

Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements

Protecting the public from potentially dangerous people is a priority for all agencies.

Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) were introduced through the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000, giving specific responsibilities of the Police and Probation Service in relation to the multi-agency management of high risk offenders.

The MAPPA aims to integrate the work of a number of criminal justice agencies together with social care agencies in order to reduce serious offending, minimise serious harm to the public and assist in the early detection of repeat offenders.

There is a duty on social services; local health authorities and trusts; housing authorities and registered social landlords; youth offending teams; local education authorities; and electronic monitoring providers to co-operate with the Responsible Authorities i.e. police, prisons and probation services.

There are three levels of management within the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements.

Level One – each agency carries out its own risk assessment, based on its own tools for doing this. In level one cases a decision is made that the case can be managed internally and although some inter-agency work or senior management involvement may be required, shared management and assessment is not necessary.

Level Two – if, following internal risk assessment the agency decides that the case does require comprehensive information sharing between agencies, shared assessment and management; a level two meeting will be called. This conference is co-ordinated by the MAPPA co-ordinators although attendance is at practitioner level, has no fixed membership, and is on a case by case basis. In Telford & Wrekin the Principal Officer Adult Protection within Adult and Consumer Care and Principal Officers for Child Protection attend these meetings. The relevant team practitioner presents the case, using the standard forms and guidance provided.

This level of management (as with Level Three) uses the standard documentation including confidentiality statement, case details for monitoring

purposes and conference notes. The presenting worker must ensure preparation and prompt circulation of these notes on the appropriate forms. There are specific action points for workers, with timescales and review dates. Case detail sheets should be returned promptly to the appropriate Principal Officer where data collection is managed.

Level Three – is used for those cases referred to as the ‘critical few’, the most risky cases that have met the criteria for level two, and beyond. Operational staff need the support of shared inter-agency management of these cases which may require additional resources.

There may be public relations implications, and the risk of serious harm is imminent.

These cases are the subject of Multi-Agency Public Protection Panel (MAPPP) meetings. Meetings are monthly in each police division, or as needed outside these regular meetings. There is a fixed membership as follows:

MAPPP co-ordinator – Chair

Police – Inspector

Probation – Area Manager

Adult and Consumer Care – Principal Officer Adult Protection

Children & Young People Portfolio – Principal Officer Child Protection

Youth Offending Service – Team Manager

Mental Health – Criminal Justice Liaison Worker

In addition, members representing the following agencies attend as required:

Prisons

Health

Housing

Leisure Services

Following agreement from the MAPPP co-ordinator to present the case, the co-ordinator will ensure a date is set for the meeting and invitations sent to the appropriate people.

The case will be presented by the relevant practitioner, using the appropriate forms and following guidance as for Level Two cases.

NB: the forms are marked ‘Restricted’ which in other agency’s terms means ‘Confidential: not to be disclosed’ They are also marked “This document is the property of the MAPPA SMB (Strategic Management Board) Do not copy or pass on without permission”

Further information, the MAPPA annual report and access to the relevant forms can be obtained from

<http://www.westmerciaprobation.org.uk/probation/mappa.html>

Level of Risk

For the purposes of public protection some standard definitions are used for the levels of risk of causing harm:

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 circumstance, for example, failure to take medication, loss of accommodation, relationship breakdown, drug or alcohol misuse.

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

A risk of serious harm is defined as:

‘- 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’