Category 1) - sexual offenders who are required to notify the police of their name, address and other personal details and notify any changes subsequently.

Violent offenders (Category 2) – offenders sentenced to imprisonment/detention for 12 months or more, or detained under hospital orders. This category also includes a small number of sexual offenders who do not qualify for registration and offenders disqualified from working with children.

Other Dangerous Offenders (Category 3) – offenders who do not qualify under categories 1 or 2 but who currently pose a risk of serious harm; there is a link between the offending and the risk posed, and they require active multi-agency management.

Indecent assault : lengthy imprisonment, then other complications



Historical offences present MAPPA with additional issues: finding the right accommodation for elderly sexual offenders so that risk can be properly managed

PG received his sentence for offences against two young girls who were aged 10 and 14 at the start of the abuse. The grooming of these girls was so complete that they did not disclose anything, even to their mother.

The offences were revealed when Police executed a search warrant at PG's address following information that he was abstracting electricity – during the course of the search a camcorder was discovered which he had used to film the abuse carried out on the children.

Mr G was released on licence in June 2008 after MAPPA planning, but was arrested again in August of that year following a further historical allegation of abuse against other victims. As a result of these allegations, Probation recalled him to prison. He subsequently appeared at the Crown Court, pleaded guilty to further offences against children and was sentenced to 3 years imprisonment to run consecutively to the previous sentence of 8 years.

Health issues become prominent

In the months leading to Mr G's planned release date in 2010 a number of Level 2 MAPPA meetings were held in order to agree a risk management plan for his re-integration into the community. One of the key issues related to finding somewhere to live which would be suitable for a man of his age and his previous convictions. Initially plans were made for him to stay in Probation Approved Premises. However as his release date approached it was apparent that his physical and mental health had deteriorated to such an extent that more specialist accommodation, linked to his health care requirements, would be needed.

New considerations for MAPPA?

In the event Mr G collapsed in prison just as he was due for release and had to be transferred to hospital. At this late stage MAPPA had to engage with a number of additional agencies in order to find appropriate housing and to identify a continuing funding source to maintain him in accommodation which would keep the public safe and allow for continuing police monitoring.

Press-ing expectations...

The Media are right to champion public interest and keep an eye on the agencies who are there to manage dangerousness, says Allan Taplin, MAPPA Manager for Essex. It is in all our interests that MAPPA is held to account each year. And Essex MAPPA is rightly proud of its record so far, he says, with 9 years of work, and over 5000 referrals and 2 serious further offences amongst those who are jointly managed in this way. However, common sense tells us that even where good work is done, cases will go wrong, says Allan, and when they do, the nature of the case will often lead to major headlines. Workers in all the MAPPA agencies have to manage that tension as part of the job.

A sample of press comment demonstrates a common preoccupation: numbers of sexual offenders, and the perceived threats they pose.

Slowly rising numbers don't tell us much, says the MAPPA Manager. They are cumulative year on year, showing that more have been caught. They give little indication of risk.

25 sex offenders sent back to jail

TWENTY-FIVE registered sex offenders, including three in the most serious category, have been sent back to prison in the last 12 months for breaching the terms of their licences.

Another 11 violent criminals were also returned to jail for breaching the terms of their licence. The terms of their licence are broken by judges in magistrates' courts or by the Home Office.

But convicted crooks, including rapists, paedophiles and violent criminals living in Essex, did not commit further serious offences during the past 12 months.

News of a report, released by the Multi Agency Public

By GINA MARDEN
Crime reporter
gina.marden@essex.gov.uk

Protection - Arrangements showed there is room for improvement.

The agency is made up of police, probation and prison services responsible for monitoring serious offenders released from prison.

However, Det Chief Insp Paul Johnson, of Essex Police's public protection unit, said the agencies didn't always assess offenders had committed crimes or targeted victims.

He explained: "We don't have to commit an offence to breach a prevention order."

"If an offender is seen to be a heightened risk because of their

behaviour then action can be taken, resulting in an order. It's always easier to monitor them."

The example of an offender who did not offend in parks due to the terms of their order and they were a public risk, they said be sent back to jail.

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Of those 216 registered sex offenders, compared with 150 last year, 10 were violent criminals and 19 are classed as "dangerous".

The agency is monitoring 16, including seven sex offenders and three violent offenders, which are considered to be the most dangerous and at highest risk of re-offending.

Bail hostel 'is managed well'

OFFICIALS from the agency insist staff are managing offenders well at the Redwood Hall Hostel, Pitsea, despite the facility making unwanted headlines.

Last month a resident was arrested after allegedly hitting roof tiles and scaffolding poles in a five-hour media protest.

Months later two thieves, including Archie 28, and David Cunniff, 30, were sentenced to 18 months for targeting a severely disabled pensioner at her home

in Church Park Road, Pitsea. The pair were living at the hostel, after being released on licence for similar offences.

