



Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements in Lancashire

2009 - 2010

Keeping Lancashire safe by managing the most serious sexual and violent offenders

Everyone who works within criminal justice in Lancashire is determined to protect people from the potentially dangerous offenders who are being supervised in the community.

Addressing our top priority of keeping Lancashire safe means that offenders who commit the most serious sexual and violent crimes must be managed using specific procedures.

These procedures are known as MAPP, or Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements and are the processes through which the Police, Probation and Prison Services work together with other agencies to protect the public. All Criminal Justice staff must have a knowledge and understanding of MAPP as everyone in these organisations has a role to fulfil.

Whenever possible, once prisoners have completed their prison sentence they are resettled in the community. We work closely with offenders to ensure they gain access to help and support to tackle their criminal behaviour, which might be providing help with finding accommodation, assisting with employment or offering treatment for drug, alcohol or mental health problems.

But this also means imposing tough controls which may involve curfews, electronic monitoring, compulsory attendance at rehabilitation programmes etc. Behaviour is rigorously monitored and if it gives cause for concern, the offender can - and usually is - returned to prison.

At the same time our processes ensure we deliver quality services to victims to help them through the traumatic and potentially devastating effect violent or sexual crime has had on their lives.

We regard all cases extremely seriously and work hard to eliminate any risks posed. The system is not flawless and there is always the risk that some of those individuals may re-offend. However, Lancashire maintains its impressive record in reducing this risk, and by working together we are developing new approaches to our arrangements which will make the streets of Lancashire even safer.

Violent and sexual offending is a sensitive issue which understandably provokes strong emotions and fear. This annual report is aimed at informing you of the facts and processes and sets out how the agencies work together to protect you and your family. It includes details of real cases to explain how the arrangements are working.

The three main agencies that operate MAPP are Lancashire Probation Trust, Lancashire Constabulary and Her Majesty's Prison Service, and the success of the arrangements rely on the agencies working together.

To find out more about the role of each of the agencies within MAPP and our plans for the year ahead, visit the Safer Lancashire website at: www.saferlancashire.co.uk/mappa

Our partners...



Inside this year's issue...

What is MAPP and how does it work? 2

What is the role of the Strategic Management Board? 4 Who are the MAPP-eligible offenders? 5 What about the victims? 6

Everyone has a role to play 7 How is MAPP co-ordinated? 9

Statistics 10 explanation of statistics

11 FAQs 12



What is MAPPA and how does it work?

What is MAPPA?

- 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 Lancashire into what is known as the MAPPA Responsible Authority.
- A number of other agencies are under a duty to co-operate 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.

How does MAPPA work?

- 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.

What the probation service do

The duty of Lancashire Probation Trust is to protect the public by assessing each offender's level of risk. If the offender is deemed a threat to society, they are managed throughout the course of their sentence. This includes working with offenders who are subject to community orders or who receive custodial sentences of more than 12 months.

Lancashire Probation Trust provides appropriate management for each offender using a number of tools. It also provides reports to the courts to help judges and magistrates make their sentencing decisions. Those offenders deemed to be likely to cause the most harm to the public will be closely supervised to try and reduce the risk and some may even be required to live with a greater level of supervision in Approved Premises. Formerly known as bail and/ or probation hostels, they provide a greater degree of supervision for offenders than is possible in other forms of housing.

No system of assessment or sentence management is flawless as it is never possible to eliminate risk entirely. So, despite best efforts, there will be times when an offender subject to supervision will re-offend. However, the majority of offenders do not re-offend and very few commit serious or harmful further offences.

What the police do

MAPPA is central to Lancashire Constabulary's ability to work in partnership to manage and reduce the risk posed by offenders living within our communities.

Detective Superintendent Ian Critchley is Head of Public Protection at Lancashire Constabulary. This department leads the Constabulary's operations to manage violent and sexual offenders, and a full time MAPPA Coordinator works from within these offices.

He said: "Sometimes no matter what is put in place, individuals go on to offend. It is essential that lessons are learned, and on the occasions where serious further offences are committed this may lead to a Serious Case Review being undertaken.

"The success of MAPPA in Lancashire is down to our ability to work effectively in partnership both locally and at a strategic level – it is also down to the leadership of MAPPA Chairs in making critical and timely decisions. It is therefore essential that we continue to build on the success of our current arrangements in order to most effectively protect the communities of Lancashire."

