

9. Risk management of known offenders

9.1.1 Principles

MAPPA provide a national framework in England and Wales for the assessment and management of the risk of serious harm posed by specified sexual and violent offenders, including offenders (including young people) who are considered to pose a risk, or potential risk, of serious harm to children.

National MAPPA Guidance (2009) 264 further develops processes particularly with regard to young people who pose a risk and the role of YOTs.

www.probation.homeoffice.gov.uk/output/page30.a

9.1.2 Identifying MAPPA eligible offenders

There are three categories of offender eligible for MAPPA:-

- **Registered sex offenders** (Category 1) – sexual offenders who are required to notify the police of their name , address and any other personal details and notify any changes subsequently
- **Violent offenders** (Category 2)- offenders sentenced to imprisonment / detention for 12 months or more ,or detained under hospital orders (in relation to murder or offences specified in schedule 15 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003).This category also includes a small number of sexual offenders who do not qualify for registration, and offenders disqualified from working with children and
- **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 offending and the risk posed and they require multi agency management .

Risk is categorised by reference to the potential subject of the harm. This includes children who may be vulnerable to harm of various kinds, including violent or sexual behaviour, emotional harm or neglect. In this context, MAPPA works closely with LSCBs to ensure the best local joint arrangements can be made for any individual child being considered by either setting.

9.1.3 Assessment of Risk of Serious Harm

- **low:** current evidence does not indicate likelihood of causing serious harm;
- **medium:** identifiable indicators of risk of serious harm. The offender has the potential to cause serious harm, but is unlikely to do so unless there is a change in circumstances, for example, failure to take medication, loss of accommodation, relationship breakdown, drug or alcohol misuse,
- **high:** identifiable indicators of risk of serious harm. The potential event could happen at any time, and the impact would be serious; and
- **very high:** an imminent risk of serious harm. The potential event is more likely than not to happen imminently, and the impact to be serious.

There are 3 levels of management within the MAPPA framework, which are based upon the level of multi-agency co-operation required to implement the risk management plan effectively:

- **Level 1 – Ordinary Management.** These offenders are subject to the usual management arrangements applied by whichever agency is supervising them. But 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 MAPP meetings; and
- **Level 3 – Active Multi-Agency Management.** As with level 2 but these 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. Offenders will be moved up and down levels as appropriate.

YOTs have a duty to identify cases that meet MAPPA criteria and make appropriate referrals. However, the guidance emphasises that young people should be assessed and managed differently from adults, using age-appropriate assessment tools and always bearing in mind the need to safeguard the welfare of the young offender as well as to protect others from harm. Children's social care services should **always** be represented at MAPPA meetings when a young person is being discussed.

9.1.4 Information sharing

Exchange of information is essential for effective public protection. The MAPPA Guidance 265 details how MAPPA agencies may / should exchange information among themselves to better manage offenders. It also explains why and how information may be disclosed to those not involved in the MAPPA management of the offender. The expectation is that information on offenders will be disclosed to others – for example, partners, employers, schools – where this is required to manage the risks posed by the offender. www.probation.homeoffice.gov.uk/output/page30.asp

9.1.5 Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

A MARAC is a multi-agency meeting which has the safety of high risk victims of domestic abuse as its focus. The identification of high risk victims has been made possible by the use of a risk identification tool²⁶⁷, for use across a wide range of agencies.

www.caada.org.uk/Practitioner_resources/Quick%20Start%20Guidance%20&%20RIC%2009062009.doc

This has permitted practitioners, both within and outside of the criminal justice system, to identify high risk victims of domestic abuse. As a result many more high risk victims are being identified and, in response, the MARAC is being rolled out across England and Wales with a view to meeting this need.

The MARAC is a process involving the participation of all the key statutory and voluntary agencies who might be involved in supporting a victim of domestic abuse. This includes

those from the criminal justice system, those supporting children, those from the health service, the local authority, housing, substance misuse and, critically, specialist domestic violence services most frequently in the form of an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA). The IDVA is a specialist caseworker who receives accredited training to work with high risk victims of domestic abuse from the point of crisis and whose focus is very much on the MARAC.

At a typical MARAC meeting 15 to 20 high risk cases are discussed in half a day with a very brief and focused information sharing process followed by a simple multiagency action plan being put into place to support the victim and to make links with other public protection procedures, particularly safeguarding children, vulnerable adults and, of course, the management of perpetrators. It is important to understand the MARAC meeting as part of a wider process which hinges on the early involvement and support from an IDVA and continued specialist case management, both before and after the meeting. The MARAC should combine the best of specialist support together with the co-ordination of the generic agencies whose resources and involvement will be needed to keep victims and their children safe.

Where an offender is being managed at MAPPA Level 2 or Level 3, to avoid duplication of effort and resources, the MAPP meeting should take the lead over the MARAC. The reason for this is that the MAPPA is a statutory set of arrangements and therefore it takes precedence over the MARAC.