



Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements Annual Report 2022-23 North Yorkshire



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Foreword 2022 -2023

The North Yorkshire MAPPAs Annual Report 2022-23 provides insight and recognition of the excellent work undertaken daily to protect the public from serious harm.

Across the county we pride ourselves on the high quality proactive and responsive work we deliver with key partners, to provide the best risk management and greatest chances of reducing re-offending and rehabilitating offenders. Whilst Police, Probation, and Prisons hold the prime responsibility for the effectiveness of MAPPAs, they are actively supported by a diverse group of organisations including Youth Offending Teams, Children's and Adults Social Care, Health and Mental Health, Education, Home Office Immigration Enforcement, Accommodation and Electronic Monitoring providers, to name just some. The aim is to get the right organisations around the table for each individual case when necessary.

As well as pooling the professional expertise of these organisations, MAPPAs also benefits from the involvement of the Lay Advisor. Their role is to represent the public, by asking questions of MAPPAs on behalf of local communities and by developing a sound knowledge of the operation of MAPPAs, including observation of MAPP meetings for individual cases.

During 2022-23, the excellent multi-agency partnership work has continued across the county.

During this year needs assessment and responsibilities for the new Serious Violence Duty are being developed, as well as work led by police to introduce Domestic Violence Disclosure Panels which will ensure that key partners work together to ensure the safe disclosure of information to potential victims and victims of domestic abuse.

Undoubtedly the dedication and commitment of all partner agencies to do their best for our local communities' feeds into MAPPAs as an essential respected framework, working together to protect all people across North Yorkshire.

As I am about to retire following over 40 years' service with probation and look back on all the changes I have seen, I can truly say that the creation of MAPPAs (in 2001) has probably had the most influential impact in joining up key agencies to work together effectively on one of the main aims of the Probation service, that of protecting the public from risk of harm.

On behalf of my colleagues in the Prisons, Police and The Probation Service I would like to thank all agencies and staff involved in MAPPAs for their commitment and professionalism in collectively managing risk and safeguarding victims, and I know that I will leave safe in the knowledge that this will continue in the years to come.

Maggie Smallridge
Head of York Probation Delivery Unit
Chair of MAPPAs Strategic Management Board

What is MAPPAs?

MAPPAs background

MAPPAs (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements) are a set of arrangements to manage the risk posed by individuals who have committed the most serious sexual, violent and terrorist offences (MAPPAs-eligible individuals) 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 MAPPAs 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, Department for Work and Pensions and Local Housing and Education Authorities.

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

Lay Advisers are members of the public appointed by the Minister with no links to the business of managing MAPPAs-eligible individuals 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 MAPPAs works

MAPPAs-eligible individuals 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 MAPPAs 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 MAPPAs meetings attended by relevant agency practitioners.

There are 4 categories of MAPPAs-eligible individual:

- Category 1 –subject to sex offender notification requirements;
- Category 2 – mainly violent offenders sentenced to 12 months or more imprisonment or a hospital order;
- Category 3 – individuals who do not qualify under Categories 1, 2 or 4 but whose offences pose a risk of serious harm.
- Category 4 – terrorism convicted and terrorism risk individuals

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

MAPPA are supported by ViSOR. This is a national IT system to assist in the management of individuals 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 individuals move between areas, enhancing public protection measures. ViSOR allows staff from the Police, Probation and Prison Services to work on the same IT system, improving the quality and timeliness of risk assessments and interventions to prevent offending.

MAPPA and Terrorism

The government published an Independent Review of the MAPPA used to Supervise Terrorism and Terrorism-risk individuals on 2 September 2020 and published its response 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, the majority of which have been implemented, including via the Counter-Terrorism and Sentencing Act 2021 and the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022. The Secretary of State has also revised the statutory MAPPA Guidance on terrorism offenders.

The Probation Service, via its National Security Division, 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 individuals in the community. This includes the management of terrorist connected and terrorist risk offenders. The NSD and Counter-Terrorism Policing work closely with local SMBs to ensure the robust management of terrorism cases. Data on Category 4 individuals is not included in this report due to data protection issues related to low numbers. This data will be aggregated and published nationally.

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



Strengthening Public Safety Through Partnerships

North Yorkshire Police Offender Management and Public Protection

North Yorkshire Police is part of the MAPPA Responsible Authority of Police, Probation and Prisons. We are accountable for delivering MAPPA through the local Strategic Management Board (SMB). We work closely together with Duty to Cooperate Agencies and Service Providers who are vital to effective joint risk assessment and management.

Our priority is to safeguard children, vulnerable adults and the wider public from harm. This public protection ethos is central to our Police and Crime Plan 2022-2025. We seek to intervene early and prevent reoffending by ensuring offenders comply with licence conditions, supervision and civil orders granted by the Courts. We recognise that collaboration is the key to offering tailored support to those leaving prison.

Dedicated to meeting our statutory obligations under MAPPA, we have recruited an additional Inspector to work alongside the Probation Service MAPPA managers, encompassing the role of chairing MAPPA level 2 meetings. A Detective Chief Inspector oversees Level 3 cases at senior level, alongside the Heads of the York and North Yorkshire Probation Delivery Units. We benefit greatly from this joint expertise, the sharing of resources and professional support.

In early 2023, we made significant investment in Offender Management including a staff uplift. We have commissioned specialist training in the Management of Sexual or Violent Offenders (MOSOVO). Police Offender Managers use the Active Risk Management System (ARMS) and specialise in the formulation of robust Risk Management Plans (RMP). All staff are trained in ViSOR, the nationally recognised risk management system which enables the sharing of information and intelligence across the UK. We are committed to continuing professional development.



Managed by three Sergeants, North Yorkshire Police now has twenty two Offender Managers with specific responsibility for Category 1 MAPPA Eligible Offenders, those who are subject to sex offender notification requirements.

Managed by a Sergeant, we have recruited five Offender Managers with responsibility for Violent Offenders brought into MAPPA at Level 2 or 3. These police officers are now co-located within Probation Offices in York, Harrogate and Scarborough and our relationship with Probation Practitioners is stronger for it.

We also have officers trained in polygraph, civil order specialists and digital media investigators. The Offender Management Unit also has five police staff specialists and we have recruited a further three.

All Offender Managers and specialists, including those from Domestic Abuse attend MAPPA meetings. These officers and staff share information about offenders, current investigations, and risk assessments. They support the MAPPA Chair by proposing risk management strategies and ensuring that relevant police resources are provided, referring to senior management to secure these when necessary.

