



CHESHIRE, HALTON AND WARRINGTON MULTI-AGENCY PUBLIC PROTECTION ARRANGEMENTS **(MAPPA)**

Annual Report
2006-2007



Protection through Partnership

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Front cover photographs:
Chester Racecourse
The Bridge, Halton
Golden Gates, Warrington

FOREWORD by Maria Eagle, MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

These are the sixth MAPPAs annual reports, and the first with a foreword by the Ministry of Justice. I want, first of all, to underline the Government's continued commitment to these arrangements. Protecting the public from dangerous offenders is a core aim for the new Department. Just as the effectiveness of MAPPAs locally depends on the quality of working relationships, we will work with the Office, the Police, and others, to develop the best possible framework within which the MAPPAs can operate.

On 13 June, the Government published a Review of the Protection of Children from Sex Offenders. This sets out a programme of actions which include developing the use of drug treatment for sex offenders and piloting the use of compulsory polygraph testing as a risk management tool, enhancements to the regime operating at Approved Premises, and also a range of actions impacting directly upon the way the MAPPAs work. I want to highlight two of them here.

Firstly, research tells us that the arrangements are already used successfully to disclose information about dangerous offenders but we think this can be improved upon. MAPPAs agencies will be required to consider disclosure in every case. We will pilot a scheme where parents will be able to register a child-protection interest in a named individual with whom they have a personal relationship and who has regular unsupervised access to their child. If that person has convictions for child sex offences and the child is at risk, there will be a presumption that the offences will be disclosed to the parent.

Secondly, as MAPPAs has developed over the past 6 years, best practice models have been identified which show that specific roles and approaches are required to ensure it is managed effectively. We are committed to strengthening MAPPAs arrangements and ensuring that robust performance management is in place. To achieve this, we intend to introduce new national standards, which will ensure a consistent approach across Areas and we will be making available £1.2million to support Areas in implementing the standards.

We aim to do everything that can reasonably be done to protect people from known, dangerous offenders. We know that there is always room for improvement. I commend this annual report to you as an indication of the commitment, skills and achievements of the professionals, and lay advisers, in managing and monitoring this essential, often difficult area of business.

INTRODUCTION

As the responsible authority for the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements in Cheshire, Halton and Warrington, we are pleased to introduce the sixth annual report, for the year 2006/07.

This report provides an insight into the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements across the Cheshire, Halton and Warrington area. These arrangements are statutory and have now been in place for six years. During this time the Police, Probation and Prison Service have worked closely together with other key partners in Health and Local Authority based services to identify assess and manage violent and sexual offenders. This is difficult and complex work and we would wish to thank all those involved in MAPPa for the excellent work they do on our behalf.

Making our communities safer through effective Public Protection Arrangements is our highest priority. This is why the work undertaken through MAPPa is critically important. It is never possible to eliminate risk entirely, however, what can be expected is that all reasonable steps are taken to reduce the risk of serious harm to the public from known offenders.

The publication of this annual report offers an opportunity for MAPPa to be accountable to the local community for the management of sexual and violent offenders whilst also informing the community as to what actions are being taken to continually improve the effectiveness of MAPPa. Consequently this report contains not only statistical information about the numbers of offenders managed within MAPPa, but also provides an illustration of how the arrangements work in practice.

Much had been achieved in improving Public Protection through MAPPa but we are aware that we need to continually review and update these arrangements in order to afford our local communities the highest level of protection. Indeed, over the last

12 months a number of important local initiatives have been developed to better protect the victims of domestic abuse. These have included the piloting of specialist Courts to deal with the perpetrators of domestic abuse and the establishment of a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) to protect the victims of domestic abuse. These initiatives are being fully supported by the Cheshire, Halton and Warrington local authorities who have each appointed staff to co-ordinate services and directly support the victims of domestic abuse. These important developments should ensure that the perpetrators of domestic abuse are dealt with more effectively and that the victims of domestic abuse are provided with greater support and protection.

The protection of the public and management of violent and sexual offenders is a difficult and challenging task which is why deploying the joint expertise and resources of agencies working together through MAPPa is so important. We hope you find this annual report helpful in understanding how agencies across Cheshire, Halton and Warrington are working together to protect the public.



