

Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)

Introduction:

The Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) are a statutory framework established by s.325 Criminal Justice Act 2003 (CJA 2003). Section 325 of the CJA 2003 imposes this statutory duty on the Police, Probation and Prison Services in the 42 MAPPA areas in England and Wales to establish arrangements to assess and manage the risks posed by:

- a. Relevant sexual and violent offenders; and
- b. Other persons who, by reason of offence(s) they have committed, are considered by the Responsible Authority to be persons who may cause serious harm to the public.

Rather than being a statutory body, MAPPA exists as a statutory framework within which participating agencies operate. As such, all agencies participating in MAPPA retain their full statutory responsibilities and obligations at all times.

In addition to the participation of the Responsible Authority (“RA”) agencies in MAPPA, Section 325(3) of the CJA 2003 establishes that other agencies have a “duty to co-operate” (“DTC”) with the RA within the MAPPA framework. Agencies currently specified to participate within MAPPA include:

- Local Authority Children’s Services Departments.
- Local Education Authorities.
- Local Authority Social Services Departments.
- Youth Offending Teams.
- Local Health Board(s).
- Jobcentre Plus.
- Local Housing Authorities.
- Registered Social Landlords which accommodate MAPPA offenders.
- Electronic Monitoring providers.
- UK Visas and Immigration.

Section 325(4A)(c) also states that any other person the Responsible Authority considers could contribute to the achievement of the purpose of MAPPA may also share information with the named partners, essentially extending the “Duty to Cooperate” to anyone needed on a case-by-case basis.

The Duty to Cooperate established under s.325 expressly permits the sharing of information between partner agencies, and ss. 4B(a) and (b) state that any such information sharing does

not breach any obligation of confidence owed by the person making the disclosure or any other restriction on the disclosure of information (however imposed).

Under Section 325(8) of the CJA 2003, the Secretary of State has issued national **MAPPA** Guidance. Being public bodies, all RA and DTC agencies have a duty imposed by public law to have regard to this guidance in exercising their functions under **MAPPA**.

Objectives:

The objectives of MAPPA are to:

- Share information at a critical stage of any Agency's contact with the offender eg release from prison, moving into the area, disclosure of abuse/offending.
- Assess the level of risk to individual children and the community.
- Devise action plans as appropriate to minimise risk.
- Make decision regarding registration.
- Agree implementation.
- Monitor and review progress.

Categories and Level:

There are four **Categories** of MAPPA offender, and they can be managed at one of three **Levels**.

The four Categories are:

MAPPA Category 1 cases are individuals convicted of relevant sexual offences and are subject of various reporting requirements under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (Registered Sexual Offenders).

MAPPA Category 2 cases are violent and 'other' sexual offenders who have been convicted of a violent offence (as defined by Schedule 15 of the CJA 2003 - details can be found on the MAPPA website) **AND** received 12 months custody or more including Hospital and Suspended Sentence Orders.

MAPPA Category 3 cases are individuals who do not meet the Category 1 or 2 criteria but have committed a previous conviction or sanction indicating that he or she is capable of serious harm and requires active multi-agency risk management at Level 2 or Level 3.

MAPPA Category 4 cases are individuals convicted of a relevant Terrorism offence or offence with Terrorism connections as determined by the Court. This can also include individuals who have been identified as radicalised and/or a potential terrorist risk.

The three Levels are:

Level 1 – Lead Agency Management. Cases in which the risk/complexity can be managed effectively by the Lead Agency responsible for the supervision/management of the offender. This does not mean that other partner organisations will not be involved; only that it is not considered necessary to refer the case to a Level 2 or 3 Multi-Agency Public Protection (MAPP) meeting.

Level 2 – Multi-Agency Public Protection (MAPP) meeting. Cases in which the active involvement and co-ordination of interventions from the Lead Agency and other partners is required through MAPP meetings in order to manage the presenting risks of harm and/or complexity.

Level 3 – MAPP meeting. Cases in which the offender presents a high or very high risk and close co-operation at a senior level is required due to the complexity of the case and/or because of the unusual resource commitments it requires; **or** although not assessed as a high or very high risk, there is a high likelihood of media scrutiny and/or public interest in the management of the case and there is a need to ensure that public confidence in the criminal justice system is maintained.

In practice:

MAPPA aims to be very practical, focusing on issues relevant to risk, forming actions and generating risk management plans. There is a case management approach and the process of discussion and making plans will be seen as more important than registration. MAPP cases are given high resource priority by agencies.

The criteria for referral needs to be narrow in order to avoid the registration of such a large number that the register becomes unworkable, and so only cases who fit the criteria above, and who are assessed as posing a current, imminent risk of causing serious harm would be suitable for active-conferencing under MAPPA.

Where a case falls into either category 1 or 2 but does not fit the criteria for management via MAPPA level 2/3, **Professionals Meetings** at level 1 can be convened. Cases brought to the Professionals Meeting are not seen as requiring the additional oversight provided by active-conferencing and may not require the same level of resources to be mobilized by Senior Managers in order to manage their risk. However, Professionals Meetings give a multi-agency forum in which to discuss a case where several agencies are involved and where a multi-agency response and risk management plan is required.

Referrals:

Referrals need to be discussed with a manager in the agency raising the concern. Contact should then be made with the Multi-Agency Public Protection Team (Email - GMPS.manchester.MAPPA@justice.gov.uk / Phone - 0161 856 3636) for a case discussion following which the referral can be submitted.

Agencies attending MAPPA meetings sign up to the confidentiality agreement. The sharing of information is covered by legislation under the Section 325 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, on the grounds that the right to confidentiality of the offender is outweighed by the risk presented to the public.

Please see MAPPA Website for further guidance [Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements - MAPPA \(justice.gov.uk\)](https://www.justice.gov.uk/multi-agency-public-protection-arrangements)