Most notably, convicted rapist Gary Griffin had been out of jail 12 days after serving a five-year sentence for raping a teenage woman by truck again.

Griffin, who was living at the hostel, raped a woman in nearby Northlands Park in May 2006. He was jailed for 12 years.

Essex agency manager Adam

Thompson said: "I wouldn't agree offenders at Redwood aren't being managed well."

"The fact some what we would do without premises like hostels, it would be a big problem because we wouldn't know where these offenders were."

Robin Brennan of the Essex Probation Service said he only commented the recent incidents at the hostel's 30-year history.

South hosts most sex offenders

TOWNS in south Essex have the country's highest number of registered sex offenders living in the community.

Basildon said Thurrock has 177 cases and recently reported from rapists and paedophiles to

people who habitually expose themselves. The figure is a slight rise on the 173 living in both towns the previous year.

In Southend, Charlie Poirer and Nicolas, the towns have the second highest number at 171.

There are 130 registered sex offenders in the Chelmsford, Braintree, Tiptree and Witham areas, followed by 147 in the eastern policing division which covers Colchester, Harwich, PT200 and Clacton.

What is MAPPA?

- MAPPA was introduced in 2001 to bring together the police, probation and prison services into what is known as the MAPPA Responsible Authority.
- MAPPA is a nationwide organisation, but split into different areas.
- Each area produces an annual report that details performance, statistics etc.
- There are four key features within MAPPA: identifying offenders, sharing information, assessing the risks posed by offenders and managing the risk posed by offenders.

Who do they deal with?

- MAPPA deals with offenders convicted of violent and/or sexual offences.
- Offenders are categorised into three levels:
- Level One: The Lowest Risk - Offenders are subject to usual management arrangements applied by appropriate agencies.
- Level Two: Active Multi-



20-OPERATION: MAPPA manager Allan Taplin, Robin Brennan from the Probation Service, DCI Paul Johnson from Essex Police, and David O'Neill from the Prison Service in charge of Public Protection.

by Karen Davis.

THE combined efforts of various agencies across Essex have achieved pleasing results in protecting the public against the risk of serious attacks by repeat offenders.

production, police and prison services), just two have seriously reoffended.

MAPPA manager, Allan Taplin, put the result down to excellent teamwork and communication between agencies, and commented: "Offenders are



Essex has 700 sex offenders

PUBLIC REASSURED: None reoffended in year

By Betty Aspinall

Johns, of Essex's central and northern divisions, said: "The fact that we have had no reoffenders in a year is a very good result. It shows that our management of offenders is working well."

He said: "People tend to think that the rate for re-offenders - especially sexual offence cases - is much higher than it actually is."

"It is by working together and sharing information that we can keep the public safe."

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"It is by working together and sharing information that we can keep the public safe."

The Right to Ask:

The scheme that provides members of the public with the right to ask for information on anyone having unsupervised access to a specified child or children where they have a serious concern. What are the constraints around this, and who would receive the information?

The Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 placed a statutory duty on MAPPA Responsible Authorities to consider disclosure where there was reasonable cause to believe that a child sex offender posed a risk of serious harm to a child. After twelve-month trials in four other counties, Essex set up the Right to Ask scheme in August 2010. A member of the public can contact Essex Police by either telephoning the non-emergency telephone number 0300 333 4444 or visiting their local police station and requesting to make a Right To Ask enquiry.



How it works

- The police take initial details from the person making the enquiry on the subject, the child and their concerns. Initial checks are carried out within 24 hours on local police systems to ensure that the subject of the enquiry does not present an immediate risk of harm.
- A visit is made to the person making the enquiry, to verify who they are, their relationship with the subject and with the child, and to gain further details of their concerns. A decision is taken whether there is information to disclose.
- An example: a grandmother has concerns about the new partner of her daughter, and whether he poses a risk to her two grandchildren. She has a 'right to ask' if this is the case. After checks on the man in question and a risk assessment of any information held, disclosure would be made to the person best placed to safeguard the child at risk. In this case, the information would not be disclosed to the grandmother, but to the mother of the child, would be visited to advise her about the risk posed by the man concerned.

Since the launch date in Essex there have been 18 enquiries, 2 of which were not appropriate under the scheme. 14 produced no information that suggested a risk of sexual harm to a child. In 2 cases, disclosures were made to the parents to enable them to make arrangements to safeguard their child.

MAPPRA INTERACTIVE - GOING PUBLIC

Over the last 18 months, MAPPRA agencies have made a major contribution to Essex Probation's interactive show which allows the public to experience for themselves the work that goes on regularly to cut crime and protect the public. Appearing in every major Essex town, The Probation Experience brought alive the issues, the decisions, and the practicalities, none more so than in the work of MAPPRA.