What the prison service do

Prisons work closely with police and probation colleagues and the Prison Service is a key agency within MAPPA, ensuring arrangements are in place to assess and manage the risks posed by offenders subject to MAPPA in prisons.

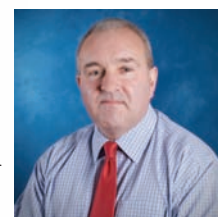
The management of high-risk offenders in custody, the gathering and sharing of relevant information with partner agencies, and participation in MAPPA is of great importance to the MAPPA process. Prisons are responsible for ensuring all relevant agencies are aware of discharge arrangements, especially any unexpected changes in release dates.

Regional Custodial Services Manager, Alan Scott said, "Significant progress has been made in 2009/10 in the way prisons contribute to the efforts to protect the public in Lancashire, including better information sharing between agencies and the commencement of an innovative pilot aiming to further improve information flow about the most high risk offenders.

I look forward to building on the success and achievements in partnership working to protect the public in Lancashire."



Robert Mathers
Chief Executive
of Probation



Alan Scott
Regional Custodial
Services Manager



Steve Finnigan
Chief Constable

case study

Safeguarding vulnerable people

Offender A was living in a specialist housing unit for high risk offenders following his release from prison. The entrance to the complex was controlled using a key fob, which Offender A was given following a period of stability to allow him access to the building.

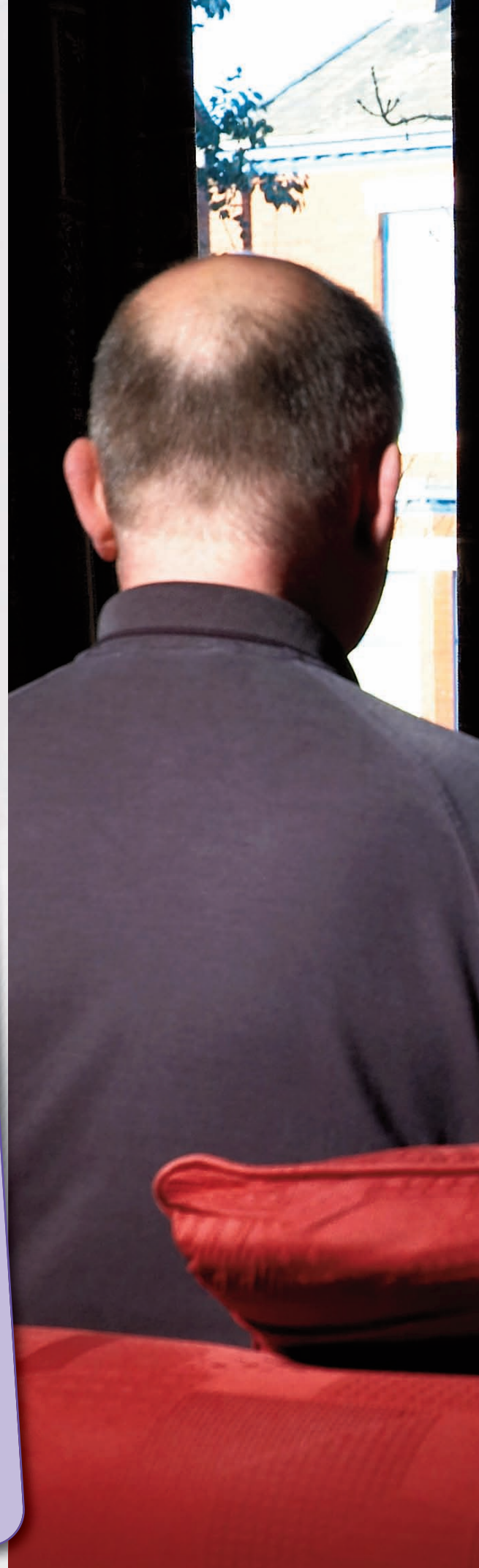
He had served a 10 year prison sentence after being convicted of nine offences of rape, and two offences of allowing his premises to be used for sexual intercourse by a female under the age of 16.

After some time, concerns were escalated in relation to Offender A's behaviour, which included issues such as grooming other residents to gain access to their children and grandchildren, not being honest with Probation and no consistency with his information. He also was associating with other known sex offenders and residents complained about seeing him half-naked through his window. In addition he also encouraged another resident who has learning difficulties to smoke in the lobby when there is a non-smoking policy at the unit.

