

Avon and Somerset



Annual Report 2010-11



Intro

Working to keep the communities of Avon and Somerset safer

Our overriding aim is to make the communities of Avon and Somerset safer. Protecting the public is the key priority for all the agencies involved in MAPPA.

By sharing information, building a clear picture of the risks an individual offender presents and directing resources in the best possible way to manage them, our agencies – statutory, voluntary and private – do all they can to lessen the likelihood of re-offending.

The needs of victims are at the core of our work and a primary concern of the three agencies who are the 'Responsible Authority' – Police, Probation and Prison Service. Serious violent and sexual crime impacts significantly on victims and their families, friends and the wider community. We take their concerns very seriously and work hard to protect and reassure them and make sure that their needs are met.

MAPPA also acts as an important conduit to other organisations, feeding the views of individual victims through to bodies such as the Parole Board, who make important decisions about particular offenders.

Close joint working across many agencies is crucial to ensure that offenders are continually risk assessed, from sentencing right through to their eventual release from prison back into the community. A combination of controls, treatment and monitoring manages this risk, with MAPPA activity at its most intensive when the offender returns to the community.

Managing risk of this kind is a highly complex, difficult and sensitive business and the risk of an offender assessed as dangerous committing another crime cannot be eliminated in all cases. Although Police, Probation, and the Prison Service are the three 'responsible' authorities our job would be impossible without the active support and contributions of agencies as diverse as health, education, children's services, employment services, youth offending teams and housing providers.

All have an important role to play and together we are committed to providing the best possible protection for victims and communities in the Avon and Somerset area.

**Rod Hansen, Assistant Chief Constable,
Avon and Somerset Police**

David Thomas, Assistant Chief Probation officer

Kenny Brown, Governor of Bristol Prison

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	978	386	-	1,364
Level 2	14	28	3	45
Level 3	0	0	0	0
Total	992	414	3	1,409

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	88	89	35	212
Level 3	1	4	0	5
Total	89	93	35	217

RSOs cautioned or convicted for breach of notification requirements	15
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Restrictive orders for Category 1 offenders	
SOPOs, NOs & FTOs imposed by the courts	
SOPOs	72
NOs	0
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	10	19	1	30
Level 3	0	0	0	0
Total	10	19	1	30
Breach of SOPO				
Level 2	0	-	-	0
Level 3	0	-	-	0
Total	0	-	-	0

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

Local page

Child Sex Offender Disclosure scheme

The Child Sex Offender Disclosure scheme was launched within Avon and Somerset at the end of February 2011. As a result of increased awareness and publicity 24 applications have been made and disclosures have been provided to the appropriate individuals, where deemed necessary. The scheme, which is also known as Sarah's Law, enables parents, guardians and third parties to question whether a person who has access to a child, is a registered sex offender, or poses a risk to that child.

What is the purpose of the scheme?

The scheme is about safeguarding and protecting children from harm. It allows parents, guardians or any third party to make an application to find out if there is information they need to know about in order to protect a child(ren) in their care. If there is a need to pass information to someone in order to allow them to better protect a child, then the police will disclose to whoever is in a position to use that information. Anyone living in the Avon and Somerset area can make an application for disclosure about someone who has contact with a child. The person they are enquiring about must also live in the Avon and Somerset area.

How to apply:

Visit: www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

Circles of Support and Accountability (COSA)

Wessex Circles has now become part of a registered Charitable Trust "Circles South West", which includes all five MAPPA responsible authorities in the South West. The charity is in the process of applying for long term funding to enable Circles to continue its work of assisting child sex offenders to reintegrate into the community by reducing the risks they present, thereby keeping children safe.

A part-time Coordinator has been appointed to provide current volunteers with supervision and support for the Circles that currently exist Within Avon and Somerset, Circles has successfully trained 15 volunteers and a further ten people are awaiting training. This number of volunteers has made it possible to continue to support three core members over the past 12 months. One Circle has been completed with the core member successfully establishing themselves within the community. They have moved into stable

accommodation and have established an informal friendship network via his local church who are aware of his previous offending. A second Circle was discontinued as a result of the core member being returned to prison for breaking the conditions of his sex offender prevention order. The third Circle continues to offer support to the Core member. It is hoped that more volunteers will be trained so that a further 2/3 Circles can be established over the next 12 months.

Multi Agency MAPPA Training

Further training has taken place over the past 12 months with the emphasis upon the provision of higher level training for staff directly responsible for the identification and management of MAPPA offenders. Agencies involved in the training have included police, probation and prison staff as well as mental Health and youth justice staff. These are the agencies that have statutory responsibility for the management of MAPPA offenders but training has also involved Housing Providers, Social Workers and general health care staff.

IMPACT extension to include MAPPA

Building on the success of Avon and Somerset's IMPACT, Avon and Somerset Probation Trust, Avon and Somerset Police, HMP Bristol and the Safer Bristol partnership are looking to develop an Integrated Offender Management approach to effectively manage potentially dangerous people who pose the highest risk of serious harm in the community. It is envisaged this approach will develop from the current MAPPA 'coordinated' approach to an 'integrated' approach by having co-location, information sharing and working together at its heart. A range of professionals including probation, police, prison, youth offending service and health will be working together to *manage* these offenders along with relevant pathways being developed such as mental health services, victim services, housing, education, training and employment etc, to ensure the relevant services are in place in order to *work* with these offenders to reduce the risk of serious harm they pose. This team will be working with statutory and non- statutory offenders, gathering and sharing intelligence, making timely disclosure and undertaking swift enforcement when necessary, to ensure offenders are managed in line with best practice, with the aim of protecting the public, reducing the number of victims of serious crime and reducing the number of incidents of serious violence.

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