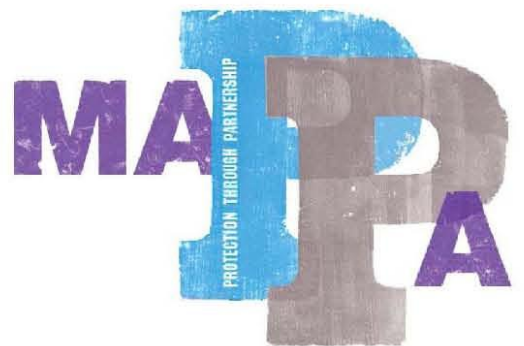


Dorset



Annual Report 2015-2016



Intro

The Dorset MAPPA Strategic Management Board (SMB) is pleased to present this Annual Report to the residents of Dorset. Dorset 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 Dorset Police, the National Probation Service, (NPS) 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 Dorset 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 Dorset 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. Dorset MAPPA is committed to looking to develop ways in which the community can take on a more active role in public protection.

Tina Ridge

Head of Dorset NPS

Mark Cooper

Assistant Chief Constable Dorset Police

Andy Rogers

Deputy Director of Custody (South West)

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 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. 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

MAPPA Statistics

MAPPA-eligible offenders on 31 March 2016				
	Category 1: Registered sex offenders	Category 2: Violent offenders	Category 3: Other dangerous offenders	Total
Level 1	693	196	-	889
Level 2	4	2	3	9
Level 3	0	0	1	1
Total	697	198	4	899

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	16	15	18	49
Level 3	2	3	4	9
Total	18	18	22	58

RSOs cautioned or convicted for breach of notification requirements	16
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RSOs who have had their life time notification revoked on application	6
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Restrictive orders for Category 1 offenders	
SHPOs, SHPOs with foreign travel restriction & NOs imposed by the courts	
SHPO	62
SHPO with foreign travel restriction	0
NOs	3

Number of people who became subject to notification requirements following a breach(es) of a Sexual Risk Order (SRO)	0
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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	0	4	2	6
Level 3	0	0	1	1
Total	0	4	3	7
Breach of SOPO/SHPO				
Level 2	0	-	-	0
Level 3	0	-	-	0
Total	0	-	-	0

Total number of Registered Sexual Offenders per 100,000 population	102
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This figure has been calculated using the Mid-2015 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 23 June 2016 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 2016 (i.e. they are a snapshot). The rest of the data covers the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016.

(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 Harm Prevention Order (SHPO) – (replaced Sexual Offence Prevention Orders) including any additional foreign travel restriction.

Sexual Harm Prevention Orders (SHPOs) and interim SHPOs are intended to protect the public from offenders convicted of a sexual or violent offence who pose a risk of sexual harm to the public by placing restrictions on their behaviour. It requires the offender to notify their details to the police (as set out in Part 2 of the 2003 Act) for the duration of the order.

The court must be satisfied that an order is necessary to protect the public (or any particular members of the public) in the UK, or children or vulnerable adults (or any particular children or vulnerable adults) abroad, from sexual harm from the offender. In the case of an order made on a free standing application by a chief officer or the National Crime Agency (NCA), the chief officer/NCA must be able to show that the offender has acted in such a way since their conviction as to make the order necessary.

The minimum duration for a full order is five years. The lower age limit is 10, which is the age of criminal responsibility, but where the defendant is under the age of 18 an application for an order should only be considered exceptionally.

(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) Sexual Risk Order (incl. any additional foreign travel restriction)

The Sexual Risk Order (SRO) replaced the Risk of Sexual Harm Order (RoSHO) and may be made in relation to a person without a conviction for a sexual or violent offence (or any other offence), but who poses a risk of sexual harm.

The SRO may be made at the magistrates' court on application, by the police or NCA where an individual **has done an act of a sexual nature** and the court is **satisfied that the person poses a risk of harm to the public in the UK or children or vulnerable adults overseas.**

A SRO may prohibit the person from doing anything described in it – **this includes preventing travel overseas.** Any prohibition must be necessary to protect the public in the UK from sexual harm or, in relation to foreign travel, protecting children or vulnerable adults from sexual harm.

An individual subject to an SRO is required to notify the police of their name and home address within three days of the order being made and also to notify any changes to this information within three days.

A SRO can last for a minimum of two years and has no maximum duration, with the exception of any foreign travel restrictions which, if applicable, last for a maximum of five years (but may be renewed).