**Peter Fahy - Chief Constable,
Cheshire Constabulary**



**Steve Collett - Chief Officer,
Cheshire Probation Area**



**Ian Lockwood - Area Manager,
North West Prison Service**

1. WHAT IS MAPPA?

Violent and sexual offenders live in all communities and are of no single age, gender, ethnicity or background.

The Police, Probation and Prison Services have a statutory responsibility to put in place arrangements to jointly identify, assess and manage sex and other violent offenders. Under the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) a number of other agencies such as Social Services, the Health Service and Local Authority Housing have a duty to cooperate with the arrangements. About 13,000 offenders nationally are actively managed by MAPPA of which around 1,500 are categorised as very high risk of causing serious harm. Special licence conditions, such as night curfew, mandatory treatment programmes, restrictions on movement or a requirement to reside at a particular address can be made. In addition, offenders can be subject to various forms of monitoring and surveillance.

In order to protect existing or potential victims and in some cases to assist in the active management of an offender, information is sometimes disclosed to members of the public. This includes; partners or employers, head teachers of a local school, or the manager of a sports centre, or less frequently, general disclosure to a community. In each case the overriding principle is what will best protect the public.

Lay advisers are appointed by the Secretary of State and in practice become full members of their area's Strategic Management Board (SMB). Their role is not to become expert in the field of public protection but to ask often basic questions of senior practitioners and bring a community perspective to the process of protecting members of the public from serious harm.

While no arrangements involving managing offenders in the community can provide an absolute guarantee, an approach that requires all of the agencies to work together, sharing information and pooling expertise and resources is regarded as the most effective way of maximising public safety.

Not all risks are serious or high, but they are still risks to be managed appropriately.



Electronic Tagging Equipment

HOW DOES MAPPA WORK?

MAPPA is a three tier process. Offenders who are managed under MAPPA include all Registered Sex Offenders and all those sentenced to twelve months or more in prison for a violent or sexual offence.

Level 1: Single Agency

Some of these offenders will not be assessed as posing a risk to the public and they will be managed by a Single Agency (Level 1) although this would not preclude good liaison with other agencies.

Level 2: Multi Agency

Other offenders will be assessed as posing a high risk to the public, and require multi-agency management through a local risk management meeting structure (Level 2). These meetings are held monthly throughout Cheshire, Halton and Warrington and local managers from the various agencies agree what actions need to be taken to reduce the risks presented by these offenders.

Level 3: Critical Few

A small number of offenders are deemed to be the "critical few". These offenders are the most dangerous, the resources required to manage them cannot be found at local level or the case is so complex that there is a need for very senior staff from the agencies involved to effectively develop a Risk Management Plan. Meetings for these offenders are held as the need arises and these meetings are known as Multi-Agency Public Protection Panels (MAPPPs / Level 3)

2. THE ROLE OF THE STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT BOARD (SMB)

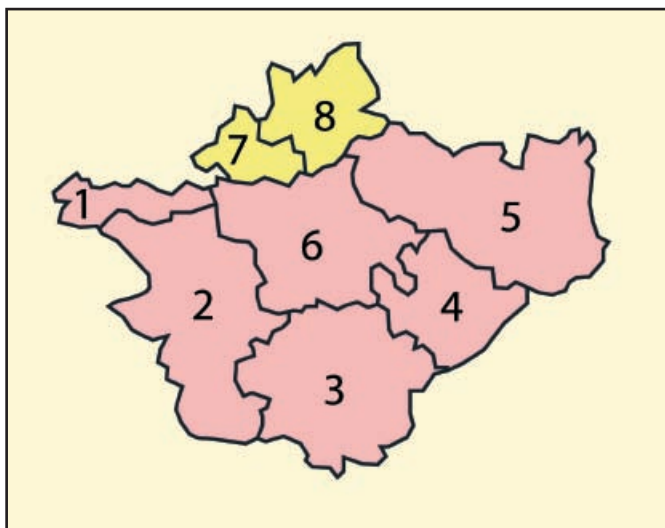
The Strategic Management Board oversees, monitors and evaluates the effectiveness of all MAPPA activities in Cheshire, Halton and Warrington.

AIM

To reduce the likelihood of harm being caused by an offender who has been assessed as posing a significant risk to an individual or the general public.

THIS WILL BE ACHIEVED BY ENSURING:

- Effective communication/information exchange between agencies;
- Robust risk management plans are devised and implemented;
- Appropriate training is offered to all involved in MAPPA;
- That the general public can be made more aware of the work of MAPPA;
- The work of MAPPA is evaluated to continually improve practice;
- That there are two Lay Advisers on the Board who will speak on behalf of the community.