North Yorkshire Police is accountable to the public we serve. We are regularly inspected by His Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary. As part of the MAPPA Responsible Authority, we are committed to continuing improvement.

As the Police MAPPA Chair, I give my sincere thanks to all our partners for their support, expertise and professionalism. We look forward to achieving our shared goals in 2023-2024.



North Yorkshire Council, Health and Adult Services – Adult Social Care

Senior Practitioners for Adult Safeguarding who are members of the North Yorkshire Council (NYC) Adult Safeguarding Team represent Health and Adult Services at all MAPPA level 2 initial meetings. They continue to attend review meetings if the offender or any victims are known to Adult Social Care or have care and support needs. For MAPPA level 3 meetings a Senior Manager from our Mental Health Service will attend to ensure there is the seniority required to commit the necessary resources needed for the 'critical few' cases held at this management level. We wanted to ensure that we had the Mental Health expertise available and involved in MAPPA's as a high number of offenders are identified as having mental health needs.

At both level 2 and 3 MAPPA meetings Health and Adult Services representatives contribute to the risk assessment and management plan that safeguards the offender, victims and other individual adults and children at risk. If Adult Social Care have current involvement with either the offender or a victim, their allocated worker is also invited to the meeting, as they can share more detailed relevant information and contribute to the discussions.

The risk the offender poses to professionals is also identified in the meeting and this is of great value because it enables Health and Adult Services to record on their electronic records the type and level of risk and document a management plan. This means professionals are aware and can take appropriate action to reduce/remove the risk to themselves and their colleagues.

The Health and Adult Services representative brings expert knowledge and experience in terms of our statutory duty around assessing, determining eligibility, and supporting individuals under the Care Act 2014. As such they may identify if it is appropriate for the relevant agency to refer the offender or a victim for a needs assessment under

the Care Act 2014, if there is an appearance of care and support needs and consent to the referral. The aim of a needs assessment is to establish how much support is needed to enable the person to live as independently as possible and promote their wellbeing. Equally, a victim or offender may have needs as a carer and their caring role may have an impact on their wellbeing, so they can be offered a carers assessment. There are strong links between a person's needs and their wellbeing and their offending or reoffending behaviour.

In some cases, it may be suggested that a referral to the Living Well Service is considered. Living Well can support adults who are currently not eligible for ongoing social care support but may require help and support to find their own solutions to their health and wellbeing goals.

If during the MAPPA meeting it is identified that any adults who appear to have care and support needs are experiencing or are at risk of abuse or neglect, and as a result of those needs they are unable to protect themselves, it may be suggested that an adult safeguarding concern is raised to the Local Authority.

Along with the Care Act the other key area of knowledge the Health and Adult Services representative brings is in terms of our duty under s117 of the Mental Health Act 1983. Following detention under a relevant section, this is joint statutory responsibility with the Integrated Care Board (ICB) to consider what a person requires to prevent a deterioration of their mental health and re-admission to a mental health hospital. Both the Care Act and Mental Health Act duties intertwine with the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and knowledge of all three are vital in ensuring appropriate actions are taken.

Social Care and MAPPA in action

Adult Social Care supported a person following a referral from MAPPA, the person was nearing the end of their sentence and there were significant concerns around their anti-social behaviour in the community and how the identified risks would be managed under the legal frameworks available. Following a referral from MAPPA it was determined that the person had been under a relevant section of the Mental Health Act 1983 and had s117 eligibility.



The person had offending history around sexual offences, they had attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and a history of substance use. Multi-agency management was required to ensure that a robust risk management plan was in place on their release.

The person was released from custody to Approved Premises accommodation. Following the effective and timely risk management planning undertaken at MAPPA level 2 meetings prior to release, the person was able to engage immediately with Adult Social Care and was allocated a Mental Health Social Worker to support them with meeting their needs in the community. The person engaged well with professionals and positive working relationships were formed. The person was offered a range of support from Adult Social Care including section 117 aftercare, support with transitioning back into the community, structure and routine, benefits advice, housing, and support to find suitable employment.

During the MAPPA meetings the Health and Adult Services representative provided clarification around Care Act responsibilities and how to obtain a social care assessment from NYC, it was recognised that these contributions were vital to provide the wider partner agencies understanding of the legal responsibilities and limits that are afforded under s117 and the Care Act, which in turn informed the multi-agency risk management and protection planning.





Developments in addressing Domestic Abuse

More than 2.3 million people a year in England and Wales experience domestic abuse. Those people are from every gender, ethnicity, age, sexuality, religion and socio economic background. It affects health, wellbeing, and life chances of the whole family.

Locally in North Yorkshire and York in the last year (April to April 2023) there were more than 8500 domestic abuse crimes reported to North Yorkshire Police. Within these figures, 5826 suspects were identified, and 5872 victims were identified.

The impact of domestic abuse on our communities is devastating in every respect and is everyone's business to recognise, challenge and disrupt.

The developments identified from the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 have seen national changes including;

- Updating the definition of domestic abuse so that it recognises children as victims and economic abuse as a form of domestic abuse.
- A statutory duty on local authorities relating to the provision of support to victims and survivors and their children within safe accommodation. This has been supported by continued government funding through until 2024/25 to enable local authorities to deliver it.
- New domestic abuse protection notices (DAPNs) and domestic abuse protection orders (DAPOs) to bring together the strongest elements of existing protective orders into a single, comprehensive order. This will mean we have a more efficient and robust response to, and management of, domestic abuse perpetrators.
- The creation of new offences of non-fatal strangulation and threats to disclose intimate images means that abusers will face the full force of the law.
- Family court reforms which prohibit cross-examination of victims and survivors by perpetrators, provide automatic eligibility for special measures to support victims and survivors of domestic abuse, and clarify the availability of barring orders under [Section 91\(14\) of the Children Act 1989](#).

- Establishing the role of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner as an independent voice who will stand up for victims and survivors and, among other responsibilities, hold public bodies to account.

In addition to the above and translating this to a local North Yorkshire and City of York perspective, there has been additional workstreams aimed at enhancing our support to victims and survivors of domestic abuse and the awareness of all professionals working within this area of safeguarding. For example;

- A programme of Multi agency training for all partners has been commissioned which has helped to raise awareness of DA to over 1000 professionals from more than 70 agencies, many of whom are from the MAPPA Responsible Authority and Duty to Cooperate agencies. This has been delivered through 10 online modules. These range from recognising signs and indicators of domestic abuse to working in MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) including domestic abuse within seldom heard groups, elder abuse and the affects of DA on children. This is in addition to individual agencies such as Police receiving a further programme of domestic abuse training delivered by Safelives DA Matters training package.

