



Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements

BEDFORDSHIRE ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021



INTRODUCTION



Temporary Assistant Chief Constable and SMB chair for Bedfordshire

Sharn Basra

Bedfordshire Police

Safeguarding the public from violent and sexual crime continues to be one of the highest priorities for agencies across Bedfordshire. Working together through Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) to manage offenders convicted of such crimes is vitally important. The crimes these offenders are responsible for greatly affect the lives of victims, their friends and families and can in turn cause fear in local communities. MAPPA is a partnership and this report explains how different agencies involved work together, how the arrangements operate in Bedfordshire and what actions are taken to improve their effectiveness. It also contains statistical information about the number of offenders managed under the arrangements and illustrates how the arrangements work in practice.

We recognize the public's concern about people who may present a risk of causing significant harm and we believe that MAPPA provides the best possible framework for these people. While it is never possible to eliminate that risk entirely, MAPPA aims to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to reduce the risk of further serious harm to the public.

The global Coronavirus pandemic has posed unprecedented challenges and will likely continue to do so throughout the next year. As a result, all agencies within the Criminal Justice System have had to adapt, to continue to protect the public. All parties have proved to be flexible and shown commendable commitment and determination throughout these difficult months, with some undergoing substantial change such as the national reunification of the National Probation Service. This has been another busy year for all agencies involved in the MAPPA process.

As ever the Strategic Management Board for MAPPA in Bedfordshire recognizes the contribution made by partner agencies at a time of continuing challenge in securing resources to work with this group of offenders.

Serious violent and sexual offending perpetrated by individuals make up a relatively small proportion of all recorded crime. Yet, by their nature, the impact of such offending can be devastating. The SMB is committed to the ongoing development of local practice, sharing learning and developments from regional and national inspections and case reviews in order to keep Bedfordshire safe.

Alison Lenachan

MAPPA coordinator for Bedfordshire

I have been the acting MAPPA Coordinator, for Bedfordshire, for the last twelve months, and it has been a great pleasure to have been provided with the opportunity to work at both a strategic and operational level within the organization and county that I have been professionally committed to for over a decade.

The last year has forced us to adapt and overcome the unprecedented challenges that a global pandemic has created logistically, whilst continuing to focus our efforts on public safety and the active risk management of our most harmful offenders. Reflecting on my journey, at such a difficult time, I have been impressed by the commitment and creativity of the representatives from our statutory and duty to cooperate agencies whom have worked tirelessly to ensure that the resources and senior management oversight that has been required, has been applied appropriately to ensure the ongoing risk management and wellbeing of our MAPPA nominals



WHAT IS MAPPA?

MAPPA background

MAPPA (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements) are a set of arrangements to manage the risk posed by the most serious sexual, violent and terrorist 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 Services, Youth Offending Teams, Job Centre Plus and Local Housing and Education Authorities.

Local Strategic Management Boards comprising senior representatives from each of the Responsible Authority and DTC agencies are responsible for delivering MAPPA with their respective areas. The Responsible Authority is also required to appoint two Lay Advisers to sit on each MAPPA area Strategic Management Board (SMB).

Lay Advisers are members of the public appointed by the Minister with no links to the business of managing MAPPA offenders who 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 between agencies to inform the risk assessments and risk management plans of those managing or supervising them.

That is as far as MAPPA extend in the majority of cases, but some cases require more senior oversight and structured multi-agency management. In such cases there will be regular MAPPA meetings attended by relevant agency practitioners.

There are 3 categories of MAPPA eligible offender:

- Category 1 is registered sexual offenders;
- Category 2 are mainly violent offenders sentenced to 12 months or more imprisonment or a hospital order; and
- Category 3 are offenders who do not qualify under categories 1 or 2 but who currently pose a risk of serious harm.

There are three levels of management to ensure that resources are focused where they are most needed; generally, those presenting the higher risks of serious harm.

- Level 1 is where the offender is managed by the lead agency with information exchange and multi-agency support as required but without formal MAPPA meetings;
- Level 2 is where formal MAPPA meetings are required to manage the offender.
- Level 3 is where risk management plans require the attendance and commitment of resources at a senior level at MAPPA meetings.