KEY

- 1-6 Cheshire County Council
- 7 Halton Borough Council
- 8 Warrington Borough Council

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Locally MAPPA is committed to work together with other statutory and voluntary bodies to assess and manage people who pose a risk to the community.

The Strategic Management Board has formal links with the Local Criminal Justice Board, the three Local Safeguarding Children Boards and the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) as part of its multi-agency approach.

3. Key Achievements of the MAPPA Strategic Management Board during 2006/07

To develop an appropriate and effective job description for the MAPPA Co-ordinator

This has been achieved and a Co-ordinator was appointed in February 2007. Additionally the Cheshire Probation Area has provided a half-time administrator.

To review the MAPPA Guidance

The new draft MAPPA guidance was received in March 2007 and feed back has been provided to the Home Office. The updated guidance is expected to be released in Autumn 2007.

To review current information collection systems

A review of the current IT systems for data collection demonstrated that there was room for improvement. Work has now begun to develop a new database for the collation of statistical information.

To develop a formal process to facilitate the audit of risk assessments and risk management plans

An audit tool has been developed and piloted and will be implemented during 2007/08.

To promote the work of MAPPA to both members of the public and relevant agencies

Both Communication and Media strategies have been produced and will be implemented during 2007/08.

To recruit and train a second Lay Advisor

A second Lay Advisor was appointed during the year.

To produce a training strategy for new practitioners and SMB members

This has been achieved and includes an awareness training course for new staff.

4. WHO IS INVOLVED?

The Police, Probation and Prison Service are the Responsible Authority and ensure that MAPPA is effectively implemented and managed.

For MAPPA to be effective the support and assistance of many other agencies across Cheshire, Halton and Warrington is required. Together senior managers from these agencies make up the Strategic Management Board for MAPPA.

CHESHIRE CONSTABULARY - PUBLIC PROTECTION UNITS

In April 2005 the Constabulary, following a fundamental review in relation to how it delivers its policing services, created specialist Public Protection Units, located within each of its three Basic Command Units. The Crime Manager, a Detective Chief Inspector, has responsibility for these Units which are led by a dedicated Detective Inspector who attends all Local Risk Management Meetings (LRMMs), acting as co-chair, with a Senior Probation Officer. These arrangements ensure that resources are focused on those offenders who are identified as posing a risk of serious harm to the public, by reducing that risk through a multi-agency response. Within these Public Protection Units are specialist officers who have responsibility for the management of registered sex offenders.

This process is supported by a Strategic Public Protection Unit (SPPU) based at Police Headquarters. The head of the Unit co-chairs the MAPPA Strategic Management Board with Probation and the Prison Service, and chairs the Training Sub-Group, which has responsibility for delivering training in MAPPA.

During the past year Cheshire Constabulary has been instrumental in implementing the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC). These are conferences dedicated to protecting the victims considered to be at high risk of serious harm from domestic abuse. The conferences are ideally held prior to a perpetrator appearing in Court and ensure that all the agencies involved in a particular case do what is required to protect and support the victim and their family.

CHESHIRE PROBATION AREA

Historically Probation has been the agency responsible for the management of offenders in the community and over the past six years has benefited greatly from the multi-agency approach now at the centre of the Criminal Justice System. Cheshire Probation Area has welcomed the opportunity of engaging with its many partners in the community to develop a holistic approach to reducing the potential for offenders to cause harm.

During the past year Cheshire Probation Area has, in association with Cheshire Constabulary, been at the heart of the MARAC protocols. In addition it has strengthened its commitment to public protection by appointing a manager to the role of MAPPA Co-ordinator, thus facilitating a clearer more robust system to ensure that protocols and procedures are followed to protect the public.

Cheshire Probation Area also appreciates the many opportunities now available to increase awareness amongst many organisations of issues impacting on offenders, methods of risk assessment and also risk management. Victims are also at the core of the work of Probation and Probation staff from the Area's Victim Liaison Unit work closely with victims of violent and sexual offences and are therefore able to clearly represent the victims' concerns and anxieties in individual cases.

NORTH WEST PRISON SERVICE

During the year the Prison Service has continued to work closely with its partners in Cheshire in fulfilling its principal functions of the "Responsible Authority".