Safelives Public Health System review of Domestic Abuse (DA) in North Yorkshire and York

In 2022 North Yorkshire and City of York Local Authorities commissioned Safelives to undertake a countywide multi agency review of the partnership response to DA. This included a look at the whole family, multi agency working arrangements, anonymised case file audits and how we recognise the voice of victims. There was also focus on the MARAC/MATAC and perpetrator management and behaviour change work within the scope of the review.

Recommendations directly from this review were focused around raising awareness of working with those that harm and developing programmes for perpetrator behaviour change. This activity will develop through a closer interface between the strategic countywide DA arrangements and MAPPAs SMB, which has already seen progress around the identification of high risk DA perpetrators and the sharing of knowledge and understanding of how MAPPAs can support and enhance our multi agency response to perpetrator disruption.

MARAC/MATAC

A MARAC is a meeting where information is shared on the highest risk domestic abuse cases between representatives of local police, probation, health, child protection, housing practitioners, Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) and other specialists from a variety of agencies.

Since the last annual MAPPAs report the operating model for MARAC arrangements has been increased in terms of its frequency of meetings. North Yorkshire and York now operates a daily operational MARAC process to ensure the timely hearing of the highest risk cases of domestic abuse.

MATAC - Refers to the Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordination process of identifying and tackling serial perpetrators of domestic abuse perpetrators. The core objective of MATAC is to ensure that agencies work in partnership to engage serial domestic abuse perpetrators, take enforcement action where required, and protect vulnerable and intimidated victims. MATAC meet each month for North Yorkshire and York to discuss those perpetrators identified through an algorithm and the professional judgement of partners tasked with disrupting perpetrator behaviour.

With year on year increases of cases heard at MARAC (9.8% last year) and a constant number of referrals into the MATAC process it is an unremitting challenge to support both processes and it requires a firm and lasting commitment from partners to resource. In order to continue to drive improvement and performance a MARAC/MATAC Steering Group has therefore been developed for North Yorkshire. This group has already undertaken a review of attendance of all core agencies at operational meetings to hold partners accountable for ensuring virtual representation from well informed members of staff that contribute to information sharing and safety planning. Equally from a MATAC perspective taking forward actions to disrupt perpetrators in a timely risk manner which is risk based and victim informed.

With the continued closer working between Probation and partner agencies, along with the introduction of the DA and Stalking chapter in the MAPPAs Guidance, it is clearly evident that both MARAC and MATAC chairs and attendees are now recognising the added value that MAPPAs management can provide to managing DA cases. As a result there has been a marked increase in the number of MAPPAs Category 3 referrals on high risk DA perpetrators and some very positive outcomes to the effective risk management of these cases. This is a hugely important development against the backdrop of the MAPPAs Guidance changes in 2022, which really brought domestic abuse to the forefront of these well regarded public protection arrangements.

[All key agencies operating within MARAC/MATAC have also taken advantage of the MAPPAs E learning package to inform further knowledge and understanding of the role of MAPPAs and how this correlates to the above operational arrangements within a domestic abuse setting.](#)

IDAS: Supporting people affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence

Domestic abuse related offences are notoriously difficult to prosecute with latest CPS figures highlighting that referrals from the police to the CPS have dropped by 5000, the volume of suspects charged dropping by 3500 and convictions dropping by 4000.

Despite the welcome legislative changes brought in by the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, victims of domestic abuse are unlikely to receive protection through the criminal justice system.

There are many reasons why domestic abuse perpetrators continue to offend with impunity. One prevalent concern is the persistence of victim blaming attitudes. These are common throughout our society and require all of us to engage in a daily practice of challenging beliefs which are deeply ingrained. It can be difficult to put ourselves in the shoes of someone who is a victim of domestic abuse. What can appear to others as signs the victim encourages the perpetrator, such as returning their calls, refusing to block them on social media or even letting them into the house, may indeed be safety strategies to mitigate risk and reduce the risk of harm. It is vital that we shift the focus and hold perpetrators to account if we want to live in a society where abuse and violence are no longer tolerated.

Additionally, measures put in place to protect victims can be counterproductive. Where possible victims should be involved in the making of orders that aim to protect them. In such circumstances, IDVAs (Independent Domestic Violence Advisors) can advocate for victims, providing information to help ensure measures are as effective at safeguarding victims and their children as possible. Furthermore, perpetrators may seek to manipulate orders so that they can continue to threaten and control victims. IDVAs can provide insights that assist in such circumstances.

The requirement to provide special measures, set out in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, should assist victims in providing their best evidence. Giving evidence against someone you love or once loved, even if they abused you, can be terrifying. Special measures can help victims feel supported and safe when doing so.

Independent Domestic Abuse Services is the leading specialist domestic abuse service in the region. Support is available to anyone impacted by domestic abuse regardless of whether they wish to report to the police or not. IDVAs can support through the criminal and civil justice systems and work with partners to improve outcomes and keep people safe from abuse and violence.

IDAS deliver training to over 8000 professionals each year and are commissioned to deliver training in York and North Yorkshire. Please visit the courses website for further details and to book your place on upcoming training. [North Yorkshire and City of York Training - IDAS Online Training Courses](#)

For further information about IDAS, please visit www.idas.org.uk



Our critical friends

Our full first year as the two publicly appointed Lay Advisers to North Yorkshire MAPPAs has been varied, interesting and worthwhile. Much of our role is explained elsewhere in this report: we act as “critical friends” to both the SMB and professionals involved in MAPPAs.

During the year, we have familiarised ourselves better with MAPPAs processes through a range of visits and meetings and have also been involved in auditing MAPPAs case meetings, following which we provide constructive feedback where we feel that useful. One of our advantages is that we are not professionals – if we feel it necessary, we can ask the difficult questions that others may be reluctant to ask. In terms of understanding the North Yorkshire perspective, one of us lives in York itself and the other in the north of the county. Our particular concern at the moment is that North Yorkshire would benefit from increased provision in terms of Approved Premises. We have approached the Minister about that and will be pursuing our concern further.



North Yorkshire MAPPA: strengthening our approach to managing domestic abuse and stalking

During the latter stages of the passage of the Domestic Abuse (DA) Act 2021, the Government gave undertakings regarding the management of high harm and serial domestic abuse and stalking offenders. This included updating the MAPPA Guidance specifically to address domestic abuse and stalking.