The criminal standard of proof continues to apply, the person concerned is able to appeal against the making of the order, and the police or the person concerned are able to apply for the order to be varied, renewed or discharged.

A breach of a SRO is a criminal offence punishable by a maximum of five years' imprisonment. Where an individual breaches their SRO, they will become subject to the full notification requirements.

Nominals made subject of a SRO are now recorded on VISOR, as a Potentially Dangerous Person (PDP).

(i) Lifetime notification requirements revoked on application

Change in legislation on sexual offenders

A legal challenge in 2010 and a corresponding legislative response means there is now a mechanism in place which will allow **qualifying sex offenders to apply for a review of their notification requirements.**

Individuals subject to indefinite notification will only become eligible to seek a review once they have been subject to the indefinite notification requirements for a period of at least 15 years for adults and 8 years for juveniles. This applies from 1 September 2012 for adult offenders

On 21 April 2010, in the case of *R (on the application of F and Angus Aubrey Thompson) v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2010] UKSC 17, the Supreme Court upheld an earlier decision of the Court of Appeal and made a declaration of incompatibility under s. 4 of the Human Rights Act 1998 in respect of notification requirements for an indefinite period under section 82 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

This has been remedied by virtue of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (Remedial) Order 2012 which has introduced the opportunity for offenders subject to indefinite notification to seek a review; this was enacted on 30th July 2012.

Persons will not come off the register automatically. Qualifying offenders will be required to submit an application to the police seeking a review of their indefinite notification requirements. This will only be once they have completed a minimum period of time subject to the notification requirements (15 years from the point of first notification following release from custody for the index offence for adults and 8 years for juveniles).

Those who continue to pose a significant risk will remain on the register for life, if necessary. In the event that an offender is subject to a Sexual Offences Prevention Order (SOPO) /Sexual Harm Prevention Order (SHPO) the order must be discharged under section 108 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 prior to an application for a review of their indefinite notification requirements.

For more information, see the Home Office section of the gov.uk website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sexual-offences-act-2003-remedial-order-2012>

Local page

Key achievements:

- The high standards which Dorset MAPPA has set have ensured that we have achieved 100% against the KPI which measures timeliness of review: The Key Performance Indicators for MAPPA demand that Level 2 offenders who are in the community are formally reviewed via a meeting every 16 weeks and Level 3 offenders every 8 weeks. In Dorset we aim to review Level 2 offenders every 12 weeks and Level 3 offenders every 4 weeks.
- Dorset MAPPA continue to work closely with Circles of Support and Accountability South West (CoSA) - see below for more information. CoSA South West committed to delivering between 4 and 6 CoSAs per year between 2012 – 2016. During the 2015 – 2016 financial year 8 MAPPA high risk of serious harm sex offenders benefited from a CoSA.
- The MAPPA training package has continued to receive excellent feedback from attendees. The training programme includes a 1 day awareness raising event delivered jointly by the Police MAPPA Detective Inspector and the MAPPA co-ordinator. Bespoke events are also delivered for agencies on request. These are delivered by the MAPPA co-ordinator. This year well over 100 professionals have taken part in the 1 day awareness raising event or a bespoke training event.
- Dorset MAPPA continues to receive high level support from Duty to Co-operate agency staff, as reflected in the KPI measuring attendance at level 2 and 3 meetings. Over 2015 – 2016 attendance by duty to co-operate agency staff was achieved at over 97% of meetings. We continue to aim for 100% attendance.
- The MAPPA SMB has achieved its objective to audit at least 20 cases being managed at Level 2 or Level 3 over the course of the year. This year 24 cases were audited. The case file audit has shown examples of excellent practice across Dorset MAPPA and confirms that all cases are managed to a “case well managed” standard.
- Dorset National Probation Service (NPS) and Dorset Police have implemented the use of an Active Risk Management System, known as ARMS, for the assessment and risk management planning of registered sexual offenders. The introduction of ARMS has been widely accepted as a positive and progressive step towards further enhancing the assessment and management of sexual offenders. All staff are provided with nationally recognised, specialist training in the application of ARMS.
- Dorset Police through collaboration with Devon and Cornwall Police will be piloting the use of a specialist vulnerability lawyer to support applications for civil orders, to advance the effective management of high risk offenders in the community

Who are the Strategic Management Board (SMB) and what do they do?

