



SUFFOLK MULTI-AGENCY PUBLIC PROTECTION

MAPPA Annual Report APRIL 2001 - MARCH 2002

1. Introduction

Local arrangements in Suffolk began in response to the Sex Offenders Act, 1997, when the Police and Probation Service began to make joint arrangements for the assessment and management of registered sex offenders. We have built upon those arrangements over the past few years and developed multi-agency protocols agreed by Probation, Police, Social Care Services and the Youth Offending Service for the management of sexual, violent and other dangerous offenders. This document will provide further details of the arrangements made in Suffolk and give contact points for any additional enquiries including agencies other than probation and police. (See Annex A.)

2. Summary of roles and responsibilities

Suffolk Probation Area and Suffolk Constabulary have the statutory duty under the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 to make joint arrangements for the assessment and management of relevant offenders. The statutory duty has given rise to the Police employing six Public Protection Officers (three appointed 01.10.01 and three appointed from 01.04.02) who monitor sex offenders subject to registration, conduct risk assessments on sex offenders and liaise with other agencies so that risk management plans can be successfully co-ordinated. Suffolk Probation Area is responsible for the supervision of offenders subject to community penalties and post custodial licences and has built upon its lengthy involvement in risk assessment and management through the appointment of a Senior Probation Officer (half time). This post has developed the existing arrangements and assisted in the introduction of a new assessment framework, Public Protection Policy and extensive training for its operational staff.

In order to co-ordinate the different agencies who may be involved in protecting the public a “strategic management forum” was convened to develop protocols for exchanging information and the day-to-day operation of the MAPPP. Recognising that better public protection can only be delivered through collaborative arrangements, the Police and Probation Service have negotiated with the agencies, services and authorities whose responsibilities can contribute substantially towards effective

public protection. Those involved so far in addition to the Suffolk Constabulary and Suffolk Probation Area are:

Suffolk County Council - Social Care Services

The duties and responsibilities of Social Care Services include services to vulnerable groups, both adults and children. This includes children in need and their families, older people, disabled people and those with mental health needs. The services promote safety and welfare, which balances the needs of the individual with the safety of the wider community. In conjunction with Social Care Services role in working with other agencies through the Area Child Protection Committee there is a commitment to work together with other agencies in the assessment and management of risk for the protection of the public.

Suffolk Local Health Partnerships NHS Trust - Mental Health Services

Local Health Partnerships NHS Trust provides mental health and learning disability services to the geographical areas of East, West and parts of North Suffolk. The Trust endeavours to provide a full range of high quality mental health services meeting the needs of users, carers and local communities. This includes the prevention of serious harm to others and self harm, in relation to which Local Health Partnerships NHS Trust are committed to working with other agencies in protecting the public.

Suffolk Borough and District Councils (Suffolk Housing Officers Group)

Suffolk Borough and District Councils are represented on the strategic management forum by the Chair of Suffolk Housing Officers Group (SHOG). The provision of accommodation for offenders needs to recognise the needs of the individual and contribution of settled and secure accommodation to the management of potential risks in conjunction with the safety of the immediate and wider community. By working in partnership with other agencies demonstrates the commitment to supporting the development of joint arrangements for managing risk.

Suffolk Youth Offending Service

The Suffolk Youth Offending Service provides a full range of services including the provision of preventative programmes targeting young people ‘in need’ and community based programmes designed to prevent further offending. Suffolk Youth Offending Service is committed to the delivery of partnership services effectively, and by adopting a holistic approach that promotes accountability, responsibility and social inclusion, seeks to reduce re-offending by young people. The Suffolk Youth Offending Service is in a key position to contribute to the assessment and management of risk posed by young people in the community.

3. Outline of the arrangements made

Suffolk has developed these multi-agency arrangements so that the assessment and management of sexual, violent and other dangerous offenders can take place.

Whenever a joint or multi-agency approach would improve public protection, Probation and Police will share information with those organisations involved in the strategic management forum or any other relevant agency.

All registered sex offenders are initially assessed by the Police Public Protection Officers using an assessment tool (Risk Matrix 2000). Following assessment, all sex offenders are monitored through visits at their homes and liaison with other professionals, such as probation officers and social workers.

All offenders under the supervision of Suffolk Probation Area including those who serve custodial sentences for over 12 months for violent offences are assessed using the National Probation Service Offender Assessment System (OASys) risk of harm assessment tool.

Any individual who is assessed by the Police or Probation as posing a high or very high risk of causing serious harm to the public is referred to one of the monthly MAPPP meetings.