The 'Domestic Abuse and Stalking' Chapter of the MAPPA Guidance was published on 24 November 2021. This highlights the importance of agencies making use of MAPPA, as an invaluable multi-agency approach to sharing information and working together to strengthen the effective management of those presenting relevant risk factors, in order to protect current and potential victims, including children.

The chapter introduces an additional Standard – where domestic abuse or stalking may be an issue consideration should be given to referring to MAPPA Category 3 by the lead agency. This includes Offenders convicted of Controlling or Coercive Behaviour in an Intimate or Family Relationship and breaches of civil orders, such as restraining orders or Domestic Abuse Prevention Orders. This applies whether or not the index offence relates to domestic abuse or stalking; Stalking is often, but not uniquely, a characteristic of domestic abuse, particularly once a relationship has ended. Approximately 45% of stalking targets ex partners.

MAPPA Category 3 includes offenders who do not meet the criteria for either Category 1, 2 or 4, but who have committed an offence indicating that he or she is capable of causing serious harm and requires multi-agency management at Level 2 or 3. The offence does not have to be one specified in Schedule 15 of the CJA 2003.

Prior to the introduction of the DA and Stalking chapter the MAPPA unit received relatively few Category 3 referrals with primary concerns around DA. This is not to say that multi-agency work was not taking place but there was a collective consensus that these risks could primarily be managed via the MARAC and MATAAC processes, both of which involve a well-regarded partnership approach to managing risks and safeguarding victims.

However, North Yorkshire MAPPA has undertaken a lot of work to address this area of work and to promote the need for all high risk domestic abuse perpetrators to be considered for referral to MAPPA, and to seamlessly interface with the processes and benefits provided by MARAC and MATAAC across the county. It is abundantly clearer now that the three frameworks complement each other and provide the most robust of approaches to reducing risk posed by perpetrators, and in protecting victims and future victims.

The Probation Service is the agency who makes the greatest number of referrals to MAPPA and data collated indicates an increase in these referrals, where the primary risk concerns relate to DA and stalking.

In 2021-22, prior to the roll out of the DA MAPPA Guidance chapter, we were not specifically monitoring referrals on high risk DA perpetrators. However, throughout the entire year there were 26 Category 3 referrals and 14 of these met the threshold for level 2 management. On reviewing these 14 cases it appears that 8 related to DA risks.

Since 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023 data indicates that although the number of Category 3 referrals remains relatively static the amount of these being screened into level 2 management, based on DA risk concerns has increased:

28 Category 3 referrals and 17 presenting DA risk concerns. 13 of these were deemed to meet the threshold for level 2 management, an increase of 62.5%.

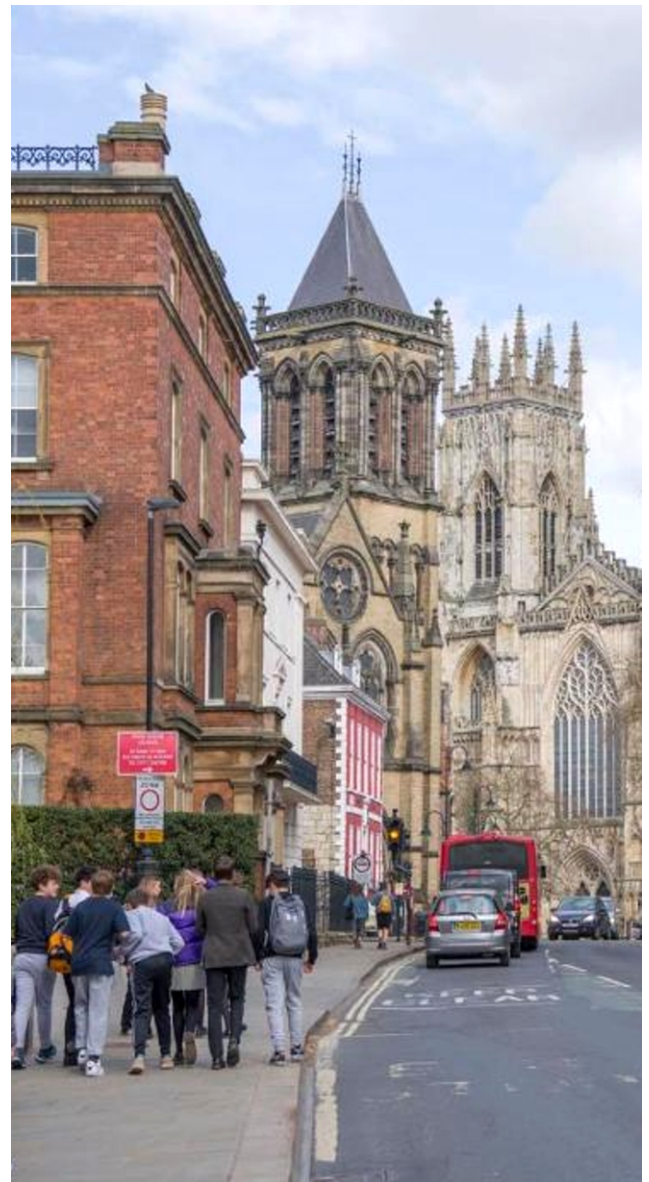
Taking into consideration all of the MAPPA categories there were a total of 30 DA related referrals and 25 meeting the threshold for level 2 management, this comprises of;

4 x category 1 (Registered Sex Offenders)

8 category 2 (violent offenders) in addition to the 13 Category 3 cases mentioned above.

There were 5 cases not deemed to meet the threshold for Level 2 or 3 management and 4 of these were Category 3 referrals. On scrutinising the referral decisions in each they all included a clear defensible rationale which provided support and guidance to the referring agency, including alternative pathways to follow to reinforce risk management and links to valuable contacts and services, including but not limited to, referral to MARAC, MATAC, IDAS, Police Domestic Abuse Unit, Children's Services, Domestic Violence Disclosure Team, Serious Organised Crime Unit, accredited programmes, suggestions to consider additional licence conditions, offer of support with professionals meetings and requests to update the unit on any significant ongoing concerns, in order for a review of the referral decision.

[We will continue to work to strengthen our collective approach to safeguarding people from DA and in working with perpetrators to assist and enable them to change their behaviours and attitudes. However, the focus over this past year has evidenced our ever increasing multi-agency strengths in this area of work.](#)



A view through the lens of a trainee probation officer

The Professional Qualification in Probation (PQiP) is a fully funded training programme enabling people to gain a professional qualification in Probation. Depending on the qualifications an applicant already has the programme can take anything from 15 to 21 months to complete, and it allows trainees to develop their practical and operational skills whilst undertaking academic learning and studying, so you effectively 'earn whilst you learning'.

