





# Northumbria Area Annual Report

## Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)

### Introduction

Protecting the public is one of the fundamental responsibilities of the criminal justice system. Our combined efforts to make communities safer for local residents, to reduce crime, punish and rehabilitate offenders, support and protect victims and witnesses, all contribute towards making Northumbria a safer and better place to live and work.

MAPPA, the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements, is the key system through which agencies work together to protect the public from the most dangerous offenders. It brings together criminal justice agencies and other public, private and voluntary sector organisations in an established framework to share information, pool resources and ensure collective responsibility in managing violent and sexual offenders as effectively as possible.

As MAPPA continues to evolve, the Northumbria MAPPA Strategic Management Board (SMB), together with the MAPPA unit and local delivery groups, constantly strives to refine MAPPA strategy and procedures, to further enhance the practicalities of managing offenders within MAPPA.

In the last year, the addition of a mental health operational lead within the MAPPA unit has been invaluable in developing our understanding of the particular needs of offenders with a history of mental disorder. This area of work is vital within the public protection arena and the appointment is one of the first of its kind in the country.

Moving forward into 2009/10, the introduction of the specialist MAPPA chairs and administrators for level 2 meetings will be significant in promoting consistency and sharing best practice across the area.

This report outlines the hard work and professionalism of everyone involved in MAPPA in Northumbria, during 2008/9 and since the conception of MAPPA in 2001. Whilst we can never completely eliminate the risk that certain individuals pose, we can reduce it through joint working, careful assessment and active risk management plans. MAPPA in Northumbria works to ensure everything that legally and practically can be done *is* done. As such, it is a crucial and effective part of our duty and ability to protect the public.



**Mike Craik**  
Chief Constable  
Northumbria Police



**Pauline Williamson**  
Chief Officer  
Northumbria  
Probation Area



**Phil Copple**  
NE Director of  
Offender  
Management  
National Offender  
Management Service  
(NOMS)

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## Key achievements in Northumbria

2008/9 has seen further development of MAPPA processes, refining systems and raising awareness to build on the existing strengths of the local MAPPA networks and area wide procedures. This has included:

### MAPPA meetings restructure

Multi agency meetings are costly and as such professionals and the public need to be reassured that resources are being utilised to best effect and directed towards the cases where they are most needed.

As part of a drive for continuous improvement of our working practices and enhancing our service provision, a major exercise was undertaken in Northumbria to examine every case being managed under MAPPA at level 2 or level 3. The purpose was to establish that the meetings were enhancing public safety by offering added value to the assessment and management of risk, over and above the statutory obligations of each agency.

The conclusion of the exercise was a recommendation to restructure MAPPA meetings throughout Northumbria, in order to introduce greater consistency and better enable agencies to meet the demands MAPPA places upon them.

A model has now been developed to introduce a system of specialist MAPPA chairs and administrators in 2009. This will enable all agencies to contribute in the most efficient and effective manner possible. It will also ensure risk management plans are robust and that available resources are focused in a way that best protects the public from serious harm.

### Creation of a performance and monitoring sub group

A sub group of the Strategic Management Board (SMB) has been created with responsibility for performance and monitoring. The primary aim of this group is to monitor MAPPA activity on behalf of the SMB, with a view to improving service delivery and evaluating the effectiveness of MAPPA in Northumbria. The group includes one of the two lay advisers who sit on the Northumbria SMB, thereby ensuring public accountability of MAPPA working practices.

### Appointment of a mental health operational lead

The area of mental health is a complex one and some MAPPA cases involve offenders with a history of mental disorder. It is crucial that MAPPA and the Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Trust (NTWNHS) work closely together to understand the needs of these offenders. This helps to ensure accurate risk assessments and robust risk management plans are produced, thereby enhancing public safety.

In February 2009 a member of staff from NTWNHS was seconded to the MAPPA unit to drive forward this vital area of work. This key appointment is one of the first in the country within MAPPA and illustrates the close collaboration between agencies that exists within Northumbria.

### Ongoing training

Opportunities for responsible authority staff to undertake training to update their knowledge in assessment and management of risk are vital. Training for police and probation staff was offered by two leading professors. Professor Hazel Kemshall, a leading criminologist, delivered training entitled *robust risk assessment and risk management*, and Professor Don Grubin, a leading expert in working with sexual offenders, delivered training on the assessment and management of this group of offenders.