MAPPA are supported by VISOR. This is a national IT system to assist in the management of offenders who pose a serious risk of harm to the public. The use of VISOR increases the ability to share intelligence across organisations and enables the safe transfer of key information when high risk offenders move, enhancing public protection measures. VISOR allows staff from the Police,

Probation and Prison Services to work on the same IT system for the first time, improving the quality and timeliness of risk assessments and interventions to prevent offending.

MAPPA and terrorism

In response to the terrorist attack committed by Usman Khan at Fishmongers' Hall on 29 November 2019, the Home Secretary and the Lord Chancellor commissioned Jonathan Hall QC, who is the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation, to undertake a review of MAPPA and the management of known terrorists and other extremist offenders (TACT Offenders). The terrorist attack committed by Sudesh Amman in Streatham High Road on 2 February 2020 served to reinforce the need for the review, since both Khan and Amman had been managed under MAPPA. The government published the report on 2 September 2020 and published a response to it on 9 December. Both documents are available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multi-agency-public-protection-arrangements-review>. The report made a number of recommendations, several of which have been or are being implemented via the Counterterrorism and Sentencing Act 2021 and the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill. Others have already been introduced by the creation of the National Security Division (NSD) in the Probation Service to manage terrorist offenders. The Secretary of State has also revised the statutory MAPPA Guidance on terrorist offenders.

The Probation Service, via the NSD, has created a specialist dedicated and highly skilled workforce, which provides an enhanced level of management and intervention for the most high-risk, complex and high-profile offenders in the community. This will include the management of terrorist connected and terrorist risk offenders. Five Probation Service national security units have been established across England & Wales during 2020/21. The NSD and Counter-Terrorism Policing will be working closely with local Strategic Management Boards to ensure the robust management of terrorism cases. The NSD also manages serious organized crime and the highest risk and high-profile public protection cases.

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



MAPPA STATISTICS

MAPPA-eligible offenders on 31 March 2021				
	Category 1 Registered sex offenders	Category 2 Violent offenders	Category 3 Other dangerous offenders	Total
Level 1	622	320	0	942
Level 2	4	5	4	13
Level 3	0	1	3	4
Total	626	326	7	959

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	4	13	10	27
Level 3	6	7	6	19
Total	10	20	16	46

RSOs cautioned or convicted for breach of notification requirements	20
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RSOs who have had their lifetime notification revoked on application	3
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Restrictive orders for Category 1 offenders	
SHPOs, SHPOs with foreign travel restriction & NOs imposed by the courts	
SHPO	52
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	3	1	4
Level 3	1	0	2	3
Total	1	3	3	7
Breach of SOPO				
Level 2	0	-	-	0
Level 3	0	-	-	0
Total	0	-	-	0

Total number of Registered Sexual Offenders per 100,000 population	107
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This figure has been calculated using the Mid-2020 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, 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 2021 (i.e. they are a snapshot). The rest of the data covers the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

(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 are actually managed at Level 1 without formal MAPPA meetings. These figures only include those MAPPA eligible offenders living in the community. They do not include those in prison or detained under the Mental Health Act.

(b) Registered Sexual Offenders (RSOs) – those who are required to notify the police of their name, address and other personal details and to notify of any subsequent changes (this is known as the “notification requirement.”) These offenders are assessed and managed by the police. They may also be managed by probation or health services if they are subject to licence or a hospital order. Failure to comply with the notification requirement is a criminal offence that carries a maximum penalty of 5 years’ imprisonment.

(c) Violent Offenders – this category includes violent and terrorist 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. These offenders are assessed and managed by the Probation Service, Youth Offending Team or Mental Health Services.

(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 MAPPA meetings. These offenders are assessed and managed by whichever agency has the primary responsibility for them.

(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 Harm Prevention Order (SHPO) (including any additional foreign travel restriction). Sexual Harm Prevention Orders (SHPOs) and interim SHPOs replaced Sexual Offence Prevention Orders. They 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. They require 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 (including 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 committed 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.

An SRO may prohibit the person from doing anything described in it, including 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.

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

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

(i) Lifetime notification requirements revoked on application

A legal challenge in 2010 and a corresponding legislative response means there is now a mechanism in place that allows qualifying sex offenders to apply for a review of their notification requirements. Persons do not come off the register automatically. Qualifying offenders may submit an application to the police to review their indefinite notification requirements. The police review the application and decide whether to revoke the notification requirements. This decision is made at the rank of Superintendent. Those who continue to pose a significant risk will remain on the register for life, if necessary.

