
MAPPA: Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements



Working together to protect the public

Five years of MAPPA – ‘keeping communities safe in Thames Valley’

Thames Valley has the fourth lowest number of registered sex offenders (RSOs) in England and Wales.

Local figures released today show that Thames Valley has 936 RSOs – which equates to 44 per 100,000 in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire combined.

This is the fifth year in which annual reports by the 42 responsible areas in England and Wales have been published. They highlight the work undertaken by Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) to protect communities from the risk posed by dangerous offenders. It is, however, the first year that the figures have been released at basic command unit (BCU) level, a decision taken nationally to add transparency and openness to the annual reports without compromising the risk management plans of individual offenders.

Last year's figure for the Thames Valley was 822 RSOs. The increase of 114 is likely to be due to transferees from other areas of the country, as well as continual improvements in the accuracy of figures, with new agencies taking an active role in data collection. The figures themselves are also cumulative, meaning that the statistics will always grow, year on year.

Thames Valley Chief Probation Officer, Gerry Marshall, said:

“Protecting the public is one of the highest priorities of law enforcement agencies and the MAPPA annual report outlines the very hard work that is being carried out, on a daily basis, to safeguard our communities from potentially dangerous offenders.

“There are three levels which offenders fall into under the MAPPA process. I would like to reassure the public that there are very few offenders who fall into level three – the very high-risk category.

“These offenders – the ‘critical few’ – total 28. Of those, five were returned to custody for breaching conditions imposed upon them, but none were charged with a further serious or violent offence. This clearly demonstrates the success of joined-up working.”

Sara Thornton, Acting Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police, said:

“Multi-Agency work of this kind is all about reducing crime, preventing future victims and minimising the re-victimisation of people who have suffered at the hands of criminals.

"The very fact that we are in a position to publish detailed figures means that we know who the offenders are, have assessed their level of risk and have plans in place to manage that risk."

Bruce Davison, HM Prison Service's Head of Social Inclusion Strategy Unit for Thames Valley, said:

"MAPPA has an important role to play in protecting communities in the Thames Valley and local prisons are in a good position to gather important information on prisoners they hold and to work on reducing their risk of causing harm."

Gerry Sutcliffe MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Criminal Justice and Offender Management, said:

"Protecting the public is at the heart of the Government's priorities, and ensuring the effective management of the most dangerous offenders is a key part of our agenda.

"The offences committed by the population of offenders covered by MAPPA create intense suffering for victims and great concern for us all. While we can never eliminate risk entirely, we are all entitled to expect that everything that can be done is being done to prevent those offenders re-offending.

"This is the fifth year of MAPPA across England and Wales and it is clear from the annual reports published today that a huge amount of skill and commitment is deployed towards protecting the public from serious sexual and violent offenders."

Helen Edwards, Chief Executive of the National Offender Management Service, said:

"The MAPPA annual reports offer an excellent opportunity to see how the most dangerous offenders are managed. There are no easy solutions with offenders having such complex needs but here we see detailed sentence planning, careful monitoring and swift intervention before behaviour escalates to serious re-offending.

"Protecting the public is an essential aspect of the developing National Offender Management Service; it is something we simply must get right, especially at the end of the scale. There are lessons to be learned along the way but the inter-agency work with MAPPA shows how all agencies involved in offender management can deliver an effective service."

Ends

Notes to Editors:

1. The number of RSOs in each of the BCU areas are:

Oxfordshire	306	(pop. 606000)
Berkshire West	224	(pop. 438000)
Berkshire East	141	(pop. 363000)
Milton Keynes	129	(pop. 215000)
Buckinghamshire	136	(pop. 479000)

TOTAL

936

(pop. 2.1million)

2. The Criminal Justice and Court Services Act (2000) established the MAPPA and placed them on a statutory basis. The Criminal Justice Act (2003) re-enacted and strengthened those provisions. The legislation requires the Police, Prison and Probation Services (acting jointly as the 'Responsible Authority') in each of the 42 areas of England and Wales:

- to establish arrangements for assessing and managing the risks posed by sexual and violent offenders;
- to review and monitor the arrangements;
- as part of the reviewing and monitoring arrangements, to prepare and publish an annual report on their operation.

3. A range of other agencies have also been placed under a duty to co-operate with the Responsible Authority. These include:

- Local Authority Social Services
- Primary Care Trusts, other NHS Trusts and Strategic Health Authorities
- Jobcentres Plus
- Youth Offending Teams
- Registered Social Landlords which accommodate MAPPA offenders
- Local Housing Authorities
- Local Education Authorities
- Electronic Monitoring providers

4. The Criminal Justice Act also introduced the appointment of two lay advisors to each strategic management board that review the MAPPA.

5. MAPPA is the term to describe the arrangements set up locally to assess and manage offenders who pose a risk of serious harm. National MAPPA guidance indicates that offenders can be managed at one of three levels:

Level 1: MAPPA activity at Level 1 involves a single agency, most commonly the Probation Service, managing an offender without the active or significant involvement of other agencies to address risk issues

Level 2: Referral to this level is made where the active involvement of more than one agency is required to address risk. Some offenders posing the highest risks can be managed through referral at Level 2 where the management plans are not complex and do not need the commitment of resources at a senior level. Although Level 2 risk meetings are referred to by different names their function is the same.

Level 3: Level 3 activity meetings are known in all Areas as the Multi-Agency Public Protection Panel (or MAPPP). The 'critical few' cases referred to the MAPPP are those of offenders who pose the highest risks of causing serious harm or whose management is so problematic that multi-agency co-operation at a senior level is required.

6. There are three categories of offenders managed through MAPPA.

Cat 1: Registered sex offenders whose sexual offenders required to register under the terms of the Sex Offender Act (1997) and its amendments;

Cat 2: Violent and other sex offenders who are not required to register and generally have received a sentence of imprisonment or detention for 12 months

or more;

Cat 3: Offenders who do not fall into categories 1 or 2, but because of the offences committed by them (wherever they have been committed) are considered to pose a risk of serious harm to the public

7. The number of Level 2 offenders has not been available in previous years because this is the first full year that Areas have applied this differentiation of risk management meeting nationally. The structure for MAPPA was published in National MAPPA Guidance in April 2003.

8. Sexual Offences Prevention Orders, Notification Orders and Foreign Travel Orders are intervention tools that restrict the behaviour of offenders and can be applied for through the courts with the intention of preventing them committing serious further offences.

Sexual Offences Prevention Orders restrict behaviour and can be used where an offender with a conviction or caution for an offence listed in Schedule 3 poses a risk of serious sexual harm. It does not matter when the conviction or caution was received.

Notification Orders require sexual offenders from abroad to register with police, in order to protect the public in the UK from the risks posed by sex offenders who have been convicted abroad.

Foreign Travel Orders prevent offenders with convictions for sexual offences against children from travelling abroad where there is evidence that they intend to commit sexual offences against children abroad.

A breach of these orders, without reasonable excuse, is a criminal offence with a maximum penalty of five years' imprisonment.

9. Copies of the Thames Valley MAPPA report are available at:
www.thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk; www.thamesvalleyprobation.gov.uk;
www.probation.homeoffice.gov.uk