## Key objectives for 2009 - 2010

As MAPPA in Northumbria continues to evolve, the SMB has identified a number of key objectives for the forthcoming year. A detailed outline and action plan can be found in the MAPPA annual business plan 2009/10.

### 1. Embed a panel system for managing level 2 cases

Following on from the review of the structure of MAPPA meetings outlined under *key achievements*, the new system of specialised MAPPA chairs and administrators will begin in August. This approach will bring greater consistency and specialised expertise to MAPPA meetings.

### 2. Establish a system for the collection of key performance data

All areas are required to collate and monitor data associated with nationally set key performance indicators. This year will see new systems established to refine and improve the collation of this data.

### 3. Improve data entry on ViSOR for level 2 cases

ViSOR is a shared database holding details of MAPPA offenders which can be accessed by police, prison and probation staff. The new system of MAPPA chairs and administrators will lead to an enhanced level of information being entered into ViSOR following on from level 2 meetings. Guidance for MAPPA meetings will include a prompt to consider appropriate updates for ViSOR as a result of the information shared within the meeting.

### 4. Revise Northumbria guidance for MAPPA serious case review (MSCR) reporting

As part of the MSCR process single agencies submit reports; currently these are presented in a variety of formats. The Northumbria MAPPA unit will introduce one report format to be used by all agencies, to improve the quality and consistency of this reporting.

This new development builds on the revised national MAPPA guidance. The guidance has provided an inspection framework that will facilitate a thorough and cost effective learning exercise, which quality assures our working practice and, where appropriate, results in the timely introduction of measures to ensure we further improve working practice.

### 5. Disseminate new national MAPPA guidance

Following on from the issuing of new national MAPPA guidance version 3, the MAPPA unit will ensure this is disseminated to all agencies and review local guidance to identify changes.

### 6. Establish SMB communications and training sub group

This newly formed group will devise a communications strategy and training programme for MAPPA across Northumbria.





## Case study: Alan, aged 38 years

**Alan was convicted of kidnapping and false imprisonment and was sentenced to a hospital order section 37/41. The victim was unknown and he attacked her in the street. This was his second serious offence.**

Alan had spent a substantial amount of time in a secure hospital and was being considered for discharge when a request was made for a level 2 MAPPa meeting involving mental health services, children's services and housing. Alan's discharge was complicated by the fact he was in a relationship and in the long term planned to live with his partner, who was pregnant.

### **Risk assessment**

When Alan was discharged from hospital his risk of harm was assessed as low. However, there were concerns around his ability to manage the inherent stress of having a first child.

### **Risk management**

Alan was placed in supported accommodation, in a recognised mental health facility. He was not allowed to live anywhere else without the approval of his responsible clinician.

A number of conditions were placed on Alan, including remaining in regular contact with mental health services and engaging with staff in the accommodation project. All of Alan's contact with his child was supervised by children's services and he was not allowed contact on his own.

### **Concerning behaviours**

After several months there was an incident at a benefits agency where Alan's behaviour was very volatile. This was captured on CCTV; the police accessed a copy of the tape and acted very quickly in sharing this evidence with children's services, Alan's social worker and consultant forensic psychiatrist.

Children's services stopped Alan from having contact with his child and the hospital considered recall. Alan's care coordinator and social worker from children's services visited his partner, who stated that she wanted to end their relationship but was afraid to do so.

In order to protect her, the police transported her to a safe place outside Northumbria. At the resultant child protection case conference the three agencies from this area attended.

**Alan was recalled to hospital.**

### **Outcome**

The success of the MAPPa process in this case was the constant liaison between all agencies. Each one acted quickly when Alan's risk increased and all information was shared promptly. No one agency worked in isolation and via MAPPa each agency shared the responsibility for managing the risk Alan posed. **The MAPPa process was successful in the ultimate aim of preventing further victims.**

## The MAPPA framework

### What is MAPPA?

MAPPA is a set of arrangements to manage the risk posed by certain sexual and violent offenders. It brings together the police, probation and prison services in Northumbria 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.