Its internal systems of:

- establishing arrangements for assessing and managing the risks posed by offenders subject to MAPPA, and
- reviewing and monitoring these arrangements

have continued to strengthen and embed within individual prisons in the region and contribute to the overall area and regional strategies for managing prisoners who may pose a risk to the public.

Working with all other partners in Cheshire, including the Police, Probation, Health, Social Services, Youth Offending Teams and the Immigration and Nationality Directorate, the North West Prison Service aims to ensure that the risk posed by discharged prisoners can be reduced and, wherever possible, managed safely. The North West Prison Service maintains a collaborative approach to sharing and communicating information to help enable released prisoners to be managed safely in the community.



CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

As an authority with a duty to co-operate, the County Council plays a strong role on the Strategic Management Board for MAPPA. It has now reorganised its former Social Services and Education Departments to create a new Children's Service and a new Community Services Department.

The importance of the role of the County Council on MAPPA is exemplified by its lead role on child protection and the protection of vulnerable adults, as well as other specific duties under the Mental Health Act and other welfare legislation.

HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

There is an integrated approach across Adults and Children's Services. Halton Borough Council has developed robust internal policies and procedures to ensure the implementation of MAPPA.

A comprehensive training programme is in development and formal links have been made through the cross-Directorate Training Manager with other statutory agencies. Future work is anticipated to focus on the development of greater awareness and understanding of MAPPA across agencies and within the local community. The need to develop more structured local monitoring systems around MAPPA implementation is recognised.

WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Warrington Borough Council has contributed strongly to MAPPA since its inception in 2001. Both Adults and Children's Social Services as well as Housing are represented on the Strategic Management Board.

Warrington Borough Council restructured in 2005, creating five new Directorates. The Children's Directorate includes both Children's Social Services and Education whilst Adult Social Services have moved into the Community Services Directorate.

One of Warrington Borough Council's stated key ambitions is to make Warrington communities safer, stronger and sustainable. In this context, local authority staff work closely with local partners to assess, monitor and jointly manage the risks posed by individual offenders.

CHESHIRE YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM

Cheshire Youth Offending Team (YOT) has developed its response to managing risk significantly since its inception in 2000. The context for this has been the implementation and development of the YOT Policy on Risk. The work of MAPPA is central to this and Cheshire YOT staff attend many Local Risk Management meetings and regard risk management as a key part of its service delivery. Looking ahead, the process is set to continue. The YOT takes time to study its practice through formal and informal reviews and also takes note of national developments such as the Monckton Enquiry to ensure that risk remains at the centre of its thinking

HALTON AND WARRINGTON YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM

Halton and Warrington Youth Offending Team is a multi-agency partnership working across the two local authority areas to reduce youth crime. The team assesses all young people (between 10 and 17 years old) it works with for issues of serious risk of harm to others as well as issues of vulnerability. If serious harm is assessed there are procedures to involve partner agencies through the MAPPA procedures at the local level. This puts in place strategies to minimise the potential harm posed to the community or individuals concerned. It is very rare for young people to be regarded as so potentially harmful that the Level 3 MAPPA process is invoked but the Youth Offending Team is an integral part of the protection mechanism if it is required.

CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE SPECIALISED SERVICES COMMISSIONING TEAM

This team also includes Secure Services, responsible for secure medium and low mental health and learning disabilities services across Cheshire and Merseyside.

Secure Services operates within complex health, social care and criminal justice systems and a policy context, which covers human rights, criminal law, the Mental Health Act and related health and social care policies. The role of Secure Services is to treat illness, reduce disability and mental distress and managing risk has to be considered in this context.

Secure Services' representation on the MAPPA Strategic Management Board is making both a contribution to arrangements for public protection and in developing a robust integrated approach to risk management and public protection in partnership with the criminal justice system.

CHESHIRE & WIRRAL PARTNERSHIP NHS TRUST

- Provides specialist mental health, learning disability and drug and alcohol services across a wide geographical area covering Wirral and much of Cheshire;
- Recognises that it has a significant contribution to make to arrangements for public protection;
- Enables the services and staff in its organisation to fulfil its obligations to public protection;

- Has identified eight nominated officers to lead on MAPPA, covering all localities and specialties, and who have received appropriate training in MAPPA and risk management;
- Provides a point of contact and advice for Trust staff and colleagues in the Police and Probation Services;
- Has appointed the Director of Nursing and Therapies as lead responsibility for MAPPA across the organisation.