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

BEDFORDSHIRE MAPPA

National Probation Service

Alison Harding

Head of Probation Delivery, Bedfordshire (retired)

The NPS is often the lead agency with responsibility for managing the offender being heard in MAPPA. This year's annual report spans the COVID 19 pandemic which challenged the National Probation Service (NPS) in how it has supervised MAPPA offenders in the community during periods of lockdown. An Exceptional Delivery Model was introduced. Those offenders who posed high and very high risk of serious harm to the public continued to have regular face to face contact with probation staff in COVID safe office environments, supplemented with telephone and face time contact and doorstep visits to the offender's home address.

The early roll out of Microsoft Teams by the NPS, other statutory partners and duty to co-operate agencies, ensured that MAPPA panel meetings could take place virtually and there was no disruption to the sharing of information and risk management planning. Indeed, the use of technology proved to be both effective and efficient in enabling excellent partnership working to reduce re-offending and to protect victims.

Also, in this course of this year, the National Probation Service has established a new National Security Division which will manage Terrorist, Serious Organised Crime and Critical Public Protection cases. Bedfordshire MAPPA cases that come within these cohorts will in future be managed by specialist Probation Officers within the new Division.

Thomas Moreton

Head of Probation Delivery, Bedfordshire (Newly appointed June 2021)

It has been a period of significant change for the way in which probation services are delivered. On 26th June 2021, The National Probation Service unified with the Community Rehabilitation Companies to form the new Probation Service. The delivery of probation services for Bedfordshire is now undertaken by the Bedfordshire Probation Delivery Unit (PDU) which is part of the East of England regional probation structure.

The changes in reunifying the providers of probationary services were implemented to create ‘a probation system that delivers stable and quality services that will reduce re-offending, support victims of crime and keep the public safe.’ In Bedfordshire, the changes have had limited impact on the running of MAPPAs, we continue to provide staff to co-ordinate the MAPPAs meetings, with administrative support, and are fortunate to have committed and knowledgeable staff in these posts.

As Head of PDU I continue to attend MAPPAs Level 3 meetings on behalf of the Probation Service. In the East of England, we now have a regional Head of Public Protection. The Head of Public Protection leads and manages public protection activity for the whole region. This includes managing key regional functions and acting as function lead and coordinating cross-cutting areas, which includes MAPPAs. This is a development designed to support the effective management of those cases presenting the greatest risk to our communities by providing regional resource to support the delivery of MAPPAs related services.

A further significant development in relation to MAPPAs has been the creation of the National Security Division; a specialist and dedicated division which provides an enhanced level of management and intervention for those convicted of terrorism related offences. For individuals who are under the supervision of the National Security Division (NSD), control of their cases will be handled from court to post-release by an expert in one of the five units being set up across the country. The National Security Division will work with senior leads for courts to ensure that, when appropriate, staff within the units who have the specialist training and knowledge are called upon to support court staff in writing pre-sentence reports. Liaison and transfer of individual cases and the operational management of MAPPAs and links with local partners and service providers will be critical to the ability of the new probation service to manage risk effectively. In this regard we are working with our NSD leads to forge strong relationships which will support the effective management of relevant cases.

In the short time I have been involved in MAPPAs in Bedfordshire it has become evident to me that we are fortunate to have dedicated staff representing both the Responsible Authorities and Duty to Cooperate Agencies. The cases discussed are often very complex and challenging to manage but the MAPPAs meetings bring together all relevant partner agencies to implement plans to protect the public and known victims and to reduce the risks of further serious offending. The reward in working in this way is that solutions can be found by all agencies working together in partnerships and whilst there remain significant challenges ahead we will continue to work with our partners to develop multi-agency risk management processes in Bedfordshire.

Bedfordshire Police

Jackie Holmes

Inspector, Offender Management Team, Bedfordshire Police

Bedfordshire police remain committed to the MAPPAs process ensuring participation at level 2 and 3 meetings. This has been a busy and interesting year taking into account Covid. However, despite this our partnership link with probation and in particular MAPPAs has remained strong. We have found alternative ways of working which have proven to be effective and maintained business continuity.

Over the last year we have continued with our commitment to the level 1 partnership review process where cases are discussed to ensure they are sitting at the right MAPPAs level. An Offender Management Inspector also participates in the threshold process whereby potential MAPPAs cases are reviewed and either accepted or rejected.