The purposes of MAPPA are:

- > to ensure more comprehensive risk assessments are completed, taking advantage of co-ordinated information sharing across the agencies
- > to direct the available resources to best protect the public from serious harm

### How does MAPPA work?

Offenders eligible for MAPPA are identified and information is gathered and 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.

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, however, require active multi-agency management and their risk management plans will be formulated and monitored via MAPPA meetings attended by various agencies.



### Who are the MAPPA offenders?

There are 3 categories of offenders 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 for a violent offence, and offenders detained under hospital orders who are now living in the community subject to supervision. This category also includes a small number of sexual offenders who do not qualify for registration and offenders disqualified from working with children.

**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.

### Contribution from a lay adviser

I am one of the two lay advisers appointed in 2007 to the Northumbria MAPPA SMB.

The purpose of lay advisers is to act as independent but informed observers, give the perspective of the local community and to ensure public accountability. In my opinion, the best policy for lay advisers is to act as critical friends to the professionals and experts.

Over the last two years, I have received training and have become familiar with the MAPPA process. As a result of this, I am totally convinced of its importance and effectiveness. Whilst the MAPPA process

## 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 usual management arrangements applied by whichever agency is supervising them. This does not rule out information sharing between agencies, via ViSOR and other routes.

**Level 2 - active multi-agency management** - the risk management plans for these offenders require the active involvement of several agencies via regular MAPPA meetings.

**Level 3 – senior active multi-agency management** - as with level 2, the risk management plans for these offenders involve several agencies. However, level 3 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.

## What is the role of the strategic management board (SMB)?

Senior representatives of each of the agencies involved in MAPPA form a strategic management board (SMB) which meets at least quarterly to monitor the arrangements and direct any necessary improvements.

## What do the lay advisers do?

The responsible authority is required to appoint 2 lay advisers to sit on the SMB. The lay advisers act as independent yet informed observers, able to pose questions which the professionals closely involved in the work might not think of asking. They also bring to the SMB their understanding and perspective of the local community - where they must reside or have strong links.

## ViSOR

ViSOR is a database holding details of sexual and violent offenders, and other dangerous people. The three MAPPA responsible authority agencies - police, prison and probation - are able to work on the same IT system. This enables the sharing of risk assessments and risk management information on individual violent and sexual offenders in a timely way to reduce re-offending.

cannot totally eliminate the challenges posed in keeping communities safe, it can certainly reduce them. Every opportunity is given to lay advisers, not only to observe and comment, but also to become involved and make a positive contribution. I am a member of the Strategic Management Board, and also serve as a member of the policy and monitoring group and as a member of the serious case review team.

Acceptance of the lay adviser role by the professionals has always been an important factor in effectively carrying out our duties as a critical friend. This acceptance in Northumbria has always been willingly given,

and remains so. Whilst part of the lay adviser's duty is to question things which the professionals, closely involved in their work, might not ask, I find the dedication, commitment and professionalism of the people involved to be outstanding. Public protection is sometimes a thankless task, ignored by the general public, but subjected to vehement media criticism when things go wrong.

MAPPA is important and effective, and well managed in Northumbria.

Bob Avery

## How MAPPA operates locally

Northumbria's MAPPA arrangements work through close links between area wide strategic direction and local operational management. At the heart of this is the **Strategic Management Board (SMB)**, which holds overall responsibility for MAPPA on behalf of all the partner agencies. The SMB is supported by six **local MAPPA strategy groups**, which oversee local delivery arrangements. The MAPPA co-ordinators from the central MAPPA unit provide a critical link between the local groups and the SMB, ensuring that area wide decisions translate into local operational policy and practice. Following on from this, individual MAPPA meetings at the three levels are convened as and when required to discuss each individual case managed within MAPPA.

### Strengthening the duty to cooperate

Police, probation and the prison service are designated the *responsible authority* for MAPPA and as such have a statutory responsibility to manage the risk posed by serious violent and sexual offenders. However these complex cases cannot be managed in isolation and require all agencies to work together. A large amount of time has been invested throughout Northumbria to ensure that other agencies are aware of and understand the part they have to play in MAPPA.

