

MAPPA – Northamptonshire Local Working Requirements

1. Introduction

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 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 Service, Youth Offending Teams, Jobcentre Plus and Local Housing and Education Authorities

The Aim of MAPPA is to protect the public, including previous victims of crime, from serious harm by sexual and violent offenders.

It does this by ensuring that all relevant agencies **work together effectively** to:

- **Identify** all relevant offenders;
- **Complete comprehensive risk assessments** that take advantage of co-ordinated information sharing across the agencies;
- **Devise, implement and review** robust Risk Management Plans;
- **Focus** the available resources in a way which best protects the public from serious harm.

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, 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;
- 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 focused 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;

- **Level 3** is when senior oversight is required to manage the case.

The MAPPA Guidance 2014 contains guidance on determining if a case should be referred to MAPPA. Referrals are made using a MAPPA A and sent to MAPPA@northants.pnn.police.uk.

2. MAPPA Risk Screening and Information Sharing Tools for Faith Based Communities

The MAPPA Unit have developed a Risk Screening Tool for Faith Based Communities. When people from all communities come together, it is likely that Registered Sex Offenders will be part of that group. The protection of those vulnerable to abuse, especially children, is important to all of us. At the same time, research on men who commit sexual offences against children indicates that they are more likely to stop abusive behaviour if they receive support to control their behaviour. One of the triggers for reoffending is social isolation and loneliness. If communities, including faith based groups include rather than isolate such men, they can make a significant contribution to the rehabilitation of such offenders and the safety of children and vulnerable adults. It is equally important that this is done in a safe way.

MAPPA partners, Police and Probation and the Safeguarding Advisor for the Diocese of Peterborough worked together to develop a support package for Faith Based Communities. The tools in this pack can assist Faith Based Communities in offering support to offenders and support you in doing this safely. The pack includes a Risk Screening Tool, a sample Covenant that can be adapted by Faith Based Communities and a sample Information Sharing document which will give you an overview of the type of information that can be made available from the agencies who work with Registered Sex Offenders.

3. Information Sharing

Registered Sex Offenders have been convicted of a sexual offence and are required to notify police about their residence and travel for a period that is decided by the Court. Within Northamptonshire, Registered Sex Offenders are managed by the Dangerous Persons Management Unit within Northants Police. Some Registered Sex Offenders will also have a Sex Offence Prevention Order or a Sexual Harm Prevention Order. These Orders prevent the offender from certain activities or going to certain places and are overseen by the DPMU. Registered Sex Offenders who have served a prison sentences or who have been sentenced to a Community Order (Probation) are also managed by the National Probation Service. In most cases, the offenders will have conditions on a licence or Order which from prevent him from certain activities or going to certain places.

Restraining Orders are sometimes issued to protect individuals who have been in an abusive relationship. They usually require the aggressor to avoid any contact with their victim and sometimes to avoid places where they may encounter their victim. If Registered Sex Offenders are assessed as very risky and complex they will also be overseen by the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). The professionals working with sex offenders depend on organisations, including faith based communities, to work together by sharing information. This pack includes an Information Document which covers the types of information that can be shared with you to protect vulnerable members of a Faith Based Community.

4. Risk Screening Tool

Research that shows that there are common signs which can be observed by an offender, and those he has contact, with prior to perpetrating sexual abuse. It is possible to intervene and offer help or take protective steps to prevent further abuse. The Risk Screening Tool can assist you with signs to look for in your interactions and questions to ask. This tool should only be used for screening men that you have a relationship with and some knowledge of; you are looking for changes in behaviour and you therefore need to know what is normal for them. You may observe signs yourself or others within your community may mention them to you. It also helps to be self-conscious or aware of the effect he has on you; do not ignore your own feelings if contact with him leaves you feeling uncomfortable, worried or confused. There are two steps to using this tool. The first step sets out seven questions which you can answer from your observations or from information from others. We advise that if any of these changes are observed you seek advice either from your own safeguarding advisor or from the DPMU or Probation Service. 30

The second step is an outline interview with questions that can be addressed to the offender. It is important that these questions are asked sensitively and without embarrassment. Ease in this situation can only be achieved if there is an existing warm and supportive relationship. Undertaking this discussion should be considered carefully and may be best if this discussion is referred to the safeguarding advisor.

5. Covenant

This is a sample Covenant or safeguarding agreement which can be adapted for use in a Faith Based Community in the event that that Community does not already have an agreement of this type. The Covenant was developed by the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor for the Church of England at Peterborough and is based on their expertise and developed from the C of E National Document Set. This Covenant can be adapted to reflect the values of Faith Based Communities and the particular risk presented by the individual offender and/or his restrictions. It would assist in managing risk if the Covenant was copied to the DPMU/NPS.

Availability: The document set in this pack is available on request to MAPPA@Northants.pnn.police.uk

LINKED DOCUMENTS

- [MAPPA Guidance 2012 - Version 4;](#)
- [MAPPA Guidance 2012 - 4th Edition - Part 2 - Appendices and Forms;](#)
- [MAPPA Guidance Update Document August 2013;](#)
- [MAPPA Guidance Update Nov 14 \(Categories Disclosure Mental Health\);](#)
- [MAPPA Referral Form](#)
- [Changes to Criminal Justice Act 2003 Schedule 15.](#)