We have seen an increase in the number of high-risk cases discussed in MAPPAs. One particular long-standing case whereby the MAPPAs nominal is a sexual risk to young vulnerable women

has seen the input of the serious organised crime unit within probation. This asset assisted with release planning and risk assessment and culminated in securing a breach no less than 24 hours after the individuals release which resulted in his licence being recalled. Utilising the MAPPAs resources, we are now at the release planning stage where information sharing and partnership working is vital. I think the addition of such resources is testament to the effectiveness of the MAPPAs

process. During the last year this nominal was referred and accepted as a critical public protection case which in itself attracts ministerial oversight. He is also discussed at the new MARSOC (multi-agency response to serious and organised crime) forum.

HMP Bedford

Izu Ndefo and Diane Edmond

Head of Offender Management Services and Head of Offender Management Delivery

HMP and YOI Bedford is a local Category B prison that services the Courts of Luton, St Albans and Hatfield. On occasions, residents are also brought from other courts. HMP Bedford currently tends to have a roll of approximately 370 at any given time, predominantly, short stay prisoners. This is either because they are remanded, their sentence is short (less than 12 months), or they are moved on to a more appropriate establishment. Approximately 70% of our residents are on remand. The short length of stay means that there is a high turnover, for example in 2020 we had over 1200 new receptions into the establishment and 750 releases. The receptions numbers were slightly lower than usual though due to COVID 19.

Risk Management and Public Protection are key in the day to day operations of the Offender Management Unit (OMU) at HMP Bedford. All staff under the OMIC (Offender Management in Custody) model contribute daily to risk assessment and management including effective sentence planning, sentence delivery, rehabilitation and pre-release preparation work. Inter Departmental Risk Management Team (IRMT) meetings discuss MAPPA notification and high-risk releases prompting referrals at an early stage into MAPPA. HMP Bedford works closely with MAPPA arrangements and contributes directly on an operational level collaborating in risk management and information sharing, as well as having an active involvement on a strategic level in MAPPA SMB's.

Prison Offender Manager's (POM's) participate in all MAPPA meetings and prepare MAPPA F report's providing an update on behaviour, progression and engagement with supervision sessions/interventions, as well as any other pertinent information relevant to the risk management process.

OMIC transfers' responsibility for the offender management of those in custody, from the community to prisons, making Governors accountable for the quality and delivery of prison offender management. Under OMIC HMP Bedford has a Key Worker Scheme and the focus of the Key Worker role is to mitigate the negative effects of imprisonment and to encourage individuals to take responsibility for their progression in custody. Key Worker sessions are a supportive and review progress, identify any barriers or obstacles and agree/identify new goals. These meetings help build supportive relationships.

The impact of the Covid 19 Pandemic has meant that significant adaptations have been made to ensure the delivery of key services and support residents during this difficult time. Throughout this time POM's in OMU have been pivotal to ensuring there remains a link with Community Offender Managers and key stakeholders whilst continuing to manage, release and resettle individuals.

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

There are 4 MARAC's (multi-agency risk assessment conference) held each month in Bedfordshire. One in Bedford, one in Central Bedfordshire and two in Luton. Prior to each meeting the MARAC Co-ordinators send the agenda through to the MAPPA co-ordinator to see if there are any perpetrators who cross reference to the two meetings. If a perpetrator is identified, information is shared between the two meetings to ensure risk is appropriately managed and safety planning for the victim/survivor is robust. A representative from MARAC will also be invited to attend MAPPA meetings where the offender is known to both.

MAPPA took part in a case review workshop regarding a Central Bedfordshire nominal known to criminal justice partners with an extensive history of high-risk high harm domestic abuse. Opportunities for learning were identified including where a MAPPA intervention would have been appropriate. The outcomes and recommendations from the workshop were shared with the Pan Bedfordshire MARAC steering group and disseminated for wider learning.

Over the last 12 months there has been work towards a joined-up Pan Bedfordshire approach to the identification, planning and release of high risk, high harm domestic abuse offenders. It is anticipated that the formalised pathway will improve outcomes for victims/survivors of abuse and for nominals whilst in custody and those being released.

Luton MARAC and MAPPA in the last year have been working together on cases that are either already open to MAPPA or led by MARAC and referred in to MAPPA as it was felt that they met the threshold and required additional resources. The MAPPA chair and I have worked really well in terms of supporting professionals' meetings and sharing information considered pertinent to risk. There is a strong crossover for MAPPA and MARAC and the current co-working arrangement has brought about some real positive outcomes in relation to the management of high risk and prolific DA perpetrators and safeguarding for the victim's and their family.

