

Kent MAPPA 2014-2015



Annual Report



Intro

We are pleased to present our MAPPA Report for 2014-2015.

Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements are recognised as a world-leading approach to the management of high risk offenders.

Kent Police, National Probation Service Kent and Prisons, in conjunction with all the Duty to Co-operate Agencies, have continued to work together over the past year to protect the public, appropriately manage risk and ultimately to save lives. Consistent and focused work has provided a high standard of service to the people of Kent which is reflected in a continued improvement in our practice and effectiveness.

Liaison with other MAPPA areas, nationwide, and regionally has additionally reinforced the efficiency of multi-agency management.



Michelle Jarman Howe
Deputy Director of Custody,
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Alan Pughsley
Chief Constable,
Kent Police



Tracey Kadir
Head of Kent
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What is MAPPA?

MAPPA background

- (a) MAPPA (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements) are a set of arrangements to manage the risk posed by the most serious sexual and violent offenders (MAPPA-eligible offenders) under the provisions of sections 325 to 327B of the Criminal Justice Act 2003.
- (b) They bring together the Police, Probation and Prison Services in each of the 42 Areas in England and Wales into what is known as the MAPPA Responsible Authority.
- (c) A number of other agencies are under a Duty To Co-operate (DTC) with the Responsible Authority. These include Social Services, Health Trusts, Youth Offending Teams, Jobcentre Plus and Local Housing and Education Authorities.
- (d) The Responsible Authority is required to appoint two Lay Advisers to sit on each MAPPA area Strategic Management Board (SMB) alongside senior representatives from each of the Responsible Authority and duty to co-operate agencies.
- (e) Lay Advisers are members of the public with no links to the business of managing MAPPA offenders and act as independent, yet informed, observers; able to pose questions which the professionals closely involved in the work might not think of asking. They also bring to the SMB their understanding and perspective of the local community (where they must reside and have strong links).

How MAPPA works

- MAPPA-eligible offenders are identified and information about them is shared by the agencies in order to inform the risk assessments and risk management plans of those managing or supervising them.
- In the majority of cases that is as far as MAPPA extends but in some cases, it is determined that active multi-agency management is required. In such cases there will be regular MAPPA meetings attended by relevant agency practitioners.
- There are 3 categories of MAPPA-eligible offender: **Category 1** - registered sexual offenders; **Category 2** – (in the main) violent offenders sentenced to imprisonment for 12 months or more; and **Category 3** – offenders who do not qualify under categories 1 or 2 but who currently pose a risk of serious harm.
- There are three management levels intended to ensure that resources are focussed upon the cases where they are most needed; generally those involving the higher risks of serious harm. **Level 1** involves ordinary agency management (i.e. no MAPPA meetings or resources); **Level 2** is where the active involvement of more than one agency is required to manage the offender but the risk management plans do not require the attendance and commitment of resources at a senior level. Where senior oversight is required the case would be managed at **Level 3**.

MAPPA is supported by ViSOR. This is a national IT system for the management of people who pose a serious risk of harm to the public. The police have been using ViSOR since 2005 but, since June 2008, ViSOR has been fully operational allowing, for the first time, key staff from the Police, Probation and Prison Services to work on the same IT system, thus improving the quality and timeliness of risk assessments and of interventions to prevent offending. The combined use of ViSOR increases the ability to share intelligence across organisations and enable the safe transfer of key information when these high risk offenders move, enhancing public protection measures. All MAPPA reports from England and Wales are published online at: www.justice.gov.uk

MAPPA Statistics

MAPPA-eligible offenders on 31 March 2015				
	Category 1: Registered sex offenders	Category 2: Violent offenders	Category 3: Other dangerous offenders	Total
Level 1	1548	787		2335
Level 2	12	6	4	22
Level 3	0	0	0	0
Total	1560	793	4	2357

MAPPA-eligible offenders in Levels 2 and 3 by category (yearly total)				
	Category 1: Registered sex offenders	Category 2: Violent offenders	Category 3: Other dangerous offenders	Total
Level 2	18	7	7	32
Level 3	1	2	0	3
Total	19	9	7	35

RSOs cautioned or convicted for breach of notification requirements	37
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Restrictive orders for Category 1 offenders	
SOPOs, NOs & FTOs imposed by the courts	
SOPOs	134
NOs	3
FTOs	0

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	6	3	1	10
Level 3	0	0	0	0
Total	6	3	1	10
Breach of SOPO				
Level 2	0	-	-	0
Level 3	0	-	-	0
Total	0	-	-	0

Total number of Registered Sexual Offenders per 100,000 population	100
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This figure has been calculated using the mid-2014 estimated resident population, published by the Office for National Statistics on 25 June 2015, excluding those aged less than ten years of age.