Lancashire Probation Trust raised a safeguarding alert to adult and community services. Offender A had his key fob removed and could not get access to the most vulnerable residents at the unit. Residents who had been groomed by Offender A had been informed of his criminal history and Children and Family Services had stopped children staying with the people who had been groomed. The unit advised that all measures were being taken to keep Offender A from the other residents. The two residents who had been groomed by Offender A declined input from Adult social services but remained involved with children and family services.

The unit manager explained that the resident with learning difficulties had met Offender A on the corridor and had a discussion about smoking but this had gone no further. Police were not concerned for this resident.

In the meantime, the risks surrounding Offender A's behaviour were increasing and intelligence was received that he was travelling away from the unit. Although he had not committed an offence, his licence conditions were re-enforced to him as to what he can and can't do by Lancashire Probation Trust and police systems had also been in place as to his whereabouts. The issues surrounding his compliance with these conditions continued, and as a result Lancashire Probation Trust acted swiftly to re-call him to prison.



What is the role of the Strategic Management Board?

Senior representatives of each of the agencies involved in MAPPAs form a Strategic Management Board (SMB) which meets at least quarterly to monitor the arrangements and direct any necessary improvements.

The board is currently chaired by Ian Phillips, Area Director for Public Protection for Lancashire Probation Trust. The SMB also measures effectiveness against national MAPPAs standards which ensures a common standard of effective public protection arrangements and that each of the agencies are playing a full part in MAPPAs.

The view of Chairman Ian Phillips.

Last year I mentioned the role of the Strategic Management Board (SMB) and in particular its responsibility in ensuring that all agencies are fully engaged in the MAPPAs process. The overall response from participating agencies has been positive and we have received a high level of support.

We are continuing to build our links with the accommodation sector.

Accommodation for high risk offenders is a vital part of any risk management plan.

Research indicates that stable accommodation is a major protective factor with regard to re-offending and it is also very important to know where an offender resides at any point in time. Due to the complexity of the accommodation sector, it is not easy for them to provide a truly representative member of their group. For this reason we have decided to convene a county-wide forum for accommodation providers which can then feed back to the SMB.

During this period we have seen a change of MAPPAs Co-ordinator. Our new co-ordinator, Ami Patel, has re-looked at our training programme and has already concentrated on providing skills training for MAPPAs Chairs, Secretaries, etc, as well as the usual round of briefings for other agencies. During the next period we intend to commission a large scale MAPPAs awareness training for operational staff in all the duty to co-operate and responsible agencies. There will be over 25 courses involving some 1000 staff members. All these training events will take place on a multi-agency basis and as well as ensuring that staff are aware of the MAPPAs process this will help to improve inter-agency relationships.

We have not had to undertake a Serious Case Review during the period, although the Serious Case Review Sub-Committee still meets and audits "near misses". This audit entails scrutinising MAPPAs minutes and ensuring that risk management plans reflect a high level of inter-agency co-operation and that all risk management plans are carried out as planned.

There has been one area of new development during the period. As well as managing violent and sexual offenders through the MAPPAs arrangements we will also now manage a number of offenders who have been sentenced under the Terrorist Act and who have been released on licence in the community. Due to the serious nature of the threats from domestic extremists, this is undoubtedly a highly appropriate use of the MAPPAs process.



Ian Phillips
Chair of the SMB

We are also including the management of persons who suffer from mental illness and/or severe personality disorder who pose a serious risk to the public and require a multi-agency management response.

It is my view that as time goes by we continue to improve and refine the MAPPAs process and strengthen the inter-agency working. All this will serve to ensure a high level of protection for the general public in Lancashire. It must always be remembered, however, that in the words of Andrew Bridges, the Chief Inspector of Probation, "It is not possible to eliminate risk but it is possible to ensure that people are doing their job properly."

Lay advisers

The Responsible Authority is required to appoint two lay advisers to sit on the Strategic Management Board. The lay advisers act as independent yet informed observers; able to post 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 or have strong links.

Lay advisers are non-paid members of the SMB, and attend at least four board meetings a year. They are not expected to become involved in the monitoring of dangerous offenders but rather to observe and question the arrangements in place for managing such people in the community.

They do not have any contact with the offenders.

Julie Sanderson is now reaching the end of six years as a MAPPAs Lay Adviser for Lancashire.

She said: "We are now looking for volunteers to become a Lay Adviser for Lancashire.

