

Sussex



Annual Report 2010-11



Intro

We are pleased to introduce the 2010–2011 Annual Report on the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) in Sussex. MAPPA has been in place for a decade; this report details how MAPPA in Sussex continues to develop. The risk of serious harm being inflicted on others by a small number of dangerous individuals can never be eliminated. But we do believe that the ongoing development of MAPPA will result in increasingly effective work to reduce the risk to a minimum. To achieve this, it is vital that those in the criminal justice system who pose the greatest risk are accurately and promptly identified, and that resources are appropriately targeted at them. The evidence within the report suggests that this targeting continues to be refined and improved.

The Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme was launched during 2010/11, giving parents, carers and guardians a formal channel to make enquiries about people who have direct access to their children. The scheme builds on existing processes to manage sexual and violent offenders. Although disclosure would already take place when children are deemed to be at risk, the scheme enables those eligible to apply directly for information themselves.

The merger of Surrey and Sussex Probation Areas to form Surrey & Sussex Probation Trust has enabled the creation of a joint MAPPA administrative function across Surrey and Sussex enhancing our operational efficiency.

We have implemented new guidance from the Ministry of Justice to streamline our processes further and ensure best practice and effective joined-up working. As a Strategic Management Board, we have continued to develop, audit and review procedures to identify best practice and any areas for improvement. The findings from these audits have enabled us to invest in training for staff working within our agencies. This year, we have rolled out the MoJ's national foundation training for MAPPA practitioners to improve knowledge and understanding of MAPPA processes across agencies and as an introduction to MAPPA for our staff working within duty to cooperate agencies.

The Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements in Sussex continue to improve. They are an effective method of assessing and managing the small number of dangerous offenders in our community. The protection of the public and the needs of victims remain our highest priorities.

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	946	270	-	1,216
Level 2	17	7	2	26
Level 3	1	1	0	2
Total	964	278	2	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	57	34	9	100
Level 3	16	7	0	23
Total	73	41	9	123

RSOs cautioned or convicted for breach of notification requirements	27
--	----

Restrictive orders for Category 1 offenders	
SOPOs, NOs & FTOs imposed by the courts	
SOPOs	89
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	1	3	9
Level 3	0	4	0	4
Total	5	5	3	13
Breach of SOPO				
Level 2	3	-	-	3
Level 3	1	-	-	1
Total	4	-	-	4

Total number of Registered Sexual Offenders per 100,000 population	69
---	----

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.

Note: the number of offenders managed under MAPPA will vary slightly from year to year, with new offenders coming into MAPPA and others reaching the end of their supervision as a MAPPA offender.

Local page

Achievements in 2010–11

On 1 April 2010 both Surrey and Sussex Probation areas merged into one pan-trust organisation, Surrey & Sussex Probation Trust (SSPT). This year we have:

- Introduced a pan-trust operational MAPPA team to administrate and co-ordinate MAPPA arrangements across both areas.
- Participated in a MAPPA thematic inspection in Brighton. Initial feedback highlighted positive joint working and effective practice.
- Developed establishing operational co-located public protection teams. Two of these police and probation public protection teams (in Brighton and West Sussex) will be fully co-located and operational as of June 2011.
- Taken part in a national pilot to improve and standardise a new national set of MAPPA documentation.
- Completed a sample audit of a number of MAPPA cases (15%) being managed at Level 2 and Level 3. The results of the audit clearly highlighted joined up working and effective management of these offenders under MAPPA.
- Delivered a training strategy for key partners from the agencies who work with MAPPA offenders
- Rolled out the national Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme across Sussex and provided training for staff and advice to members of the public on the scheme. The aim of the scheme is to provide parents, carers or guardians with information that will enable them to better safeguard their children. In the last year there were 45 applications for disclosure where there may have been a risk to a child. Each of these applications was investigated fully and following investigation there were 7 disclosures made in this period.
- Improved the relationship of MAPPA and MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) which develops risk management plans for high risk victims of domestic abuse.

Our aims and priorities for 2011–12

- Further build on our co-located police and probation public protection teams by incorporating staff from Forensic Mental Health teams within Sussex Partnership Trust.
- Work closely with the Surrey MAPPA Strategic Management Board to further develop a joint SMB sub-group structure.
- Take forward learning from the recent MAPPA thematic inspection and ensure that any gaps identified are addressed so arrangements continue to be robust and so that our practice is defensible in reducing reoffending and protecting the public.
- Further develop the Neighbourhood Policing portal across Sussex to enable our Neighbourhood Policing teams to access vital and up to date information on MAPPA offenders.
- Strengthen our working arrangements with key partners by training to inform the work of MAPPA.
- Implement new MAPPA national guidance which is due out in early 2012.
- Roll out the revised national document set.

Sussex Lay Advisors' contribution

As Lay Advisors we have:

- attended a National Training Day for Lay Advisors;
- regularly observed the discussions for Level 2 and Level 3 cases across Sussex at MAPP meetings;
- attended panels undertaking Serious Case Reviews;
- actively participated in the Strategic Management Board and its sub-groups.

Throughout all these activities it has been evident that Sussex continues to have good MAPPA procedures and a robust approach to offender management.

Pauline Hargraves and Jill Munday, Lay Advisors

All MAPPA reports from England and Wales are published online at:
www.justice.gov.uk

