



## **MAPPA - Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements**

### **Guidance for Social Workers (CYPS)**

**MAPPA** are the statutory arrangements for managing sexual and violent offenders in the community in a way that mitigates the risk that they pose as much as possible. The process is ensured by the Responsible Authority which consists of police, prison and probation services and they are charged with the duty and responsibility for the assessment and management of risk of all MAPPA offenders. CYPS social care have a 'duty to co-operate' with the Responsible Authority under section 325(3) of the Criminal Justice Act (2003).

Each offender who is managed under MAPPA is considered at one of 3 levels.

<b>Level 1 cases:</b>	Ordinary Agency Management is managed by the supervising agency with the support of other agencies.
<b>Level 2 cases:</b>	Managed through MAPPA and includes, for example, sexual offenders who are resistant to addressing their offending behaviour; violent offenders with additional risks of mental health problems and substance misuse, offenders who are likely to re-offend and cause high level serious harm to others. To be at level 2, there must be an assessment made that the risks posed by the individual concerned can only be effectively managed through the formation and implementation of a co-ordinated multi-agency plan. These plans are formulated and reviewed through meetings of the relevant agency representatives no less frequently than every three months (chaired by DCI and senior probation officer).
<b>Level 3 cases:</b>	Managed through MAPPA and includes, for example, imminence of re-offending with very serious consequences for others; threats to kill, kidnap and harm to known child or adult; distorted beliefs and thought patterns towards particular groups and / or individuals. Very high profile offenders with considerable media interest might be managed at level three (meetings chaired by assistant chief constable and assistant chief officer of probation).

#### **The purpose**

The purpose of MAPPA is to help prevent re-offending behaviour of sexual and violent offenders in order to protect the public, including previous victims, from serious harm. In order to achieve a comprehensive risk assessment and protection of the public and previous victims from serious harm it requires a multi-agency approach and information sharing across all agencies.

#### **The MAPP meeting**

MAPP meetings are held twice a month and consider level 2 cases primarily (occasionally a level 3 case). If a social worker is invited either as a case co-ordinator or through duty it is important they attend as it is the only child care agency involved and the information sharing ensures children are protected. Attending MAPP meetings should be considered a priority and if attendance is not possible by the case co-ordinator another member of the team should attend and if that is not possible then a written report must be sent to the meeting.

## **The minutes**

The MAPP meeting minutes are confidential and should not be shared with any other party without the authorisation of the chair of the MAPP meeting. Nor should they be stored on PARIS. It has been agreed by police, probation and CYPS that when a social worker receives the minutes from a MAPP meeting they take from it (adding to their case notes) the information that is relevant to the child (unless the offender is the child) before shredding.

The guidance regarding disclosure in the 'MAPPA Guidance 2009' is that the police will hold a full record of minutes on VISOR<sup>1</sup>, and is available should you require a copy.

## **ACTION REQUIRED (by Social Workers)**

- MAPP meeting minutes are NOT to be scanned and attached to the associated child's PARIS record (unless the offender is the child - *see below*).
- If the offender is the child then the MAPP meeting minutes can be scanned and attached To PARIS). If 'access to files' is requested at a later stage, the MAPP meeting minutes are NOT be shared.
- Only relevant information that relates to the associated child IS to be taken from the MAPP meeting minutes and added to case notes.
- MAPP meeting minutes are NOT to be shared with any other party / agency.
- If invited to a MAPP meeting attendance is to be prioritised. If unable to attend and no one else can attend a written report must be sent.

## **Further information:**

MAPPA Guidance and annual reports can be found at [www.probation.justice.gov.uk](http://www.probation.justice.gov.uk)

If you require any advice or guidance regarding MAPP meetings or your role in MAPPA please contact Safeguarding Children Quality Assurance Manager, Maria Finlayson on 0117 9037778

**Maria Finlayson**

**Safeguarding Children Quality Assurance Manager**

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<sup>1</sup> VISOR – Police 'Dangerous Person' Database, UK wide system used to share intelligence on those individuals who are considered to present a risk due to their behaviour.