



York and North Yorkshire Annual Report 2014-2015



Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements
Protection through Partnership

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Foreward

Welcome to the fourteenth annual report of the York and North Yorkshire Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements or MAPPA as it is more commonly known. This report reflects the contributions made by Police, the Prison and National Probation Service (NPS) together with key partner agencies to further develop as well as provide high quality services that focus on protecting the public.

We say every year that one of the most challenging areas of work for all professionals is the safe management of high risk offenders in the community, especially those offenders who have committed sexual and violent offences against children and others, and this continues to be the case. MAPPA is the established framework for managing the serious risk of harm some offenders pose and strong partnership working and excellent information sharing has become our key strengths. The effectiveness of MAPPA however, relies to a large extent on the tools we have that help us formulate and strengthen risk assessment and risk management. The report this year will focus on those tools.

North Yorkshire Police have added to the tool box in a variety of ways this year. This has included the introduction of GPS location monitoring known as the 'buddy tag'; the Active Risk Management System (ARMS) which gives structure to the supervision of those adult male sex offenders required to sign the sex offender register ; and the triage approach to checking sexual offender's computers and re-introduction of internet monitoring which all play an important part in the overall management of sexual offenders.

In June 2014 under the Governments Transforming Rehabilitation (TR) Agenda, Probation Trusts became two separate agencies the National Probation Service (NPS) and private Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRC). The National Probation Service has responsibility for court services and for the management of high risk and MAPPA offenders and the CRC for managing low to medium risk offenders, unpaid work and management of general offending behaviour programmes. A good level of co-operation and complimentary working arrangements has been forged between the two agencies with protection of the public being a key priority for both.

The introduction of the Offender Rehabilitation Act (ORA) now sees all offenders sentenced to short periods of imprisonment being released on licence (previously only those sentenced to 12 months or more were subject to release on licence).



Tim Madgwick
Deputy Chief Constable
North Yorkshire Police,
Chair MAPPA Strategic
Management Board

Within the NPS, York and North Yorkshire are now part of the wider North East Division. This brings with it the advantages of being able to share and develop good practice and provides better opportunities for pooling resources and developing more efficient and effective ways of working with offenders. Nationally, working with sexual offenders has been strengthened by the introduction of additional licence conditions including polygraph testing. The use of ARMS will also be rolled out throughout the Division this year and this will both compliment and reinforce the assessments undertaken by North Yorkshire Police. Locally, the Structured Assessment of Risk and Needs (SARN) which is another tool for using when working with sex offenders is to be re-launched and the Approved Premise in York is now fully operational as a Psychologically Informed and Planned Environment (PIPE).

Significant changes have also been taking place within the prison estate. The year has seen the roll out of the new Resettlement on Temporary Licence (ROTL) arrangements which has noticeably changed the management of MAPPA and high risk offenders when assessing their suitability for gradual reintegration into the community under the ROTL scheme. All offenders in custody who are MAPPA eligible and/or high risk are now categorised as 'Restricted' prisoners and consequently there is a very thorough process of assessment and information gathering before any decision is made by a Governor regarding the temporary release of an offender into the community. These changes place a greater emphasis on the professional input of the Police, NPS, Prison psychologist and Prison Offender Management units. The coming year will also see the roll out of Enhanced Behaviour Monitoring in North Yorkshire prisons and this will compliment the new ROTL restrictions and enhance the effective management of MAPPA and high risk cases in the community.

It's been a busy and productive year and one which has further shaped and developed the work of public protection in York and North Yorkshire. In commending this report to you, I want to take this opportunity to thank all those involved and to applaud the determination and commitment shown to protect the public and make all our communities safer.

MAPPA background

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.

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.

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.

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. 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;

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 focused 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.

Level 3 is where senior oversight is required to manage the case.

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

North Yorkshire MAPPAs unit – a decade of joint working

In 2001 MAPPAs arrangements were introduced by the Criminal Justice and Courts Services Act 2000.