These arrangements are now well established and are helping to ensure that effective communication is maintained and that Trust staff and services have increasingly strong working relationships with colleagues across the local criminal justice agencies.

CENTRAL AND EASTERN CHESHIRE PRIMARY CARE TRUST

A duty to co-operate authority and contribute to MAPPA in the following ways:-

Representation on the Strategic Management Board, to continue to build effective partnership approaches in the public protection agenda.

In conjunction with NHS Provider organisations and the specialised services commissioning team, ensure that the appropriate assessment procedures are undertaken, and the necessary resources are accessed.

As a commissioning authority, ensure processes are in place to respond to Multi-Agency Public Protection Panel (MAPPP) recommendations for additional specialist resources.

5. BUSINESS PLAN PRIORITIES 2007/08

Key Priority 1

Create the post of a dedicated Administrative Officer to support MAPPA functions.

Key Priority 2

Act as a pilot area to support the implementation of national MAPPA forms, processes and procedures.

Key Priority 3

Review policies, procedures and information sharing protocols, following publication of revised national MAPPA guidance.

Key Priority 4

Raise awareness of multi-agency staff, by training Trainers to deliver a MAPPA input.

Key Priority 5

Produce the Annual Report within set timescales.

Key Priority 6

Develop and implement an audit tool and supportive performance management framework to enable effective monitoring and evolution.

Key Priority 7

Organise an annual conference for local MAPPA practitioners to promote learning and development.

6. CASE STUDIES

CASE STUDY: X

Mr X was charged with an offence of threats to kill and was assessed as posing a very high risk of causing serious harm to known adults and staff who were supervising him. The threats were so serious that a Level 3 MAPPP was convened. This initial meeting was attended by representatives from the Police, Probation, Prison Service, Social Services and Mental Health Trust who shared information which assisted the court in deciding on sentence. Mr X received a custodial sentence, during which his mental health was further assessed and work undertaken to stabilise his behaviour whilst in custody.

Throughout his sentence Mr X was a MAPPA Level 3 offender. The Multi-Agency Public Protection Panel (MAPPP) met regularly to discuss any changes in his behaviour and risks he posed.

Prior to his release the need for a risk management plan was identified because of the ongoing risk he posed. This plan was formulated by the MAPPP ensuring that all agencies involved were working to reduce that risk and to enable Mr X to be managed more effectively upon release into the community.

The MAPPP Plan included additional licence conditions, to reside where directed, not to approach his victims, not to enter a certain area and to co-operate with the Mental Health Services offered.

Mr X was found suitable accommodation in an appropriate hostel out of the area because of the threats to specific victims. The Mental Health team continues to work with him to manage his mental health. The Probation Service is working with him to reduce his re-offending. The Police are monitoring his behaviour with the remit to re-arrest him should he breach any of the stringent licence conditions imposed.

The MAPPA process demonstrated collaborative work between the agencies involved. When Mr X relocated to a different area, agencies in that area also became involved, enabling the continued services and support that he needed.

Currently Mr X remains at a hostel and is complying with his licence conditions without any breaches. He has not made any further threats or re-offended.

KEY FACTORS IN THE SUCCESSFUL MANAGEMENT OF THIS CASE WERE:

- **Full risk assessment by all agencies involved;**
- **The sharing of information to enable one comprehensive risk management plan to be put in place;**
- **Regular reviews to identify any changes in risk;**
- **Continuous liaison between all agencies;**
- **Good co-operation from other areas including their MAPPA arrangements.**

CASE STUDY: Y

Mr Y, a 17 year old young person from the north of the county, was sentenced to an 18 month Detention and Training Order by Warrington Crown Court in May 2005 for offences of robbery at knifepoint, possession of an air rifle and possession of CS Gas. He was released from custody in February 2006 into the supervision of the Halton and Warrington Youth Offending Team and returned to reside with his family.