The SMB is made up from senior managers from the Responsible Authority (RA), and senior managers from the Duty to Co-operate agencies (DTC). The RA representatives include the Head of Dorset National Probation Service, a Prison Governor representing the Dorset prisons (also taking the SMB Chair during 2015 – 2016), as well as the wider prison estate and the Dorset Police Superintendent with Police responsibility for the management of MAPPA offenders. From the DTC agencies we have Senior Management representation from both the East and the West Housing Authorities, who also represent landlords across Dorset, Adult social services and Children’s social services, the Local Health Trust, the Youth Offending Teams and Lay Advisors. The group formally meet every quarter. At these meetings progress and developments are fully reviewed via the business plan. The business plan is a working document that all members of

the SMB can access at any time throughout the year.

In Dorset members of the SMB take an active role in ensuring that MAPPA is effectively delivered and developed, with each monitoring their agencies engagement with and contribution to, MAPPA. Part of this involves the MAPPA co-ordinator collecting detailed attendance statistics from every MAPPA meeting held. Across Dorset there is a high level of attendance and co-operation by all agencies involved with MAPPA. This is demonstrated via Dorset's high level performance against the MAPPA Key Performance Indicator set (KPIs), which are fed back to the central MAPPA team on a quarterly basis.

The MAPPA Co-ordinator:

The MAPPA co-ordinator is very much a developmental role, including working jointly with the Detective Inspector responsible for the Police management of sexual offenders and violent offenders (MOSOVO) to deliver MAPPA awareness training to the duty to co-operate agencies across Dorset. The MAPPA co-ordinator also delivers bespoke training to Police staff, Youth Offending Team staff, Prison staff and others on request. These training packages are constantly being developed and changed so that they are completely up to date and meet the needs of participants. These events aim to encourage partnership agencies' involvement with MAPPA to support the protection of the public and specific individuals.

This year the MAPPA co-ordinator and SMB Chair have worked closely with the MAPPA operational leads for Housing working on the review of a protocol for housing provision to support appropriate reintegration into Dorset accommodation.

In addition, the MAPPA co-ordinator is responsible for the development of the MAPPA operational team. This includes the MAPPA Chairs, (made up of Senior Probation Officers and Police Detective Inspectors), the MAPPA Administrators and the Lay Advisors.

The MAPPA co-ordinator works to the SMB and is responsible for ensuring that the Dorset MAPPA business plan is fully achieved.

Local operation of MAPPA:

Dorset MAPPA continue to have monthly Level 3 MAPPA meetings, chaired by the Head of Dorset, Assistant Chief Officer (ACO) for Dorset, NPS. They are always attended by the Responsible

Authority Senior Manager from Dorset Police and the MAPPA co-ordinator, as well as senior representatives from the Dorset Forensic Team. Senior management attendance ensures that decisions about allocating resources to manage risk can be made instantly, and that senior managers across agencies are fully sighted and involved in the management of the critical few. Every case managed at Level 3 who is in the community is reviewed on a monthly basis (the national target being set at a review every 8 weeks).

In addition, there are four MAPPA Level 2 meetings every month held across the county. These are chaired by the MAPPA co-ordinator, local Senior Probation Officers and the Police MOSOVO Detective Inspector. Dorset aims to review cases managed at Level 2 every 12 weeks (the national target being set at a review every 16 weeks). Prison staff attendance at MAPPA meetings has been excellent, aided in some cases by the use of telephone conferencing facilities and video link.

The National Probation Service Victim Liaison Officers (VLOs), significantly the Dorset VLO, also plays a very important role within MAPPA meetings and in the Offender Management of MAPPA designated individuals. The VLO provides the voice of the victim and a balance to reflect the needs of victims within our local community. Other Duty to Co-operate agencies have generally good levels of engagement with small pockets of improvement addressed by the respective safeguarding leads.

Disclosure is considered at every MAPPA meeting in Dorset in line with national guidance. This is monitored centrally as well as via our internal Quality Assurance audit process. Disclosure is the sharing of information about MAPPA offenders with a third party, for the purpose of protecting the public and safeguarding vulnerable adults and children. The third party could be a member of the public such as a victim, an employer, a person forming a relationship with an offender, or a person acting in a professional capacity, but not party to the MAPPA. For disclosure to be made the MAPPA group must consider if the disclosure is necessary, proportionate, justifiable, and if agreed, how it will be implemented. On this basis there are times when disclosure is not agreed.