- > MAPPA awareness training, delivered by police and probation staff, is offered across Northumbria. This training is ongoing throughout the year and is open to all agencies; it is advertised via the 6 local authority annual safeguarding children training plans. Throughout 2008/09 we facilitated 18 sessions and trained over 522 members of staff.
- > In addition, training sessions have also been delivered at the request of agencies including, amongst others, GPs, child protection nurses, health visitors, midwives, education welfare officers, Barnardo's staff and magistrates court clerks.
- > All duty to co-operate agencies have been asked to provide a single point of contact (SPOC) for their agency. This person is responsible for driving forward MAPPA within their agency, for receiving all referrals, checking if the offender is known to their organisation and supplying relevant information to level 2 and 3 MAPPA meetings. There are currently 85 SPOCs actively engaged from a wide range of agencies including primary health care, education, youth offending service, children's services, adult services, housing and electronic monitoring providers.

- > The SPOC system has led to the development of some excellent and innovative practice. For example, for a large part of Northumbria all referrals are checked by a representative from primary health care and channelled to the appropriate member of health staff, including midwives, health visitors, and GPs.
- > SPOCs are currently being identified for all hospitals across Northumbria where acute admissions take place. This ensures that when offenders managed under MAPPA are admitted to hospitals, appropriate resources can be put in place to enhance the safety of other members of the public accessing these services.
- > At every MAPPA meeting consideration has to be given as to whether disclosure needs to be made to any organisation or individual. All agencies play a key role in deciding if any information needs to be disclosed to a specified individual in order to enhance public safety. Information can be disclosed to an individual if it is agreed by the MAPPA meeting that the specific disclosure is necessary to protect members of the public and manage the risk posed by the offender. Disclosure might be to an employer, another official such as a head teacher, or a member of the public such as a new partner or family member.

### The SMB consists of senior representatives from the following agencies:

Northumbria Police  
 Northumbria Probation Area  
 HM Prison Service  
 Northumberland and Tyne and Wear NHS Trust  
 G4S – Electronic Monitoring Providers  
 Jobcentre Plus  
 2 Lay Advisers  
 Housing Authorities  
 Education Service  
 Safeguarding Children – Local Authority  
 Social Services  
 Safeguarding Adults – Local Authority Social Services  
 Victim Support Service  
 Youth Offending Service



## **Brian is a foreign national who was convicted of attempted murder of his ex-partner and sentenced to eight years in custody.**

Brian came to the UK to see his ex-partner and their children. He violently assaulted her during a visit; the children attempted to save their mother and one of them was injured.

Whilst in prison, Brian became mentally unwell and was transferred to a secure mental health hospital and is being considered for deportation. Although he would have been subject to post release supervision under licence, he remained in hospital beyond his sentence.

Through the MAPPA process it became apparent that the victim was still being harassed by Brian via letters and phone calls, and this had been continuing for a significant period of time. The family felt they could not escape Brian's violence; the impact was immeasurable and they were terrified of him.

### **Risk assessment**

Throughout the time Brian has been in prison and hospital he has remained obsessed with his ex-partner. In the eight years he has been detained his risk has not reduced and he was assessed as posing a very high risk of harm. It was agreed by all of the agencies involved in the MAPPA meetings that should he abscond from hospital he would return to the area and murder his ex-partner.

### **Risk management**

Although Brian was detained in a secure hospital it was apparent that there was a need for a risk management plan to cover all eventualities and it was essential that the main agencies worked very closely together (police, probation, UK border agency and the forensic community mental health team).

- > The police public protection officer visited the victim to collate evidence (the letters Brian had sent) and pursue a further charge of harassment.
- > Work was undertaken with the family to ensure they did not answer the mobile phone Brian used to contact them. This was very difficult for the older children who still considered him to be their father.
- > The hospital stopped all correspondence being sent to the victims, which was achieved immediately consent was gained.
- > The police devised a contingency plan to ensure the victims were protected if Brian absconded from the hospital, which included increasing the security to their home and installing a panic room.

### **Outcome**

The ultimate aim of the MAPPA process was to protect the victims, and to make sure there was no further victimisation. Brian's victims are now feeling positive and their demeanour has changed drastically. Liaison will continue between all agencies until Brian is deported.