This imposed a requirement on areas to establish working arrangements for the purpose of assessing and managing the risks posed by sexual and violent offenders and other persons who may cause serious harm to the public. The Criminal Justice Act 2003 strengthened these arrangements and in that year the first MAPPAs Guidance was issued. As a result areas were tasked with the responsibility of embedding this guidance into practice.

In North Yorkshire the Responsible Authority had worked hard over the years to forge a more collaborative and effective way of managing offenders and protecting the public from serious harm. However, the introduction of MAPPAs provided the impetus needed to develop the quality of joint working and a decision was made to develop a joint unit which would be staffed by both police and probation.

In November 2005 the MAPPAs unit based at North Yorkshire Police Headquarters, Newby Wiske, opened.

This housed both police Staff and Officers as well as a Probation Manager. It was also located in the same building as the Police Liaison Officer for prisons. The fundamental aim was to ensure all MAPPAs referrals were jointly screened and management levels agreed based on information and intelligence provided by the lead agency, police, probation and where possible, the prison. Alongside this York & North Yorkshire Probation IT department created a MAPPAs database. This continues to be in use today and has been adopted by another area of Yorkshire.

The database holds details of every single MAPPAs eligible case in the area and provides copies of or links to MAPPAs referrals, referral decision forms, MAPPAs levels, meeting invites and minutes and Executive Summaries. It has both a live and archived element to it and has most definitely enhanced the quality and effectiveness of managing and monitoring MAPPAs cases in North Yorkshire. It also gives easy and accurate access to local MAPPAs statistics which can be broken down by area, categories, levels and lead agencies.

The MAPPAs unit has steadily grown and is currently staffed by two MAPPAs Sergeants, 1 MAPPAs Co-ordinator (joint police/probation funded), 1 MAPPAs administrator (joint police/probation funded), 2 Intelligence Research and Briefing Officers, 1 ViSOR administrator and 1 Civil and Criminal Orders Officer.

Until recently there was also a MAPPAs Analyst working from the unit who undertook MAPPAs specific work on subject profiling and risk analysis. Although the current Police Analyst works from a different office they can still provide specialist work to the unit where necessary. The part-time Probation Public Protection Manager and the 3 Probation Public Protection Administrators also work closely with the MAPPAs unit and with unit staff Chair and minute take for MAPPAs meetings across the county.

This is a cohesive unit which provides a seamless approach to managing offenders by providing a shared responsibility for identifying, assessing and disseminating information on MAPPAs offenders and ensuring that probation offender managers, prison offender supervisors and any other relevant lead agencies are consulted and information shared in a timely manner. It manages all L2 & 3 MAPPAs disclosures where decisions are to be made outside of active meetings and provides advice and guidance on level 1 cases where necessary to the RA and DTC agencies. All Civil and Criminal Orders are applied for from this unit. The Officer responsible for this works proactively with probation and other agencies to ensure the relevant risk factors are considered and appropriate prohibitions applied for in order to protect victims and members of the public.



A year of POLYGRAPH TESTING

Legislation in 2007 allowed for pilots to be set up to evaluate the benefits of adding a requirement to undertake polygraph testing as a condition of release for offenders who were:

- over 18 years of age
- sentenced to a relevant custodial sentence of 12 months or more
- sentenced for a relevant offence, and
- assessed as being a serious risk of harm to others

The pilot concluded that 'testing' helped increase compliance with licence conditions, elicit additional information and inform decisions about risk management. Legislation was subsequently amended to bring polygraph testing into force across the whole of England & Wales. That commenced on the 6th January 2014 and since then all serious sexual offenders who fit the above criteria have a condition on their licence that requires them to take part in a 'polygraph session'.

How are Polygraph test results used?

- Polygraph is not used to determine guilt or innocence – what it does do is help assess compliance with licence conditions and elicit additional information
- Polygraph is only one source of information
- Polygraph does not and should not replace the planned and structured supervision that is in place for the offender throughout sentence and whilst on licence.