Quality Assurance:

The MAPPA SMB performance subgroup is led by the Head of Dorset National Probation Service. Its aim is to ensure that MAPPA is delivered

across Dorset to the highest of standards, and that where areas for development or improvement are identified, the necessary steps are taken to achieve this. The SMB performance subgroup includes Lay Advisor members of the MAPPA team. They carry out regular audits of the cases managed at Level 2 and 3 by MAPPA to ensure that robust risk management plans are in place and that all actions are carried out by the agencies involved in managing the case. They also monitor the use of resources so that they are used in the most cost effective manner and make sure the standards set in the MAPPA National Guidance continue to be met.

The Lay Advisors also audit MAPPA meetings by attending Level 2 and 3 meetings. Specifically they consider standard of chairing, the standard of risk management plans, the delivery of these and the involvement of partner agencies. The feedback from MAPPA meeting audits has been generally positive to date, with all meetings achieving scores of either satisfactory or good (good being the highest standard). Areas for improvement are always discussed and changes made in line with national guidance.

Serious Case Review (SCR), sub-group:

The SMB SCR subgroup is led by the Police Superintendent. The group meets every quarter and includes senior representation from the Responsible Authorities, housing, health and Lay Advisors. Other SMB members can join the group as required. The subgroup ensures that action plans from any Dorset MAPPA SCR are fully implemented and that the learning from an SCR is used to fully inform best practice across agencies moving forward. Additionally, it reviews any cases where a discretionary SCR could take place, as well as reviewing the learning from non-MAPPA SCRs which could inform MAPPA best practice.

Circles of Support and Accountability:

Dorset MAPPA works closely with Circles of Support and Accountability South West (CoSA). CoSA is the communities response to the risk of serious harm and re-offending posed by convicted sex offenders who live within the community post sentence. CoSA is recognised as being an effective way to ensure that sex offenders have the support of the community and are held to account for their offending and subsequent actions so they are safely reintegrated within the community. CoSA work with the highest risk sex offenders identified via MAPPA. There has been an active number of CoSAs running across Dorset for several years now with very positive

results for communities, the volunteers and the offenders.

Every referral to CoSA is fully discussed with the MAPPA co-ordinator, who works closely with the CoSA co-ordinator. In Dorset the CoSA co-ordinator is a Probation Officer seconded into CoSA from Dorset NPS. All referrals to CoSA in Dorset must first be agreed with the MAPPA co-ordinator, working on behalf of Dorset MAPPA SMB. All offenders who received a CoSA have a Police Offender Supervisor and the majority also have an NPS Offender Manager. They will be actively involved with review meetings.

CoSA case study

Offender X:

During April 2013, X was convicted of offences of rape and sexual assault against a family member. He was sentenced to a six year custodial sentence. During his time in prison he was able to complete the Sex Offender Treatment Programme (SOTP) and was released on licence in early 2016.

X experienced a difficult upbringing and had been the victim of physical abuse and bullying both within and outside of the family home. During his teenage years he had struggled with low self esteem and had found it difficult to develop appropriate emotionally close relationships.

On release he was assessed as posing a high risk of serious harm to children as he had not demonstrated that he had the internal risk management skills to avoid further offending. Risk factors identified for X included isolation and withdrawal, loss of personal and/or professional support, lack of adult sexual and emotional intimacy, persistent low mood and/or anxiety, socialising with vulnerable peers below his age and avoidant coping strategies.

The Circles commenced shortly after his release from custody and have met on a weekly basis. The initial focus of the meetings was to explore X's journey through his sentence and supporting him with developing appropriate future plans. The Circle has also provided practical support with CV writing, mock interview questions and advice and guidance around developing independent living skills. Safe social interaction has also been encouraged through walks, visits to cafes and playing card games. The Circle has achieved a good level of trust with X and has developed working relationships that at times has enabled them to challenge X's cynicism and resentments. They have actively motivated X to

engage with support agencies, they have assisted him in developing problem solving skills and have encouraged him to consider different perspectives. X demonstrates confidence in the Circle and likes to keep the volunteers informed of how he is spending his time and any issues he may be finding stressful. The Circle Volunteers feel that they have assisted X in developing social skills and are now working with X to identify how he can develop these skills outside of the Circle.