"If you have a few hours to spare I am sure you will find this a really interesting opportunity where you can truly make your opinions and those of the general public count.

"You will be a full member of the Strategic Management Board, giving you the chance to see at first hand how seriously public protection is taken within Lancashire and how efficiently it is undertaken. You will have opportunities to visit prisons, hostels and police establishments to gain a full understanding of the MAPPAs process, and sit in on meetings as an observer when decisions on individual offender management are made.

Lay Advisers are really the only constant members of the Strategic Management Board as most of the professionals around the table move roles on a regular basis. I am now the longest serving member and although as a lay member you are not expected to become an expert in the field.

"I have certainly learned a great deal and met some very interesting people. I have thoroughly enjoyed the role and hope I have made a small contribution towards ensuring that although the risk from a very small number of dangerous people cannot be completely removed, Lancashire tries its very best."

Who are MAPPA-eligible offenders?

There are 3 categories of offender eligible for MAPPA:

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

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.

How are they managed?

There are 3 levels at which offenders are managed which are based upon the level of multi-agency co-operation required to implement the risk management plan effectively. Offenders will be moved up and down levels as appropriate:

Level 1 Ordinary Management

These offenders are subject to the usual management arrangements applied by whichever agency is supervising them. But this does not rule out information sharing between agencies, via ViSOR and other routes.

Level 2 Active Multi-agency Management

The risk management plans for these offenders require the active involvement of several agencies via regular multi-agency public protection (MAPP) meetings.

Level 3 Active Multi-agency Management

As with level 2 but these cases additionally require the involvement of senior officers to authorise the use of special resources, such as police surveillance or specialised accommodation, and/or to provide ongoing senior management oversight.



What about the victims?

Lancashire Probation Trust employs a dedicated team of victim liaison officers who contact all victims of sexual or violent offences where a prison sentence of 12 months or more has been imposed.

Through these officers, victims are given the opportunity of receiving updates throughout the sentence and licence period and are able to make their views known.

The charitable organisation Victim Support, is a key member of the Strategic Management Board and provides advice to senior officers on how its work impacts on victims.

If you have been a victim of crime and need support, you can contact the Victim Support helpline on 0845 30 30 900 or email supportline@victimsupport.org.uk

Lancashire now has a dedicated Partnership called HELP to work with the families of victims of murder and manslaughter.

The loss of a loved one through murder or manslaughter is something which affects families for many years after the event. Those families need and deserve help to move them

out of victimhood and into some semblance of normality. This is not something that any one agency can achieve on their own. The aim of Homicide Empathy with Lancashire Partnership (HELP) is to ensure that all those involved in victim care, work effectively and most importantly, together

The HELP partnership is a collaboration of Criminal Justice and Voluntary Agencies. The partnership was set up by Lancashire Constabulary and Lancashire Probation Trust, and now includes Victim Support, HM Prison Service, Support After Murder And Manslaughter National (SAMM), Lancashire Criminal Justice Board Victim and Witness Subgroup and the Sophie Lancaster Foundation.



case study

Supervising young offenders

Child N was released from custody after serving nine months of an eighteen month Detention and Training Order at a Young Offenders' Institution.

Child N's history demonstrated that he was prone to committing acts of violence and he had been convicted of six previous offences of robbery. Child N was known to carry weapons and he had previously threatened to physically harm Prison staff, Children's Integrated service staff and Youth Offending Team representatives.

The MAPPA referral was accepted prior to Child N's release from custody at Level 2. All partner agencies have been represented at subsequent meetings including the Police Public Protection Unit, Children's Integrated Service, NHS, Education, Probation, Victim Liaison and Youth Offending Team.

A structured risk management plan has been implemented whilst Child N has been subject to a restrictive community Detention and Training Order Licence. The Youth Offending Team have worked above the required National Standard and the Police have maintained regular surveillance at the home address.

Health professionals and education colleagues have operated a zero tolerance policy resulting in no behaviour management issues presented by Child N. Child N is adhering to strict monitoring when he attends college and he has responded positively to this approach.

The Children's Integrated Service staff have revised their own risk assessments due to being involved in the MAPPA process and they have taken appropriate steps to ensure staff safety.

Child N has not re-offended and to date has co-operated fully with all partner agencies.

The MAPPA co-ordination has been fluid and all relevant agencies have worked hard together to achieve a successful result. Through shared knowledge, regular liaison and appropriate identified interventions, Child N will complete their Licence period within the next month.

