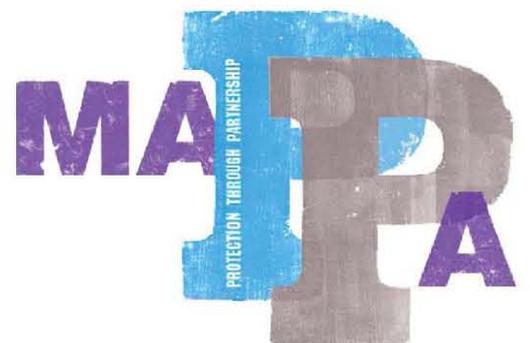


Bedfordshire



Annual Report 2010-11



Intro

Multi Agency Work in Bedfordshire

The Bedfordshire Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements consist of two Panels meeting in the county's largest towns. Professionals from a variety of agencies meet to discuss cases that are referred because there are concerns that without a coordinated approach between agencies, the potential for serious harm to be committed against victims is high.

The Police, Probation and Prison Services have the responsibility for making sure that the Panels run efficiently and complete the task of protecting the Public in Bedfordshire and ensuring that everything possible is done to avoid further victims being created.

The running of the MAPPAs is overseen by the Strategic Management Board (SMB) whose members are Senior Managers from all the agencies that are routinely involved in working with offenders. The Bedfordshire SMB are pleased to announce that in the year 2010-2011 there were no serious further offences committed by MAPPAs managed offenders in Bedfordshire.

The SMB acknowledge that the management of violent and sexual offenders is a difficult task. Whilst being proud of MAPPAs' success locally and nationally the SMB is not complacent. They know that it is not possible to eliminate all risks but there is a commitment to improving the functioning of the Bedfordshire MAPPAs and ensure that everything that can be done to protect victims is done.

The Multi Agency approach to managing high risk offenders works because what can be done by professionals working together, far outweighs what each agency can do alone. Bedfordshire SMB is committed to this principle.



ACC Andrew Richer

Chair of Bedfordshire Strategic Management Board

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 2011				
	Category 1: Registered sex offenders	Category 2: Violent offenders	Category 3: Other dangerous offenders	Total
Level 1	365	123	-	488
Level 2	16	29	12	57
Level 3	0	2	3	5
Total	381	154	15	550

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	26	74	12	112
Level 3	2	9	4	15
Total	28	83	16	127

RSOs cautioned or convicted for breach of notification requirements	6
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Restrictive orders for Category 1 offenders	
SOPOs, NOs & FTOs imposed by the courts	
SOPOs	45
NOs	0
FTOs	1

Level 2 and 3 offenders returned to custody for breach of licence or sent to custody for breach of SOPO				
	Category 1: Registered sex offenders	Category 2: Violent offenders	Category 3: Other dangerous offenders	Total
Breach of licence				
Level 2	5	25	0	30
Level 3	1	3	0	4
Total	6	28	0	34
Breach of SOPO				
Level 2	0	-	-	0
Level 3	0	-	-	0
Total	0	-	-	0

Total number of Registered Sexual Offenders per 100,000 population	71
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This figure has been calculated using the 2010 Mid-Year Population Estimate published by the Office for National Statistics on 30 June 2011, 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 2011 (i.e. they are a snapshot). The rest of the data covers the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011.

(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 (94% this year) are actually managed under ordinary agency (Level 1) arrangements rather than via MAPP meetings.

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

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

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

(e) Breach of licence – offenders released into the community following a period of imprisonment of 12 months or more will be subject to a licence with conditions (under probation supervision). If these conditions are not complied with, breach action will be taken and the offender may be recalled to prison.

(f) Sexual 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.

Local page

The co-location of the MAPPA team Police and Probation Victim unit

The Police Sex offender Management Unit, the Probation Service Victim Unit and now the Police Officers that work on the violent offenders managed within the MAPPA, are all located in the same building. This enables the rapid sharing of information and the coordination of the MAPPA action plans to take place between a group of staff from different agencies. It has been our experience that being able to routinely talk to each other about complex cases can have many positive benefits for the effective management of the MAPPA cases. Agencies working closely together are able to respond swiftly to crises and implement the contingency plans that have been devised in meetings to contain situations where risk levels might otherwise become unmanageable.

Bedfordshire MAPPA and Victims

Victims take a central place within The Bedfordshire MAPPA . The Probation Victim Liaison Unit has the remit to contact the victims of sexual and violent crimes and give the victims or next of kin information about the Criminal Justice System. Bedfordshire MAPPA is always attended by the Victim Liaison Officers when there is contact with the victims. The victims' views are passed on to the MAPPA panels and these views form a significant part of the MAPPA action plans.

Two Approved Premises in Bedfordshire

Bedfordshire has two Approved Premises for the accommodation of Offenders. Most MAPPA subjects released from custody will spend a period of time in Approved Premises which are staffed 24 hours a day. The Hostels are able to closely monitor and support offenders when they are released from Custody and they provide a stepping stone from living in prison to being in independent accommodation.

A Lay Advisor's comment

Debbie Brindley has been the lay advisor for the last two years and she comments frankly about the Bedfordshire MAPPA:

As a lay adviser my principal responsibility is to attend and contribute to quarterly strategic meetings of MAPPA. This Board consists of staff of a senior level from all the agencies concerned with offenders and their monitoring in the community. National and local developments and implementation of best practice are addressed, alongside pertinent statistics and reports. Occasional, informative presentations from Board members allow everyone to develop an understanding of how different agencies work, their principles of practice and how these may impact upon contributions to the MAPP processes.

I observe at some meetings concerning individual offenders. These meetings are attended by professionals who have direct offender contact work from the agencies including police, prison, probation, housing, refuges, mental health, children's and adults services. Their responsibility is to ensure that offenders who have been, or are soon to be, released into the community are monitored and managed in such a manner that risk and opportunities of further offences are predicted and minimised. My attendance ensures I have a perspective of the actual work of MAPP.

It is gratifying to see on occasions, that some staff attend meetings at both levels ensuring that the workplace/grass roots views are represented. This contributes to the development of strategy from an informed perspective. However senior staff that attend strategic meetings should have sufficient management authority to implement recommendations but this does not always appear to be so, causing frustration amongst other agencies. Other frustrations include budgetary restraints and staff shortages – all these are not unique to Bedfordshire.

However it must be emphasised that the public in Bedfordshire should be confident that the MAPP/MAPPA processes of their county are carried out in a manner that puts the protection of the public at large, individuals and the vulnerable, as appropriate, at the centre of their deliberations.

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Bedfordshire
Probation Trust