Adult Social Care, Central Bedfordshire



Central Bedfordshire Adult Social Care work remains committed to the ongoing positive partnership working in support of MAPPA. This includes operational joint working to promote strengths-based approaches for adults with care and support needs who are MAPPA subjects, as well as bringing relevant professional expertise to the strategic partnership.

The CBC MAPPA representatives promote the role and responsibilities of the MAPPA panel across adult social care and have a good working relationship and a service wide understanding of the purpose and importance of MAPPA. The CBC representatives are clear about their role in this multi-agency approach to managing high risk offenders in the community.

The CBC Adult Social Care representatives have attended a lot of the meetings that they were invited to and are committed to attending every MAPPA meeting held, where the subject has any relevant link to CBC; this may include the subject residing in the area, or any other important connection that may impact upon adult in the CBC area.

The role of the MAPPA representative is to share any relevant information held by Adult Social Care with the MAPPA panel to assist in forming the risk management plan, and to also undertake any actions from the MAPPA meeting relating to the safeguarding of adults within CBC. This may include ensuring that assessments are undertaken, and that needs-led support is identified and secured for adults to ensure their safety.

Adult Social Care, Bedford

Bedford Borough Adult Services continues to recognise the importance of multi-agency information sharing in managing complex offenders in the community, and the importance of agencies working together to share knowledge, assess risk and plan, as part of a multi-agency approach. The Bedford Borough Adult Services Chief Officer attends strategic MAPPA Management meetings, to enable any high-level decisions or commitments to be made promptly. The Bedford Borough Safeguarding manager or team representative attends individual case meetings where appropriate, to share information regarding the person or victims when known to Adult Services and provide safeguarding advice and information. Attendance at these meetings also enables information to be given about relevant support and services available from the local authority and to enable effective sign posting and planning with the correct services and ensuring needs are identified and met. Information can also be provided on the Care Act and Mental Capacity Act where applicable.

The Care Act 2014 stipulates that the Local Authorities must promote wellbeing when carrying out any of their care and support functions in respect of a person. Bedford Borough Council is also now responsible for ensuring the assessments and for the arrangements of care and support for adults in Bedford Prison or any approved premises in the area. The Bedford Adult Learning Disability team provide this function for the council and work with the MAPPA process to ensure advice, support and assessment for individuals in or leaving prison. As a result of the Covid 19 pandemic, adjustments have been made in terms of current practice, and it has therefore been important for good contact to be maintained with colleagues in the prison to support the assessment process within Government practice guidelines to safeguard staff and residents at the prison.

Assessments continue to be undertaken virtually, so the additional information sharing and discussion with colleagues in the prison is increasingly important.

Support from the ALDT is available to prison staff and clinicians, to provide information and clarity on the responsibilities of the local authority under the Care Act 2014 – to support continued learning and development and build on working relationships.

Quarterly meetings are held with the Director of Adult Social Care and Prison Governor, to discuss the impact of the pandemic and to work through any issues or concerns that may arise.

Adult Social Care, Luton

The lead MAPPA representative for Adult Social Care responds to requests that come in from MAPPA for additional information to support risk assessments and they also attend MAPPA meetings to support with the protection plans for people being released back to the Luton Area.

They are part of the MDT and provide advice and practical support for people who may have eligible support needs under the Care Act 2014, to facilitate safe return to the community and risk management plans.

The meetings that they attend have been noted as being well chaired and able to provide the MDT with clear direction and actions.

Children's Social Care, Central Bedfordshire

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) Children's Services work in close partnership with MAPPA and are clear about their role in this multi-agency approach to managing high risk offenders in the community. The CBC Children Services MAPPA representatives promote the role and responsibilities of the MAPPA panel across the organization, and the MAPPA Coordinator has attended CBC Children's Services Team Managers' Meeting to ensure a continued strong working relationship and a service wide understanding of the purpose and importance of MAPPA.

All meetings are attended by a designated member of Children's Services in accordance with the level of seniority required. Therefore, a Head of Service is an appointed strategic lead and represents Children's Services at MAPPA Strategic Management Board; a Practice Manager attends MAPPA level 3 meetings, and the Allegation Manager provides support and response for all MAPPA 1 and 2 meetings. This structure ensures that the contribution, response, and decision making is proportionate and consistency in attendance at panels.

