

Report

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Report to:	Housing and Technical Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	16 September 2009
Report by:	Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources)

Subject:	The Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ inform Committee about the Council's responsibility for the housing of sex offenders under the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) and the proposed future extension of these duties as set out in the Management of Offenders etc (Scotland) Act 2005

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the content of this report be noted

3. Background

3.1. The Management of Offenders etc (Scotland) Act 2005 imposes duties on housing providers to co-operate with police, prisons and social work services to provide appropriate housing to those who are assessed as posing a risk to the community.

3.2. In South Lanarkshire, Housing and Technical Resources meet this duty through a small 'resettlement' team based in Central Homelessness Services in Cambuslang Gate. It is, therefore, appropriate to inform Committee of the duties required of this team under the terms of the Act.

4. Management of Offenders etc (Scotland) Act 2005

4.1. The co-operation function is managed through Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) as established by each Community Justice Authority (CJA). MAPPA information is highly sensitive and is subject to extremely rigorous data protection requirements.

4.2. The specific 'duty to co-operate' placed on housing providers (including RSLs) is set out in MAPPA guidance and covers the responsibility to:-

- identify and provide accommodation where it is needed
- liaise with responsible authorities regarding the ongoing management of risk of the tenant
- have regard for community safety and have arrangements in place to move people quickly when accommodation is deemed to no longer be suitable

- 4.3. There are 3 categories of offender who are or will be subject to MAPPA:-
- Category 1: Registered sex offenders
 - Category 2: Violent offenders
 - Category 3: Other offenders
- 4.4. There are also 3 levels of offender management based on the level of risk posed by the individual offender. Since 2008, restricted patients (who have been considered mentally unfit to serve a sentence in prison and have instead served it in hospital) have also been subject to MAPPA.
- 4.5. The MAPPA guidance published by the Scottish Government in 2007 also set out the National Accommodation Strategy for Sex Offenders which outlines how sex offenders should be accommodated in the community. Local Authorities are expected to operate in accordance with this guidance. The Scottish Government has published a public information leaflet on the housing of sex offenders in the community and the responsibilities of housing providers in July 2009.
- 4.6. Each Local Authority in Scotland should have a Sex Offenders Liaison Officer (SOLO) who acts as a single point of contact for housing requests from responsible authorities. In South Lanarkshire, the SOLO function is managed through Central Homelessness Services, although we do not at present have a single designated officer. The functions of the SOLO are to:-
- identify the most appropriate housing provider following the risk assessment carried out by the responsible authorities
 - ensure that the housing provider is included in liaison arrangements for identifying appropriate housing and managing risk
 - liaise pro-actively with responsible authorities and housing providers on ongoing risk management and community safety issues

5. Proposed extension to the MAPPA

- 5.1. At present, only category 1 (registered sex offenders) are subject to the MAPPA process, with category 2 (violent offenders) identified as the next category to be included. At present, there is no clear timescale for the extension of the MAPPA to include violent offenders, but the Act requires that the duty will extend at some point.
- 5.2. The number of MAPPA cases has so far increased year on year, even without new categories being included. Once the MAPPA extends to cover violent offenders the workload of the housing resettlement team will expand significantly and we will not have adequate capacity to carry out our duties in this area. Unofficial estimates of the likely numbers of violent offenders who would become subject to MAPPA indicate a likely four fold increase in those monitored under current requirements.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. A review of how the additional workload will be undertaken as the full impact of the legislative changes becomes clearer. This may involve a review of how the service is delivered in terms of staffing.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. None.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. None.

9. Equalities Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.
- 9.2. The relevant consultation has been carried out in terms of the proposals contained in this report.

Jim Hayton
Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources)

31 August 2009

Link(s) to Council Objectives and Values

- Improve the quality, access and availability of housing
- Improve Community Safety

Previous References

None

List of Background Papers

- Lanarkshire CJA MAPPA annual reports for 2008 and 2009

Contact for Further Information

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

Val Holtom, Homelessness Manager

Ext: 848 2711 (Tel: 0141 584 2711)

E-mail: val.holtom@southlanarkshire.gov.uk