

**‘TWENTY YEARS ON, IS MAPPA ACHIEVING ITS OBJECTIVES?’
A JOINT THEMATIC INSPECTION OF MULTI-AGENCY PUBLIC PROTECTION ARRANGEMENTS’
PUBLISHED ON 14TH JULY 2022
AVON & SOMERSET PCC RESPONSE DATED 8TH SEPTEMBER 2022**

Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) are a legal multi-agency framework aimed at bringing together criminal justice agencies and other services to manage the risks that people convicted of violent or sexual offences pose to the public.

The police, in isolation can often only address the symptoms of crime, not the causes, and this is why partnership working is so important in helping to reduce reoffending.

There are four recommendations for local police forces.

Recommendation 14

The Probation Service, police forces, and prisons should ensure that category 3 referrals are made to manage individuals who present a high risk of domestic abuse where formal multi-agency management and oversight through MAPPA would add value to the risk management plan.

Recommendation 15

The Probation Service, police forces, and prisons should ensure that there is a comprehensive training strategy for all staff involved in the MAPPA process that fully utilises existing training packages and makes sure they can enable staff in all roles to prepare for and present or contribute to a case in a multi-agency forum and understand how MAPPA fits with other multi-agency forums, such as Integrated Offender Management and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs).

Recommendation 18

Police forces should ensure that all MAPPA nominals managed at Levels 2 and 3 are allocated to a suitably trained police offender manager.

Recommendation 19

Police forces should ensure that workloads for staff managing sexual offenders are reviewed against national expectations and, where found to be excessive, take steps for mitigation and communicate this to affected staff.

In response to these recommendations I can confirm the below.

Recommendation 14

The Constabulary are currently piloting an Integrated Offender Management (IOM) scheme for domestic abuse offenders in South Bristol. This scheme has been approved for use across the whole of Avon and Somerset. This new scheme will be made possible by the police officer uplift programme which will include an additional 35 officers in IOM for this purpose. This is expected to begin by the end of the year and will allow for a significant increase in the number of domestic abuse offenders subject to MAPPA arrangements.

MAPPA guidance is national and is followed by all agencies involved. The number of category 3 referrals will be monitored going forward and this recommendation will be reflected in the MAPPA Business Plan 2022-2024.

Recommendation 15

The Constabulary are currently delivering a force wide domestic abuse training package called DA matters: this is a package which has been adopted as best practice by most forces across the country. This is particularly relevant in relation to the increased numbers of domestic abuse offenders being managed (discussed above). In addition to this the head of IOM chairs the Learning and Development subgroup of the Strategic Management Board: this group looks at the training of police and partners in domestic abuse. A number of key items are part of this work including the training of new officers, the domestic abuse focused hydra training packages (unique nationally) and the quick reference briefing documents for police and partners.

More broadly the Constabulary recognise there is an ongoing requirement for training across the force to increase exposure and understanding of MAPPA. The MAPPA and ViSOR team are providing training to new officers and as part of investigations courses. Training needs are also supported by MAPPA coordinators, and there will be a slight increase in the resource available.

Bluestone teams are particularly important because these are the specialist teams that investigate rape and serious sexual offences. One of the recommendations – to be implemented later in the year – is to offer Bluestone staff attachments with the IOM teams. This will provide experience of MAPPA risk management processes and developing working relationships between the departments.

Within the Constabulary, records of personnel training are kept on a new database called 'Chronicle'; this will include recording of MAPPA training. Training is also covered in the MAPPA Business Plan, and this will help provide ongoing oversight of this issue.

Recommendation 18

If an offender has a police offender manager, then this manager will be part of the MAPPA process. If not, then a MAPPA Single Point of Contact attends on behalf of the police. This is to ensure all level 2 and 3 cases have appropriate police attendance. The MAPPA SPOCs system has been in place for over a year now.

Recommendation 19

National expectations are set out in Authorised Professional Practise (APP) which states an offender manager should not be managing more than 50 people in the community at a time.

A number of years ago the Constabulary recognised it would not be able to strictly adhere to these guidelines given the consistently increasing numbers of sexual offenders that needed to be managed. The increase in demand was not matched with any additional funding to meet this challenge and so the Chief Constable approved a deviation from this practice in specific circumstances.

What this means is that the lowest risk offenders are managed through a desktop process and these 'desktop' officers do have a caseload above 50. However this is sustainable given the lower level of management required. An exception also applies to those offenders in prison rather than out in the community.

For all of the remaining offenders in the community, who are subject to more active management, each offender manager currently manages between 40-45 offenders.

Caseloads are also frequently reviewed and managed by the Detective Inspectors and Sergeants through monthly meetings with the offender managers to ensure an appropriate workload is maintained.

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