



**County Durham and Darlington
MAPPA Multi-Agency Public
Protection Arrangements
Annual Report 2008 - 2009**

Working together to make County Durham and Darlington safer places to be

The report identifies a year of progress, development and success in the management of public protection issues within County Durham and Darlington. The strength of the partnership between the Responsible Authorities, Prison, Police and Probation has continued to grow and additional resources have been brought in. The report also includes inputs from Duty to Co-operate Agencies and it is the bringing together of all these people which has contributed to the success we have had in managing those offenders who pose the highest risk of harm in our communities.

Local operation of MAPPA

Within County Durham and Darlington, the core mechanism for delivering MAPPA remains the joint Police and Probation PUBLIC PROTECTION UNIT (PPU).

The unit was set up in 1999 originally with three staff from the Police and three from Probation. Over the last seven years it has grown to include six Police Constables and a Sergeant, six Probation Officers and a Probation Middle Manager PPU, a Middle Manager MAPPA Coordinator and two Case Administrators and a full time MAPPA Administrator.

The staffing within the unit has been relatively stable which has allowed high levels of expertise and knowledge to be developed. Staff have been trained to administer and interpret a range of assessment tools and Durham Constabulary was a lead partner in the roll out of VISOR.

VISOR is the Violent and Sex Offenders Register, a national database of high risk offenders which is used by the Police as a case management tool and an aid to investigation. Probation staff in Durham are currently leading a rollout of VISOR to Probation areas.

During the life of the unit staff have had to adapt to new legislation including the introduction of Sex Offender Prevention Orders. SOPO's are now requested at point of sentence and allow additional protective measures to be put in place which restrict offenders movements and exclude them from areas where they might seek to target new victims.

Since the unit was established the number of registered sex offenders in County Durham and Darlington has increased to the current 405. This number is unlikely to fall in the near future mainly due to the very lengthy registration period which some offenders face.

The biggest growth area within MAPPA however is in the number of Level 2 meetings which are being held in relation to perpetrators of Domestic Violence. All agencies in County Durham and Darlington have invested significant resources in identifying and bringing to justice perpetrators of Domestic Violence and there is increased awareness of the impact on victims and on their children.



Russell Bruce - Chief Officer
National Probation Service
County Durham



**Jon Stoddart
Chief Constable**
Durham Constabulary



**Alan Tallentire
North East Area Manager**
HM Prison Service

What is MAPPA?

MAPPA are a set of arrangements to manage the risk posed by certain sexual and violent offenders. They bring together the Police, Probation and Prison Services in Durham into what is known as the MAPPA Responsible Authority. A number of other agencies are under a Duty to Co-operate with the Responsible Authority. These include: Children's Services, Adult Social Services, Health Trusts and Authorities, Youth Offending Teams, local housing authorities and certain registered social landlords, Jobcentre Plus, and electronic monitoring providers.

<p>The purposes of MAPPA are: to ensure more comprehensive risk assessments are completed, taking advantage of co-ordinated information sharing across the agencies; and</p>	<p>to direct the available resources to best protect the public from serious harm.</p>
<p>How does MAPPA work? Offenders eligible for MAPPA are identified and information is gathered/shared about them across relevant agencies. The nature and level of the risk of harm they pose is assessed and a risk management plan is implemented to protect the public.</p>	<p>In most cases, the offender will be managed under the ordinary arrangements applied by the agency or agencies with supervisory responsibility. A number of offenders, though, require active multi-agency management and their risk management plans will be formulated and monitored via MAPPA meetings attended by various agencies.</p>
<p>Who are the MAPPA offenders? There are 3 categories of offender eligible for MAPPA: Registered sexual offenders (Category 1) - sexual offenders who are required to notify the police of their name, address and other personal details and notify any changes subsequently; Violent offenders (Category 2) – offenders sentenced to imprisonment/detention for 12 months or more, or detained under hospital orders. This category also includes a small</p>	<p>number of sexual offenders who do not qualify for registration and offenders disqualified from working with children; and Other Dangerous Offenders (Category 3) – offenders who do not qualify under categories 1 or 2 but who currently pose a risk of serious harm, there is a link between the offending and the risk posed, and they require active multi-agency management.</p>
<p>How are they managed? There are 3 levels of management which are based upon the level of multi-agency co-operation required to implement the risk management plan effectively. Offenders will be moved up and down levels as appropriate: Level 1 - Ordinary Management These offenders are subject to the ordinary management arrangements applied by whichever agency is supervising them. This includes information sharing between agencies, via ViSOR and other routes.</p>	<p>Level 2 - Active Multi-Agency Management The risk management plans for these offenders require the active involvement of several agencies via regular multiagency public protection (MAPP) meetings. Level 3 - Active Multi-Agency Management As with level 2 but these cases additionally require the involvement of senior officers to authorise the use of special resources, such as police surveillance or specialised accommodation, and/or to provide ongoing senior management oversight.</p>