There were a number of risk issues identified by the Halton and Warrington Youth Offending Team which required addressing following a review of the Risk of Serious Harm (ROSH) assessment tool. During statutory appointments Mr Y revealed potentially serious mental health issues (with attendant issues of public protection) which led to the involvement of adult mental health services. Mr Y disclosed symptoms of paranoia and in subsequent appointments the disclosures became more disturbing and involved the use of weapons and cruelty to animals. An appropriate referral to adult mental health services was completed which resulted in an assessment by a psychiatrist. The assessment indicated that Mr Y presented a high risk to the public and alternative ways of managing this risk were sought. Due to the risk of harm and potential to re-offend, the Supervising Officer invoked breach proceedings which ultimately lead to a recall to prison to serve the remainder of his sentence. Mr Y was arrested by suitably prepared Police officers who had been informed of the potential risk to themselves by the Youth Offending Team due to Mr Y's state of mind. The arrest occurred without injury either to officers or Mr Y.

As Mr Y had now turned 18 years of age, his supervision transferred to the Probation Service. A meeting was therefore held with the Senior Probation Officer at Warrington who agreed that he was at that time a MAPPA Level 2 offender, to be re-assessed at the point of release from prison. A Probation Officer was allocated to jointly work with the Halton and Warrington Youth Offending Team for Mr Y's transition to adult supervision due to the complexity and issues of risk of harm of the case.

Upon release from custody, Mr Y was designated a MAPPA Level 3 offender and a meeting was convened bringing together all relevant agencies. The MAPPA process was positive as the risk posed to the community by Mr Y was assessed collectively through the agencies involved. Strategies were agreed to manage the risk factors upon release through stringent licence conditions and accessing appropriate services. Mr Y remained at MAPPA Level 3 whilst under the supervision of the Probation Service in the community and did not re-offend during this period.

KEY FACTORS IN THE SUCCESSFUL MANAGEMENT OF THIS CASE WERE:

- **Agencies' contribution to multi-agency plan in managing the risks posed by Mr Y upon release;**
- **Effective management of transition to adult service provision;**
- **Early identification of risk;**
- **Agencies' collective awareness of the MAPPA process enabling clear identification of risk through positive action.**

7. FACTS AND FIGURES

1. Category 1 MAPPA offenders: Registered Sex Offenders (RSO)	
i) The number of RSOs living in your Area on 31st March 2007.	577
a) The number of RSOs per 100'000 head of population	59
ii) The number of sex offenders having a registration requirement who were either cautioned or convicted for breaches of the requirement, between 1st April 2006 and 31st March 2007	14
iii) The number of (a) Sexual Offences Prevention Orders (SOPOs) applied for (b) interim SOPOs granted and (c) full SOPOs imposed by the courts in your Area between 1st April 2006 and 31st March 2007	a) 5 b) 1 c) 3
iv) The number of (a) Notification Orders applied for (b) interim Notification Orders granted and (c) full Notification Orders imposed by the courts in your Area between 1st April 2006 and 31st March 2007	a) 0 b) 0 c) 0
v) The number of Foreign Travel Orders (a) applied for and (b) imposed by the courts in your Area between 1st April 2006 and 31st March 2007	a) 0 b) 0
2. Category 2 MAPPA offenders: Violent offenders and Other Sexual offenders (V&OS)	
vi) The number of violent and other sexual offenders (as defined by Section 327 (3), (4) and (5) of the Criminal Justice Act (2003)) living in your Area between 1st April 2006 and 31st March 2007	182
3. Category 3 MAPPA offenders: Other Offenders (OthO)	
vii) The number of 'other offenders' (as defined by Section 325 (2)(b) of the Criminal Justice Act (2003)) between 1st April 2006 and 31st March 2007.	3
4. Offenders managed through Level 3 (MAPPP) & Level 2 (local inter-agency management)	
(viii) Identify how many MAPPA offenders in each of the three categories (i.e. (1) - RSOs, (2)- V&O and (3)-OthO above) have been managed through the MAPPP (level 3) and through local inter-agency risk management (level 2) between 1st April 2006 and 31st March 2007	Category 1 6 at Level 3 278 at Level 2 Category 2 10 at Level 3 129 at Level 2 Category 3 0 at Level 3 3 at Level 2
(ix) Of the cases managed at levels 3 or 2 (i.e. (viii)) between 1st April 2006 and 31st March 2007 how many, whilst managed at that level:	
(a) Were returned to custody for a breach of licence?	9 at level 2 2 at level 3
(b) Were returned to custody for a breach of a restraining order or sexual offences prevention order?	0
(c) Were convicted of a serious sexual or violent offence?	1

The number of Registered Sex Offenders living in each Basic Command Unit as at 31 March 2007 were:

Western	Chester, Ellesmere Port and Vale Royal	174
Northern	Warrington and Halton	212
Eastern	Crewe, Congleton, Macclesfield, Nantwich and Middlewich	191

Commentary for the above figures:

There are in total 1014 offenders managed under MAPPA, of these 410 (just over 40%) have been managed at Level 2 with 16 of these referred to Level 3. The reason for multi-agency joint working is to reduce the risk that the higher risk offenders pose. This is accomplished by all agencies sharing information and actively working together under one risk management plan produced at the LRMM for Level 2 offenders and at the MAPPP for Level 3 offenders.