Everyone has a role to play

The effectiveness of public protection depends on other agencies working within the criminal justice system.

Some agencies are legally required to co-operate with MAPPA. Others, such as the NSPCC, provide specialist advice when extra help is needed.

Alan Wood, Regional Head of the NSPCC in the North West said:

"We offer specialist advice to MAPPA when called upon and can bring a specific focus on safeguarding children and young people.

"The NSPCC engages with Lancashire MAPPA as a means of contributing to the protection of children from offenders.

"In sharing our learning from this area of expertise we can influence the wider national agenda of public protection for safeguarding children and young people."

• VISOR

Within the Mappa process the use of Visor (Violent and Sexual Offender Register) is vital to share information.

VISOR is an IT system for the management of people who pose a serious risk of harm to the public. Since implementation of VISOR the three MAPPA Responsible Authority agencies - Police, Prison and Probation - are able to work on the same IT system which enables the sharing of risk assessments and risk management information on individual violent and sex offenders in a timely way to reduce re-offending.

Simon Horton a Police Constable of 26 years experience explains the importance.

He said: "I have been working with MAPPA for the last four years and have seen the Visor system used widely in order to share information nationally to monitor offenders who are

• Counter Terrorism

Working with domestic extremists and terrorists.

Within England and Wales, any person convicted of offences related to domestic extremism or terrorism will be considered for management within MAPPA.

The term domestic extremism applies to unlawful action that is part of a protest or campaign. It is often associated with 'single issue' protests, such as animal rights, far right and far left political extremism, anti-war and environmentalist extremism.

Terrorist offenders are those who have been convicted of any offence under terrorist legislation or those who have been convicted of an offence of conspiring, attempting, aiding, abetting, counselling, procuring or inciting a terrorist legislation offence.

Effective management of such cases is essential to manage risk and ultimately protect the public. This is best achieved using an active multi agency approach which ensures effective communication between agencies and a joint approach to risk management.

Mappa eligible. We ensure that accurate information is recorded by police, probation and prisons and appropriately shared with other agencies to protect both victims and potential victims.

My role has been to look at improvements in the system by liaising nationally and also ensuring that staff who use it are appropriately trained. Lancashire is leading the way forward and the system has been introduced in Probation as well as Approved Premises as a pilot. This also allows the Ministry of Justice to look at what the Lancashire profile is at any given time."



• Faith Groups

Faith is an important feature in the rehabilitation of some offenders, but at the same time it is essential that appropriate safeguards are put in place to ensure the protection of the public.

Nominated representatives from all the main faiths in Lancashire have been identified within MAPPA arrangements. These representatives act as a point of reference and refer cases to the relevant agency within MAPPA.

Sometimes, MAPPA may need to disclose information to a faith group to ensure protective measures are in place. For example, an offender who had previously committed sex offences against children may be subject to a contract drawn up by church members in liaison with the MAPPA coordinator to attend only services where there were no children present.

case study

MAPPA working with clinical staff to reduce risk

Offender S has a Personality Disorder with dissocial and prominent emotionally unstable traits. He first came to the attention of the Mental Health Services at the age of 15 when he was admitted to hospital.

Following his release, he went on to kidnap and attempt to rape a child. He was convicted and detained under the Mental Health Act and spent the next 11 years in a secure hospital until he was given an Absolute Discharge and moved into the community. A second conviction was secured after Offender S kidnapped his former girlfriend and raped her using handcuffs and a starting pistol. A further period at a secure hospital followed before Offender S moved out of High Secure services.

He was housed in a Medium Secure ward when his Social Supervisor approached a specialist unit in Lancashire to see if it could provide suitable 24 hour accommodation and support. Offender S was assessed by two members of the management team who recommended that this would be an appropriate community placement subject to MAPPA approval and funding agreement.

A referral was made and a level 3 MAPP meeting was held at which an Enhanced Supervision Bed was agreed as well as a robust risk management plan. The specialist unit's manager attended a Mental Health Tribunal at which Offender S was given a Conditional Discharge and a Deputy Manager attended the follow up Discharge Hearing at which it was confirmed that the home could meet those conditions.

Offender S moved to the specialist unit and a Consultant Psychiatrist was named as the Responsible Clinician in the case. He is required to submit quarterly reports to the Ministry of Justice as to Offender S's behaviour and mental health issues.