## Northumbria area annual MAPPA statistics 2008-2009

		2008/9	Explanation
<b>Number of MAPPA eligible offenders *</b>			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 are actually managed under ordinary agency (level 1) arrangements rather than via MAPPA meetings.
Registered sexual offenders (category 1)		919	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 (category 2)		285	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 dangerous offenders (category 3)		75	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 MAPPA meetings.
Total		1279	Total number of offenders managed within MAPPA in Northumbria.
<b>Offenders managed via MAPPA meetings – level 2</b>			
Registered sexual offenders (cat 1)		52	This includes the number of offenders managed at level 2 in the community at any point between 31 March 2008 and 30 April 2009. It does not include offenders managed within MAPPA who were in custody for the whole of that year.
Violent offenders (cat 2)		69	
Other dangerous offenders (cat 3)		96	
Total		217	
<b>Offenders managed via MAPPA meetings – level 3</b>			
Registered sexual offenders (cat 1)		7	This includes the number of offenders managed at level 3 in the community at any point between 31 March 2008 and 30 April 2009. It does not include offenders managed within MAPPA who were in custody for the whole of that year.
Violent offenders (cat 2)		8	
Other dangerous offenders (cat 3)		0	
Total		15	
* This reporting year has seen a change in the way the number of MAPPA offenders included in categories 2 and 3 is calculated. The figures outlined above indicate the number of offenders managed within each category on 31 March 2009, ie, a snapshot. This reporting method gives a more accurate picture of the number of MAPPA eligible offenders living in the community at any one time. The number of category 1 offenders has been calculated in this way for a number of years.			
The increase in category 2 offenders – violent offenders, is a result of further development in MAPPA practice in Northumbria. This has led to an increase in referrals of offenders subject to hospital orders, who were not previously recorded within the MAPPA figures.			
<b>Enforcement for offenders managed via MAPPA meetings (levels 2 and 3)</b>			
<b>Returned to custody for breach of licence</b>			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.
RSOs	level 2	20	
	level 3	2	
Violent offenders	level 2	65	
	level 3	1	
Other dangerous offenders	level 2	13	
	level 3	1	
<b>Sent to custody for breach of sexual offences prevention order (SOPO)</b>			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, she/he can be taken back to court and may be liable to up to 5 years' imprisonment.
RSOs	level 2	4	
	level 3	0	
Violent offenders	level 2	0	
	level 3	0	
Other dangerous offenders	level 2	0	
	level 3	0	
<b>Charged with a serious further offence</b>			The number of offenders managed within MAPPA at level 2 or 3 who have been charged a serious further offence (SFO). An SFO is a sexual or violence offence listed in Probation Circular 22/2008, which carries a maximum penalty of 14 years imprisonment or more. The criteria includes offences such as murder, wounding with intent, aggravated burglary and robbery.
RSOs	level 2	2	
	level 3	0	
Violent offenders	level 2	1	
	level 3	0	
Other dangerous offenders	level 2	1	
	level 3	0	

		2008/9	Explanation
<b>Of those charged with an SFO during 2008/9 (plus those remaining charged at 31 March 2008)**, how many resulted in:</b>			
<b>Conviction for SFO</b>			Of those charged with an SFO, either during 2008/9 or charged during 2007/8 but remaining outstanding at 2007/8, 2 were convicted.
RSOs:	level 2	1	
	level 3	0	
Violent offenders:	level 2	0	
	level 3	0	
Other dangerous offenders:	level 2	1	Other outcome means that the case has been dealt with by 31 March 2009 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.
	level 3	0	
RSOs:	level 2	1	
	level 3	0	
Violent offenders:	level 2	2	
	level 3	0	No outcome has been received on these cases as at 31 March 2009
Other dangerous offenders:	level 2	1	
	level 3	0	
RSOs:	level 2	0	
	level 3	0	
Violent offenders:	level 2	1	<p>** During 2008/9, a total of 4 offenders were charged with SFOs. Of these, 1 offender has been convicted, 1 offender had the charges withdrawn and two remain charged (ie, they have not yet been dealt with by the courts).</p> <p>During 2007/8, 4 of the 8 offenders charged with an SFO remained charged but not convicted by 31 March 2008. They have received an outcome during 2008/9 and these outcomes are included in the figures above. Of these 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 was convicted</li> <li>- for 2 the charges were reduced in level of seriousness to offences which do not fit the SFO criteria</li> <li>- 1 was acquitted</li> </ul>
Other dangerous offenders:	level 2	1	
	level 3	0	
RSOs:	level 2	0	
	level 3	0	