PQiP's currently form a sizeable and most valuable part of the probation work force, but what do some of the next generation of Probation Officers within North Yorkshire think of the service and their role?

Many reported that they were attracted by primary purpose of helping people to change and protect the public, and the variety of opportunities there are within Probation. Although several were surprised about how little the general public know about Probation and how the critical work we do supports the wider criminal justice system.

An ever-changing service, no day is the same, trainees say that they find the job interesting and challenging and certainly never boring. There is a lot to learn, and 15 to 21 months sounds like a long time, but trainees say that the time goes by so fast. Although on the whole most were positive about the programme some felt it could be enhanced by having more in house training and more opportunity for time away from the office to focus on the academic and vocational aspects of the programme. Some also felt there is a lot of knowledge and experience held by qualified Probation staff that is not readily passed on due to the business of practitioner's days, workloads, and time constraints, albeit this is not untypical of environments where those providing much of the teaching and day to day support already have significant demands and workloads to manage.

Specifically, PquiPs would like more focused training on the programme in relation to MAPPA, the role it plays, and how they fit into this framework.

Multi-agency working is key to a successful service and new recruits especially reflected on the invaluable safeguarding information shared from and to Adult and Childrens Social Care. The positive impact of other information sharing across the agencies was acknowledged but there was some suggestion that there could be more improvements in some partnership working, especially in cases that don't meet the MAPPA criteria.

With a magic wand and an unlimited budget trainees felt more investment was needed in mental health services and accommodation. Suggestions were made for the increased provision of specialist accommodation for people on probation, housing support workers attached to probation to assist in appropriately and safely resettling people into the community, and in-house mental health practitioners to directly support the work we do.

Despite the issues raised, the trainees report to enjoy the multitude of demands and challenges, meeting lots of different people from all walks of life and helping to enable them to work towards (and achieve in many cases) positive change and move on with their lives.

Finding Strength in Adversity

Prison Saved My Life - part 1

This article was written by a female prisoner and was included in the North Yorkshire MAPPA Annual Report 2021-22. It is being included again this year for the benefit of those who didn't read it, and to allow the reader to set the context for the follow up letter she has so kindly and bravely provided for this report. It is with our gratitude that we acknowledge her progress and the tremendous milestones she has achieved. It is so encouraging to read about her newfound belief in herself and the positive outlook she has in continuing to live a better life and to fulfil her ambitions.

Prison saved my life, there is no other way to put it. I was slowly killing myself and in denial about my addiction. Alcohol was my downfall - it took a year in prison to admit that I am an alcoholic, that I have a problem and that I had to change and sort myself out.

I used alcohol as self-medication because ultimately it worked and put a stop to my anxiety/panic attacks. What I was oblivious to was the downward spiral into addiction I was in. At the rock bottom of my addiction, I was drinking up to 3 bottles of spirits a day (usually vodka). I would wake up at 5am and start drinking so I very rarely had a hangover. I only came out of my bedroom when, basically, I was drunk, I didn't see it as addiction, alcohol was just something I was using to get me through that day.

The journey down into addiction was gradual, ongoing for about 7 years, from the time I was 14 to the age of 21 when I inevitably ended up in prison. I am not proud of it, but I pinched a bottle of sherry from my grandmother's house and started walking into town which was about 7 miles from where I lived. This happened a lot and at one stage it was a nightly occurrence. I drank the whole bottle so it's fair to say I was drunk. I ended up collapsed in the middle of the road on a blind corner almost getting run over by the police van that my mother had called after reporting me missing. I was brought back home after scrapping with the police and spent the night on the kitchen floor comatose. I woke up the next morning feeling ashamed, very ill, but liking the feeling that gave me. Did it put me off alcohol – NO.

My teenage school years were a disaster. When I was 13, I started running away. It wasn't that I was unhappy at home - I was escaping something but to this day I haven't got the answer to that. I liked school, I liked learning, but I couldn't deal with the bullies at school, I knew I

was different and was tormented horribly so I started skipping school in year 8. It started with me just staying in town until eventually being picked up by police, then it escalated to where I would go up to the nearby A168 and run across the carriageways for the buzz it gave me. I was excluded several times and eventually expelled and sent to a PRS (pupil referral service), but I would run away from there as well, so I was home schooled for the last two years. I took my GCSE exams at home.

*At 16, I went to college - that was the best time of my life. I was studying Uniformed Public Services and I loved it. I made some good friends who I am still friends with today. I was myself and didn't have to put on a front or pretend to be someone I wasn't. Because of the travel my parents bought me a moped so that I could get to college. During that short time, I was focused, getting good grades (Distinction * at the end of the first year) and enjoying life, but alcohol was still there and having my own transport the risk to me and others only increased.*

When I turned 18 things really took a turn for the worse, I was now able to buy alcohol and my drinking escalated. At 19, I moved out of home and into supported accommodation where things went from bad to worse. I had the freedom and the money to drink what I wanted, and I did.

I started missing appointments with the mental health team and with support staff at my accommodation. I was getting into trouble with the police more - I would go on the train tracks whilst drunk and play chicken with the trains. How I didn't get seriously hurt I don't know. I was arrested loads of times for doing that. I ended up getting evicted for setting myself on fire.

At 20, I moved in with my grandmother, to look after her as she was/is bedbound, which I did but I was still drinking. Carers came in to look after grandma, I would usually be drunk by the time they arrived on a morning, not fall over drunk but drunk and whilst I tried to hide, they it saw right through it!

My drinking was escalating, I got Tesco deliveries and was spending most of my benefits on alcohol. I would order four 75cl bottles of gin and four 75cl bottles of vodka and one or 2 bottles of whiskey and a box of beers along with a few munchies. I would hide bottles in different places but sometimes they didn't last the week, I was drinking over 40 – 60 units a day, and at that time nothing else mattered, as long as I had enough alcohol to get me through. My room was an absolute mess littered with clothes, uneaten take-aways and I was a mess.

Being in prison has enabled me to see the impact alcohol was having on others around me, as well as the damage it was doing on my health. It's not that I didn't care, I just didn't see it. Coming into prison as an addict and coming off it was the hardest thing I have ever done. It wasn't so much the physical side of the addiction it was more the mental side. Initially I was on remand. I spent two weeks on the detox wing. It hadn't sunk in that I was in prison it felt more like I was in police custody, plus I thought I was only going to be there for a few days. Oh, how I was mistaken. The court case was adjourned for some reason and re-scheduled sometime after Christmas. The next court hearing was scheduled for some time in March, so after another two weeks on the induction wing, I was moved into the main prison and was placed on A wing. Things were pretty much the same - I was ticking the days off and was just getting on with prison life.