Progress On Priorities For 2008 - 2009

Disclosure

The decision to disclose confidential material to agencies or individuals is now considered routinely at each MAPPA L2 and L3 meeting. The decision to disclose can only be made when it is agreed to be necessary in order to protect groups or individuals from serious harm.

Serious Case Reviews.

A process for serious case reviews has now been agreed and is in place. Serious case reviews will take place when an offender under MAPPA goes on to commit a serious further offence.

MAPPA Coordination and Administration.

Hugh Storey has now taken up the full time role of MAPPA coordinator. This post and the administrators post are funded by contributions from the responsible authorities and the Duty to Cooperate Agencies

Information sharing protocols

Most agencies are signed up to the information sharing protocol but some work remains to be done.

Performance Management Information

This information is now being collected routinely as set out in the MAPPA guidance. Work remains to be done to establish a means of sharing this information more widely and routinely

Priorities for 2009 - 2010

Develop the work of the communications sub group and seek to promote positive messages about MAPPA whenever possible.

Develop working practises around the PREVENT agenda so that MAPPA is prepared to work with offenders convicted under the counter terrorism legislation if required.

Publicise the Potentially Dangerous People practises and procedures so that non offenders who are considered to pose a risk to the public can be managed on a multi agency basis.

MAPPA - The Reality

Did you know.....Domestic Violence continues to be the biggest growth area. Awareness of domestic violence has brought an increasing number of perpetrators into the MAPPA arena and has stretched resources available to protect women across statutory and voluntary agencies. In the past two years County Durham and Darlington has implemented the MARAC process (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferencing) which provides a specialist forum where the needs of victims of domestic violence can be assessed and management support offered. MARAC and MAPPA are complimentary processes but both are aimed at keeping the safety of the victim and the prevention of further victimisation at the heart of the process.

Did you know.....
Over 6,000 hours has been spent planning the management of MAPPA Level 2 & 3 Offenders. This figure is a conservative estimate based on an average of eight people attending meetings that last approximately 2 hours each with around 400 meetings being held in a year. This represents a massive commitment of resources from the agencies involved and on top of this is the time spent on delivering the plans which have been identified.

Did you know.....Registrations are up
This year the number of sex offenders required to register with the police has gone up to 405. This was not unexpected as due to the length of time offenders are required to remain on the register, the number of new people joining exceeds the number of people de-registering. This doesn't mean County Durham and Darlington are becoming more dangerous places to live. It means that the number of people who are being actively supervised in the community continues to grow.

Did you know.....No one at the highest level of risk committed a Serious Further Offence (SFO). Offenders within MAPPA and those on the sex offenders register are proactively managed within County Durham and Darlington with additional resources being made available to manage the higher risk offenders. This has included surveillance operations, intelligence gathering in co-operation with neighbouring police areas, requirements to reside in approved premises and a range of special assessments and interventions. Where offenders are identified and managed within MAPPA, everything possible is done to ensure that the community is kept safe and that the opportunities for further offences are minimised.

Key Staff within the Public Protection Unit



Hazel Willoughby
Director of Public Protection

Hazel is the lead Director responsible for Public Protection across County Durham & Darlington and also Teesside Probation Areas. She is the joint Chair of MAPPA and oversees the work of the Public Protection Unit, based at Probation HQ in Durham City.