## Further data on registered sexual offenders (RSOs)

Number of RSOs in each police area command	2008/9
Sunderland	190
South Tyneside	65
Gateshead	145
North Tyneside	138
Newcastle	236
Northumberland	145
<b>Number of RSOs in Northumbria per 100,000 head of population</b>	<b>65</b>

		2008/9	Explanation
RSOs cautioned or convicted for breach		49	RSOs 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.
<b>Sexual Offences Prevention Orders (SOPO)</b>			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 (i.e. breaches) the requirements of the order, she/he can be taken back to court and may be liable to up to 5 years imprisonment.
Applied for		50	
Interim order issued		0	
Full order issued		50	
<b>Notification orders</b>			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.
Applied for		1	
Interim order issued		0	
Full order issued		1	
<b>Foreign travel orders</b>			Prevent offenders with convictions for sexual offences against children from travelling abroad where it is necessary to do so to protect children from the risk of sexual harm.
Applied for		0	
Interim order issued		0	
Full order issued		0	

## Contacts

### MAPPA Unit

Staffed by key public protection staff from police and probation services, this unit is the first point of contact for all MAPPA and public protection enquiries.

The unit will then direct enquiries to local MAPPA strategy groups and other agencies as appropriate and provide any necessary contact details.

MAPPA Unit  
Block 45  
Northumbria Police HQ  
North Road  
Ponteland  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE20 0BL

Tel: 01661 868077

### Northumbria Probation Area Victim Liaison Unit

This unit provides an information service for victims of serious sexual or other violent offences where the offender receives a custodial sentence over 12 months.

Victim Liaison Unit  
Northumbria Probation Area  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Collingwood House  
Collingwood Street  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE1 1JW

Tel: 0191 261 2541

### Victim Support

Victim Support is an independent organisation offering a free and confidential service to people affected by crime.

Gateshead and South Tyneside - 0191 477 8395  
Alnwick - 01665 602 863  
Newcastle - 0191 281 3791  
Sunderland - 0191 567 2896  
Bedlington/Blyth/North Tyneside - 0191 257 9079



## **Case study: Craig, aged 24 years**

**Craig was convicted of rape of a female under the age of fourteen years. He was sentenced to forty-seven months imprisonment, disqualified from working with children and placed on the sex offender register for life. The victim was someone he knew in passing and happened to come across that day.**

At the time of his offence Craig described himself as depressed. He was homeless, isolated from his family, and portrayed himself as someone who associated with other disaffected young people.

On release from prison Craig was subject to post release licence and there was an additional licence condition to stop him from having contact with his victim.

### **Risk assessment**

Craig's initial risk assessment was high risk of harm. His use of alcohol tended to act as a disinhibitor and his behaviour was impulsive. There were concerns around any contact with children and inherent need to prevent this.

### **Risk management**

Craig consented to undertake a voluntary polygraph (lie detector) test, which was available at the time as part of his sex offenders groupwork programme. Craig failed the test on the issue of contact with females under the age of seventeen years. As a consequence, he was moved from his accommodation and back into Approved Premises, where he could be monitored more closely and his risk could be managed robustly.

It was apparent that Craig lacked any form of structure to his day, and this exacerbated his impulsivity. With the assistance of his offender manager he became involved with a project outside of the hostel a few days each week. This is important so that Craig does not become isolated, which is a trigger to his offending behaviour.

When Craig disclosed he was in a relationship with an age appropriate female, he signed a voluntary disclosure form. His girlfriend was visited by a police public protection unit (PPU) officer and the full extent of his offence was disclosed. A similar disclosure occurred with Craig's grandfather, whom he was visiting regularly. The visits were undertaken to ensure they were fully aware of the risks.

### **Outcome**

Craig continues to live in Approved Premises and plans are underway for him to live with his grandfather. He still has contact with his offender manager and he is visited by a PPU officer. Both these agencies continue to have regular contact and share information.

