

## **Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)**

MAPPA stands for Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements. It is the process through which the Probation Service, Police and Prison Service work together with other agencies to manage the risks posed by violent and sexual offenders living in the community in order to protect the public.

MAPPA is delivered under the MAPPA Guidance 2012 Version 4.0. This document provides the framework for the MAPPA process in managing the risk of serious harm in Hertfordshire.

### **The strategic management board**

The strategic management board [SMB] for MAPPA oversees how MAPPA functions in the county, prepares the MAPPA annual report and reviews MAPPA performance data. Meetings are held on a quarterly basis at Hertfordshire Probation Trust headquarters in Hertford.

The SMB consists of representatives from the three agencies making up the responsible authority, (probation, police and prison service), plus representatives from the duty to cooperate agencies and two lay advisers.

### **Offenders managed under MAPPA**

There are three categories of offenders managed under MAPPA.

Category one – Those offenders with a current requirement to register with police as sex offenders.

Category two – Those offenders who have received a custodial term of 12 months or more for a sexual or violent offence and who are currently under probation supervision. It also includes some mental health orders imposed by the courts (for a full list see Appendix 1).

Category three – Those offenders who are currently deemed to be dangerous and a risk of serious harm to the public and who have a previous conviction or finding of an offence which supports that conclusion.

### **Levels of management/meetings and their operation**

There are also three distinct levels of management and cases will rise and fall through the levels according to current level of risk and management needs

Level one - normal agency management, there being an expectation that agencies still communicate about offenders.

Level two - is active multi-agency management requiring active participation by several agencies. These cases are discussed on a monthly basis by a panel which meets at each of the probation centres. These meetings are attended by senior probation officers and police inspectors in addition to representatives from the duty to cooperate agencies.

Level three – These cases require senior officer management as a result of high media scrutiny, or a need for unusual resources such as high degree of police surveillance

or specialist accommodation/placement. A county level three meeting is held once a month at police headquarters.

Young MAPPA - Hertfordshire is one of very few areas to have recognised a need for specialist Level two meetings for those relevant young offenders managed by the youth offending teams [YOTs]. A monthly county meeting is held at the central Hatfield YOT office to discuss those cases and attended by specialists from Children's Services, the NSPCC, in addition to specialist placement and health professionals and representatives from police and YOT teams.

All above meetings are chaired by the MAPPA manager. In Hertfordshire the probation victim contact unit manager deputises for the MAPPA manager as required, although in most cases the local senior probation officer or police inspector will chair a Level two meeting in the MAPPA manager's absence. The probation assistant chief officer public protection and offender management or the victim contact unit manager will deputise for the MAPPA manager at Level three meetings.

Referrals must be made on the MAPPA referral form and countersigned by a manager (senior probation officer in the case of probation).

### **Potentially dangerous persons**

Inevitably, there will be some offenders who do not fit the criteria for MAPPA registration under any of the three categories, but who are still recognised as currently posing a risk of serious harm and a danger to the public.

Such offenders cannot be managed through the MAPPA process but can be designated by police as potentially dangerous persons (PDP). Information can then be exchanged and a Violent and Sex Offender Register (ViSOR) record maintained by police. In Hertfordshire such offenders are normally discussed on a multi-agency basis in conjunction with MAPPA meetings due to the presence and consequent availability of appropriate professionals. Although these meetings are minuted, it is important to distinguish them from official MAPPA meetings as such offenders cannot legally be managed under the MAPPA process.

### **What is ViSOR**

ViSOR stands for Violent and Sex Offender Register and is the shared national database maintained by police, probation and prison service containing information in relation to those offenders being managed under MAPPA.

### **The MAPPA Unit**

The MAPPA manager - is accountable to the SMB for the functioning of the MAPPA process in accordance with the national MAPPA guidance. They maintain the national ViSOR system, which holds information on all MAPPA offenders managed at levels two and three and also all of the county's registered sex offenders [RSOs] who are managed on the system by Police.

The MAPPA unit is located at Police HQ and can be contacted at:

Hertfordshire MAPPA  
Police HQ, CMD Building  
Stanborough Road  
Welwyn Garden City  
AL8 6XF

Tel: 01707 354831 / 354858

Fax: 01707 354740

Queries regarding referrals or questions about the MAPPA process, attending meetings or how MAPPA minutes should be stored should be directed to the MAPPA unit.

### **Police public protection units [PPUs]**

All staff involved in this area of work will fall under central management through a detective chief inspector, based at Police HQ. Day to day management will be undertaken by police at inspector level supported by specialist detective sergeants. They will be assisted by a team of constables and support staff, who will deal with monitoring and visiting sex offenders resident in the county in addition to undertaking tasks agreed at MAPPA meetings.

In addition there will be an intelligence cell working with the PPU and specialist units such as the paedophile unit to develop intelligence and undertake enquiries into specific offenders.