In York and North Yorkshire offender managers talk about how “testing can uncover information which ordinarily offenders would not volunteer” – for example drug use and can confirm information that risk is being managed i.e. questions asked as to whether any contact had been made with victims.

In more than one case the anxiety of being tested has led offenders to disclose information before the test is administered.

Licence conditions are explained to the offender prior to release. Having a polygraph testing condition confirms that the process of supervision and monitoring on release is thorough and robust. After the initial test all offenders will have at least one follow up test 6 months later, which for most offenders will ensure continued compliance. Overall the consensus of opinion is that “testing is a great addition to the tools probation already have for informing and managing risk”.

Some facts and myths

- Polygraph testing is not a lie detector but a way of testing the interviewee's reaction to a series of questions. Reactions tested are heart rate, blood pressure, breathing rate. Galvanic skin response (sweating etc) and countermeasures.
- Specialised equipment is used to measure the reactions listed above.
- These physiological reactions are believed to be associated with deception and it is anticipated that changes or differences in these, charted over the course of an interview, can indicate whether the interviewee is being truthful or not.
- Because it is based on reactions it is important that questions are carefully constructed to focus on behaviours which are unlikely to be misunderstood or misinterpreted. This is why the polygraph test comprises of an interview delivered by a trained examiner.
- Questions asked must be specific with yes/no answers
- Questions can include contact with known victims, contact with children, hobbies that might lead to contact with children, employment paid and unpaid, developing relationships, sexual thoughts they cannot control, sexual pre-occupation, collapse of social supports, substance abuse, use of pornography and so on.
- The testing process is explained fully prior to the actual test
- Not all offenders are suitable, for example someone with memory impairment or with severe learning disabilities or serious mental illness conditions would not be suitable



Global Positioning Systems to help manage risk

Richard is managed at MAPPA Level 2, he is a violent offender.

His index offence is one of grievous bodily harm against his step father whom he attacked with a knife. He also has a conviction for common assault on an ex-partner. He was sentenced to an Indeterminate Sentence for Public Protection (IPP) and has served seven years. He has had two successful periods of Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL) and one where he breached the terms of his ROTL by missing his night time curfew. He subsequently handed himself in after having spent the weekend with his mother.

Richard had been directed by the parole board to reside at a Christian charity based project outside of North Yorkshire. The charity accommodates and supports Richard and in return he carries out work for their business. His management was to be retained by North Yorkshire Probation for the first three months he resided in the other area before the case was to be transferred. This was the direction of the parole board however the receiving probation area were reluctant to accept transfer of the case. 'North Yorkshire needed to demonstrate that the risk posed by this young man was being managed whilst he was resident in another area'.

A Global Positioning System (GPS) tag was suggested as a way of demonstrating that Richard was abiding by the terms of his licence and in particular his curfew times. This would provide a location specific tracking device to show whether Richard was entering or approaching his two geographical exclusion zones.

It was agreed that North Yorkshire police would manage the GPS tag initially until the case was transferred. To date Richard has settled well into the project and the tag has proved that he has not breached his exclusion licence condition. This information will be presented to out of area Police and Probation and will be of significant benefit to them when assessing his case for transfer.

North Yorkshire Police use ACTIVE RISK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

ARMS (Active Risk Management System) was introduced across UK police forces from January 2015. This is a dynamic risk assessment framework that draws together assessment outcomes into a risk management plan. The comprehensive assessment provides evidence to ensure the right resources are focused on the right offender at the right time.

All North Yorkshire Police Public Protection Unit staff completed ARMS training at the beginning of February 2015.

We currently manage 659 registered sex offenders in the community. 44.6% of those have been reassessed using ARMS.

We have seen a 51% reduction in risk for offenders previously assessed as Very High & High risk

Officers have reported that home visits are now more focused and they feel they have a greater understanding of the offender's current risk, i.e. where actions and resources need to be focused to manage that risk effectively.