Paul Faulkner
Sergeant

Paul is the Police Sergeant with the Public Protection Unit in County Durham & Darlington and manages the Police staff within the unit as well as supervising Registered Violent and Sex Offenders in County Durham. He joined the unit in 2007 and was previously Response and Custody Sergeant Durham & Chester-le-Street.



Hugh Storey
MAPPA
Coordinator

During 2008/09 Hugh moved from PPU Manager to the MAPPA Coordinator. He is now accountable to the MAPPA Strategic Management Board for all aspects of performance.

MAPPA - Managing Risk

Did you know.....VISOR is the Violent and Sex offenders register which is used by the Police as a case management tool and an aid to investigation. Probation staff in Durham are currently leading a rollout of VISOR to other Probation areas.

Did you know.....residents living in Approved Premises are required to comply with hostel rules which set out the standards of behaviour expected of them and they must also obey a standard curfew of 11.30pm to 7.00am and an intense level of supervision. There are no Approved Premises in County Durham & Darlington and we therefore work closely with Northumbria and Teesside probation areas.

Did you know.....all offenders on Level 2 MAPPA have a risk management plan in place which is required to be reviewed every 12 weeks and Level 3 offenders are reviewed every 6 months (see below for an example of a risk management plan)

Did you know.....breach of a SOPO could result in a five year sentence of imprisonment or a fine.

Did you know.....the PPU in County Durham & Darlington has been assessed as Gold Standard and is considered an example of good practice by other Police and Probation areas across the country.

Did you know.....at least 75% of child sex offenders are known to their victims - they are often a member of the family, a friend of the victims or a friend of the victims family

Did you know.....27% of offenders in MAPPA have related offences of Domestic Violence and we work closely with the Multi-Agency Risk Conferences (MARAC) and other providers of women's services to help support victims.

MAPPA Case Study

Peter was sentenced at Teesside Crown Court to 3 years imprisonment for the offence of an assault causing Grievous Bodily Harm. The offence was an unprovoked attack on a member of the public causing serious facial injuries leaving the victim fearful about his release. Peter also committed a second unprovoked assault occasioning actual bodily harm on another member of the public. Peter has a history of violent and anti-social offending with clear links to alcohol and drug misuse.

During his period in custody it became clear that there may also be some underlying mental health problems evidenced by his unusual behaviour.

Due to these concerns, a MAPPA meeting was convened to so that all relevant information could be shared, the risk fully assessed and a strategy developed to manage his risk to the public. Initial meetings were attended by Police, Probation and Prison staff and also the Victim Liaison Officer, Approved Premises staff, and representatives from the Housing authority and mental health services.

The initial Risk Management Plan included seeking an expedited psychiatric assessment to clarify whether hospital treatment was an appropriate and available option. However, as the time for his release was approaching, it was necessary to develop a complete contingency plan in case he could not be transferred to hospital. Particular attention was paid to the victim's concerns regarding any release.

This Risk Management Plan included:

- **Residence at Approved premises with curfew conditions**
- **No contact, either directly or indirectly, with victims**
- **Exclusion zone to reduce the risk of any approach to victims**
- **Referral to move on accommodation agencies**
- **Ongoing contact with Victim Liaison Officer**
- **Notify relevant mental health services to ensure continuity of treatment on release**
- **Any significant breach of licence conditions to result in emergency recall**

Peter was transferred to hospital prior to release and was able to receive the necessary treatment. Arrangements were made for retaining contact with the hospital and to be notified of any discharge, in which case the original Risk Management Plan would be activated.

