

Essex



Annual Report 2010-11



Intro

Essex pride in MAPPA

We continue to take pride in the work our staff carry out to protect the public in Essex. We have managed 853 offenders under MAPPA and, overwhelmingly, have succeeded in preventing them reoffending.

A range of methods that keep people safe

The range of choices open to MAPPA planners when organising for the management of serious offenders in the community includes vital restrictions tailored to the needs of each case, with police deployment of tactical options where necessary. Significant to the success of the conditions we impose is a short period of residence in the probation approved premises in Basildon. Its work in protecting the public over many years has been outstanding.

Local people have recently called for its closure after one of the residents committed a serious offence in the town centre. This hostel is however a key resource for MAPPA and a vital piece in the public protection jigsaw. We are working with local residents on the issues which have arisen as a result of the offence.

MAPPA works

Recent research on offenders managed by MAPPA indicates that the approach is effective in preventing crime by the most serious offenders. We strongly believe that it continues to be the best way to protect the public from those who commit sexual and violent crime. We are committed to the work we do through these arrangements, sharing the intelligence, the planning, and the responsibility for public protection in Essex.



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	832	370	-	1,202
Level 2	16	12	5	33
Level 3	5	2	2	9
Total	853	384	7	1,244

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	43	35	24	102
Level 3	7	5	2	14
Total	50	40	26	116

RSOs cautioned or convicted for breach of notification requirements	72
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Restrictive orders for Category 1 offenders	
SOPOs, NOs & FTOs imposed by the courts	
SOPOs	26
NOs	2
FTOs	0

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	9	12	4	25
Level 3	2	2	0	4
Total	11	14	4	29
Breach of SOPO				
Level 2	0	-	-	0
Level 3	1	-	-	1
Total	1	-	-	1

Total number of Registered Sexual Offenders per 100,000 population	56
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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.

MAPPA in Essex

Thanks to the founding Lay Advisor

John Downing, the first Essex MAPPA Lay Advisor, has given much of his free time since 2005 to contribute the citizen's view to the planning and oversight of this important public protection initiative.

His retirement from the role will leave a gap felt not only members of the Strategic Management Board, but by those staff in the field whose MAPPA meetings he attended, in every major Essex town, fulfilling his responsibilities on behalf of the Essex community.

Our gratitude to John for his important contribution during the early stages of MAPPA and during its subsequent successful years of expansion and development.

The work of the Essex MAPPA in keeping people in Essex safe is well-evidenced. John's involvement as the people's representative has enhanced the planning and thinking that has created such impressive arrangements.



Welcome to Anne Wade

Anne has been a magistrate in Southend for 17 years and so already has an interest in legal issues.

Her added interest in Sociology, including an Open University B.Sc., will be brought to bear on her new role as a Lay Advisor. We look forward to working with her.



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