



Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) and Children's Social Care

What is MAPPA?

MAPPA stands for Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements. It is the process through which the Police, Probation and Prison Services work together with other agencies to manage the risks posed by violent and sexual offenders living in the community in order to protect the public.

In these arrangements, Children's Social Care (CSC) has a duty to cooperate with the MAPPA Responsible Authorities in the task of assessing and managing risk. They are required to cooperate as far as they can do so, consistent with the exercise of their other statutory functions.

It is therefore, important that staff understand what this means for them.

Who are MAPPA offenders and how are they managed?

- ⇒ **Category 1:** includes all registered sex offenders
- ⇒ **Category 2:** includes all offenders convicted of a violent offence under Schedule 15 of 2003 Criminal Justice Act
- ⇒ **Category 3:** includes anyone convicted or cautioned for an offence, which indicates the offender may present as a high risk of harm and active multi-agency management is required.

MAPPA offenders are managed at three different levels:

- ⇒ **Level 1:** Single agency management normally by the Police, National Probation Service or Mental Health Services
- ⇒ **Level 2:** The offender is assessed as requiring active multi-agency management and this is achieved through the involved agencies attending Level 2 MAPPA meetings chaired by the Police/National Probation Service and coordinated by the MAPPA unit.
- ⇒ **Level 3:** The risk of harm is considered high/very high and it is considered that senior representation is required to commit the necessary resources to manage the offender. Cases of high media or public interest might also be managed at Level 3.



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What does 'Duty to Cooperate' mean to Children's Social Care in Practice?

The effectiveness of public protection often requires more than just a Criminal Justice response. Children's Social Care (CSC) play a vital role in terms of sharing information, carrying out assessments and undertaking actions or maintaining contact, in line with the overall risk management plan.

- At MAPPA Level 2 meetings, CSC have standing panel members who can provide information and expertise on actions and cases where CSC are not directly involved. Where CSC is involved with a case the relevant social worker and possibly their manager, will be invited to the meeting. All those attending must always be fully briefed.
- When invited to a Level 2 or 3 meeting, CSC have a duty to send a representative who can provide relevant information in relation to the MAPPA offender. This information can then help formulate the Risk Management Plan.
- Where an invitation is sent and it is not possible for a representative to attend, a written report detailing CSC's perspective can be submitted to the MAPPA unit although it is always preferable for an agency to be represented in person.
- Although CSC can refer offenders into Level 2 meetings, it is more likely that where there are concerns about a person's behaviour they pass this information on to the lead agency involved. This will normally be the Police, the National Probation Service or Mental Health Services. If deemed necessary the lead agency would then make the referral to the Level 2 meeting.
- CSC should also participate in MAPPA Serious Case Reviews, where they are involved in an offender's management.

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