

MULTI-AGENCY PUBLIC PROTECTION ARRANGEMENTS

# NORTHUMBRIA MAPPA ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15



# CONTENTS

3 Introduction

4 What is MAPPA?

5 Northumbria area MAPPA statistics 2014/15

7 Explanation commentary on statistical tables



Vera Bard QC  
Police and Crime Commissioner  
Northumberland

Northumbria police and crime commissioner Vera baird has been in post since november 2012.

Her Police and Crime plan 2013-18 has five priorities including tackling domestic and sexual abuse and community confidence.

The commissioner is fully supportive of the mappa process which is relevant to her priorities and will continue to work closely with all the agencies involved.

# INTRODUCTION

The work being undertaken to improve the safety of communities through the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) is vitally important.

Violence and sexual abuse are unacceptable wherever they occur and it is evident that through MAPPA such offenders are identified and better managed than ever before. As the number of offenders within MAPPA continues to grow as expected, there is clear evidence that the Responsible Authority (Police, Probation and Prison Service) are addressing these additional demands. This is achieved by strengthening local partnerships, using statutory powers to restrict the behaviour of offenders and the robust management of those released into the community.

MAPPA in Northumbria is now well established and each year further progress is made in strengthening our procedures to protect the public from the most high risk offenders. The majority of our partner agencies now have lead members of staff for MAPPA who are fully aware of the issues involved in public protection. This important commitment has greatly assisted in the excellent progress made in Northumbria.

As well as an explanation of the public protection arrangements, this report also contains statistical information on the number of offenders managed through MAPPA in Northumbria.

We hope you will find this report a useful guide to understanding how Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements operate within Northumbria.

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# 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).
- 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.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

## 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.

# NORTHUMBRIA AREA MAPPA STATISTICS 2014/15

MAPPA - Eligible offenders on 31 March 2015				
	Category 1: Registered sex offenders	Category 2: Violent offenders	Category 3: Other dangerous offenders	Total
Level 1	1255	598	-	1853
Level 2	4	3	17	24
Level 3	1	0	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1260</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1879</b>

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	18	31	84	133
Level 3	3	5	1	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>142</b>

<b>RSOs cautioned or convicted for breach of notification requirements</b>	<b>34</b>
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Restrictive orders for Category 1 offenders	
SOPOs, NOs & FTOs imposed by the courts	
SOPOs	89
NOs	0
FTOs	0

## WHAT IS MAPPA?

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	3	5
Level 3	1	2	0	3
<b>Total</b>	2	3	3	8
Breach of SOPO				
Level 2	0	-	-	0
Level 3	0	-	-	0
<b>Total</b>	0	-	-	0

<b>Total number of Registered Sexual Offenders per 100,000 population</b>	99
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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.

# EXPLANATION COMMENTARY ON STATISTICAL TABLES

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 (99% 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.



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