MAPPA & Victims

Part of the management of any offender is the identification of past victims and of individuals who are currently at risk. The action plans which are drawn up at MAPPA meetings require attention to be given to the offender, but they also look at the information needs of victims and protective factors which can be put in place on their behalf. The Probation Service employs a full time Victim Liaison Officer as well as a Women's Support Worker who supports victims of Domestic Violence. Victims are entitled to know of any key developments regarding the offender, such as:

- Details of a recall or a reduction in sentence after an appeal
- If an offender applies for or is given a work placement in the Community
- If the offender absconds
- If the offender is transferred to a different prison
- The outcome of a parole review
- If the case is closing and contact with the offender is being ended
- When the offender is due to be released

The job of victims workers in relation to MAPPA is to represent the views of victims at meetings, if they are known, and need to be considered. As a result, restrictions are often placed on offenders to exclude them from areas where victims live or work and to prevent them from making contact. This can be done as part of licence requirements on release from prison or as a condition of a Sex Offender Prevention Order (SOPO). Victims can also be offered more personal protection including alarms which are monitored and linked directly to the police, changes in locks and in extreme cases, cameras which cover their houses.

What is Serious Harm? Definitions of Harm

Serious Harm

Harm which is life threatening or traumatic and from which recovery, whether physical or psychological, can be expected to be difficult or impossible

Very High Risk

There is imminent risk of serious harm. The potential event is more likely than not to happen imminently and the impact would be serious

High Risk

There are identifiable indicators of risk of serious harm. The potential event could happen at any time and the impact could be serious

Medium Risk

There are identifiable indicators of risk of harm. The offender has the potential to cause harm but is unlikely to do so unless there is a change of circumstances

Low Risk

No significant current indicators of risk

Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference – An Update



Dawn Maddison
MARAC Coordinator
for County Durham
and Darlington

My name is Dawn Maddison and I am the MARAC coordinator for Co Durham and Darlington

MARAC stands for Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference and is a consistent, co-ordinated and comprehensive approach towards protecting victims of Domestic Violence. The central aim of the MARAC process is to identify those victims (and their children) who are considered as Very High Risk of being harmed and for agencies to take positive action to ensure their safety.

Any concerned agency can make a referral into the MARAC process where information is shared with Statutory and Non Statutory agencies. The aim is to determine whether the perpetrator poses a significant risk to that particular victim and to jointly construct and implement a Risk Management Plan that provides support, to manage and reduce the risk and prevent any further victimisation.

All referrals are risk assessed and if appropriate progressed to a multi agency meeting as soon as possible. Unlike MAPPA, the subject of a MARAC meeting is always a victim. Referrals are made from MARAC into MAPPA where it is felt that additional actions need to be taken in relation to the perpetrator.

MARAC Meetings are held weekly and Chaired by a Detective Inspector. A case will be heard, information shared, Safety Measures implemented, and then normally reviewed two weeks later. Unless there are any outstanding actions or further concerns the case will then be discharged from the MARAC arena.

A key person linked to the MARAC is the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA). We currently have 2 IDVAs whose goal is to assess Risk, focusing upon the safety of victims (and their families). IDVA's attend the MARAC meetings and are the 'victim's voice'. They will also inform the victim of the outcome of the meeting and can provide information to the victim about the Criminal Justice Process which may include changes to bail conditions. They also help towards reducing retraction statements aiming to secure prosecutions and work extremely closely with key agencies such as Outreach, Children Young Peoples Service Police, and Crown Prosecution service.

Progress to date

Initially the MARAC process began in November 2007 as a pilot in Easington and from December 2008 was rolled out into Darlington. It is envisaged MARAC will be rolled out into the whole of County Durham by March 2010.

Progress to date

Peterlee

432 referrals during 2008
152 cases were identified as Very high.
121 Referrals from January 09 to July 09
43 Cases identified as Very high.
2 cases for Honour Based Violence cases.

Darlington

90 referrals from November 08 to July 09
47 identified as Very High
1 case for Honour Based Violence
1 case for Forced Marriage

Key Achievements

- Increased number of Arrests and Prosecutions
- Reduced levels of revictimisation (currently 14%)
- Development of strong links between MARAC and MAPPA
- Ability to act sharply upon non-compliance i.e. breach of Probation orders/ licence bail conditions.
- Rehousing,
- Target hardening i.e. window/door locks, intelligence bulletins, alarms
- Reassessment of child and adult assessments
- Referrals to MAPPA and Potential Dangerous Person and vice versa
- Joint home visits with partnership agencies

Future plans

Ensure Roll out of MARAC into the whole of County Durham,
Recruitment of further Independent Domestic Violence Advisor,
Repeat Victims rate not to exceed the recommended target of 28%.
Continue to deliver MARAC Training to a wide range of Organisations within County Durham.

