

## What is MAPPA?

The Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) are a statutory framework established by the Criminal Justice Act 2003. The Criminal Justice Act imposes a duty on Police, Probation and Prison Services (as the 'responsible authority') to establish arrangements to assess and manage the risks posed by relevant sexual and violent offenders; and others who, because of offence(s) they have committed, are considered to be persons who may cause serious harm to the public. Rather than being a statutory body, MAPPA exists as a statutory framework within which agencies operate. As such, all agencies always retain their full statutory responsibilities and obligations. The Criminal

Justice Act establishes that other agencies have a duty to cooperate including education authorities, social services, youth offending teams, health board(s), housing authorities and UK Visas and Immigration. The Criminal Justice Act states that any other person the responsible authority considers could contribute to the achievement of the purpose of MAPPA may also share information with the named partners, essentially extending the duty to cooperate to anyone needed on a case-by-case basis.

## More Guidance and Information

Under Section 325(8) of the Criminal Justice Act, the Secretary of State has issued [national MAPPA Guidance](#). Being public bodies, all responsible authority and duty to cooperate agencies have a duty imposed by public law to have regard to this guidance in exercising their functions under MAPPA. Please see [the MAPPA website](#) for further guidance and information. Law Enforcement specialists from the Probation Service deliver regular multi-agency training about MAPPA for all safeguarding professionals, managers and practitioners in Oldham. Find out more and book a place via the [OSAB Website](#).

## In Practice

MAPPA aims to be very practical, focusing on issues relevant to risk, forming actions and generating risk management plans. There is a case management approach and the process of discussion and making plans will be seen as more important than registration. MAPPA cases are given high resource priority by agencies. Referral criteria need to be narrow to avoid the register becoming unworkable. Only cases posing a current, imminent risk are suitable for active-conferencing under MAPPA. Professionals Meetings can be convened for level 1 cases. Cases brought to the Professionals Meeting are not seen as requiring the additional oversight provided by active-conferencing and may not require the same level of resources to be mobilised by Senior Managers in order to manage their risk however, Professionals Meetings provide a multi-agency forum in which to discuss a case involving several agencies and where a multi-agency response and risk management plan is required. It is important to stay mindful that MAPPA is not a legal entity but a set of administrative arrangements. Authority rests with each of the agencies involved. Each agency will act in its own sphere and fulfil its own responsibilities but has a duty to share information and coordinate action with MAPPA partners. Without cooperation, there is a risk of collision - agencies unintentionally frustrating or compromising each other's work, sometimes with dangerous consequences.

## Referrals, Attendance and Information Sharing

Referrals need to be discussed with a manager in the agency raising the concern. Contact should then be made with the Multi-Agency Public Protection Team for a case discussion - 0161 856 3636 or [GMPS.manchester.MAPPA@justice.gov.uk](mailto:GMPS.manchester.MAPPA@justice.gov.uk) - following which the referral can be submitted. The overarching principles of MAPPA are clear: representatives from duty to cooperate agencies who are involved with an offender must attend MAPPA meetings. These representatives should be in a position to make an active contribution to the discussion and of sufficient seniority to allocate the appropriate level of resources. The sharing of information is covered by the Criminal Justice Act on the grounds that the right to confidentiality of the offender is outweighed by the risk presented to the public. Those attending MAPPA meetings agree to a confidentiality agreement; confidentiality rules apply to the content and minutes of MAPPA meetings but there should be no barrier to the prompt and effective sharing of information between partners. An Information Sharing Agreement has been distributed to all parties involved in MAPPA in Greater Manchester.

## MAPPA Objectives

The objectives of MAPPA are to:

- Share information at a critical stage of any agency's contact with the offender e.g. release from prison, moving into the area, disclosure of abuse/offending.
- Assess the level of risk to individual children and the community.
- Devise action plans as appropriate to minimise risk.
- Make decision regarding registration.
  - Agree implementation.
  - Monitor and review progress.

## Four Categories of MAPPA Offender

MAPPA Category 1 cases are individuals convicted of relevant sexual offences and are subject of various reporting requirements under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (Registered Sexual Offenders).

MAPPA Category 2 cases are violent and 'other' sexual offenders who have been convicted of a violent offence (as defined by Schedule 15 of the Criminal Justice Act - details can be found on [the MAPPA website](#)) AND received twelve months custody or more including Hospital and Suspended Sentence Orders.

MAPPA Category 3 cases do not meet the Category 1 or 2 criteria but have committed a previous conviction or sanction indicating that they are capable of serious harm and require active multi-agency risk management at Level 2 or Level 3.

MAPPA Category 4 cases are individuals convicted of a relevant Terrorism offence or offence with Terrorism connections, as determined by the Court. This can also include individuals who have been identified as radicalised and/or a potential terrorist risk.

## Three Levels

There are three levels at which offenders can be managed. These are:

**Level 1 - Lead Agency Management.** Risk/complexity can be managed effectively by the Lead Agency responsible for the supervision/management of the offender. This does not mean that other partners will not be involved. **Level 2 - Multi-Agency Public Protection (MAPPA) meeting.** Active involvement and coordination of interventions from the Lead Agency and other partners is required to manage the presenting risks of harm and/or complexity. **Level 3 - MAPPA meeting.** Offender presents a high or very high risk. Close cooperation at a senior level is required due to the complexity of the case and/or unusual resource commitments required; or although not assessed as high or very high risk, there is a high likelihood of media scrutiny and/or public interest in the management of the case and there is a need to ensure that public confidence in the criminal justice system is maintained.

Website: [www.oldhamsafeguarding.org](http://www.oldhamsafeguarding.org)

Email: [OldhamSafeguardingAdultsBoard@Oldham.gov.uk](mailto:OldhamSafeguardingAdultsBoard@Oldham.gov.uk)