Explanation commentary on statistical tables

MAPPA background

The totals of MAPPA-eligible offenders, broken down by category, reflect the picture on 31 March 2015 (i.e. they are a snapshot). The rest of the data covers the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.

(a) MAPPA-eligible offenders – there are a number of offenders defined in law as eligible for MAPPA management, because they have committed specified sexual and violent offences or they currently pose a risk of serious harm, although the majority (99% this year) are actually managed under ordinary agency (Level 1) arrangements rather than via MAPP meetings.

(b) Registered Sexual Offenders (RSOs) – those who are required to notify the police of their name, address and other personal details and to notify any changes subsequently (this is known as the “notification requirement.”) Failure to comply with the notification requirement is a criminal offence which carries a maximum penalty of 5 years’ imprisonment.

(c) Violent Offenders – this category includes violent offenders sentenced to imprisonment or detention for 12 months or more, or detained under a hospital order. It also includes a small number of sexual offenders who do not qualify for registration.

(d) Other Dangerous Offenders – offenders who do not qualify under the other two MAPPA-eligible categories, but who currently pose a risk of serious harm which requires management via MAPP meetings.

(e) Breach of licence – offenders released into the community will be subject to a licence with conditions (under probation supervision). If these conditions are not complied with, breach action will be taken and the offender may be recalled to prison.

(f) Sexual Offences Prevention Order (SOPO) – a court may make a SOPO at the time of dealing with certain sexual offenders or when the police make a special application on account of the offender’s behaviour in the community. The full order lasts for a minimum of five years, and can last indefinitely. A SOPO will require the subject to register as a sexual offender and can include conditions, for example to prevent the offender loitering near schools or playgrounds. If the offender fails to comply with (i.e. breaches) the requirements of the order, he can be taken back to court and may be liable to up to five years’ imprisonment.

(g) Notification Order – this requires sexual offenders who have been convicted overseas to register with the police, in order to protect the public in the UK from the risks that they pose. The police may apply to the court for a notification order in relation to offenders who are already in the UK or are intending to come to the UK.

(h) Foreign Travel Orders – these prevent offenders with convictions for sexual offences against children from travelling abroad where this is necessary to protect children from the risk of sexual harm.

MAPPA work in Kent

The work of Kent MAPPA has continued to provide effective and thorough management of all high risk offenders, during this past year. This has been supported and reinforced by the commitment of the three Responsible Authorities (RAs) and Duty to Cooperate Agencies (DTCs) across the county. Multi-agency liaison and engagement has contributed to robust assessment and management of risk of harm, and thus has contributed to ensuring the safety and protection of the public in Kent.

During this reporting year Kent MAPPA benefited from participation in the national follow up MAPPA thematic inspection and were visited by inspectors from HMIP and HMIC during w/c 19th Jan 2015. The full inspection report has yet to be published but early feedback provided by the inspectors regarding Kent practices identified a number of positives. These included evidence of strong leadership of the SMB, developed use of ViSOR by probation and a comprehensive and appropriate application of the MAPPA level screening process.

The need for better recording of disclosure decisions was also identified during the inspection and this has been taken forward through instructions to relevant staff and inclusion of the management of disclosure in the MAPPA chair development day.

There has been a reduction in the numbers of offenders managed at L2 and L3 MAPPA, against an increase in the overall numbers of MAPPA eligible offenders in the community, compared to last year's figures. A robust and consistent central screening process is applied to all referrals to L2 and L3 MAPPA in Kent. It could be argued that the reduction in offenders managed at L2 or 3 MAPPA can be partly attributed to this rigorous screening process. It is also possible that the ongoing development of constructive and consistent working relationships between MAPPA partners in Kent has resulted in productive and collaborative practices outside of MAPPA meetings. This in turn has reduced the need for formal L2 and L3 MAPPA meetings and has enabled a greater focus of resources from all parties to MAPPA on managing those individuals who pose the greatest risk of harm to the public and require the highest level of multi-agency co-ordination and co-operation.