The Circle share all information from group meetings with MAPPA agencies. This has benefited the risk assessment and risk management process. The Circle has had a very positive impact on X and he has described it as "the highlight of my week". The volunteers can see the difference that they are making. The Police and NPS really value the contributions the Circle has made in supporting X with the development of skills to manage his risk factors.

For more information about CoSA, including information on how to become a volunteer, please visit their website: www.circles-uk.org.uk

Victim Liaison Officers (VLO):

In Dorset we have one full time VLO, who is a very important member of the Dorset MAPPA team. She is employed by the NPS and is a qualified Probation Officer. We also link in with VLOs based around the country to ensure that the victims of all the offenders that we manage via Dorset MAPPA are fully represented at meetings.

The VLO provides NPS Offender Managers with recommendations for no contact conditions and exclusion zones for licence conditions. These conditions can be central to reducing perceived fear and further psychological harm to victims. This work within MAPPA provides reassurance for most victims as they know that all agencies are working together. Victims are told that all agencies have the same information and work from the same risk management plan to ensure that victims are safe and the public is protected. Victims are also reassured knowing that their confidentiality is respected; MAPPA protects them and their information which further reduces psychological harm. The whole MAPPA process is a huge protective factor for victims; this includes current victims, previous victims and potential victims.

MAPPA helps victims feel like they have a voice, It is hard to overstate the importance of this when you consider the potentially stressful situation that

victims find themselves in. Victims often described the positive aspect of '*seeing the same face*' throughout the process and the consistency this gave them. They also appreciated not having to deal with numerous different people and the associated retelling of the same information. Victims are also given access to specialist services and practical advice when needed.

The Lay Advisors:

During the course of 2015 – 2016 we have sadly said good-bye to one of our Lay Advisors, Richard, who completed his term in post. Dorset MAPPA SMB are very grateful to Richard for the time and energy he contributed to ensuring MAPPA across Dorset is delivered to the highest possible standards to achieve safeguarding of the vulnerable, offender rehabilitation and public protection. We therefore have two new Lay Advisors in Dorset.

Lay Advisors are members of the community, who by reflecting the views of the community, play a crucial role in MAPPA processes and express these views by attending the MAPPA SMB meetings. The Lay Advisors' feedback is a standing agenda item for Dorset SMB. Lay Advisors are volunteers and are not therefore paid for the time that they dedicate to MAPPA. Lay Advisors are not required to have formal qualifications, just strong interpersonal skills, a balanced and objective approach and a genuine interest in making a contribution to public safety and public protection.

Dorset Lay Advisors have always been very valued members of the MAPPA team. They have always played a very important role within the development of Dorset MAPPA, making significant contributions to the audit process by undertaking both case file audits and auditing MAPPA meetings.

A few words from the Lay Advisors:

"It has been an interesting and informative first nine months for us as the new lay advisors to Dorset MAPPA.

We have undertaken a comprehensive induction programme, which has familiarised us with the work of MAPPA and given us an understanding of the processes involved. We have met with the agencies involved and gained a clear view of the work they undertake as part of the MAPPA process.

We have attended SMB, SCR, Level 2 and 3 meetings and contributed to the auditing of meetings, as well as sessions with the MAPPA coordinator.

Our feedback is received by the SMB as a standing Agenda item. Our observations and questions have been well received and welcomed.

We look forward to developing in this important role, adding our independent voice to ensure that the MAPPA in Dorset remains robust and continually improving."

Dorset MAPPA Case Study

Dorset MAPPA recognises the key role it plays in reducing the re offending behaviour of sexual and violent offenders in order to protect the public from serious harm. The role includes undertaking timely risk assessments to support the development of robust risk management plans. A key role of Dorset MAPPA is to ensure that the expertise and resources available within partner agencies are utilised in a way that best protects the public from risk of serious harm.

Dorset MAPPA acknowledge that the public are often frustrated by the sentences received by offenders who pose a risk of serious harm. Many members of the public are also unaware that the majority of violent and sexual offenders are given standard determinate prison sentences from which they are released at the half way point of their sentence. This type of release is not dependent on the offender making progress in addressing their offending behaviour and does not require an assessment that the risk posed can be considered manageable in the community. Regardless of this, it is the responsibility of Dorset MAPPA to work with statutory agencies to consider how best to put in place risk management plans that maximise the statutory powers of the agencies involved.

