

Report

Report to:	Social Work Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	13 June 2007
Report by:	Executive Director (Social Work Resources)

Subject:	Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Advise Committee of the detail of the MAPPA arrangements and the implications for the wider resource

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that Committee is asked to note the contents of this report
- (2) that Committee agrees to be kept up to date with the developments in relation to MAPPA and specifically to receive a further report when other elements of the process are commenced, particularly restricted patients and violent offenders

3. Background

- 3.1. MAPPA is introduced by Sections 10 and 11 of the Management of Offenders Scotland Act. It is a process that allows for the assessment and management of individuals who present a risk to public safety. Initially it will include those who are registered sex offenders but will in time include those restricted patients subject to CPA processes and violent offenders.
- 3.2. The Legislation defines Responsible Authorities ie. those authorities who carry statutory responsibility for individuals who will come within the remit of MAPPA. These Authorities include the Local Authorities, the Police, Scottish Prison Service (SPS) and in relation restricted patients Health will also become a responsible Authority. Other services and agencies are required to co-operate with the MAPPA process. These will include Housing organisations, Voluntary and Independent Sector organisations and Health in relation to non restricted patients.
- 3.3. Essentially, the local authorities will carry primary responsibility for those subject to Statutory Orders. SPS will have a primary role when an individual is in custody. For all other registered sex offenders primary responsibility lies with the Police.
- 3.4. Final decisions have still to be made about who will carry responsibility when violent offenders are included in MAPPA.

4. Current Position

- 4.1. MAPPA commenced on 2 April 2007 for registered sex offenders. Violent offenders, mentally disordered offenders and other offenders will be included at a later date. At the moment it is expected that violent offenders will be included by the end of the calendar year.
- 4.2. A MAPPA Implementation group has been set up locally. The MAPPA arrangements will cover the whole of Lanarkshire and the Implementation group has representation from North and South Lanarkshire Councils (Social Work and Housing), Strathclyde Police, The Scottish Prison Service, Lanarkshire NHS, Procurator Fiscal service.
- 4.3. MAPPA provides a co-ordinated approach to public protection and targets resources to increase safety within communities.
- 4.4. There are three levels of MAPPA – levels 1, 2 and 3 with levels 2 and 3 aimed at those who pose a risk of serious harm.
- 4.5. MAPPA is underpinned by the use of accredited assessment tools to determine the level of risk, and by a duty to co-operate.
- 4.6. A further development in relation to this is the ViSOR (Violent and Sex Offender Information Register). This is a Police information system that has been developed for all relevant authorities to use in order to manage information in a coherent way.
- 4.7. Most offenders will be managed at level 1 with a responsibility lying largely with one agency. It does not mean that only one agency will be involved but for example, an individual subject to statutory supervision by the local authority deemed to be a low level of risk will essentially be managed by the local authority, although there will be ongoing communication with the Police.
- 4.8. Level 2 provides for local inter-agency risk management where the level of risk posed by the individual requires more than one agency to be involved. It also allows for the provision where one agency may be involved but the individual presents other issues that makes them complex or risky. From experience this may be individuals whose level of risk of re-offending is low but their chaotic life style presents concerns within the community. It is expected that this local inter-agency meeting will take place on a regular basis and no less than monthly. It will consist of permanent representatives from responsible agencies supplemented as required by other agencies who have an interest. It will be chaired by the Police or local authority social work manager. Within Lanarkshire it has been agreed that each authority would take the lead in relation to individuals from within its own area.
- 4.9. Level 3 is aimed at the small number of high risk individuals. This will be chaired by a senior level from the Police or local authority. It will be chaired by an individual who has the ability to commit resources to a case management package.
- 4.10. A MAPPA and Collating Co-ordinator has been appointed with responsibility for managing information; ensuring the MAPPA meetings occur at the right level; and providing an annual report. They have a responsibility for satisfying the Community Justice Authority of the adequacy of the arrangements in place.
- 4.11. As well the MAPPA Co-ordinator both Housing Services and Health Services have been asked to identify a single point of contact within their organisations. The

Guidance in terms of Housing Services is complemented by an Accommodation Strategy. This builds on work already underway within the Council.

5. General/Other Implications for the Council

- 5.1. These arrangements build on systems that are already in place, but creates a more formal approach to the management of risk. There will be issues for the Council both in terms of resourcing some packages and a greater degree of scrutiny if individuals re-offend. The guidance recognises that risk assessment and management does not guarantee no further offending, but nevertheless this has to be seen in the context of public expectation.
- 5.2. Although Social Work through its Criminal Justice Services will have a lead role it will impact on a range of council services. These services therefore will have a responsibility under the duty to co-operate to contribute to the development and management of the risk plan.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. As detailed above. Although this largely builds the work already being undertaken it is a more focused way of operating with a more explicit role for other services.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. Finance has been available from the Scottish Executive to take forward the MAPPA arrangements. North and South Lanarkshire Councils through their criminal justice budgets have committed additional funding. However, there may be financial implications arising from the case packages that require to be put in place to manage risk, that need to be kept under re view.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. None to date. To be kept under review.

9. Consultation

- 9.1. Relevant services have been consulted in development of arrangements.

Harry Stevenson
Executive Director (Social Work Resources)

27 April 2007

Link(s) to Council Objectives

- Healthy and Safe Communities

Previous References

- Social Work Resources Committee Report CRIM0704 – 1 February 2007

List of Background Papers

- Access to the guidance can be made available (SEJD Circular 15/2006) and NHS HDL (2007) 19

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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