The Kent ViSOR Referral Unit (VRU) continues to provide a focused approach to the identification of MAPPA offenders. The VRU additionally provides support for the work of MAPPA by the incorporation of central points of contact (CPC) for Prisons, Courts, Approved Premises and Mental Health, further promoting a multi-agency approach to risk management, and facilitating information sharing. This

has also been reinforced by offering MAPPA awareness training to all DTC agencies.

A rolling programme of MAPPA awareness and ViSOR users training is now established in Kent and all agencies involved in MAPPA are encouraged to access this training and request more bespoke training, meeting their specific agency needs as appropriate.

In the past year, Kent Police have successfully rolled out the Active Risk Management System (ARMS). ARMS is a structured assessment process to assess dynamic risk factors known to be associated with sexual re-offending, and protective factors known to be associated with reduced offending. ARMS will provide Police with information to plan the management of convicted sex offenders in the community. It builds on existing risk management tools by providing offender managers with a consistent process to assess and monitor *current* factors and behaviours that are relevant to sex offender management. Going forward this will be vital in achieving bespoke risk assessments which in turn will aid the effective management of offenders.

The National Probation Service has now commenced roll out of ARMS training events across the country and it is anticipated that ARMS will ultimately inform probation interventions carried out with all sex offenders managed in Kent.

The Offender Personality Disorder (OPD) pathway is now in its third year. KMPT Psychologists have been working with Offender Managers in the National Probation Service (NPS) - Kent to support their work with high risk, probable personality disordered clients, most of whom are managed by MAPPA. The strategy has led to other developments such as the delivery of high quality personality disorder awareness training for staff involving service user trainers. The service continues to be well utilised by staff who have given positive feedback.

Circles of Support and Accountability (COSA) have continued to identify and train suitable volunteers to work with core members. COSA are groups of specially selected, trained and supervised volunteers who form a circle around a core member (who has been convicted of a sexual offence) offering advice and support, which is later developed on a more informal approach to offer a higher level of social and supportive opportunities. COSA is very effective at reducing re-offending and risky behaviours, increasing successful community reintegration, and has provided an additional means of risk management within MAPPA. There are currently 8 active circles with a

further 3 pending. COSA now has a pool of 58 trained and active volunteers.

In conjunction with the Divisional Counter Terrorism Lead, the NPS Kent Senior Forensic Psychologist has set up an extremism practitioners forum to support probation staff working with this client group. The forum, which is held on a quarterly basis, has been well attended by staff from Kent, Surrey and Sussex and more recently the South East and Eastern NPS Division.

The NPS - Kent Senior Forensic Psychologist has now been awarded her Doctorate, her thesis was researching the MAPPA management of offenders with intellectual disabilities. It is hoped that some of the findings will be published in relevant peer reviewed journals in the near future.

The Senior Forensic Psychologist from NPS - Kent will again be delivering training to the Kent Police ViSOR officers on working with sexual and violent offenders later in the year.

The role of the Strategic Management Board

Senior representatives of each of the agencies involved in MAPPA form a Strategic Management Board (SMB), which meets at least quarterly to monitor the arrangements and direct any necessary improvements. The SMB measures effectiveness against the standards contained within the MAPPA Guidance of 2012, ensuring a common standard of effective public protection arrangements with each of the agencies playing a full part in MAPPA.

Kent's MAPPA SMB membership has continued to strengthen and develop throughout this year, resulting in improved engagement from each of the responsible authorities and agencies with a duty to co-operate in Kent.

The agencies represented at the Kent SMB are:

The three Responsible Authorities:

- National Probation Service
- Kent Police
- HM Prison Service

Duty to Cooperate Agencies:

- Kent County Council (Adult and Children's Services)
- Medway Council (Children's Services)
- Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust
- Kent Forensic Psychiatry Service
- Kent Integrated Youth Offending Service
- Jobcentre Plus

- Local Housing Authorities
- Kent and Medway Commissioner for Adult Mental Health and Substance Misuse
- Electronic monitoring providers
- Education authorities.
- Immigration Enforcement

Safeguarding Children

MAPPA plays an important role in safeguarding children across Kent and Medway. Agencies work together to decide upon the most appropriate risk management plan including both restrictive and rehabilitative elements to both Community Orders and Licences in safely managing those who present a known risk of harm to children.