The court hearing eventually came around and I packed my room up the night before as I thought I would be released. I was appearing on video link at the court, I first had a meeting with my solicitor, and I was convinced I was getting out. Well, I was wrong. I was sentenced to 27 months inside. Walking back to the wing after being sentenced I was still in denial. It didn't feel real, it only hit me a few days later, and that's when the reality of being away and without access to alcohol sunk in and the real hard work was beginning.

As I used alcohol to cope with my anxiety and mental health issues, I had to find a way to cope in prison. I had managed over the last few months because I thought I was going home. Over the next few months however I had to cope with everyday situations without alcohol, plus I was still in denial. The scary part came when it felt like I was dissociating because I didn't know who I was sober. My anxiety was at an all-time high to the point that I was terrified to come out my room - not because of the other lasses but because I thought I was going to have a panic attack and I didn't know how to deal with them as I had always had them, and I had always relied on the alcohol to control/numb them.

Halfway through my sentence, I started having meetings with psychology, they were hard but worth it in the end. I learned ways to battle my anxiety and mental health and within a few months of attending these meetings I could see the difference, and so could my family. I would insist that alcohol wasn't the problem and would get quite defensive about it, but eventually and after a year or so in prison, I finally admitted to myself that I did have a problem.

Admitting I was an alcoholic was hard, but it felt like a big weight off my shoulders. The first time I ever admitted it I wasn't expecting it and it was bit of a shock, it came out in a conversation with one of the prison officers and I remember

getting quite emotional as it was a very big moment for me. Having admitted it, I could no longer hide behind it, I had to address it and that was tough.

I began to work with drug and alcohol services in prison and along with the work I was doing on my mental health issues I knew I had to look at how I was using alcohol as an excuse for my behaviour and the poor choices I made.

The last few weeks of my sentence I was in two minds - I was excited about getting out sober and I had a plan of what I wanted to do with my life, but also, I was terrified about being sober, but I was confident that I would be ok. I was released to a Probation Approved Premises. I wasn't happy about this and had some reservations but there was nothing I could do to change probations mind, so I went.

I was getting used to being out of prison and it was strange. Having learned how to cope with my anxiety and mental health in prison, being out was very scary as I was now sober and had to deal with everyday situations myself with no prop. Being sober in prison and being sober in the community are two completely different things. In prison you don't have access to alcohol, and everything is controlled, which means there is no temptation and gradually I didn't think about alcohol, so I thought I had mastered it. I had done the hard part but now it was just a test of will power. I had been sober for 14 months by this point, I knew I didn't need it, and ultimately, I didn't want to drink. I had found myself again (the real me was back) and I didn't want to lose that.

Temptation is a weird thing it's like a little voice in the back of my head which would creep up on me, for example when I was out shopping and was near a pub or saw alcohol in the shops that voice would say things like "just one " no one will know" and " you deserve it - and I would

convince myself that I did deserve just the one. I knew these were all lies so I dealt with it by removing myself from the shop or wherever. I truly believed that I really did want to do well. I had been at the Approved Premise for three weeks, I had not given into temptation, I was doing well and was proud of myself, but it all when wrong.

On the night I got arrested and recalled, other girls were drinking. I'd stayed away before as I didn't want to be involved but on this night when they asked me to join them I buckled and ended up drinking with them. I then began drinking on my own in my room. This led to the self-harming as a self-punishment for letting myself and my loved ones down. I ended up in hospital, sedated and eventually recalled and taken to New Hall.

I take full responsibility for my actions, and I understand that it wasn't nice for the staff to have to deal with that situation. I am thankful for the second chance that the Approved Premise has offered me. I am still a bit nervous about being put in a place where the other residents can put temptation in your way but if you want to you can always find an excuse to give in. I know I really want to succeed. As part of the conditions of my release I will have a sobriety tag which I think will be a big help. I remain positive that I can succeed at the Approved Premise and with their support, re-engaging with Together Women and Alcohol Services I am beginning to look to the time when I can put my life and work experiences into practice and move forward with my life.

Prison saved my life - part 2:

Well, it's 10 months now that I have been out of prison, and it is amazing how my outlook on life has changed so much. I am coming up to 3 years sober with 1 small blip at my best friend's birthday, but you know what that one blip has made me work harder and given me even more determination to stay sober and I'm loving it!!

I would be lying if I told you it was easy – it has been hard adjusting back into the community, but it has been 100% worth it. I have a purpose in life now and that is something I didn't have before – as I said before – prison saved my life in more than one way: the addiction was part of it and the physical part, but it's much deeper than that – getting to know who I am - what I liked and disliked, and I found my talent in prison – MATHS – who would have thought it, considering my past educational experiences!! But I LOVE it and enjoy it and I am now studying Mathematical Sciences with the Open University and it's amazing! It's hard, but I love it and I'm doing very well in it. There have been moments when I thought of giving up when it got tough, but prison has taught me perseverance and determination, and I get back on track. I have just submitted my final assignment, so now the first year is completed and I'm on track to pass my first year.

When I was in prison, I made of plan of what I wanted to achieve in the first year of freedom, and getting my full driving licence was one of them. I've had a few refresher lessons, and my instructor says I am a natural and confident driver, so should pass my test first time – it's coming up in September, so as my instructor says – if I pass it, he'll drive me home – if not – I'm walking (and it's 15 miles from test centre to home!!). If I do pass the test, it will help me get a job (another part of my achievement plan) so I can, over time, save money in order to get a

place of my own, as I am currently back at home with mum and dad, which is great, reuniting with my cat Foxie, our four dogs, growing vegetables – helping mum as she is now disabled - but I'm 24 now, and really I should have flown the nest to my own place – but it will happen, my determination to move forwards is very strong.

So, to date, everything is good and going well – yes, there are rough days, but I have learnt that that is OK – everyone has them. Whilst in prison I had meetings with a Mental Health worker, and she was brilliant – the first time ever since I was 14 and had been going to other mental health clinics and groups, she taught me that bad days happen and that with the techniques she taught me I would get through them. She was the first Mental Health worker who truly understood exactly what I needed, and it seems ironic that I had to go to prison to find someone who understood the nature of my issues and was able to give me all the right tools to manage the miasma of thoughts and characters in my head, and be able to have good, happy thoughts and plans for my future – all of which are work in progress, and I'm moving on with my life – in a good place, enjoying being back with family and friends – going out and having a laugh with my sister and other friends who have stuck by me right through my time in prison – and it's great! My life now is on the up and there is no looking back – the 'real' Bethany has returned and moving on in a positive way – so different from three or so years ago – self-harming, massive alcohol consumption, inability to manage the thoughts and characters screaming in my head – and most importantly of all – I'm enjoying life.

