

South Yorkshire MAPPA

Annual Report 2013-14





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Introduction

Welcome to the 2013-2014 annual report of the South Yorkshire Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA).

The MAPPA unit comprises specialists from police and probation to effectively manage those who present the most risk of serious harm to the public in our county.

This is particularly successful in South Yorkshire as partner agencies work well together to ensure the safety of the public and protect known and potential victims from sexual and violent offences.

Like every county, we always have people living in the community who may pose a risk to the public. These include, for example, offenders released from prison on licence having served their sentence.

However that risk is considerably reduced through the efforts of the MAPPA team. This success is due to the team's commitment to correctly identifying key offenders, providing a central point of contact for local agencies to share information, providing advice and also ensuring that there is appropriate agency involvement when arranging multi-agency meetings. The overall aim is to accurately assess the risk posed, and then manage it in a co-ordinated way using the knowledge and experience of all agencies involved in a case.

This has resulted in less offending and more importantly fewer victims.

Jo Byrne, Assistant Chief Constable South Yorkshire Police



Violent and Sex Offender Register Teams

In 2013/14 the four district ViSOR (Violent and sex offender register) teams centralised and co-located to be managed by one detective inspector and benefit from an additional detective sergeant and four constables.

The centralisation of the teams ensured consistency in the effective risk management of violent and sex offenders. It also meant that the whole department was co-located with the MAPPA unit which is staffed by police and probation. This has improved information sharing, effective management of emerging risk and promotes multi agency working.

The ViSOR team manages approximately 1500 violent and sexual offenders both in custody and in the community. The team comprises 24 constables and detective constables and four detective sergeants.

Police Sex Offender Managers are responsible for implementing risk management plans, assessing risk, ensuring compliance with sex offender notification requirements and preventative orders and robustly prosecuting those offenders where breaches or criminality is identified.

Sex offender notification requirements must be complied with when someone becomes a registered sex offender. An offender is required for example to: be regularly visited by police; inform the police of any changes of address and foreign travel. All Registered Sex Offenders are risk assessed and closely monitored by the relevant agencies.

Sex Offender Managers are also responsible for facilitating the reintroduction of offenders into the community to encourage them to make a positive contribution to society.

Information Sharing with Mental Health Services and Youth Offending Services

Both the Mental Health Services and Youth Offending Services have a responsibility within MAPPA, Criminal Justice Act 2003 to share information that may identify a risk issue and inform the subsequent management of the risk. These agencies are required to request information from the local police to gather any information or intelligence available. This process ensures that relevant information is shared in a timely manner with a central point of contact for all queries.

Information should be provided and requested by Mental Health Services when a MAPPA eligible patient is being considered for any leave or discharge, or by the Youth Justice Service for MAPPA eligible offenders being managed in the community or due to be released from custody.

On receipt of such requests, police databases are checked and any information relevant to the management of the risk the offender may pose is shared with the lead agency. This enables a review of the risk management plan and a decision whether the person needs to be referred for a level 2 or 3 MAPPA meeting, which will involve further multi-agency involvement.

The MAPPA Team and local mental health and YOS agencies have been working hard this year to ensure the streamlining of processes. There has been an improvement in regards to information sharing and communication, where relevant, lawful and necessary in order to devise robust and comprehensive risk management plans, to ensure the protection of the public, wherever possible.

Working in South Yorkshire MAPPA

View from the South Yorkshire MAPPA Co-ordinator



Probation – and “Transforming Rehabilitation” (TR)

The Ministry of Justice has instigated a major restructuring of the Probation Service. The 35 Probation Trusts in England and Wales have been abolished

and replaced by a National Probation Service (NPS), which remains in the public sector, and 21 Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs), which will be sold to private providers or charities in the near future.

The NPS has responsibility for the provision of advice to courts and to the Parole Board, the management and supervision of all dangerous and MAPPA-eligible offenders, the Victim Liaison service, Approved Probation Hostels, services to Youth Offending teams and the prisons, group work for sex offenders, and breaches of Community Orders in the courts.