The role of the Police in MAPPA

The partnership arrangements for the management of registered sex offenders and dangerous people have developed over the past 11 years. I have witnessed these developments first hand, from the early visionary days of joint Police Officer and Probation teams to the situation we have now where these partnership arrangements have been extended and supported by robust risk assessment processes and the willingness to share information across multi-agency partnerships.

Durham Constabulary is committed to working in partnership to protect the public from offenders who are managed within the community. In order to provide community reassurance about these arrangements, the Constabulary has undertaken to commit dedicated police resources, a position which is mirrored by our Probation Service and Youth Engagement Service colleagues. The investment in staff dedicated to public protection has grown incrementally over the past 10 years and I have witnessed on many occasions the commitment by public protection staff and the professionalism they demonstrate in discharging their duty.

Inevitably, registered sex offenders and dangerous people will live in our communities and must be monitored following their requirement to register as a sex offender. Our multi-agency teams demonstrate the utmost professionalism in the assessment of risk and the range of options at their teams disposal. They ensure not only that these offenders are managed within these communities, but also that where appropriate, restrictions are placed upon them to minimise any risk that they pose.

The past ten years has coincided with the use of increasingly innovative techniques in the management of this risk, as well as using legislation effectively, in particular the use of Sexual Offence Prevention Orders. At the same time, Durham Constabulary has utilised a number of both overt and covert methods of monitoring such offenders, commensurate with a continuous assessment of risk. This assessment is an ongoing process during the period of registration and is reliant upon both Police intelligence as well as information from our partner agencies. Our operating practices, in particular the dedicated staffing of joint multi-agency teams, has been recognised as best practice nationally and County Durham and Darlington continues to attract attention from across the country to explore what we do.

Protecting vulnerable people and communities is high on the agenda of both Durham Constabulary and the Police Authority. Public protection is just one aspect within this vulnerability agenda but it will continue to receive a high priority with our partners.

Ian Scott
Detective Chief Superintendent - Durham Constabulary

The role of the Prison Service in MAPP A

The Prison Service, as a Responsible Authority for MAPP A, has an Area Public Protection Co-ordinator who represents the Area Manager on the MAPP A Strategic Management Board and co-ordinates the delivery of public protection across North East prisons. Each prison has a Head of Public Protection who works within an Offender Management Team and is the dedicated contact point for public protection.

In September 2006 a single system for managing offenders assessed as high or very high risk of causing serious harm to the public was introduced. These offenders have an Offender Manager, based in the Probation Service, who will work with them from the beginning to the end of their sentence. The Prison Service ensures that they have an Offender Supervisor who provides a strong link between the offender and the Offender Manager.

The Offender Supervisor is responsible for ensuring that targets set for the offender by their Offender Manager are worked towards and met. A large part of this work will be directed at reducing and managing risk

The prisons in the North East make an important contribution to MAPP A and public protection by:

- Prompt identification of MAPP A offenders following reception into prison
- Sharing information with Police and Probation to make sure that there is a full picture for risk assessment
 - Attending and providing information for level 2 and level 3 panels
- Using the Offender Assessment System (OASys) - a risk assessment tool shared with Probation - to assess risk regularly and consistently

- Manage and identify risk whilst individuals subject to MAPP A are in custody through Inter-departmental Risk Management Meetings (held within the prison and attended by prison based Offender Supervisors, internal Probation Officers, Offender Managers and the Police)
- Through sentence planning, identify and use offending behaviour programmes and other interventions to reduce individual offender's risk
- Ensuring that the release dates of MAPP A offenders are notified to police and Probation well in advance and that necessary contributions are made to ensure that an effective release plan is in place.

VISOR: The Violent and Sexual Offenders Register (VISOR) is currently being introduced to the Prison Service. It is a networked confidential system, created and owned by the Police Service, which allows information about dangerous offenders to be shared by Police, Probation and Prisons nationally. Whilst prisons are in the early stages of introducing this work, early indications are that it will have a significant impact on the delivery of public protection.