**Update following the submission of this article:
Driving test and Further Maths both passed.
Amazing achievements.....congratulations!!!!**

A model of excellence; managing risk and rehabilitation through housing

The Resettlement and Community Safety project (RACS) is a Foundation housing accommodation service that provides supported accommodation under a property management arrangement for up to a maximum of 2 years. The service also provides short term focused support based on an individual's needs, and will seek to identify and support the individual with move-on accommodation within North Yorkshire Council or local private rented property.

RACS is an agreement and service funded primarily by North Yorkshire Local Authority, but to which the Probation Service contributes an element of funding (currently £40,000 per annum) to secure accommodation for people on probation who need housing in the North Yorkshire area.

Foundation focus primarily on High Risk of Harm and complex/Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Probation cases. Referrals are also frequently generated through MAPPA meetings, particularly pending release from custody. Foundation staff are trained in dealing with individuals with complex needs and who may present risks to staff, the public and other residents. Foundation has a positive record of managing difficult individuals, who may have previously been removed from applying for main stream accommodation within the local authority.



Case Study:

X is an adult male who was referred to housing prior to release, following a series of sentences for violence and abusive behaviour. He was a MAPPA Cat 2; Level 3 case. RACS agreed to provide accommodation away from the area where risks were most prevalent. Although he continued to pose a high risk throughout his time in the community, which eventually resulted in a further period of custody, the RACS property provided a consistent support for him and contributed to preventing him from returning to a particular area that would have led to significant concerns for individuals. RACS therefore assisted to safeguard others and manage the risks X posed.

RACS accommodation provides 70 beds across North Yorkshire, with concentrations of housing around Scarborough and Harrogate. Geographical distance can create some issues for people on probation in terms of contact, appointments and maintaining appropriate relationships with their support networks. This is balanced with the location of housing often supporting victim and community safety, by removing the person on probation from a specific location.

RACS meets the need to house those individuals who either present the greatest risk to others and/or who are particularly vulnerable for various reasons. The ability to refer into RACS for long term accommodation, provides the stability necessary to enable effective risk management and to support people on probation to move forward with their community sentences and lives across the North Yorkshire.

The lack of sufficient social housing and the current pressures on the private sector have been moderated by this Service. The fact that Foundation and North Yorkshire Housing services attend the majority of MAPPA Level 2 and 3 meetings, supports the commitment by all partners to ensuring this service is best used to meet the needs of the local population.

The success of RACS has been largely due to the commitment of senior managers across a range of services to support this approach. Partners from the Police, Safeguarding teams and Health, have all commented on how this provision has enabled positive engagement with services and effective interventions.

Case Study:

Y is a female being released to a PIPE AP on PSS for a maximum of 14 days. Foundation identified a RACS property and have been working with the responsible officer and partner services to ensure all arrangements, agreed at MAPPA, are in place for her move on. North Yorkshire housing has a contingency plan in place and NY Horizons have engaged with the individual to ensure medication and treatment is in place for her return to North Yorkshire. None of this would have been possible without an initial, stable place for her to move to. Foundation, as the supported housing providers, have built an excellent reputation across all services and with people on probation, who now actively request RACS support when leaving prison. The quality of provision and support provides the opportunity for people on probation to experience a settled period at a time when they are most likely to return to previous behaviours.



Working together to achieve healthier and safer outcomes

The North Yorkshire and York CCG Adults and Children's Designated Safeguarding Professionals and Primary Care Safeguarding Team have been actively involved in MAPPA processes for over 4 years. In response to a learning lessons review, whereby a lack of information sharing to GP practices was highlighted as a risk, a pathway was developed for sharing 'relevant and proportionate' information with health services.

A member of the CCG Safeguarding Team prioritises attendance at all initial level 2 and level 3 MAPPA meetings where, as a standard item within the meeting it is agreed what information will be shared with the MAPPA -eligible offenders' GP practice and where required any other relevant health provider. Attendance reports indicate that the team have attended 100% of meetings that they were invited to.

The receiving of this information by GP and other relevant health providers is essential in order that health services are able to manage any risks related to the offender within the service itself, safely provide appropriate health care and refer to specialist services where necessary. Moreover, the sharing of this information also enables health services to identify any additional risks that may occur and share relevant information to safeguarding adults and children.

Annual audits are completed by the safeguarding team of the process which enables refinements to be made providing assurance that the process is fully embedded across GP practices and hospital safeguarding teams in North Yorkshire and York. The initiative was further developed as a result of this audit process to ensure that once the MAPPA-eligible offender is removed as a MAPPA level 2 or 3 client, that health services can be informed of this change and records updated.

As a team we recognise the critical importance of the being involved, as part of the duty to cooperate, in the MAPPA arrangements and we are proud to say that the innovative involvement of primary care continues to make a difference in keeping people safe and supporting the health needs and vulnerabilities of MAPPA-eligible offenders. Additionally, involvement in this process and the associated sharing of relevant information with health services and associated training events has raised awareness of multi-agency public protection arrangements with health practitioners. As a consequence of the raising of awareness the safeguarding team has seen a rise in practitioners contacting them in order to discuss and share concerns in relation to offenders, thereby enabling discussions to ensure the safe and appropriate management and support of individuals.



LYPFT MAPPA Audit summary

The Safeguarding in the Leeds and York Partnership Foundation Trust (LYPFT) team recently undertook a MAPPA audit within the trust. The audit was conducted to provide a baseline on how the trust has embedded the MAPPA policy and procedure.

One of the key factors we wanted to find within the audit was if current MAPPA eligible patients are being flagged as an 'Alert' on their care director profile. Future data gathering will then be able to pull data from the Care director system to identify how many MAPPA eligible patients we have within the trust, making it more streamline to gather data for the regional strategic management board audit requests.

The standards used for the audit were national MAPPA guidance, including regional assurances for our Strategic Management Board regarding information requested as part of region wide audits for MAPPA, which then feed into a national picture.

There were 20 patients identified for the MAPPA audit. Clinical records were accessed in order to answer the following:

1. Is the patient's MAPPA flag recorded on Care Director?
2. Within the MAPPA flag is the patient's category and level of management recorded
3. Is there more than one agency managing the case?
4. Have identified dynamic triggers and protective factors been addressed within the last 6 months?
5. Is there evidence of regular multi-disciplinary meetings to review risk?

