

North Yorkshire County Council

Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee

23 January 2012

Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with an overview and opportunity to seek clarification, as appropriate, on the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements in North Yorkshire.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 In March 2011 the Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee was provided with a presentation on the Community Payback Scheme for adult offenders overseen by the York and North Yorkshire Probation Trust. The subject of today's presentation follows on from this and responds to the Committee's request to be provided with an overview of the work of Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements in the county.

3.0 Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements

- 3.1 Probation staff work with the police, prison and representatives from social services, housing, education, health and youth justice, to manage the risk posed by sexual and violent offenders on release from prison back to the community. This is known as the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements - or MAPPA.
- 3.2 Multi Agency Panels involve close partnership work between Probation, the police, prisons, social services, the health authority, accommodation providers, and any other appropriate agencies. The panels have a range of options available to them including the power to make particularly dangerous offenders reside in probation hostels.
- 3.3 A Strategic Management Board monitors and reviews how the public protection arrangements are working in each local area. Chaired by a senior representative of the police, probation or prison service, the Board includes senior representatives of other agencies.

4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1 That Members note the work of the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements in North Yorkshire.

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Background Documents: MAPPA Annual Report 2010-11: York and North Yorkshire

York and North Yorkshire



Annual Report 2010-11



Intro

Working together to keep communities safe

“North Yorkshire and York remains one of the safest places to live, work and visit.”

“The overall annual recorded crime is low, with sexual and serious violent offences representing a small percentage of all crime. That will be of no comfort to those who have been affected by crime, and we recognise that the impact, especially of serious offending, can be profound and long lasting on victims and the wider community. For that reason robust processes to manage the risk posed by some offenders living in the community are essential.

Now in its tenth year, MAPPA is the established framework for managing those risks. Strong partnership working and good information sharing has become our key strengths.

As you may be aware all public sector agencies are facing budget constraints, both in this last year, as well as in future years. York and North Yorkshire are no different: we would like to give assurance that our commitment to resourcing public protection remains our highest priority.

In the Local page of this report, we have identified some of our achievements. Supporting statistics are also included in this report.

Finally in commending this report to you we would like to thank all those involved locally in working with sexual and violent offenders, in maintaining such high professional standards and effective multi agency collaboration.”

Graham Maxwell

Chief Constable
North Yorkshire Police

Pete Brown

Chief Executive
York and North Yorkshire Probation Trust

Norman Griffin

Governor
HMP Northallerton



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 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	454	120	-	574
Level 2	2	1	2	5
Level 3	0	0	0	0
Total	456	121	2	579

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	28	42	8	78
Level 3	1	0	2	3
Total	29	42	10	81

RSOs cautioned or convicted for breach of notification requirements	2
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Restrictive orders for Category 1 offenders	
SOPOs, NOs & FTOs imposed by the courts	
SOPOs	42
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	2	3	0	5
Level 3	0	0	0	0
Total	2	3	0	5
Breach of SOPO				
Level 2	1	-	-	1
Level 3	0	-	-	0
Total	1	-	-	1

Total number of Registered Sexual Offenders per 100,000 population	63
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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 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.

Local page

Working together to keep communities safe

North Yorkshire Probation achieves Trust status

In April 2010, North Yorkshire Probation Area became a Trust. This change enables greater partnership working and allows for resources to be focused more efficiently on local needs. National performance figures for 2010-11 show that the Trust was joint first overall, through direct comparison with others trusts. This shows exceptional performance for protecting the public and reducing crime.

Safeguarding our children

In the eight months that the Child Sex Offender Disclosure scheme has been operating in North Yorkshire, a total of 58 enquiries have been received - most from concerned parents/carers and guardians. 38 enquiries led to detailed checks taking place, resulting in 3 disclosures being made.

HMP Northallerton: 'safe and purposeful'

HMP Northallerton's role change to a community prison for offenders, aged 18 and over, has been endorsed by Her Majesty's Inspectorate as 'safe and purposeful'.

The role change allows for North Yorkshire offenders to be managed nearer to home, which strengthens family ties. In addition offenders, supported by the local community and businesses, get the opportunity to work in the community. To date over 4000 hours of voluntary work has been completed. Offenders also get to learn essential work/life skills - all of which contribute to the aim of reducing reoffending.

Circles recognised at Charity Awards 2011

Circles of Support and Accountability is now well established in North Yorkshire. Circles works to help some sex offenders reintegrate back into the community. This community based programme was recognised for its contribution made to reducing sexual offending and creating safer communities at the recent Charity Awards 2011.

North Yorkshire leads the way for Domestic Abuse convictions

During 2010-11 domestic abuse accounted for 5.3% of all recorded crime in York and North Yorkshire. The figures show a slight drop from previous years.

Further, Crown Prosecution Service conviction rates show that North Yorkshire is top in the country for bringing those guilty of domestic abuse to justice, with convictions being recorded in more than 82% of such cases (the national average is 72%).

Top marks for Southview

Southview, North Yorkshire approved premises, has seen continued improvement in the work it does with offenders. This resulted in the highest possible audit scores being achieved in 2010-11.

An independent view

Lay Advisers are an important part of the audit procedures of MAPPA cases. The audit tool provides a well tested procedure of checks. The 2010-11 round of audits was well supported by all agencies involved in MAPPA, and more than 60 cases were examined and reviewed.

The audits confirm confidence in the MAPPA arrangements and are invaluable in ensuring that the conduct of MAPPA meetings is thorough, timely and meeting the national standards and deadlines required.

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

