

Gwent



Annual Report 2013 - 14



Intro

Sarah Payne, Director, NOMS in Wales



NOMS in Wales is committed to working in partnership with MAPPA agencies to prevent people becoming victims of serious harm. Although violent and sexual offending makes up only a small percentage of all crime in Wales the harm caused by such offending is considerable to victims, their families and communities. Existing and potential victims have a right to feel protected and safe and whilst it is never possible to eradicate the risk entirely, MAPPA is designed to bring agencies together to help manage that risk and keep it to a minimum. NOMS in Wales and all of the agencies involved in MAPPA place the protection of the public as their highest priority and this report reflects the determination of all involved to ensure that this important area of work remains at the forefront. I am proud of our staff, their successes of the past year and their commitment to excellence for MAPPA in Wales.

Jeff Farrar, Chief Constable, Gwent Police



The work of the Gwent Police officers involved in MAPPA usually goes unnoticed within the communities we serve, for good reason, but their role is really crucial in preventing crime and keeping people safe from serious harm. Gwent Police are committed to maintaining and building upon the successes of our existing partnership arrangements and, in particular, with agencies involved in Gwent MAPPA. I have no doubt that in the near future there will be opportunities for even better integration of public services, something I firmly believe in and welcome. I would like to thank all the practitioners involved in this work for their tireless work and continued efforts in managing serious risks in some of the most challenging of circumstances.

What is MAPPA?

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, Jobcentre Plus and Local Housing, UKBA 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).

The England and Wales Annual Report is published online at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/series/multi-agency-public-protection-arrangements-mappa-annual-reports>

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 focussed 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.

MAPPA Statistics

MAPPA-eligible offenders on 31 March 2014				
	Category 1: Registered sex offenders	Category 2: Violent offenders	Category 3: Other dangerous offenders	Total
Level 1	505	302	-	807
Level 2	8	40	6	54
Level 3	0	0	0	0
Total	513	342	6	861

MAPPA-eligible offenders in Levels 2 and 3 by category (yearly total)				
	Category 1: Registered sex offenders	Category 2: Violent offenders	Category 3: Other dangerous offenders	Total
Level 2	65	103	24	192
Level 3	2	0	0	2
Total	67	103	24	194

RSOs cautioned or convicted for breach of notification requirements	11
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Restrictive orders for Category 1 offenders	
SOPOs, NOs & FTOs imposed by the courts	
SOPOs	44
NOs	0
FTOs	0

Level 2 and 3 offenders returned to custody				
	Category 1: Registered sex offenders	Category 2: Violent offenders	Category 3: Other dangerous offenders	Total
Breach of licence				
Level 2	3	6	0	9
Level 3	0	0	0	0
Total	3	6	0	9
Breach of SOPO				
Level 2	0	-	-	0
Level 3	1	-	-	1
Total	1	-	-	1

Total number of Registered Sexual Offenders per 100,000 population	100
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This figure has been calculated using the Mid-2013 Population Estimates: Single year of age and sex for Police Areas in England and Wales; estimated resident population, published by the Office for National Statistics on 26 June 2014, excluding those aged less than ten years of age.

Explanation commentary on statistical tables

MAPPA background

The totals of MAPPA-eligible offenders, broken down by category, reflect the picture on 31 March 2014 (i.e. they are a snapshot). The rest of the data covers the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.

(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 (95% this year) are actually managed under ordinary agency (Level 1) arrangements rather than via MAPP meetings. The reason this percentage is lower than last year is due to an increase in cases managed at level 2. The Strategic Management Board followed the recommendation from the Serious Case Review to manage all life licence and IPP offenders in the community at level 2. This also contributes to the increase of category 2 cases managed at level 2. In previous years we only counted a case as a level 2 if there had been two consecutive MAPPA meetings regarding them. This year we have counted those offenders for who there has only been one meeting which explains the increase in numbers of level 2 cases.

(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 and offenders disqualified from working with children.

(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 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.

(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.

Local page

The Communications sub group on behalf of the Gwent MAPPA Strategic Management Board are proud to direct you to our website:

<http://www.gwentmappa.org>

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