Findings

Good Practice:

- All Face risk assessments and risk management plans across the services audited were all up to date and in place. Face risk is an assessment tool used by mental health practitioners to calculate risks for people with mental health problems, learning disabilities, substance misuse problems, young and older people, and in perinatal services.

Improvement:

- Only 50% of patients had MAPPA flags on their care director profile. If data was currently pulled from the system to identify how many MAPPA eligible patients we had in our care this would not show a true reflection. Improvement is required on the process of identifying MAPPA eligible patients and adding a MAPPA flag as an alert on the patient's care director profile.
- We identified within the findings that different services were recording multi-disciplinary team meetings in different areas within patient records. We have recommended using one area of care director for recording MDT review meetings for all services, making it easier for future audits within the trust.

Outcome

What are we going to do to improve practice?

To improve future practice, we aim to raise awareness of the MAPPA policy and procedures, this will be reflected in an updated clinical SBAR (Situation, Background, Analysis and Recommendation) and taken to appropriate governance forums. SBAR is a tool used by the safeguarding team as a structured form of communication that enables information to be transferred accurately across the Trusts to colleagues.

We will also work further with forensic services in supporting the MAPPA lead to identify all MAPPA eligible offenders within the Trust and register a MAPPA flag under 'Alerts' on their Care Director profile, ensuring all risks are reflected in face risk assessment, risk management plans and where appropriate care plans.

MAPPA Statistics

MAPPA Statistical Tables 2022-23

MAPPA-eligible individuals on 31 March 2023

	Category 1: Subject to sex offender notification requirements	Category 2: Violent offenders	Category 3: Other dangerous offenders	Total
Level 1	941	202	-	1143
Level 2	4	6	6	16
Level 3	1	1	0	2
Total	946	209	6	1161

MAPPA-eligible offenders in Levels 2 and 3 by category (yearly total)

	Category 1: Subject to sex offender notification requirements	Category 2: Violent offenders	Category 3: Other dangerous offenders	Total
Level 2	18	15	20	53
Level 3	3	1	2	6
Total	21	16	22	59

Notification Requirements

Category 1 cautioned or convicted for breach of notification requirements	31
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Category 1 who have had their lifetime notification revoked on application	1
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Restrictive orders for Category 1 offenders

Sexual Harm Prevention Order (SHPO)	67
SHPO with foreign travel restriction	0
Notification Order	0

Number of individuals who became subject to sex offender notification requirements following a breach(es) of a Sexual Risk Order (SRO)	0
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Restrictive orders for Category 1 offenders

Returned to custody for breach of licence	Category 1: Subject to notification requirements	Category 2: Violent offenders	Category 3: Other dangerous offenders	Total
Level 2	1	2	3	6
Level 3	0	0	2	2
Total	1	2	5	8

Breach of SHPO	
Level 2	1
Level 3	0
Total	1

Total number of individuals subject to sex offender notification requirements per 100,000 population	127
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This figure has been calculated using the mid-2021 estimated resident population, published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on 21 December 2022, excluding those aged less than ten years of age.

Consistent with previous publications, this figure should be based on mid-2022 estimated resident population; however, the ONS has changed its publication schedule such that the mid-2022 estimates will be published later this year. As such, the current figure may differ from the corresponding figure based on the mid-2022 estimates.

Explanation commentary on statistical tables

MAPPA background

The totals of MAPPA-eligible individuals, broken down by category, reflect the picture on 31 March 2023 (i.e. they are a snapshot). The rest of the data covers the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

- (a) MAPPA-eligible individuals – there are individuals defined in law as eligible for MAPPA management because they have committed specified sexual, violent or terrorist offences or they currently pose a risk of serious harm. The majority are managed at Level 1 without formal MAPPA meetings. These figures only include those MAPPA eligible individuals living in the community. They do not include those in prison or detained under the Mental Health Act.
- (b) Subject to Sex Offender Notification Requirements – 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 individuals 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 – individuals convicted of violent offences who were sentenced to imprisonment or detention for 12 months or more, or detained under a hospital order and a small number of individuals convicted of sexual offences who are not subject to notification requirements. These individuals are assessed and managed by the Probation Service, Youth Offending Team or Mental Health Services.
- (d) Other Dangerous Offenders – individuals who do not qualify under the other MAPPA-eligible categories, but have committed an offence that indicates that they pose a risk of serious harm which requires management via MAPPA meetings. These individuals are assessed and managed by whichever agency has the primary responsibility for them.
- (e) Terrorism and Terrorism Risk Offenders – individuals subject to terrorism offender notification requirements; individuals convicted of terrorism or terrorism related offences who were sentenced to imprisonment or detention for 12 months or more, or detained under a hospital order; and those who have committed an offence and may be at risk of involvement in terrorism-related activity. These individuals are assessed and managed by Counter-Terrorism Police and the National Security Division of the Probation Service.
- (f) Breach of Licence – individuals released into the community following a period of imprisonment will be subject to a licence with conditions (under probation supervision). If the individual does not comply with these conditions, the Probation Service will take breach action and the individual may be recalled to prison.
- (g) Sexual Harm Prevention Order (SHPO) (including any additional foreign travel restriction). Sexual Harm Prevention Orders (SHPOs) and interim SHPOs replaced Sexual Offence Prevention Orders are intended to protect the public from individuals convicted of a sexual or violent offence who pose a risk of sexual harm to the public by placing restrictions and/or positive obligations on their behaviour. They require the individual 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 on the balance of probability 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 individual. In the case of an order made on a free standing application by a Chief Officer, the National Crime Agency (NCA), British Transport Police (BTP) or the Ministry of Defence Police (MODP), the chief officer/NCA/BTP/MODP must be able to show that the individual has acted in a way since their conviction that makes 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.

(h) Notification Order – this requires individuals convicted of qualifying sexual offences overseas to register with the police, in order to protect the public in the UK from the risks that they pose. The police in England and Wales may issue a notification order directly to an offender who is already in the UK or who is intending to come to the UK who has to notify within three days of receipt. Individuals have a right of appeal against notification.

(i) 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, NCA, BTP or MODP 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, or place positive obligations upon them. Any prohibition and/or obligation 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 recorded on VISOR as a Potentially Dangerous Person (PDP).

(j) Lifetime notification requirements revoked on application – A legal challenge in 2010 and a corresponding legislative response means there is a mechanism in place that allows qualifying individuals to apply for a review of their notification requirements. Qualifying individuals 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 subject to notification requirements 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.