Representatives from Kent MAPPA have liaised with both Kent and Medway Safeguarding Boards in the last year to increase their knowledge of MAPPA. Members of the local Safeguarding Children Boards, as well as allocated social workers involved with families, are invited to attend MAPPA meetings so that concerns regarding the safeguarding of children can be shared and considered at MAPPA meetings to ensure that the best outcomes can be achieved to safeguard the welfare of children, young people, parents and carers across Kent and Medway.

During the last 12 months the National Probation Service South East and Eastern (NPS SEE) Kent Local Delivery Unit (LDU) has ensured the continuance of the Safeguarding Officer role; a Probation Officer, based half time in the Central Referral Unit (CRU) at Kroner House, Ashford. The Safeguarding Officer works in this multi-agency team to champion safeguarding practice across the Kent LDU. The Safeguarding Officer works closely with MAPPA partners within this multi-agency team and this has greatly improved multi-agency working for frontline practice.

The Safeguarding Officer has been working alongside the Police and Children's Social Care in sharing information regarding Domestic Abuse Notifications and in information sharing with regard to the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS) also known as Clare's Law. In April 2015, the Safeguarding Officer was joined by a full time Case Administrator now based at the CRU. This has meant that safeguarding checks can be undertaken on all offenders sentenced through the Courts. Improved information sharing amongst agencies is key in protecting the public and reducing reoffending across Kent and Medway.

Victim Liaison and Lay Advisors

What do the Lay Advisers do?

The responsible authority is required to appoint 2 lay advisers to sit on the Strategic Management Board. The lay advisers 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 or have strong links.

Lay Advisers

Lay Advisers are full members of the Strategic Management Board (SMB) assisting in the MAPPA review functions. They are not expected to be experts but informed observers and posers of questions. They act as a 'critical friend' who can provide a challenge to the professionals and bring an understanding and perspective of the local area. The Lay Adviser role is voluntary and unpaid.

Kent currently has one lay adviser, who actively assists in Kent MAPPA review functions. The recruitment process for a second Lay Adviser, following the recent resignation of our previous Lay Adviser is underway and should be completed by the end of October this year.

Below are some reflections on the experience so far by our longest serving Lay Adviser:

Since the last annual report I have continued to attend L3 and L2 meetings. It remains beneficial for me to attend several meetings relating to the same offender so that I have greater insight into the public protection process. I also took part in the final in a series of Serious Case Review panel meetings.

I had a valuable session on the ViSOR database which showed me the way it is used to share information to aid public protection. Informative examples were given to demonstrate its value.

As part of the MAPPA inspection I detailed the work I do as a lay advisor in a meeting with the inspector.

I continue to attend SMBs, have meetings with the MAPPA manager and I was involved in the preparation of the latest business plan.

Victim liaison

The Victim Contact Scheme (VCS) requires that the NPS contacts and offers the VCS to victims of offenders who have committed a specified serious violent or sexual offence, for which the offender has been sentenced to 12 months or more in custody or detained under the Mental Health Act 1983, with or without restrictions. Victims who choose to participate in the VCS may make representations about the offender's licence or discharge conditions, and receive certain information about key stages of the offender's sentence from their Probation Victim Liaison Officer (VLO). Victims of serious violent and sexual crime must, as a minimum, be:

- offered contact by the NPS
- assigned a VLO (unless they are the victim of a mentally disordered offender who is subject to a hospital order without restrictions)
- offered the right to make representations about licence conditions
- informed of licence conditions that relate to them
- informed about any other key information about the offender's sentence which it is appropriate to share in all the circumstances of the case
- offered the opportunity to make a Victim Personal Statement (VPS) for the Parole Board, if applicable.

This list is not exhaustive. Victim Liaison Officers attend and contribute to the work of MAPPA. Victim Liaison officers attendance and contribution at MAPPA ensures that the victims views and specific circumstances are considered in the MAPPA process.

The Victim Liaison officer is able to share specific information that may not have been made available and to make representations relating to the victim.



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National
Probation
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