The Prison Service recognises that there is an ever increasing MAPP A population, and that the proportion of those received into prison is likely to grow with the introduction of public protection sentences. As a responsible Authority, the Prison Service acknowledges the importance of this work and recognises that they have a vital role to fulfil in protecting the public.

Potentially Dangerous Persons

Protecting the Public from Potentially Dangerous Offenders is a priority for us all. Durham Constabulary is committed to improving public safety by managing dangerous and sexual offenders within the MAPPA Process, thereby reducing serious re-offending. Individuals who have been convicted of offences recognised under MAPPA may be managed from the point of conviction. However, clearly there may be cases where persons suspected of committing or likely to commit serious offences remain unconvicted.

A Potentially Dangerous Person (PDP) is a person who has not been convicted of, or cautioned for any offence that would place them into one of the three MAPPA categories, but whose behaviour gives reasonable grounds for believing that there is present a likelihood of them committing an offence or offences that will cause serious harm.

Mirroring the MAPPA arrangements, we have put in place protocol and procedures to identify those people within the communities of County Durham and Darlington who pose the greatest threat of causing serious harm but remain unconvicted. The classification of an individual as a PDP offers the opportunity to manage the risk posed by that person through a structured multi agency format, enabling information sharing and risk management plan to be set in place. Ultimately it is a Policing responsibility to pro-actively investigate the individual and to bring them to justice.

Referrals of a PDP are intended for those persons who are suspected of committing or with the potential to commit serious violent or sexual offences and for whatever reason; they are not likely to be convicted of these offences. It is envisaged that identification and referral of PDP's could occur through a number of routes:

- An individual suspected of committing certain serious offences and referred by Police
- Referral from the MAPPA Co-ordinator of a case that does not qualify under MAPPA but meets the criteria for PDP
- Referral from the MAPPA Co-ordinator of cases no longer subject to MAPPA but meeting the criteria of PDP
- Referral from another agency of an individual believed to meet the criteria of PDP

All potential cases should be referred to the Public Protection Unit for the purpose of risk assessment, screening and co-ordination.

Case Study

In August 2007 complaints were made to the Police that a 50 year old male had recently sexually assaulted several young children (boys and girls) and also a historical complaint of sexual abuse dating back to the 1980s. Allegations were made that the offender had been sexually abusing children for over 20 years

Prior to the trial the suspect was assessed by a Clinical Psychiatrist and Forensic Psychiatrist from both the Defence and Prosecution who deemed him unfit to stand trial and that he was significantly intellectually impaired.

The offender was referred to the Public Protection Unit for consideration of PDP status as, at that time, he was unable to stand trial due to his significant intellectual impairment and would therefore be unable to be convicted of sexual offences. At that time there were no restrictions on the suspect. He had not been found guilty of any sexual offences and was therefore not subject to any Sex Offenders Registration requirements.

A meeting was held with representatives from a number of agencies including Police, Probation, Mental Health Services, a Consultant psychiatrist, Learning Disability Team, Health and local Council and information was shared and a Risk management plan put in place.

The facts of the investigation were subsequently presented before the Crown Court where the Judge found the facts to be proven and the offender was made subject to a hospital Order.

MAPPA Statistics 2008-09 For the reporting period 1 April 2008 - 31 March 2009

Number of MAPPA eligible offenders in the community	
Registered Sexual Offenders	405
Violent Offenders	129
Other Dangerous Offenders	19
Total	553

Offenders managed via MAPP meetings - Level 2	
Registered Sexual Offenders	30
Violent Offenders	34
Other Dangerous Offenders	69
Total	133

Offenders managed via MAPP meetings - Level 3	
Registered Sexual Offenders	6
Violent Offenders	1
Other Dangerous Offenders	0
Total	7

Enforcement for offenders managed via MAPP meetings	
Returned to custody for breach of licence	
Level 2	11
Level 3	0
Total	11

Sent to custody for breach of Sexual Offences Prevention Order (SOPO)	
Level 2	0
Level 3	1
Total	1

