

Defensible decisions are those where:

- All reasonable steps have been taken
- Information has been collected and thoroughly evaluated
- Reliable assessment methods have been used
- Decisions are recorded and subsequently carried out
- Policies and procedures have been followed
- Everyone adopts an investigative approach and is proactive

## MAPPA AGENCIES

The Responsible Authorities are the:

- Police
- Prison Service
- Local Authorities
- NHS (Restricted Patients)

The Responsible Authority for each area is required to involve other key agencies in the management of offenders. There is now a legal duty in section 10 of the Management of Offenders (Scotland) Act 2005 to work together. This is important as a key part of MAPPA involves the exchange of information and the pooling of knowledge and expertise. Working together are:

- Adult and Children Services
- Local Housing Authorities
- Benefits Agency
- Primary Care Trusts and NHS Trusts
- Local Education Authorities
- Electronic Monitoring Providers
- Voluntary Organisations etc.

# MAPPA

Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements

## Protecting the Public

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East Lothian Council  
Midlothian Council  
Scottish Borders Council  
West Lothian Council  
NHS Borders  
NHS Lothian  
Scottish Prison Service  
Lothian and Borders Police

## What is MAPPA?

The Lothian and Borders Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements or MAPPA are the means by which local agencies work together to best protect our community from the serious harm that some offenders may still present after being convicted.

This leaflet outlines some of the key features of MAPPA as applied in the Lothian and Borders area.

The 3 key stages of the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements:



## STAGE 1 - Identification of MAPPA Offenders

Easy identification of those offenders that should be considered under the MAPPA is vital. Three categories of "MAPPA Offender" have been defined to focus risk management.

Category 1 – Registered Sex Offenders for the period of their registration.

Category 2 – Violent and Other Sex Offenders, often summarised as violent offenders imprisoned for 12 months plus. The full definition is more complex and includes those detained under hospital or guardianship orders. They usually exit MAPPA when statutory supervision ceases.

Category 3 – Other Offenders who have been convicted of a crime which indicates that he/she is capable of causing serious harm to the public and the Responsible Authority reasonably considers that the offender may cause serious harm to the public.

## STAGE 2 – Information Sharing

The exchange of information is an essential element of effective public protection. Information sharing must:

- ❑ Have lawful authority
- ❑ Be necessary
- ❑ Be proportionate and undertaken in ways which ensure the safety and security of information shared
- ❑ Be accountable

## ASSESSING RISK

Whilst agencies use various methods to assess risk it is important that we have a common understanding of the terms used to describe risk. The MAPPA use definitions taken from the Risk Management Authority – Risk Assessment Standards and Guidelines.

Serious Harm – a risk which is life threatening and/or traumatic and from which recovery, whether physical or psychological, can be expected to be difficult or impossible. The potential event could happen at any time and the impact would be serious.

## LEVELS OF RISK

Low – No significant current indicators of risk of harm.

Medium – 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.

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

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

## STAGE 3 – Risk Management

This structure of risk management has been designed to allow resources to be used in the most effective and efficient manner.

- ❑ The principle is that cases should be managed at the lowest level, consistent with providing a defensible risk management plan
- ❑ When deciding about the level of risk management, consideration is given to the nature of the risk and how it can be managed
- ❑ The levels of risk management do not necessarily equate directly to level of risk but generally the higher the assessment level of risk, the higher the level of management required

## MAPPA LEVEL 1

Used in cases where the risk posed by the offender can be managed by one agency without actively or significantly involving other agencies.

## MAPPA LEVEL 2

Used where the **active** involvement of more than one agency is required but where either the level of risk or the complexity of managing the risk is not so great as to require referral to level 3.

## MAPPA LEVEL 3

Used for the management of the 'critical few', where the offender is assessed as being a high or very high risk of serious harm, and presents risks that can only be managed by a plan that requires close co-operation at a senior level. This would be due to the complexity of the case and/or because of the unusual resource commitments it requires, or although not assessed as high or very high risk, the case is exceptional because of the likelihood of media scrutiny and/or public interest in the management of the case is very high and there is a need to ensure that public confidence in the Criminal Justice System is sustained.