

Essex MAPPA



Annual Report 2014 / 2015



Introduction

The Essex MAPPA Strategic Management Board is pleased to present this Annual Report to the residents of Essex. Essex is a low crime area, relative to other counties and the number of sexual and violent crimes committed represents a small proportion of the total recorded crime in this county, but for the victims and their families they inevitably cause a great deal of fear, distress and harm. It is for this reason that protecting the public from offenders that commit these crimes and meeting the needs of victims remains a high priority for the National Probation Service, (NPS), Essex Area, Essex Police and Prison Services.

The Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements are a significant contribution to the work that takes place. Under these arrangements these Statutory services work closely together with other key partners, including those responsible for Safeguarding arrangements for children and adults, and those who may pose a risk through Extremism activities, to identify, assess and manage violent and sexual offenders. It is never possible to eliminate risk entirely; however what can be expected is that all reasonable steps have been taken to reduce the risk of serious harm to the public from known offenders.

This Annual Report offers an opportunity for MAPPA to demonstrate it is accountable to the community in Essex for the management of violent and sexual offenders. It sets out statistics showing the number of offenders managed under MAPPA by category and level and describes the work that is undertaken by the agencies involved in the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements. This is evidence of the commitment we have to making Essex a safe place to live and work.

The number of registered sex offenders continues to rise year on year as expected and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. This does not

mean that there are any more sex offenders in the community than there were previously but that every sexual offence conviction now results in a requirement to register. Many sex offenders are required to register for the rest of their lives so will never come out of the statistics.

Sexual offenders cause a great deal of anxiety and although the figures are low the public are understandably concerned about sex offenders in the community and the risk that they pose. There is no typical sex offender and not all sex offenders pose a risk to the general public. The vast majority of sexual offences are committed by offenders who are generally known to their victim either a family member, a friend or acquaintance.

Managing the risk posed by sex offenders is complex and cuts across the organisational boundaries of all the authorities concerned. Research suggests however that when offenders have stability in their lives and are well integrated into their community, they are less likely to offend. It is therefore important that all the agencies concerned work together to achieve this.

However it is also important that early warning signs are acted upon. The number of offenders returned to custody for breach of licences (recall) indicates the way in which information sharing between the professionals in the statutory and voluntary sectors allows for the rigorous enforcement of licence requirements.

One of the most important partners in public protection are members of the public and it is vital that they are aware of their responsibility to protect vulnerable members in our community by having the confidence to report any concerns and to have faith in their local services to act promptly and appropriately to ensure the most vulnerable are protected.

Helen Carter
Governor
HMP Chelmsford

Mark Wheeler.
Detective Superintendent
Essex Police

Shirley Kennerson
Head of Essex Probation



**National
Probation
Service**



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 Statistics 2014 - 2015

MAPPA-eligible offenders on 31 March 2015				
	Category 1: Registered sex offenders	Category 2: Violent offenders	Category 3: Other dangerous offenders	Total
Level 1	1067	371	-	1438
Level 2	30	26	6	62
Level 3	3	6	0	9
Total	1100	403	6	1509

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	96	107	22	225
Level 3	11	8	0	19
Total	107	115	22	244

RSOs cautioned or convicted for breach of notification requirements	6
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Restrictive orders for Category 1 offenders	
SOPOs, NOs & FTOs imposed by the courts	
SOPOs	135
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	7	16	1	24
Level 3	6	5	0	11
Total	13	21	1	35
Breach of SOPO				
Level 2	0	-	-	
Level 3	0	-	-	
Total	0	-	-	

Total number of Registered Sexual Offenders per 100,000 population	71
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This figure has been calculated using the Mid-2014 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 25 June 2015, excluding those aged less than ten years of age.

MAPPA is supported by ViSOR

ViSOR 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 it has been fully operational allowing key staff from the Police, Probation and Prison Services to work on the same IT system, thus improving the quality and timeliness of information sharing, risk assessment and interventions to prevent re-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 from one area to another thus enhancing public protection measures.

Explanation commentary on statistical tables

MAPPA background

The totals of MAPPA-eligible offenders, broken down by category, reflect the picture on 31 March 2015 (i.e. they are a snapshot). The rest of the data covers the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.

(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.

(Note: In April 2015 SOPO’s were replaced by Sexual Harm Prevention Orders – SHPO’s)

(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.

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Challenges

Transforming Rehabilitation has been a significant change for the Probation Service. Essex Probation Trust ceased to operate on the 1st of June 2014. It has now been divided into two distinct services, a Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) that manages low and medium risk offenders and the National Probation Service (NPS) that manages the higher risk offenders including all sex offenders and serious violent offenders.

All the changes are being introduced in a climate of reducing resources for public sector services. Therefore, although MAPPA processes and procedures have not changed significantly over this period we have been delivering our services in an environment of constant change in the organisations who routinely work closely with MAPPA.

Working alongside the Essex Police Dangerous Offender Management Team and ViSOR Unit at Essex Police Headquarters the MAPPA Team has sought to maintain a high profile with all public agencies particularly the new National Probation Service locally. We have done this by providing appropriate and timely information and support which can assist these agencies to ensure that they maintain high standards of risk management and engagement in the MAPPA process during this period of profound change.

The availability of satisfactory accommodation for high risk offenders leaving prison remains a significant challenge to all agencies. The identification and provision of housing as part of a comprehensive risk management plan does help to manage and reduce risk to the public. Staff across all agencies continue to work well beyond expectation to ensure that the best possible outcomes are achieved.

Developments

Personality Disordered Offenders always present challenges in management of risk. The National Probation Service (Essex) and NHS regionally has invested in specially trained staff who can assist in the assessment and management of such cases. Psychology in Probation (PiP) give advice and guidance as to appropriate treatment interventions and recommendations for the management and reduction of risk

These developments represent a significant increase of resources for many offenders managed under MAPP Arrangements.

And finally: A Thank You

Mrs Merrilyn Fitch who had been employed as the MAPPA Administrator since April 2002 retired from her post in April 2015. Throughout her time as MAPPA Administrator Merrilyn (Mel) showed great dedication and commitment to the role and despite a degenerative back injury rarely took time off. The Essex Strategic Management Board are very thankful for her sterling work within the Essex MAPPA Arena over many years.

Allan Taplin
MAPPA Manager

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