The time required to complete an assessment in ViSOR remains an issue. However, it is acknowledged that this should reduce in time as officers become more experienced in the use of this risk assessment framework.



SOUTHVIEW PIPE APPROVED PREMISES

In April 2014 Southview Approved Premises (AP) was awarded funding by NOMS and NHS England to develop a Psychologically Informed Planned Environment (PIPE) as an integral part of the Offender Personality Disorder community pathway across the National Probation Service North East Division.

There are several PIPE units in prison, and seven APs in England – 5 for males and 2 for females.

The core of a PIPE is the concept of an 'Enabling Environment'. This is a structured approach to the development and maintenance of a pro-social environment which has been developed by the Royal College of Psychiatrists and which involves the creation of:

- A place where positive relationships promote well-being for all participants
- A place where people experience a sense of belonging
- A place where all people involved contribute to the growth and well-being of others
- A place where people can learn new ways of relating
- A place that recognises and respects the contributions of both parties in a helping relationship.

It's important to recognise that PIPEs are not treatment facilities but they do offer residents access to enhanced opportunities to take part in activities and interventions appropriate to their needs. The focus of the PIPE is therefore on providing an enhanced level of management and support to enable people to better manage their transition from prison to the PIPE to the community.



“The first week of the more structured approach to activities was the most positive of my time working at Southview.

I really enjoyed participating in the better quality activities which proved popular with both staff and residents.

They enjoyed both the groups and the different platforms to communicate with each other while exploring new skills and experiences.”

MY EXPERIENCE OF SOUTHVIEW

...by a resident

“

I came to be at Southview, York Approved Premises after serving a three and a half year sentence. Knowing I was coming to Southview after serving my sentence was a scary and daunting experience as I didn't really know what to expect. At 44 years old I have been a hardcore poly drug user and in and out of prison for the last 22 years, which is something that I can now say I am not very proud of.

My first day at Southview was 9th January 2015 . I was told the hostel was in the process of turning into a PIPE Unit but my first months were a blur as I was not ready to change and was still in the mentality that I was alone, a lost cause and no-one could help me. My attitude was not the best as I was not bothered about others or if I was recalled to prison, indeed the same old me only thinking of himself.

Over the last 2 or 3 months things, however things have happened here at Southview that I can honestly say can, in my opinion, change residents lives for the better. With the help of the Manager and the staff I have now put structure into my life. By means of one to one key worker sessions, in which I can talk about what is going on in my life and what I have been doing throughout the week and by taking part in at least two of the activities which are run by various different staff, tutors or residents, I can see the changes I have made. The activities range in various different forms such as Gardening Group, Greenhouse Club, Art Group, Music Group, Model Group, Read and Relax Group, Yoga Group, Guitar Group, Walking Group, Cooking Course. Different groups will be developed or introduced as time goes on by the future residents that come here.

The groups have brought a lot of structure into my life over the last three months and have got me interested in things that I didn't think I would be. I now better understand what an Enabling Focus Environment is and understand that it is us that are responsible for our future lives and what society deems that we should be doing to lead law abiding lives and contribute in the correct way.

I am now working with staff, along with other residents, as an unofficial buddy/mentor so that I can welcome and hopefully help new residents with their transition of coming out of prison, however long they have spent incarcerated before coming to Southview.

Before I judged people on how they looked, spoke, dressed etc and made assumptions about them before getting to know them, this has now changed in the way that I no longer judge people now, in fact no matter what the background or crime of the individual, I want to help and give advice the way that I have been given.

We have a Residents Meeting every week. Everyone is expected to attend as the meeting is to benefit us all to deal with our problems and what we hope to get help with or accomplish in our future here at the PIPE Unit.

