



Edinburgh, the Lothians and Scottish Borders MAPPA Annual Report for 2022/2023

Report by Julie Jessup, Service Manager, Justice and Protection Services

Report for Information

1 Recommendations

Council is requested to note the information in the Edinburgh, the Lothians and Scottish Borders MAPPA Annual Report for 2022/2023.

2 Purpose of Report/Executive Summary

The report advises of the activities undertaken by the agencies across Edinburgh, the Lothians and Scottish Borders who work in partnership as part of Multi - Agency Public Protection Arrangements and statistical information.

Date: 8th March 2024

Report Contact:

Julie Jessup, Service Manager – Justice and Protection Services

julie.jessup@midlothian.gov.uk

3 Background/Main Body of Report

3.1 Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements, more commonly referred to as MAPPA, are a set of partnership working arrangements put in place for the fundamental purpose of public protection and managing the risk of serious harm. MAPPA is not a statutory body, but it is a statutory framework through which the Responsible Authorities discharge their responsibilities to protect the public in a co-ordinated manner.

MAPPA was introduced in Scotland in 2007 by The Management of Offenders etc. (Scotland) Act 2005. This Act also outlines the responsibility of the Strategic Oversight Group (SOG) to provide local leadership across the MAPPA area, to be responsible for performance monitoring and quality assurance and for the submission of the Annual Report.

In 2007 the following categories of individuals were subject to management under MAPPA:

- Registered Sex Offenders (RSOs) – those individuals required to comply with the sex offender notification requirements (SONR)
- Restricted Patients.- patients subject to a compulsion order with restriction order, a hospital direction or a transfer for treatment direction; that is patients who are subject to special restrictions under the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003.

In 2016 the Scottish Government updated the MAPPA Guidance to include a 3rd category:

- Other Risk of Serious Harm Individuals - these are individuals who are not required to comply with the SONR or who are not Restricted Patients; but who by reason of their conviction; are considered by the Responsible Authorities to be persons who may cause serious harm to the public at large.

There are three MAPPA management levels to ensure that resources are focused where they are needed most to reduce the risk of harm. These are:

- Level 1 - routine risk management by the Responsible Authority
- Level 2 - Multi agency risk management
- Level 3 - Multi-agency Public Protection Panels.

Partnership working is a key function within MAPPA and brings together representatives from the Responsible Authorities: Police Scotland, Social Work, Housing, Health and Scottish Prison Service to oversee the practical management of those who have committed a sexual offence, or who are assessed to pose a significant risk of harm to the public.

The 2022/23 report includes a forward completed by Joan Tranent, Chair of the Edinburgh, Lothians and Scottish Borders Strategic Oversight Group which highlights the work undertaken by all agencies to manage individuals who present the highest risk of harm to our communities and the importance of the presence of stabilising factors such as accommodation, access to support networks and being integrated into local communities. The housing of individuals, who have committed sexual offences, is a matter on which some members of the public can have strong opinions. It is important that we work with our communities to raise understanding and awareness of public protection and that public protection is our highest priority.

3.2 Statistical Information

The data within the Annual Report shows that there were 780 Registered Sex Offenders (RSO) managed under MAPPA in 2022/2023. This is a 14% decrease on the previous year. The number of individuals managed under MAPPA is impacted on by a number of factors including the reporting and detection of crime and Court sentencing. The table below shows the figures since 2019/2020.

Number of Registered Sex Offenders managed between:	
1st April 2022 and 31st March 2023	780
1 st April 2021 and 31 st March 2022	912
1 st April 2020 and 31 st March 2021	899
1 st April 2019 and 31 st March 2020	916

The majority of cases continue to be managed at Level 1: 767 (98%) with the remaining 13 individuals being managed at Level 2. There were no cases managed under Category 3 (Other Risk of Harm Offender) in the reporting year.

Reconviction rates: Across the Edinburgh, Lothians and Scottish Borders the reconviction rates for RSOs continues to remain relatively low. In the reporting year 25 individuals were convicted of a further Group 1 (non-sexual violent) crime or Group 2 (Sexual) crime in the reporting year (3%).

Although not contained in the Annual Report I have provided the following figures for Midlothian to provide a local context for individuals managed under MAPPA.