Members of the public were encouraged to sit at the table with key MAPPRA contributors, and test the decision-making which enhances safety and manages offenders who pose a risk to victims of sexual and other violence.



Harrasment, violence on two women. Could he be stopped?



A Domestic Violence perpetrator, PP had been convicted of harassment against his partner twice before. The first sentence, a conditional discharge, and the second, a short term of imprisonment, gave Probation no remit to work with him. His third conviction and sentence resulted in an 18-month prison sentence and a 5-year restraining order. MAPPA was involved in planning for his release.

The first MAPPA meeting established that Probation's Victim contact Unit had already met his victim. She wanted to request conditions adding to his Licence on release, that he had no contact with her and was excluded from the area where she lived. The Restraining Order would also afford additional protection well beyond the Licence period of nine months.

A previous partner

Prison staff informed the MAPPA agencies that he had just made contact with a previous partner, LL, with whom he had a child, and was intending to resume his relationship with her on release.

Previous violence

The Police Domestic Violence Liaison Officer was able to add further information: he

had a history of domestic violence with her too.

Victims workers from both Probation and Police would visit her to check out the situation: did she know of his domestic abuse on his current partner, and was he now harassing LL.

Other restraints needed

When seen, she made it clear that she had told PP she had no intention of re-kindling their relationship. He was not accepting of this, however. LL readily agreed to a Licence condition not to contact her. She was prepared for him to see their daughter, if this could be well managed and supervised.

Conditions explained

A month before his release, Probation arranged to visit PP and to make explicit the con-

ditions attached to his Licence: no contact with either ex-partner and he was excluded from going anywhere near where they lived. Any contact with his daughter had to be through the family court. PP would be living outside Essex in a specialised hostel for at least three months. He also would have to inform his Offender Manager in Probation of any new relationship: MAPPA would then consider disclosing details of his previous behaviour to the new partner.

Poor reaction

PP's negative reaction to these conditions gave indications that he would fail to comply. He was released to the hostel, and as well as the regular night curfew, additional curfews and reporting-in

times were added to reduce his opportunity for a surreptitious return to Essex and either of his ex-partners. As extra protection, the Police DVLO arranged for 'panic alarms' to be installed in both homes. The police would respond immediately should he return.

Change of target

In the period following his release, PP had extreme difficulty in accepting that LH did not want to re-establish their relationship. His attention turned completely away from his current victim and it looked like LL and their daughter were to be the new target.

Decision needed

MAPPA planners knew PP's probation supervision on licence was to last for 9 months only. He would need to be tested in the community, but while he remained in the

hostel there was less concern about his victims. What was the best time for him to move?

Intensive work necessary

He was fast-tracked onto Probation's Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme, combined with some very intensive one-to-one work with his Offender Manager. Over the following months, the IDAP tutors and the Offender Manager reported a gradual change in PP's entrenched attitude towards women, and an increasing empathy towards his victims.

Reducing risk

This good start enabled the OM to gradually reduce his curfew restrictions. By the time he was ready to leave the hostel, the only one remaining was the standard night curfew. Both Police and Probation victim officers remained in contact with the two women.

He had not infringed the non-contact requirements. Four months after his release, he was allowed to move back to Essex, having been assisted by Probation to find suitable accommodation. He was made aware that during the five months remaining of his Licence, Probation would recall him to prison should he breach any of its conditions.

Good progress

PP continued to work well, remaining compliant and making progress. He was allowed contact with his daughter through the family court, with no negative issues for his victims.

In the nine months since his Licence ended, there have been no further reported incidents.



The work done in Essex this year

Number of MAPPA eligible offenders at 31 March 2010:	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Category 1: Registered Sexual Offenders	806	14	4	824
Category 2: Violent offenders	311	16	3	330
Category 3: Other dangerous offenders	-	7	-	7

Enforcement for 'MAPP' offenders

Returned to custody for breach of Licence		Sent to custody for breach of Sexual Offences Prevention Order	
Level 2	31	Level 2	0
Level 3	5	Level 3	0
Total	36	Total	0

Registered Sex Offenders in:

South Eastern Police Division:	199
South Western Police Division:	196
Central Police Division:	179
Eastern Police Division:	154
Western Police Division:	96

Registered Sexual Offenders cautioned or convicted for breach of notification requirements

56

Total number of registered sexual offenders in Essex per 100,000 head of population *

54

*This figure has been calculated using the 2009 Mid-Year Population Estimate published by the Office for National Statistics on 24 June 2010, excluding those aged less than ten years of age. It is not directly comparable to figures published in previous years.

