

Thames Valley



MAPPA (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements) Annual Report



Introduction

Keeping communities safe

MAPPA – the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements – have been in existence for 10 years and each year we publish an annual report to detail what we have been doing locally to protect communities from potentially dangerous offenders.

Protecting the public is our highest priority and this publication explains how we have done this across Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire between April 1, 2010 and March 31, 2011.

The number of MAPPA cases (as shown on page 3) demonstrates a concentrated, multi-agency approach to managing the riskiest people in Thames Valley. The numbers are relatively low, considering the population of almost 2.2 million but we prioritise resources for this vital area of work. Managing high risk of serious harm is essential to ensure public protection.

Our collective figure of 1,335 MAPPA offenders for Thames Valley on March 31, 2011 (compared to 1,286 in 2009/10), includes 960 Registered Sex Offenders (910 last year), 357 violent offenders (335 last year) and 18 other dangerous offenders (41 last year).

These figures are a 'snapshot' on March 31, 2011. Numbers will, naturally, go up and down throughout the year but they are relatively stable and similar to previous years.

The only significant change is to the number of Registered Sex Offenders who have been cautioned or convicted for breaching notification requirements. This shows we are increasingly tough on Registered Sex Offenders who don't meet the rules of their registration. This sends a clear message to all those on the register: if you change address, job or any other aspect of your registration without prior notification and approval, we will take action.

It also sends a clear and consistent message to the public that there are a number of measures in place to increase protection and offer reassurance that we are doing all we can to prevent offenders from re-offending.

We commend this report and the work of MAPPA staff across the Thames Valley to you.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sara Thornton".

Sara Thornton
Chief Constable. Thames Valley Police



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. Marshall".

Gerry Marshall
Chief Executive. Thames Valley Probation



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy Lattimore".

Andy Lattimore
Governor. HMP Bullingdon

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 focused 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	940	342	-	1,282
Level 2	20	15	18	53
Level 3	0	0	0	0
Total	960	357	18	1,335

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	138	181	80	399
Level 3	21	16	5	42
Total	159	197	85	441

RSOs cautioned or convicted for breach of notification requirements	71
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Restrictive orders for Category 1 offenders	
SOPOs, NOs & FTOs imposed by the courts	
SOPOs	53
NOs	0
FTOs	0

Level 2 and 3 offenders returned to custody				
	Category 1: Registered sex offenders	Category 2: Violent offenders	Category 3: Other dangerous offenders	Total
Breach of licence				
Level 2	11	22	2	35
Level 3	0	6	0	8
Total	11	28	2	43
Breach of SOPO				
Level 2	1	-	-	1
Level 3	0	-	-	0
Total	1	-	-	1

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 (96% 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.

Thames Valley MAPPA

A year of activity

Each year, the Strategic Management Board (SMG) of Thames Valley MAPPA does its best to consolidate existing good practice, improve communication between agencies and ensure protocols and procedures are in place so that everyone knows what everyone else is doing.

This helps us all to work together more effectively, to share information in the correct way and prevent offenders from re-offending.

While it can never be said that offenders under MAPPA won't ever re-offend, the arrangements exist to minimise that possibility.

In 2010-11, Thames Valley made great strides in improving training to all staff involved in MAPPA. This included the commissioning new training programmes and inviting many more Duty to Co-operate agencies to send representatives to that training.

MAPPA practitioners' workshops have been attended by police, prison and probation staff, plus those from youth offending services, safeguarding children, housing, G4S, mental health workers, social workers, drug and alcohol workers plus many more.

This collaborative approach means better and more consistent communication – a learning point from reviews of serious further offences that have happened in other parts of the country.

Learning from cases where there are further offences is essential. We take all learning points very seriously in the Thames Valley. Other training has improved MAPPA minute taking (and follow-up of attendees' responsibilities), links with mental health teams and the way MAPPA meetings are chaired.

All this has greatly improved communication, which is often criticised in cases that go to full review.

Other achievements during the year include taking part in a pilot project in relation to public disclosure (from August 2010) and training MAPPA Chairs and selected managers on how and when to disclose information.

Further work has been done on a protocol between mental health community services and MAPPA to

make sure joint and discrete responsibilities are known. The local protocol was refreshed and re-distributed.

Sub-committees of the SMG were proactive during the year. In particular the training sub-committee, which is multi-agency and met regularly to implement the raft of training courses throughout the year.

The quality and assurance sub-committee has also worked hard to make sure that agencies are ready and willing to share appropriate information (and in the right way) to reduce risk by those who come under the MAPPA umbrella.

Communication activity is also key to our continued success and reputation. Our communications professionals are not only responsible for this report, but for media activity throughout the year. They also take joint responsibility for protocols with Duty to Co-operate agencies' press offices, so that clear, honest and accurate messages about MAPPA are given to the public via the media.

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