CBC Children's Services attend every MAPPA meeting held where the subject has any relevant link to CBC; this may include the subject residing in the area, having children or family in the area, or any other important connection that may impact upon children in the CBC area. The role of the MAPPA representative is to share any relevant information held by Children's Services with the MAPPA panel to assist in forming the risk management plan and undertake any actions from the MAPPA meeting relating to the safeguarding of children within CBC. This may include ensuring that assessments are undertaken on children known to the offender, and that needs-led support is identified and secured for children to ensure their safety.

In addition to the contribution of information and providing child safeguarding advice, the Children's Services representatives works closely with MAPPA to ensure that proactive measures are undertaken in respect of safeguarding children; examples include providing individual risk briefings directly to the Exploitation Coordinator and/or Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub. Individual case workers or team managers may also attend MAPPA in addition to the representative, if and when required.

The Children's Services representative may also provide constructive challenge to the MAPPA panel in respect of child safeguarding issues, to ensure that the most appropriate and robust procedures are being followed. This challenge is notably welcomed, and the MAPPA panel are very responsive to criticism and to professional curiosity. This is apparent through the quarterly Quality Assurance meetings whereby cases are audited to ensure best practice and to propose learning moving forward.

Children's Social Care Bedford

Bedford Borough Children's Services has a designated Head of Service to be the strategic lead within the Service and to both represent Children's Services at MAPPA Strategic Management Board and at level 3 meetings as well as to be the conduit for discussion and activity as needed. This includes being the point of contact in any escalation issues. Support and response for MAPPA 1 and 2 cases is through the individual in the LADO post within the LA. This ensures that there is timely response to MAPPA level 1 information and assurance requests as well as consistency in attendance at panels. We ensure that – where appropriate – other workers from within Children's Social Care are invited to MAPPA. Also, key is ensuring follow up, dissemination of information and liaison about actions needed within Children's Services. This means that the MAPPA co-ordinator has a direct link to relevant senior manager and the MAPPA 2 representative when there needs to be prompt response or discussion. We will liaise with other Children's Services outside of the county where needed.

We are fully committed to our role in working effectively with other partners in MAPPA framework to manage risk and to safeguard children. We have taken part in MAPPA QA work which supports the development of good practice and allow reflection on the work being done. As Children's Services our membership and role within the Bedford Borough Safeguarding Children's Board means that we can directly feed in learning and messages from SMB to the main Board and to the pan Beds sub groups. Good strategic and partnership linkup with key individuals sitting on a range of strategic boards means that information sharing and join up on both strategic and operational work can take place.

We have a successful and positive working relationship with the MAPPA co-ordinator. There is regular communication as needed regarding panel cases and other queries or issues. We have had cases in Bedford Borough in past year that have required comprehensive and detailed work in relation to disclosure and briefing of a range of individuals. This worked really effectively. There have other cases with need to disclose and work with Communications team in the Borough. There have been a number of cases where Children's Services may not be directly involved but there has been good shared work across other boroughs and counties and liaison and support by Children's Services here to support other agencies in seeking to manage risk. There is a well-established local network with shared understanding of roles and responsibilities and a willingness to work in a co-ordinated effective way. This can prove more challenging when involves organisations and providers from other areas, for example, with housing issues, some adult mental health provision and Prisons.

East London NHS Foundation Trust (Luton and Bedfordshire mental Health and Well-Being Services)

Over the last year, there has been positive engagement from the CMHT Managers within ELFT, across Luton and Bedfordshire with MAPPA Level 2 meetings. In addition, the Assistant Directors for Mental Health Services in ELFT have also been core MAPPA members for all level 3 cases. ELFT representatives have access to MAPPA training and they fully understand the principles, the procedures and relevant guidance in relation to the MAPPA processes. The representatives bring an understanding of the complexities of MAPPA offenders who are mentally unwell or have a mental disorder or learning difficulty/disability. This has meant that there has been an increased level of consistency and continued attendance at all MAPPA meetings. All Managers in attendance agree that where and when necessary they feel enabled to make relevant contributions regarding mental well-being, accessing services and support available in the local community.