Sexual Offences Prevention Orders

Applied for	14
Interim Order issued	1
Full Order issued	69 (most now given at point of conviction)

Notification Orders

Applied for	1
Interim Order issued	0
Full Order issued	1

Foreign Travel Orders

Applied for	0
Interim Order issued	0
Full Order issued	0

Making sense of the numbers

- The number of RSOs increases year on year - it has accumulated since the requirement for sexual offenders to register with the police was first introduced in 1997.

- The registration period for offenders is governed by the sentence imposed at court and any offender who is sentenced to 30 months imprisonment or longer is subject to an indefinite period on the register. Currently that means for the rest of their life. An increasing number of offenders are being given this length of sentence, thus the number of registered offenders will increase year on year.

- Adult Offenders will be on the Register for a period of 5,

7, 10 years or indefinitely (as above) in accordance with the sentence imposed.

The Minister visits



The MAPPA agencies contribute to a discussion with Prisons and Probation Minister Crispin Blunt during his recent visit to Essex.

- In the past 12 months the Essex Police On-Line Investigation Team (POLIT) has been working in close liaison with the Child Exploitation Online Project (CEOP) to identify offenders in Essex who have been accessing child pornography on the internet. This has led to an increasing number of successful prosecutions for this offence.

- The average figure across the UK for 2008/09 was 67.19 per 100,000 population compared with the Essex figure of 49.25. For this year, despite a change in the way these figures are calculated, the numbers for Essex will prove to be well below the average and one of the lowest figures in the UK.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY:

Breach of Licence

Offenders released into the community following a period of imprisonment of 12 months or more will be subject to a licence with conditions (under probation supervision). If these conditions are not complied with, (they can exclude the offender from particular areas, require certain kinds of behaviour, prevent other activities) breach action is taken and the offender may be recalled to prison. Intelligence gleaned by the police can be shared through MAPPA and can inform Probation's decision to recall.

Serious further offence (SFO)

Any sexual or violent offence which carries a maximum penalty of 14 years' imprisonment or more. All MAPPAs across the country are reporting not only the number of actively MAPPA managed offenders so charged, but also on the outcome of the case. In Essex there are none.

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, even though no offence has been proved. The full order lasts for a minimum of 5 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 5 years' imprisonment.

Notification Order

Requires sexual offenders who have been convicted overseas to register with police, in order to protect the public in the UK from the risks that they pose. Police may apply to the court for the order in relation to offenders in or intending to come to the UK.

Foreign Travel Order

Prevents offenders with convictions for sexual offences against children from travelling abroad where it is necessary to do so to protect children from the risk of sexual harm.



Still aiming to deliver - cuts or no cuts

says Lay Advisor John Downing

The Responsible Authority appoints lay advisors to sit on MAPPA's Strategic Management Board. They act as independent yet informed observers, bringing to the SMB their understanding and perspective of the local community – where they must reside or have strong links. We are grateful to John, pictured (r) with Allan Taplin, Essex MAPPA Manager and his deputy, Peter Rate, (l). John's commitment helps to ensure that MAPP work protects the community he represents.

“ This has been another very consistent year in the delivery of MAPPA throughout Essex. The reported performance shows that we have not been troubled by serious further offences by those offenders regularly known to us in the MAPPA arena. I consider that the tremendous effort and hard work by all the agencies in delivering offender management plans should be applauded when we can demonstrate that we have protected the public in this way.

During the year there have been several changes of senior personnel on the Strategic Management Board and it is pleasing to note that the MAPPA strategy in Essex has continued in a seamless manner, indicating I believe, the strength of the organisation.

Looking to the future, one has to have concerns about the economic environment in which all the MAPPA agencies will be operating. However, I am confident that whatever challenges arise, with the commitment we have we will continue to deliver the MAPPA process in our usual professional way. ”

From the Director of Offender Management, East of England

MAPPA lies at the heart of what the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) does, and during 2009-10 as a region we focused on four key areas. These were: promoting and giving priority to safeguarding children; implementing the recommendations from the external investigation into the London case of Dano Sonnex; further developing the victim focus of MAPPA work where necessary; achieving greater prison involvement in MAPPA work. I took an active interest in the developments of MAPPA, and I very much welcomed the continued commitment of MAPPA Strategic Management Boards (SMBs) to ensure effective information exchange and joint risk management of cases where the risk of serious further offending was high and valued the work of the regional public protection group chaired by Probation.

Given the new economic and political climate, local multi-agency collaboration makes more sense than ever before. I shall do all I can to ensure the relevant agencies are empowered to play a full part in MAPPA, and I will be looking for models of good practice in this endeavour locally. My regional focus for the coming year will be to develop the capacity to conduct independent and effective serious case reviews to assist all MAPPA partners in learning lessons; continue to embed ViSOR into routine probation and prison operations; work to ensure the MAPPA processes continue to facilitate the commitment of the necessary expertise and resources across all agencies.

Trevor Williams