Planning and implementing an agreed risk management plan is very much reliant on the skills of the professionals involved to work closely together and to motivate the offender to engage with the plan. However, the multi-agencies also ensure that necessary and proportionate monitoring and control is implemented.

In addition to day to day monitoring of the offender, MAPPA also oversee multi-agency response plans for use in the event that an

offender does not engage with the risk management plan.

Offender X is an example of a case managed by Dorset MAPPA. He had an extensive history of sexual offences against children which included very serious offences against different victims over an extended period. Prior to release Offender X was referred into MAPPA as a category one, level three case. The first level three MAPPA meeting was held in 2015, some four months prior to release. At that time Offender X was serving two consecutive sentences for sexual offences against children. One sentence was against victims known to him and the second sentence was against victims not known to him. In that case, the offence involved Offender X breaking into the victim's home and committing serious sexual assaults.

The initial MAPPA meeting was an opportunity for all agencies to familiarise themselves with the case. This involved, Police, Probation, Prison and Dorset Forensic Team (psychology and psychiatry). Offender X denied much of his offending history and significantly minimised some of the offences he admitted. In custody he had not completed offending behaviour work, largely due to his pro-offending attitudes and a negative view of the effectiveness of offending behaviour programmes. In that first meeting it was jointly agreed that Offender X would pose a very high risk of serious harm on release. It was also agreed that Dorset Forensic Team and Probation would jointly visit Offender X in custody with the aim of producing a formulation and updated risk assessment. Due to the level of risk posed by Offender X it was also agreed that an application would be made to the Ministry of Justice to register Offender X as a Critical Public Protection Case (CPPC). This would allow additional funding to be put in place to support the risk management

At that first meeting information was shared regarding previous lifestyle and associates. This information, from different sources, allowed a detailed picture of risk scenarios to be developed. It became clear that Offender X posed a significant likelihood of absconding and this would need to be addressed in the risk management plan. The location of the release address was confirmed and safeguarding actions were agreed including the identification of children's facilities in the local community to ensure that appropriate disclosures could be considered. Disclosure to others known to Offender X was also reviewed and actions agreed.

Two joint visits to Offender X in custody were completed prior to release and these involved Police, Dorset Forensic Team and Probation. In those visits the risk management plan was shared with him and his attitude to this was assessed.

A second MAPPA meeting was held shortly before release in late 2015. The output of further research completed by a number of different agencies was shared and fed into the risk management plan. The Approved Premises were also part of that meeting to ensure that they were fully aware of the plan for release and the communication channels to be used should concerns be identified post release. It was confirmed that stringent licence conditions were approved including non-standard conditions to address specific risk issues.

When Offender X was released from custody he was subject to a strict monitoring regime which involved staff from the Approved Premises, Probation and Dorset Police. Specific tactics were employed to provide information and intelligence to the MAPPA agencies.

A third MAPPA meeting was held six weeks after his release from custody. Concerns were raised that Offender X's compliance with control measures was only superficial. Furthermore he was unwilling to enter into any meaningful exploration of his sexual behaviour and he openly refused to give details of associations and acquaintances he was in contact with. He was resistant to the restrictions to his freedom and was open in admitting sexual attraction to children. There were also concerns that he was frequently visiting a public facility that could provide him access to children. A joint visit was urgently undertaken by Police and Probation and contact was made with the appropriate safeguard lead within the local council.

Approximately seven weeks after being released from custody Offender X absconded from the Approved Premises. The multi-agency response plan led by Dorset Police was implemented on the day he absconded. This included the revocation of his licence, local and national media alerts and safeguarding notifications. Offender X remained at large for three days before being arrested in another part of the country. There was no evidence that he re-offended whilst at large. He was returned to custody and there are no plans for him to be released before his sentence end date. This case will be considered by MAPPA prior to his re-release from custody to ensure that a robust risk management plan is again developed.

This case highlights the benefits of forward planning and the use of strong multi-agency information sharing and collaboration. He was subject to an automatic release at the half way point of his sentence despite the assessment that he posed a very high risk of serious harm. Furthermore, there was a high expectation that he would not comply with the statutory controls imposed to manage this risk. A planned swift response following his disappearance contributed to effective protection of the public.

Thank you:

Once again, we would like to thank all of the professionals working across the Responsible Authorities, Lay Advisors and the Duty to Co-operate agencies for their commitment to delivering MAPPA to a very high standard across Dorset for the purpose of achieving public protection.

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