For the small number of mentally disordered offenders who may pose a risk to others but where neither Probation or Social Care Services have current responsibility, the Care Programme Approach (CPA) will facilitate inter-agency communication. Where a risk of serious harm to the public is

identified, the individual will be referred to the Suffolk Mental Health High Risk Scheme who will consider the case and refer to the MAPPP those individuals who are believed to pose an imminent risk of harm to others.

MAPPPs have been established in the Southern, Eastern and Western policing areas and meet at a pre-determined time every month. Each MAPPP has a representative from Probation, Police, Social Care Services and specialist Mental Health Services and is chaired by an Assistant Chief Officer from Probation. Representatives from the appropriate agencies who have an interest in, or information related to, the offender will attend the panel meeting in order that strategic decisions and resource allocations can be made. In cases where the public is thought to be at imminent risk from an offender, an extraordinary MAPPP meeting will be convened. Whilst an offender is considered to pose a high risk to the public they will be reviewed regularly by the MAPPP so that the implementation of the management plan can be monitored and checks made that decisions designed to minimise risk have been implemented.

The MAPPPs have the following objectives:

- Share information
- Assess the level of risk to individuals and the community
- Consider/review the need for continued review at the MAPPP

- Recommend the action necessary to manage the risk including contingencies
- Monitor and ensure the implementation of agreed action
- Review the level of risk and the action plan in light of changes in circumstances and behaviour
- Consider and manage resources
- Consider the need for community disclosure and other community issues
- Agree a media strategy where appropriate.

Risk management plans will include, for example, measures to monitor behaviour, sometimes involving Police surveillance, as well as the provision of resources, such as Approved Premises (Hostel) and the provision of appropriate services and methods of intervention (psychiatric assessment, sex offender treatment programmes) aimed at helping subjects work with relevant agencies to reduce the risks they pose to others.

Cases considered by the MAPPP are regularly reviewed in order to assess progress in implementing the agreed risk management plan and take account of any changed circumstances. At every review a decision will be made as to whether continued registration remains justified.

4. Strategic management arrangements

The strategic management forum in Suffolk comprises of representative's from the following agencies/organisations whose commitment demonstrates the level of ownership of MAPPPs and acknowledgement of their role in protecting the public:

- Suffolk Constabulary
Detective Chief Inspector
- Suffolk Probation Area
Assistant Chief Officer
- Suffolk Social Care
Services

- County Manager,
Immediate Needs
- Suffolk Youth Offending
Service
Locality Manager
- Suffolk Housing Officers
Group
Chair, Suffolk Housing
Officers Group
- Local Health
Partnerships/NHS Trust
Director of Mental Health
(West)

The strategic management forum meets every three months to:

- Monitor performance
- Identify and disseminate
good practice
- Review the protocols
- Prepare an annual report
regarding the work of the
MAPPPs
- Agree a media strategy
where appropriate

5. Disclosure

As part of the wider risk management process, one of the strategies that can be adopted to reduce the risk is to make notifications to individuals, groups or sections of the community if it is felt that this is proportional and justifiable.

Community notifications are only made where there is a pressing need and each decision on whether or not to disclose has to be justified on the basis of the likelihood of the harm which non-disclosure might otherwise cause.

Whilst it is the role of the MAPPP to recommend community notification based on the careful and vigorous examination of all shared information shared at the meeting this final decision regarding whether or not such disclosure will be made will rest

with the Assistant Chief Constable who will take into consideration information provided by the MAPPP and recent case law which includes the following principles:

- Disclosure to the third parties about personal information about offenders will be the exception rather than the rule.
- Each decision on whether or not to disclose has to be justified on the basis of the likelihood of the harm which non-disclosure might otherwise cause.
- Disclosure must be seen as an overall plan for managing risk posed by the potential offender

and a need protect a member of the community.

- In some circumstances it may be appropriate to warn an offender that disclosure is to be made to encourage different behaviour.

During the period in which MAPPPs have been introduced in Suffolk it has only proved necessary to use the power of disclosure on one occasion. This involved limited disclosure to an individual as a result of the behaviour of a registered sex offender with whom they developed a relationship. Wider use of community notification to groups or sections of the community has not been required.

6. Victims work

In addition to sections 67 & 68 of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000, section 69 places a statutory duty on the Probation Service to offer victims of violent and sexual offences, where the sentence is one year or more, the opportunity to make representations about the conditions of the release of the offender and be kept informed about these. Suffolk Probation Area is therefore in a position to obtain information from victims and feed them into the multi-agency arrangements and to pass information back to victims as appropriate. This process enables Suffolk Probation Area to carefully consider release arrangements and ensure conditions are attached to Prison licences to protect victims. Similar procedures are in place for

offenders subject to supervision by the Youth Offending Service.