Serious Further Offences involving offenders managed via MAPP meetings	
Charged with a serious further offence	
Level 2	0
Level 3	0
Total	0

Of those charged during the year (Level 2 and 3 combined) Plus those who remained charged with an SFO last year, ie at 31 March 2008:	
Convicted of a serious further offence	0
Other outcome	1
Remain charged with serious further offence	0

Further data on Registered Sexual Offenders	
Registered Sexual Offenders in:	
BCU – North	199
BCU – South	206
Total	405

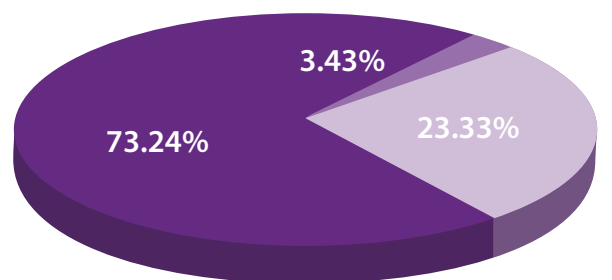
Total number of registered sexual offenders in Durham per 100,000 head of population	
	67

Registered Sexual Offenders cautioned or convicted for breach	
	10

Sexual Offences Prevention Orders	
Applied for	66
Interim Order issued	1
Full Order issued	44

Notification Orders	
Applied for	0
Interim Order issued	0
Full Order issued	0

Foreign Travel Orders	
Applied for	0
Interim Order issued	0
Full Order issued	0



Number of MAPPA eligible offenders

- Registered Sexual Offenders
- Violent Offenders
- Other Dangerous Offenders

Commentary

The data on RSO numbers reflect the picture on 31 March 2008; i.e. a snapshot. The rest of the data covers the period 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008.

MAPPA Eligible Offenders - there are a number of offenders defined in law as eligible for MAPPA management, because they have committed specified sexual and violent offences and/or currently pose a risk of serious harm, although the majority (63.3% this year) are actually managed under ordinary agency (Level 1) arrangements rather than via MAPP meetings.

Registered Sexual Offenders (RSOs) - those who are required to notify the police of their name, address and other personal details and notify any changes subsequently. Failure to comply with the notification requirements is a criminal offence which carries a maximum penalty of 5 years' imprisonment.

Violent Offenders - this category includes violent offenders sentenced to imprisonment/detention for 12 months or more, or detained under hospital orders. It also includes a small number of sexual offenders who do not qualify for registration and offenders disqualified from working with children.

Other Offenders - offenders who do not qualify under the other 2 MAPPA eligible categories but who currently pose a risk of serious harm which requires management via MAPP meetings.

Breach of licence - Offenders released into the community following a period of imprisonment of 12 months or more will be subject to a licence with conditions (under probation supervision). If these conditions are not complied with, breach action will be taken and the offender may be recalled to prison.

Serious Further Offence (SFO) - any sexual or violence offence which carries a maximum penalty of 14 years' imprisonment or more. For the first time this year we are reporting not only the number of actively MAPPA managed offenders so charged but also on the outcome of the case. Other outcome means that the case has been dealt with by 31 March 2008 but that the offender was not convicted of an SFO; e.g. the offender was acquitted or the case was not proceeded with, or s/he was convicted of a lesser offence.

Sexual Offences Prevention Order (SOPO) - a court may make a SOPO at the time of dealing with certain sexual offenders or when the police make a special application on account of the offender's behaviour in the community. The full order lasts for a minimum of 5 years and can last indefinitely. A SOPO will require the subject to register as a sexual offender and can include conditions, for example to prevent the offender loitering near schools or playgrounds. If the offender fails to comply with (i.e. breaches) the requirements of the order, he can be taken back to court and may be liable to up to 5 years' imprisonment.

Notification Order - requires sexual offenders who have been convicted overseas to register with police, in order to protect the public in the UK from the risks that they pose. Police may apply to the court for the order in relation to offenders in or intending to come to the UK.

Foreign Travel Orders - prevent offenders with convictions for sexual offences against children from traveling abroad where it is necessary to do so to protect children from the risk of sexual harm.