1. Category 1 MAPPA offenders (Registered Sex Offenders)

The number of registered sex offenders living in Cheshire, Halton and Warrington broken down into each Police Basic Command Unit as at 31 March 2007 were:

- Western - 174
- Northern - 212
- Eastern - 191

This equates to a total of 577 registered sex offenders living in the community, a rise of 40 offenders (7.44%) on the previous year. Broken down further this equates to 248 (43% of sex offenders) who have been managed at Level 2 and 6 (1%) at Level 3. The remainder are managed at Level 1 where the Police is the lead agency.

There are a number of factors involved in this rise but predominately this is because a significant number of those are registered for life and therefore the list will inevitably increase year on year as additional sex offenders are registered. Whilst this may cause initial concern, the community should be heartened that the authorities know where so many of these offenders are living. This allows the Police, in conjunction with the Probation Service, to monitor and work with these offenders to reduce the risk they pose to society.

The number of these offenders who have either been cautioned or prosecuted for breaches of their sex offender requirement has fallen, both percentage wise and in real figures. This is because the Police and Probation Service have proactively worked together to ensure that the offenders are aware of the requirement and what they need to do to comply with it. It is also interesting to note that the number of sex offenders requiring a full Sex Offender Prevention Order has fallen from 4 last year to 3 this year with only 1 interim Order being imposed.

2. Category 2 MAPPA Offenders (Violent or Other Sex Offenders)

In Category 2 “Violent and Other Sex Offenders” 182 have been living in the area with a further 443 in custody. Of these 182 cases in the community, 129 (38%) have been managed at Level 2 and 10 (3%) managed at Level 3. This has reduced from 236 living in the community last year.

3. Category 3 MAPPA Offenders (Other MAPPA Offenders)

The number of Category 3 MAPPA offenders has decreased, primarily because people who are subject to the Community Domestic Violence Programme are no longer automatically counted under this measure. There are 3 individuals within this category because they have been assessed as posing a high risk and require this level of management.

4. Offenders managed through Level 3 (MAPPA) and Level 2 (LRMM)

Over the past year there have been 410 cases (40.43% of the MAPPA caseload) discussed at Level 2 LRMM. This breaks down further to 278 (27.4%) Sex Offenders (Category 1), 129 (12.14%) Violent and Other Sex Offenders (Category 2) and 3 Other Offenders (Category 3). Of these cases 16 (1.5%) have gone on to be managed at MAPPA Level 3.

Breach/Recall

Any breach of prison licence is taken seriously and where this risk is deemed immediate then recall can be activated within 2 hours. The Probation Service has strict guidelines when an offender misses an appointment as to what is deemed an acceptable reason for that miss and depending upon the level of risk that they pose, an offender can be recalled after just one unacceptable absence or indeed should they re-offend or breach their licence in any other way.

During the year 11 offenders supervised by MAPPA at Level 2 or 3 breached their prison licence and were returned to custody.

The number of offenders managed at Level 3, the most high risk, has been 16, which represents 1.2% of all MAPPA offenders.

During the year 1 offender managed by MAPPA has been convicted of a further serious offence. This man received a substantial custodial sentence.

8. CONTACT POINTS

For further information, you can contact:

MAPPA Co-ordinator..... Telephone: 01244 394500

**Cheshire Police Headquarters,
Strategic Public Protection Unit**

Detective Chief Inspector..... Telephone: 0845 4580000

Cheshire Probation Area Headquarters

Assistant Chief Officer (Risk)..... Telephone: 01244 394500

HM Prison Service

Risk Management Co-ordinator..... Telephone: 01257 248600





Protection through Partnership

You can obtain a copy of this Annual Report from the following websites:

www.cheshireprobation.org.uk

www.cheshire.police.uk