

Cheshire



Annual Report 2013 / 2014



Intro

Add images to this column if required

This report is intended to provide an insight into the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) across Cheshire. These arrangements are statutory and have now been in place for over ten years. During this time, the Police, Probation and Prison Service have worked closely together with other key partners in Health and Local Authority based services to identify, assess and manage violent and sexual offenders. This is difficult and complex work and we would wish to thank all those involved in MAPPA for the excellent work they do on our behalf.

Making our communities safer remains our highest priority. This is why the work undertaken through MAPPA is critically important. It is never possible to eliminate risk entirely, however, what can be expected is that all reasonable steps are taken to reduce the risk of serious harm to the public from known offenders.

The publication of the annual report offers an opportunity for MAPPA to be accountable to the local community for the management of sexual and violent offenders whilst also informing the community what actions are being taken to improve the effectiveness of MAPPA. Consequently this report contains not only statistical information about the numbers of offenders managed within MAPPA, but also provides some information as to how the arrangements work in practice.

The protection of the public and management of violent and sexual offenders is a difficult and challenging task which is why deploying the joint expertise and resources of agencies through MAPPA is so important. We hope you find this Annual Report helpful in understanding how agencies across Cheshire are working together effectively to better protect the public.

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 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. All MAPPA reports from England and Wales are published online at: www.justice.gov.uk

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	791	310	-	1101
Level 2	8	4	5	17
Level 3	1	5	2	8
Total	800	319	7	1126

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	21	26	15	62
Level 3	3	2	4	9
Total	24	28	19	71

RSOs cautioned or convicted for breach of notification requirements	13
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Restrictive orders for Category 1 offenders	
SOPOs, NOs & FTOs imposed by the courts	
SOPOs	80
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	1	1	0	2
Level 3	0	1	0	1
Total	1	2	0	3
Breach of SOPO				
Level 2	1	-	-	1
Level 3	0	-	-	0
Total	1	-	-	1

Total number of Registered Sexual Offenders per 100,000 population	87
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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 (x% 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.

Local page

At the local level, MAPPA is led by the Cheshire Constabulary, the North West Prison Service and Cheshire Probation Trust who are the Responsible Authorities and ensure that MAPPA is effectively implemented and managed. The “Duty to Co-operate” agencies play a key role in working collaboratively with criminal justice partners, to protect the public and reduce harm to victims.

The Responsible Authorities have a duty to ensure that MAPPA is effective. This duty is undertaken both through the MAPPA Strategic Management Board which consists of representatives from each of the agencies with MAPPA responsibility as well as by ensuring that practice within their own respective agency delivers effective MAPPA practice. The SMB meets at least three times a year to monitor the arrangements and direct any necessary improvements. Senior representatives from the various agencies sit on the SMB and share information with their colleagues across Cheshire. Additionally, two Lay Advisers sit on the SMB (the role of the lay adviser is outlined on page 2).

The principal responsibility for protecting the public from sexual and violent offenders generally rests with the criminal justice agencies. However, the effectiveness of public protection often depends on more than just a criminal justice response. These other agencies play an important role in helping offenders to re-settle and avoid re-offending. For example, offenders who have stable accommodation and employment are much less likely to re-offend. These agencies also make an important contribution in cases where offenders have mental health problems or where they pose a risk of harm to children. The Duty to Co-operate agencies include Community Mental Health Teams and Housing Associations across the area as well as Safeguarding Children Boards, JobCentre Plus and the Youth Offending Service.

In Cheshire, regular Multi-Agency Public Protection meetings are held ,when active multi agency management is needed in order to manage high risk offenders, by developing a robust risk management plan for individual offenders which is effectively delivered, monitored and reviewed as appropriate.

Cheshire also holds Multi-Agency Public Protection Conferences (MARACs) where the needs of victims of domestic abuse are addressed. MARACs support and complement the MAPPA process and representatives from various agencies are involved in both procedures. There are clear links between the MAPPA and MARAC which are the subject of an agreed protocol.

Key objectives for the year ahead (2014/15):

- To ensure that the new MAPPA Guidance V4 is fully implemented and embedded across the Responsible Authorities and the Duty to Cooperate Agencies
- To ensure that the use of ViSOR is maximised across the Responsible Authorities
- To further strengthen MAPPA effectiveness via the Continuation and development of the Four Pillars to Risk Management approaches .
- To ensure the quality of MAPPA delivery via effective quality assurance, with a focus on screening processes and information sharing.
- To ensure that relevant people are aware of MAPPA so as to ensure effective engagement and multi agency inputs when required.

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