The ELFT managers in attendance, provide the MAPPA with advice and guidance from a mental health perspective regardless if the case is open to ELFT or other mental health Trusts and services. In preparation for the meeting, the managers in attendance continue to prepare for each case prior to every meeting, gathering together any known information relating to the case being discussed and checking electronic patient systems for any new referrals that may have been made to mental health services since the last panel. This enables the managers in attendance to provide accurate information in regard to mental health involvement. ELFT representatives have been further contributing towards developing well thought through joint risk management plans with other partners to effectively manage and support the offenders in the community and to ensure robust support for victims. They also ensure an effective partnership working with the key agencies who are involved in the management and support of the MAPPA offenders.

The managers in attendance also ensure that they follow-up on any allocated tasks with the relevant Care Co-ordinator within mental health services where appropriate. As a mental health core panel member, the Managers play a vital role in the overall risk management of each case. Their professional opinion is considered by the panel Chair and there is an opportunity to highlight and discuss any issues in relation to risk management. Their opinion is considered in the Chair's summary of risk for each case and those in attendance have reported that they feel a valued member within the MAPPA panel.

Luton Youth Offending and Targeted Youth Service

Luton Youth Offending Service (YOS) is a multi-agency service with member of seconded staff from local authority; Police; National Probation Service and Health. In Luton the Targeted Youth Service (TYS) is attached to the YOS and has access to the specialist workers for referral, assessment and direct access to services for cases open to TYS. The Service works with children and young people subject to statutory court orders, diversion programmes or prevention programmes. A high number of the prevention cases are children and young people allocated through the Multi-Agency Gangs Panel (MAGPan) and despite the fact that they are not subject to statutory orders, they present a risk of offending and a risk of harm through their gang associated behaviour. As a consequence, MAPPA are represented on the MAGPan to ensure the continuity of planning for any potential risks. The YOS Head of Service is a member of the MAPPA Strategic Management Board.

Children who are MAPPA level 1 are managed within the service and in some cases in partnership with children social care. All statutory cases are subject to review depending on the risk levels within the Risk Management Panel (RMP) which is held weekly. Additionally, all gang associated cases are reviewed monthly at the MAGPan. There is a standing agenda item on the weekly managers meeting to discuss MAPPA particularly around any potential category 3 cases being managed within the YOS. If necessary, referrals are made to MAPPA level 2/3 via the MAPPA co-ordinator. Where there are YOS cases presented at MAPPA panels, the referring case manager and respective Operations Manager (usually the Line Manager) will be in attendance to ensure that the panel is given accurate

information regarding the case. Equally if the child or young person is an open case to children social care, the Social Worker will also be invited to attend alongside YOS staff.

Offender Personality Disorder Pathways Service

The Offender Personality Disorder (OPD) Pathway was initiated in 2011 to meet the joint strategic aims of the Ministry of Justice and Department of Health. It is a nationally commissioned programme aimed to provide psychologically informed services for a highly complex and challenging group who are more likely to have personality difficulties that are linked to their offending, and who pose a high risk of harm to others and / or reoffending. Given the screening criteria for the OPD pathway it is likely that the majority of the cases identified for pathways will be subject to the MAPPA management process.

In Bedfordshire the health provider is HMPPS Psychology Services meaning that the Bedfordshire OPD pathway has clinicians with extensive forensic experience and an interface with custodial settings. The OPD service provides psychological advice to any cases that screen into the pathway in Bedfordshire and supports the male and female Approved Premises in working with service users on a daily basis. In some cases, joint case working is completed between the OPD pathway practitioner and the Offender Manager, with the service user.

The OPD service offers consultation for Offender Managers who have service users managed by MAPPA and can be invited to MAPPA panels to provide psychologically informed advice regarding engagement, understanding, formulation and risk management. Whilst the OPD Pathway Practitioners do not attend MAPPA panels on a routine basis, we attend for the majority of MAPPA level 3 panels, as well as complex cases, where the OPD psychologist can attend the meeting with the Offender Manager in order to support the presentation of the formulation and risk management plan. The OPD pathway service also provides psychological consultation within the joint MAPPA Level 1 and IPP Panels.

Examples of cases where OPD Pathway Practitioners have contributed to multi-agency management include those where personality difficulties present as a barrier, either to progression, or with access to other services, or where there appears to be a 'split' between Health and the Criminal Justice System. Other examples include cases with a new psychological risk assessment for a complex individual, or cases with an unusual offence profile linked to personality difficulties, such as a complex CSE case.

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