Southview has given me some of my self esteem and confidence back, which in turn has given me the confidence to do things like writing this testimony. I feel that I personally have benefited from the support network at the PIPE Unit and would like to thank the manager and staff at Southview, for helping me, at last, to see the good that I can do with my life.

”

No More Victims; No Secrets

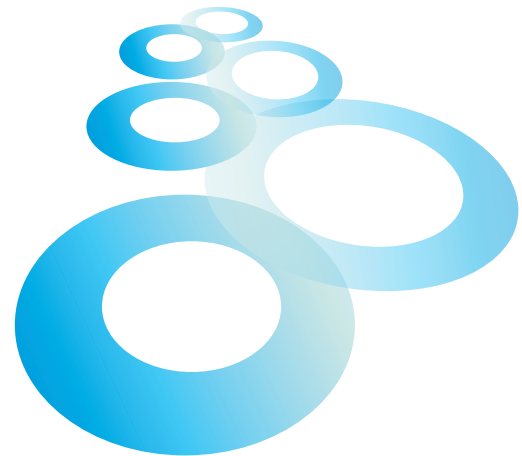
Circles of Support and Accountability

We've come a long way in Sex Offender Treatment in the last ten years; from legitimised Nonce Bashing of the nineties to Tony Ward's strength based model. So what is effective treatment? What works? What doesn't work? Perhaps there are no definitive answers to these questions and perhaps the answer is different for each individual.

What we do know is that the human brain cannot recognise negatives in any meaningful way so to focus on deficits is quite simply asking the brain to do something it can't. There is an area somewhere between risk assessment and treatment wherein we have to find the person within, allow them their story and give them a real opportunity to invest in a new meaningful abuse free life of the future. This does not negate or ignore the past, but accepts that to move on from truly horrific deeds we must be able to focus and invest in a future. We can only do this if what we see as a reflection of our selves in others is both human, loveable and worth investing in. Are you feeling uncomfortable yet?

I like to call this line between acknowledging and understanding a person's horrific past deeds and accepting them as a human being capable of change, meaning, love and goodness as the tightrope: too much focus on the past and you will lose the person before you; too little attention to risk and you miss the risky situation in front of you. As paid professionals we tread gingerly on this tightrope every day; its our job. Volunteers at COSA do this for free. I'll just repeat that in case you didn't get it the first time: *volunteers at COSA do this for free*. They willingly give two hours or more of their time every week to plan, spend time with and debrief from a circle meeting with a high risk sex offender. They take time to get to know the person; they hold that person to account; they buy that person coffee; they become friendly advisors who encourage, guide and at times even counsel; and they do it all for free. Magic!

Time freely given by people for people is quite simply the most powerful tool I have ever come across in my career working with people trying to move on from sex offences. The dynamic risk factors of emotional loneliness and social isolation are so often difficult to address in the false environments of treatment; 5 hours a week in a group is a drop in the ocean next to hours and hours sat at home with



job rejection after job rejection waiting for the phone to ring. There is something amazing about being able to say to a person, 'I've got a group of people together who would really like to meet you; they are keen to help you stay offence free and to make something of your life, if you want it.' Trying to explain to a person that these people are volunteers is an interesting experience; you can see the cogs whirring, a confused look and bafflement: 'who are these people?' 'what, they do this for free?' 'why?'

The effect is remarkable. Not only can a circle give someone that positive experience that they need in order to gain confidence in social situations, they encourage them to go out and do it again and again. It's not rocket science really; modelling the type of relationship we expect people to go out and forge on their own, but its not something that anything else can cover.



Lay Advisers - our critical friends to MAPPA

Lay Advisers are volunteer members of the public with no links to the management of MAPPA offenders. They act as independent, yet informed, observers, who are able to pose questions which the professionals closely involved in the work might not think of asking.