Offender S had married and is on the Sex Offender Register. He is visited by Public Protection Unit (PPU) officers in the specialist unit as if he were resident in the community.

Since being at the specialist unit, Offender S was managed as a level 3 case initially, and after 16 months, he was reduced to level 2. His clinical team all supported this reduction as did the PPU and specialist unit. The Ministry of Justice has been kept informed and guidance sought regarding possible future plans to see his wife who lives outside the UK.

Offender S's wife visits him on a monthly basis and a risk management plan for each visit is submitted by the specialist unit for approval by the MAPPA.

How is MAPPA Co-ordinated?

Ami Patel has been Lancashire's full-time MAPPA coordinator since January 2010. Her role is to improve the coordination between the main agencies which make up MAPPA.

Ami explains what the job involves and how she is taking the role forward:

I was appointed to this post in January to fulfil the role of co-ordinating MAPPA work in Lancashire. I have wide experience of public protection and have worked in this field for over 21 years.

In the last year the focus on public protection has been robust by way of working with various agencies whether they are statutory, public or voluntary sector.

We've placed emphasis on providing relevant training and ensuring that all agencies are aware of the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements within Lancashire. These agencies include Youth Offending Teams, Mental Health Teams, faith groups and Job Centre Plus, to name just a few.

Communication within the agencies has to be paramount and we have ensured that structures are in place to ensure that appropriate information is shared to safeguard the public and of course, the staff.

Research has shown that housing and employment are major contributors in reducing re-offending. In the last year Lancashire MAPPA is working in partnership with Foundations which is a supported housing scheme.



Ami Patel
Mappa Coordinator

Together we ensure that MAPPA offenders are provided with relevant advice and support.

Employment offers a structured use of time for offenders and this assists in rehabilitating the offender in the community, thus providing less opportunity to commit further offences.

More recently we have managed extremist and honour based violence offenders through MAPPA by following stringent guidance from the National Offender Management Service in order to safeguard potential victims.

As MAPPA co-ordinator for Lancashire, I endeavour to ensure that arrangements are in place to manage those offenders who fall within the framework. There is clear communication and information sharing between agencies to protect the public and victims and to reduce re-offending.

To continue to deliver these arrangements successfully there has to be forward planning. I aim to deliver awareness training to all agencies and the Strategic Management Board to ensure that the MAPPA framework is adhered to by all agencies within their own policies and procedures.

Key Contacts

Lancashire Probation Trust

communications@lancashire.probation.gsi.gov.uk, 99-101 Garstang Road, Preston PR1 1LD
www.lancashireprobation.co.uk

Lancashire Constabulary

Lancashire Constabulary Headquarters, PO Box 77, Hutton, Preston PR4 5SB
www.lancashire.police.uk

National Offender Management Service NW Regional Office

Stirling House, Foxhole Road, Chorley PR7 1DY
www.hmprisonerservice.gov.uk

*This report was designed by Lancashire Constabulary Graphics Department
and printed by HMP Wymott Printshop.*

How is Lancashire Performing?

For the reporting period 1st APRIL 2009 - 31st MARCH 2010

Number of MAPPA eligible offenders at 31 March 2010

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	TOTAL
Category 1: Registered Sexual Offenders	1107	32	7	1146
Category 2: Violent Offenders	244	37	8	289
Category 3: Other Dangerous Offenders	-	9	2	11

Enforcement for offenders managed via MAPP meetings Returned to custody for breach of licence

• Level 2	2
• Level 3	0
• Total	2

Sent to custody for breach of Sexual Offences Prevention Order (SOPO)

• Level 2	1
• Level 3	0
• Total	1

Further data on Registered Sexual Offenders

Registered Sexual Offenders in:

• Northern BCU	208
• Western BCU	245
• Central BCU	75
• Southern BCU	150
• Eastern BCU	292
• Pennine BCU	176

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

- 89.65 (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.)

Registered Sexual Offenders cautioned or convicted for breach of notification requirements

- 121

Sexual Offences Prevention Orders (SOPOs):

• Applied for	5
• Interim Order issued	14
• Full Order issued	96

Notification Orders

• Applied for	0
• Interim Order issued	0
• Full Order issued	0

Foreign Travel Orders

• Applied for	0
• Imposed by the court	0





The totals of MAPPA eligible offenders, broken down by category, reflects the picture on 31 March 2010, (i.e. a snapshot). The rest of the data covers the period 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010.