Midlothian	2021	2022	2023
RSOs managed in the community on 31 March	52	55	52
RSO's subject to statutory supervision	18	19	15
RSOs managed at Level 1 in the community on 31 March	51	53	51
RSOs managed at Level 2 in the community on 31 March	1	0	3
RSOs managed at Level 3 in the community on 31 March	0	1	0
RSOs reported for breaches of notification	1	0	1
RSOs convicted of a further group 1 or group 2 crime (1 relates to non-sexual crimes of violence and group 2 relates to sexual crimes.)	1(group 1) 1(group 2)	2 (Group 1)	1 (Group 1)

4 Report Implications (Resource, Digital and Risk)

4.1 Resource

There are no direct resource requirements arising from this report.

4.2 Digital

There are no digital implications related to this paper

4.3 Risk

The MAPPA process makes a significant contribution to the management of risk and the protection of the public in Midlothian.

There are risks associated with the potential for negative media coverage of individuals managed under MAPPA within Midlothian. To mitigate against this there are robust communication and contingency plans out in place in advance of the release of any individual whose case may attract media attention.

4.4 Ensuring Equalities (if required a separate IIA must be completed)

There are no equalities issues arising from this report.

4.4 Additional Report Implications (See Appendix A)

See Appendix A

Appendices:

Appendix A – Additional Report Implications

Appendix B – Edinburgh, the Lothians and Scottish Borders MAPPA Annual Report 2022-23

Appendix C - MAPPA Scotland 2022 – 23 National Overview Report

APPENDIX A – Report Implications

A.1 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

Midlothian will be Safer

A.2 Key Drivers for Change

Key drivers addressed in this report:

- Holistic Working
- Hub and Spoke
- Modern
- Sustainable
- Transformational
- Preventative
- Asset-based
- Continuous Improvement
- One size fits one
- None of the above

A.3 Key Delivery Streams

Key delivery streams addressed in this report:

- One Council Working with you, for you
- Preventative and Sustainable
- Efficient and Modern
- Innovative and Ambitious
- None of the above

A.4 Delivering Best Value

The report does not directly impact on Delivering Best Value

A.5 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

The MAPPA Annual Report is accessible to the public. The Scottish Government also publishes National Overview Report which is included as an appendix.

As part of performance management collaborative feedback is sought from service users to ensure effective service provision and information provided is appropriate and relevant. All service users subject to supervision, as part of a licence or order imposed by the Court, complete an entry and exit questionnaire to support service improvement.

A.6 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

To ensure that the statutory duties of MAPPA are discharged effectively there are two Groups that provide oversight and governance across Edinburgh, the Lothians and Scottish Borders: Strategic Oversight Group and MAPPA Operational Group. Together they have oversight and co-ordination of MAPPA and have a responsibility to share learning, develop best practice and promote consistency.

The East and Midlothian MAPPA Group (EMMG) is a local partnership approach to the management of high-risk offenders in East Lothian and Midlothian and provides strategic direction to local agencies. The EMMG reports to the Public Protection Committee and the Critical Services Oversight Group.

While this is a challenging area of work there is no evidence of concerning practice or delivery of MAPPA in Midlothian. Justice Social Workers are highly skilled and trained in the use of accredited risk assessment tools. In collaboration with other agencies, they formulate risk and from this develop risk management plans to manage and supervise individuals convicted of sexual offences or who have caused significant harm to others.

The Edinburgh, the Lothians and Scottish Borders Strategic Oversight Group has continued to support the development of practice and during this reporting year a number of on-line multi-agency training events were held. This included two events to provide staff with the key information of the learning from Significant Case Reviews, Initial Case Reviews and MAPPA case file audits. The events were attended by staff and managers from all agencies engaged in the management of high-risk offenders.

A.7 Adopting a Preventative Approach

The fundamental purpose of MAPPA is public protection. As one of the key partners the Justice Service focus on early prevention and intervention strategies to reduce the risk of offending behaviour and to ensure that Midlothian is safer. Within legislation there are a number of monitoring interventions and strategies which agencies can use as part of preventative measures. This includes the use of remote electronic monitoring equipment and Sexual Offences Prevention Orders.

A.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

Not applicable

Appendix B – Edinburgh, the Lothians and Scottish Borders MAPPA Annual Report 2022-23



Edinburgh, the
Lothians and Scottish

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