They also bring to the MAPPA Strategic Management Board (SMB) their understanding and perspective of the community where they live and have strong links. In North Yorkshire the SMB has two Lay Advisers, Sue Bentley and Dr Nicholas Todd. They are appointed by the Secretary of State for Justice as critical friends to represent the community interest in the work of MAPPA. Their role is to challenge processes and procedures, monitor and evaluate the operation of MAPPA and help make MAPPA more accountable.

Sue Bentley has been a Lay Adviser for three years and continues to enjoy the mix of oversight and involvement as a critical friend. She said:

“In the past year I have been involved in the monitoring of the implementation of the SMB's business plan and the evaluation of MAPPA processes and their outcomes. Staff training and continual improvement have remained high on the agenda in order for the MAPPA arrangements to continue to be implemented consistently and safely.”

Dr Nicholas Todd has been a Lay Advisor for just over a year and aims to bring a psychological perspective to the MAPPA processes and strategy. He said: “I have thoroughly enjoyed hearing about the excellent work of MAPPA and contributing to the continuous monitoring and improvement of the processes, including considering the research opportunities within MAPPA and the implementation of innovative risk assessment tools.”



MAPPA Statistical Tables 2014-15

These are Official Statistics to which you have early access as allowed under the code of practice for official statistics. As such they must not be circulated further. Release into the public domain or any public comment on these statistics (including implications of content such as favourable or unfavourable) prior to publication undermines the integrity of official statistics.

The code of practice for official statistics states that areas must "ensure that no indication of the substance of a statistical report is made public, or given to the media or any other party not recorded as eligible for access before publication. Report to the National Statistician immediately any accidental or wrongful release, and investigate the circumstances" (paragraph 8, protocol 2).

For the complete code of practice, please see:
<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html>

The date of publication is 29 October 2015 at 9:30 am.

For inclusion in area MAPPA report:

Area: North Yorkshire

MAPPA-eligible offenders on 31 March 2015

	Category 1: Registered sex offenders	Category 2: Violent offenders	Category 3: Other dangerous offenders	Total
Level 1	627	183	-	810
Level 2	2	6	5	13
Level 3	0	0	0	0
Total	629	189	5	823

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	13	45	11	69
Level 3	4	2	0	6
Total	17	47	11	75

RSOs cautioned or convicted for breach of notification requirements	12
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Restrictive orders for Category 1 offenders

SOPOs, NOs & FTOs imposed by the courts

SOPOs	68
NOs	0
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	8	0	10
Level 3	0	0	0	0
Total	2	8	0	10

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	87
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This figure has been calculated using the mid-2014 estimated resident population, published by the Office for National Statistics on 25 June 2015, 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 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 (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.

(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 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.

Getting it right: managing young people who pose a serious risk of harm to others.

During the past year the North Yorkshire Youth Justice Service (YJS) has continued to work closely with MAPPA to reduce the risk posed by sexual and violent young offenders. The recent case of Simon highlights the effectiveness of multi-agency working to reduce reoffending and harm to the public.

Simon was placed under YJS supervision after committing sexual offences, for which he received a 3 year Youth Rehabilitation Order. Simon was required to attend weekly meetings with his supervisor. It was soon recognised that he had some difficulties with his speech and communication and he was referred to the Youth Communications Team (YCT) who provide expert help for young people with speech, language & communication needs.

Simon was diagnosed with a condition on the autistic spectrum, meaning he finds change hard and copes better with set routines and familiar faces. The YCT and Simon's Youth Justice Officer ensured that a tailored programme could be put in place to help him understand what he needed to do to stop offending. This work was based on the nationally-accredited AIM2 programme, a specialist treatment package for harmful adolescent sexual behaviours.

Simon had regular face to face meetings with AIM-trained staff, and personalised visual supports were adopted to help him make positive choices, including a traffic light system of behaviours. The YCT made other professionals and carers aware of his needs, which ensured a consistent approach also helping to provide effective support.

Simon has not reoffended and will remain under YJS supervision when he turns 18 to continue the positive work being undertaken and support him into adulthood.

Notes
The article is anonymous.



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