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 and/or currently pose a risk of serious harm, although the majority are actually managed under ordinary agency (Level 1) arrangements rather than via MAPP meetings.

Registered Sexual Offenders (RSOs) - Those who are required to notify the police of their name, address and other personal details and notify any changes subsequently. Failure to comply with the notification requirements is a criminal offence which carries a maximum penalty of 5 years' imprisonment.

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

Other Offenders - Offenders who do not qualify under the other 2 MAPPA eligible categories, but who currently pose a risk of serious harm which requires management via MAPP meetings.

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, breach action will be taken and the offender may be recalled to prison.

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 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 Orders - Prevent offenders with convictions for sexual offences against children from traveling abroad where it is necessary to do so to protect children from the risk of sexual harm.



But I still want to know...

Frequently asked questions...

Sex and other high risk offenders living in the community is an extremely emotive subject.

We know that many people have questions about how these offenders are managed so we have compiled a list of frequently asked questions to reassure you that we take your concerns seriously.

Q What authority does MAPP have as a body in its own right?

A. MAPP is a set of arrangements rather than a body in its own right. The agencies that make up MAPP retain their primary responsibilities independently of what they do under MAPP. The prison, police and probation services, who are the Responsible Authority, establish MAPP in their area. Other agencies such as housing, health, education, Social Care Services, Youth Offending Teams, Job Centre Plus and Electronic Monitoring Providers are known as the duty to cooperate agencies and under law they have a duty to cooperate with the responsible authority. MAPP cannot make any agencies to do anything which is outside its usual responsibilities, but the strength of MAPP comes from all agencies working well together.

Q Do the police and probation staff know where all MAPP offenders are located?

A. Yes, through using ViSOR they will know where all the MAPP Category 1, 2 (MAPP level 2 and 3) and 3 offenders are.

Q Why do sex offenders have to live in our community?

A. Sex offending in our society is geographically widespread. This means that all communities need to accept responsibility for the resettlement of sex offenders. The law does not allow for all sex offenders to be locked up indefinitely and we therefore need to settle sex offenders in areas away from victims. To do this, sex offenders need to be spread throughout the country and each community has to bear its share of the burden. We do, however, make every effort to avoid clustering sex offenders together.

Q Who's watching them?

A. The whole purpose of MAPP is to ensure that where there is a dangerous or violent sex offender in the community, they may be subject to a multi-agency plan which defines which agency undertakes which role. This would normally involve a whole range of risk management activities. This could include supervision by a probation officer, attendance at programmes to address criminal behaviours, the sharing of information, sometimes surveillance by the police, home visiting and various other checking and the monitoring of employment.

Q What happens if the offender doesn't comply?

A. Registered sexual offenders who do not comply within the notification requirement can be taken to court by the police and could face a fine and/or up to five years in prison.

All offenders supervised by the Probation Service must comply with the conditions of their order or licence. Any failure to do so

will result in action being taken. For those on licence, this could mean a return to prison and in emergency situations this can happen within two hours.

A failure to comply does not necessarily mean that an offence has been committed, it could be a missed appointment or any behaviour which gives cause for concern.

Q Do offenders go to MAPP meetings?

A. Offenders do not attend MAPP meetings but they are usually told about the meeting and decisions made.

Q How can we be sure that they won't offend again?

There are never any guarantees that an offender will not re-offend. Whatever intrusive conditions are imposed, outside of prison there is no way that an offender can be managed in a community where their behaviour is monitored continuously. Nevertheless, there is a wide range of restrictive and constructive interventions that can be imposed and our track record of success is a good one. For those offenders who have been released subject to prison licence, (which are the majority of serious offenders), we are able to recall them to prison, even if we have a suspicion that they are behaving in such a way as to indicate a further risk to society.

Q What is MAPP's role in relation to mentally disordered offenders?

A. Mentally disordered offenders can also be a MAPP eligible offender. The offender's management must take into account their mental health needs. Where an offender has been sentenced to a hospital order with restrictions for an offence contained in section 15 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, Mental Health Services are responsible for the management of the case and for identifying them as a MAPP eligible offender.

Where a MAPP eligible mentally disordered offender is being considered for town leave or unescorted leave in the locality of the hospital, Mental health services must ensure they have identified any potential risks to the public and have informed their local MAPP coordinator and/or the MAPP coordinator from the home area of these arrangements.