In order that victim issues are given due consideration the MAPPPs fulfil the following functions:

- Ensure that victim issues are taken into account when developing risk management plans.
- Ensure that there is provision for victims to pass on information about their concerns.
- Ensure that there is a procedure for the appropriate agency to inform the victim that “their offender” is being dealt with by this system.

Victim Support is the national charity for people affected by crime. It is an independent organisation, offering a free and confidential service, whether or not a crime has been reported. Trained staff and volunteers at local branches offer information and support for victims, witnesses, their families and friends. (See Annex A for local/national contacts.)

Victim Support provides the witness service based in every criminal court in England and Wales, to offer you assistance before, during and after a trial. You can also call the victim support line – 0845 30 30 900 – for information, and details of local services and other relevant organisations.

7. Annex B in Context

When considering the figures presented in Annex B, it should be noted that the figures represent the total number of registered sex offenders and violent offenders in Suffolk as defined by the criteria laid down in the initial guidance of sections 67 and 68 of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000.

Only a small proportion of the total number of violent and sexual offenders are considered to pose a high risk of serious harm to the public and it is these offenders who are referred to,

and managed through, the multi-agency public protection panels. The remaining offenders are monitored through the normal sex offender registration systems and Probation supervision.

Through the introduction of MAPPPs, agencies have revised their risk assessment and management procedures to ensure that only the ‘critical few’ offenders get referred, allowing time and resources to be given to the implementation of a risk management plan. It should be noted that as MAPPPs replaced

existing risk management procedures in Suffolk in December 2001, it is likely that the more effective targeting of high risk offenders will give rise to fewer offenders meeting the referral criteria in the future, making the management of risk a more efficient and effective process.

17 June 2002

Contacts

Suffolk Constabulary	Address	Phone
Detective Chief Inspector (Support) Crime Management Department	Force Headquarters Martlesham Heath Ipswich IP5 3QS	(01473) 613806

Suffolk Probation Area	Address	Phone
Assistant Chief Officer (Public Protection)	Foundation House 34 Foundation Street Ipswich IP4 1SP	(01473) 408130

Suffolk Social Care Services	Address	Phone
County Manager, Immediate Needs	127 Ipswich Street Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 1BB	(01449) 626190

Suffolk Housing Officers Group	Address	Phone
SHOG c/o Barbergh District Council	Corks Lane Hadleigh Suffolk	(01473) 822801

Local Health Partnerships/NHS Trust	Address	Phone
Director of Mental Health (West)	G Block Hospital Road Bury St Edmunds IP33 3NR	(01284) 713000

Suffolk Youth Offending Service	Address	Phone
Locality Manager	Taylor House 160 Norwich Road Ipswich IP1 2PT	(01473) 583570

Suffolk Victim Support Scheme

Phone

Ipswich and District

(01473) 231964

West Suffolk

(01284) 717188

North Suffolk

(01502) 584105

Crown Court Witness Service

(01473) 221656

Further Information

Further information is available on the National Association of Victim Support Schemes website:
www.victimsupport.com

National Helpline

The national helpline for victims provides a service at local call rates on:

0845 30 30 900

This is available:

Mondays to Fridays
Weekends
Bank Holidays

9.00am to 9.00pm
9.00am to 7.00pm
9.00am to 5.00pm

Number of offenders

i. The number of Registered Sex Offenders (RSOs) in the community on 31/03/02 (s68 (2) CJ &CS Act 2000)	230
The number of RSOs per 100,000 population	34
ii. The number of SOs cautioned/ convicted for breaches of registration requirement 01/04/01 – 31/03/02	1
iii. The number of Sex Offenders Orders 01/04/01 – 31/03/02	
(a) total applied for	0
(b) granted	N/A
(c) not granted	N/A
(d) applications still in progress	N/A
iv. The number of violent offenders and other sex offenders 01/04/01 – 31/03/02 (s68 (3)(4)&(5) CJ&CS Act 2000)	154
The number of other offenders 01/04/01 – 31/03/02 (s67 (2) (b) CJ&CS Act 2000)	17

Additional cost of local arrangements

	Probation Board £,000	Police £,000	Other Agencies £,000	Total £,000
Staff costs	32,000	60,500	6,000	98,500
Other costs	20,000	1,600	-	21,600
Total expenditure	52,000	62,100	6,000	120,000
Income	-	-	-	-
Net expenditure including set up costs	52,000	62,100	6,000	120,100