



NATIONAL PROBATION SERVICE
for England and Wales

Thames Valley

Press statement

STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 09.30, August 5, 2002

Thames Valley has joint lowest numbers of registered sex offenders

Local figures released today show that the Thames Valley has the joint lowest number of registered sex offenders per 100,000 people than anywhere else in England and Wales.

Publication of the first Thames Valley MAPPA report – Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements – shows that there were 404 registered sex offenders up to March 31 this year. This equates to 19 per 100,000 people in Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire. The highest number recorded elsewhere was 57.

Over the past few years, a number of measures have been introduced to improve the protection of the public from violent and sexual offenders. MAPPAs are the most recent and place a duty on both Thames Valley Police and the National Probation Service – Thames Valley to assess and manage risk posed by offenders in the community.

This work is done in partnership with other agencies, including the Prison Service, health services and local authority housing and social services.

As the national MAPPA report, released on July 22, and today's local report both show, a great deal of progress has been achieved.

Bruce Davison, Director of Operations for the National Probation Service – Thames Valley, said: 'We are pleased with the latest figures released for the Thames Valley and have worked hard to revise our local MAPPA procedures in line with the expectations from central government.

'In the Thames Valley, we feel confident that we have a workable system which should provide the local community with confidence that sex offenders and potentially dangerous persons are being managed properly and safely.

'The fact is, however, that such persons always have been and will continue to be released into the community. Recent changes in the law and working practices of all the agencies involved in MAPPAs now mean that such people are monitored far more closely than in the past.'

Thames Valley Police spokesman Supt Ray Lejeune said: 'Thames Valley Police will continue to work in partnership with the National Probation Service – Thames Valley and, indeed, other agencies to manage sex offenders and dangerous offenders in the community so as to minimise risk to the public and make Thames valley a safer place to live.'

ENDS

NOTE TO EDITORS:

- The Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 imposed a duty on each of the 42 police and probation areas to work together to protect the public from sexual and violent offenders and other offenders who may cause serious harm to the public. The (MAPPA) arrangements were introduced on April 2001. These built on some of the good work that was already in place.
- MAPPA - This is the term to describe all the arrangements set up locally to assess and manage offenders who pose a risk of serious harm. Typically they consist of a strategic board, a MAPPP for the highest risk offenders and subordinate joint arrangements for the management of offenders who are assessed as posing a lower risk.
- A MAPPP (Multi Agency Public Protection Panel) is the vehicle through which the risks posed by highest risk offenders in that area are assessed and managed.
- A full copy of the local and national MAPPA reports can be seen on the Thames Valley Police website at: www.thamesvalley.police.uk

Hard copies of both the national and local MAPPA reports are available, on request, from:

Fiona Tarrant
Communications Manager
National Probation Service – Thames Valley
Head Office
Kingsclere Road
Bicester
Oxon
OX26 2QD

Tel: 01869 255300

Email: fiona.tarrant@thames-valley.probation.gsx.gov.uk