The CRCs have the responsibility for the management and supervision of other (non-MAPPA) offenders assessed as not having a current risk of serious harm to the public. They also provide certain interventions for offenders supervised by the NPS (such as group work and Unpaid Work/“Community Payback”).

The South Yorkshire NPS area now forms part of the wider North East Division (encompassing a number of other counties) which is under the overall leadership of Lynda Marginson (formally the Chief Executive of South Yorkshire Probation Trust and until recently chair of South Yorkshire MAPPA’s Strategic Management Board).

It is not clear yet what implications (if any) the TR programme will have for the future management of MAPPA offenders or local MAPPA structures and arrangements. However, from the point of view of public protection, ease of communication and consistency, it is welcome that all MAPPA-eligible offenders will come within the remit of the NPS, whatever their assessed level of risk, as will any non-MAPPA offenders who are assessed as dangerous (ie high risk of causing serious harm to the public).

Dean Clarke, SY MAPPA co-ordinator

Lay Advisers



“Being a MAPPA adviser is a challenging yet professionally satisfying experience. Prior to this, I had no idea of the work that quietly goes on in the background to ensure the safety of South Yorkshire residents and manage the risk presented by violent and sexual offenders in the community.

I have confidence in the professionals whose duty it is to manage this but my role is not to observe in silence. I challenge them as the man in the street would challenge. I provide an objective perspective that can go right to the heart of the issue and focus minds.

To be a lay adviser you have to be confident, have an enquiring mind and be able to challenge professionals on their specialist subject. It’s intellectually stretching, but it’s also very satisfying to be able to help protect people from harmful criminals.”

Stuart Carvell, South Yorkshire MAPPA Lay Adviser



“As lay adviser I’m the objective eyes and ears to ensure the right issues are covered.

When I took up the position I was completely out of my area of work experience, so I thought I would be able to bring objectivity to the role. I attend meetings where strategies for offenders due to be released (that fit the MAPPA criteria) are discussed across the various agencies that have worked with the individual.

Risk management is the key, so the core role of the lay adviser is to listen to what people are saying and challenge anything that doesn’t seem to make sense, or point out if anything has been missed.

I’ve been very impressed by the public protection arrangements put in place by MAPPA, the robust efforts to ensure all risks are assessed and that everything possible is put in place to protect the offender from reoffending, and to protect the public from any danger.

The one thing I would like to tell other people about MAPPA is how surprised I have been to find out how good South Yorkshire agencies are at preventing reoffending and the wealth of services available to ex offenders to ensure they do not reoffend. It’s a fascinating area where you can make a difference”.

Liz Wood, South Yorkshire MAPPA Lay Adviser

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, 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 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.

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>



MAPPA South Yorkshire 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	1073	479	-	1552
Level 2	2	2	1	5
Level 3	0	0	0	0
Total	1075	481	1	1557

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	25	11	12	48
Level 3	0	0	1	1
Total	25	11	13	49

RSOs cautioned or convicted for breach of notification requirements	23
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Restrictive orders for Category 1 offenders

SOPOs, NOs & FTOs imposed by the courts

SOPOs	53
NOs	5
FTOs	0

Level 2 and 3 offenders returned to custody

Breach of licence	Category 1: Registered sex offenders	Category 2: Violent offenders	Category 3: Other dangerous offenders	Total
Level 2	2	3	0	5
Level 3	0	0	1	1
Total	2	3	1	6

Breach of SOPO	Category 1: Registered sex offenders	Category 2: Violent offenders	Category 3: Other dangerous offenders	Total
Level 2	1	-	-	1
Level 3	0	-	-	0
Total	1	-	-	1

Total number of Registered Sexual Offenders per 100,000 population	90
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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.



Explanatory commentary on statistical tables

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 (98% 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 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.

South Yorkshire MAPPA report is published online at:
www.syprobation.gov.uk

*The names used in the case studies within this report have been changed to protect the victims involved.

