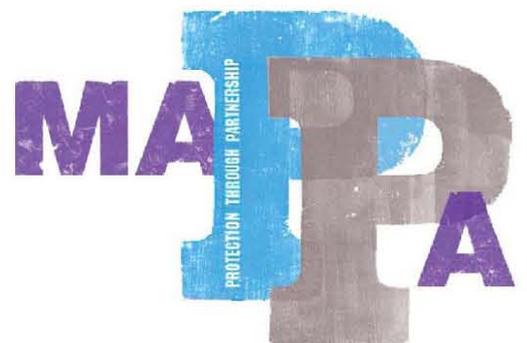


Suffolk



Annual Report 2010-11



Introduction

Welcome to the MAPPAs Annual Report 2010–2011

MAPPAs was implemented in 2001 and during the past ten years, strong partnerships between Probation, Police and the Prison Service have continued to develop in Suffolk in order to protect the public from high risk offenders.

2009/10 was a significantly positive year for Suffolk MAPPAs as there were no Serious Further Offences (SFOs) from the offenders subject to MAPPAs risk management plans. This success has depended largely on the close working relationship between the Responsible Authority agencies (Suffolk Constabulary, the Prison Service and Norfolk & Suffolk Probation Trust) and those agencies that have a duty to co-operate with them.

Suffolk MAPPAs acknowledges that the prevention of further offending is not always possible, particularly as we are managing the most dangerous offenders and risk cannot always be entirely eliminated. In order to ensure that Norfolk MAPPAs is functioning effectively, we are collaborating with other MAPPAs in the Eastern Region to ensure robust practices are in place for reviewing cases where there is an SFO. Regional collaboration ensures that there are resources available for a thorough and objective review of cases. That said, there is no room for complacency and the MAPPAs Strategic Management Board (SMB) are aware that the absence of a serious incident does not serve as an evaluation strategy.

Research Study

A recent research study commissioned by the Ministry of Justice entitled “Patterns of reconviction among offenders eligible for Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPAs)”, published in June 2011, shows that there has been a reduction in reconviction rates amongst sexual and violent offenders released between 2001 and 2004 compared to 1998–2000, which coincided with the introduction of MAPPAs in 2001. This reduction may be associated in part with MAPPAs. Many offenders managed under MAPPAs represent the most serious offenders released into the community from custody. This is an encouraging finding for those involved in their management.

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	523	82	-	605
Level 2	15	13	4	32
Level 3	1	4	1	6
Total	539	99	5	643

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	36	22	10	68
Level 3	2	4	2	8
Total	38	26	12	76

RSOs cautioned or convicted for breach of notification requirements	10
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Restrictive orders for Category 1 offenders	
SOPOs, NOs & FTOs imposed by the courts	
SOPOs	27
NOs	1
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	1	9	5	15
Level 3	2	1	1	4
Total	3	10	6	19
Breach of SOPO				
Level 2	1	-	-	1
Level 3	0	-	-	0
Total	1	-	-	1

Total number of Registered Sexual Offenders per 100,000 population	84
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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.

Suffolk MAPPA News

The MAPPA Lay Adviser

The Lay Adviser role is voluntary and part-time. Lay Advisers are not expected to become experts – they act as informed observers and ask questions which the professionals closely involved in the work might not think of asking. They can provide a challenge to the professionals by acting as a "critical friend".

Some of the duties of Lay Advisers include:

- Assist in the monitoring and evaluation of the operation of MAPPA in their area
- Assist the SMB to ensure that it has created effective links with other public protection organizations, for example the Local Criminal Justice Board and the Local Safeguarding Children's Boards
- Assist in the review of the SMB business plans and broader community strategy.

MAPPA Quality Assurance

Norfolk and Suffolk MAPPA have been working together to ensure that the work of MAPPA is scrutinised in terms of quality and effectiveness. A sample of MAPPA cases are regularly checked to make sure that they are being effectively managed in line with MAPPA Guidance (Nationally set expectations). Good practice is shared across all agencies and if practice falls short of the required standards, actions are taken to rectify this.

Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme

Police in Suffolk have been given extra power to protect children from Sexual Offenders. The Child Sexual Offender Disclosure Scheme (CSODS) has been a major step forward in our ability to protect children from sexual offenders but also to empower parents and guardians to understand how to best protect their children.

The Scheme is a formal way for members of the public to enquire whether an individual who has contact or potential contact with a child has a record of child sex offending or poses a risk of harm to a child.

Where the individual has previous convictions for child sex offences and is considered a risk to the children concerned, relevant information may be given to the person best placed to protect the child. This is usually a parent, carer or guardian, who needs to know the information in order to keep the child safe.

Any member of the public can apply for information about an individual if they are concerned, but disclosure will only be given to the person best placed to protect the child. Therefore the person making the application may not be told the outcomes of the investigation.

All disclosures must be lawful, proportionate and necessary to protect a child from the risk of significant harm. The safeguarding of children will be paramount throughout.

If you wish to make a CSODS application, then call 0845 456 4567 and speak to a call taker who will record the details of your application.

An example of where MAPPA has worked

Offender A was convicted of a violent offences against his partner. Following the custodial element of his sentence he was released on licence and, as his partner had moved away, he was allowed to return to his family home.

His victim had moved to a nearby town which was in another police force area, and continued to work for the same company she had before her partner's imprisonment and where her adult son was also employed.

It was a condition in Offender A's licence that he must not contact his ex-partner. However, soon after his release, his Offender Manager suspected he was using his son to make contact.

Through the MAPPA the two police forces and the Probation Trust shared information, and police officers and offender managers visited the victim to offer support. She informed her local police of the continuing harassment by her ex-partner and the involvement of her son. Offender A was recalled to prison for breach of his licence conditions. The son was warned by the police about his behaviour.

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Norfolk & Suffolk
Probation Trust

