

Edinburgh, the Lothian and Scottish Borders
Strategic Oversight Group
Response to Areas for Development
Thematic Review of MAPPA 2015

AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

- 1. RA's should ensure that all SA07 assessments are current and updated in accordance with national guidance and circulars.**

RESPONSE:

One assessment had not been updated within our CJA area. However, there were unusual circumstances relating to this matter and this was the exception to the rule. Under current arrangements CJSW and Police have robust arrangements in hand for insuring that all risk assessments are current and are updated in accordance with national guidance. We also undertake proactive Level 1 case file audits and all of these arrangements are ongoing.

- 2. We encourage RA's to explore best practice approaches to ensure that staff are that equipped to assess the risks and needs of female sex offenders.**

RESPONSE:

There are very low numbers of female sex offenders. Currently, we have one female sex offender within our area. The group acknowledged that SOLS provide expertise advice should we require it and that given the very low numbers the group agreed that a specific training or general advice to staff would not be necessary. Each case would be considered on the nature of the offender and the risk presented by the individual. It was acknowledged that SOLS do not currently provide a service to the Scottish Borders. Therefore, where expert advice was required this would need to be outsourced by NHS Borders if necessary and proportionate to do so.

- 3. SOGs should ensure that members of staff have the required knowledge and skills to undertake the assessment of the risk posed by young people subject to MAPPA.**

RESPONSE:

The numbers are exceedingly low and there are risk assessment tools in place relative to young persons convicted of sexual offending. Again SOLS provide expert advice should any member of our staff require to undertake an

assessment relative to the risk posed by a young person. Currently SOLS refer staff to the Intervention for Vulnerable Youth (IVY) project. This was introduced by the Centre for Youth and Criminal Justice (CYCJ) to promote best practice in forensic mental health risk assessment and management for young people who present a serious risk of harm to others. IVY is based on awareness that a significant proportion of young people with severe conduct and offending behaviour problems do not have access to services capable of meeting their complex needs. It is a national service, which is funded by the Scottish Government and free for professionals to refer to.

- 4. Whilst overall, MAPPA meetings were well planned and effective we identified a number of areas for development, which, if addressed, could improve the overall efficiency of the process. These are outlined in Ch 2 P 25 and include: attendance, scrutiny of minutes and actions, use of pre-read information and sharing and training.**

RESPONSE:

The group acknowledged that our current arrangements are efficient and effective. There is good use of pre-read information sharing and we have key performance indicators that can monitor attendance, actions and other performance matters relating to MAPPA.

The group did agree that Level 2 minute taking was still an issue in terms of consistency and detail contained within the minutes. All 5 Local Authority areas acknowledged the challenges in ensuring that experienced administration assistants are able to support the MAPPA process. There were challenges both in terms of RMCC/RMP minutes, which feed the Level 2, as well as the minutes for Level 2 meetings. The group agreed it would be beneficial if the MAPPA Co-ordination Unit were able to provide minute takers for all Level 2 meetings.

Currently the MAPPA Unit are not in a position to deliver this service however this will remain under review by the Strategic Oversight Group.

The new minute templates published in the MAPPA Guidance 2016 has assisted in the overall efficiency of the process.

- 5. As a result of the increasing number of Internet related sex offenders becoming subject to MAPPA, early intervention and diversionary approaches aimed at addressing the risk posed by such offenders should be further scoped by RA's in partnership with the Scottish Government.**

RESPONSE:

This work is being led by the Scottish Government in discussion with the RMA but locally the MAPPA Conference in March 2017 will focus on the assessment and management of Internet Offenders.

In 2016 the Edinburgh Offender Management Committee convened a short life-working group to develop and implement a communications strategy focusing on people who are worried about their sexual thoughts towards children/online behaviour and to encourage them to seek support before committing an offence. This group has representation from Police Scotland; Stop it Now, NHS Lothian Serious Offender Liaison Service, City of Edinburgh Council, Community Intervention Services for Sex Offenders, Young People's Service, Media Relations and Education.

On 31 March 2016 a half day MAPPA Conference will take place within the Lecture Theatre, Fettes Police Station, Edinburgh. The aim of this event is to provide criminal justice social workers, offender management officers and other key staff the latest research and advice relative to the assessment of risk and risk management strategies for Internet related sex offenders.

6. SOGs should ensure that MAPPA forms part an integrated public protection strategy.

RESPONSE:

Our local arrangements support an integrated public protection strategy. Since the inception of MAPPA Local Offender Management committees have played a key role in our integrated public protection strategy linking child protection, adult protection and offender management. The group welcomed the introduction of the multi agency reducing re-offending committees, which will enhance our integrated public protection strategy.

7. SOGs and RA's should develop and implement a more structured approach to self-assessment.

RESPONSE:

Each agency has in place arrangements for self-assessment. As a multi agency group we consider case file audits and learning from ICR and SCRs.

8. SOGs should introduce a mechanism, which ensures that staff from RA's are provided with key information regarding the strategic direction of MAPPA and have an opportunity to contribute to organisational development.

RESPONSE:

Each offender management committee is currently considering the recently completed communication and engagement strategy and this should address this area for development.

9. SOGs should explore additional opportunities for the delivery of multi-agency-training

RESPONSE:

This is delivered through local offender management committees but where necessary CJA-wide multi-agency training when identified is delivered. Numerous training events have been held over previous years and all are promoted within our annual report.

10. We found evidence of strong local engagement where co-location of staff responsible for delivery of MAPPA was established, providing an enriched understanding of roles, responsibilities and enhanced partnership working.

RESPONSE:

All agreed that where co-location could be delivered then this strengthened relationships however a lack of co-location in no way reduced the operational effectiveness of MAPPA.

11. It is essential that SOGs review Information Sharing Protocols to ensure that RSL's are clear on their responsibilities and have signed relevant agreements

RESPONSE:

The group agreed that an Edinburgh, Lothians and Scottish Borders information sharing protocol with registered social landlords was not the best way to address this issue. As it stands all areas have a local information sharing protocol with registered social landlords and it was agreed that these should be refreshed in light of this area for development. It was agreed that Housing SOLOs would be best placed in each of the 5 Local Authorities to review their information sharing protocols with Registered Social Landlords. The group agreed that this should be completed by 31 December 2016.

City of Edinburgh Council, Midlothian Council and Scottish Borders Council have all recently reviewed their Information Sharing Protocols with RSL's within their respective council areas and have agreed dates to sign the relevant agreements in the New Year.

East Lothian Council and West Lothian Council have reported this matter is work in progress.

12. Where the NHS had an integrated single point of contact at the SOG for all MAPPA related matters, we saw enhanced information exchange which had a positive impact on risk management planning.

RESPONSE:

It was acknowledged that NHS Lothian have an integrated single point of contact for MAPPA related matters. It was agreed that NHS Borders needed to consider this area for development and NHS Borders undertook to progress this. This action is completed as NHS Borders have appointed a single point of contact for MAPPA.

13. SOGs and NHS should deliver additional introductory level training for health and care staff

RESPONSE:

The group agreed that MAPPA does form part of induction for health staff but at a very basic level and there is information on NHS websites. The group agreed that it was more important to have a NHS SOLO in place than provide additional training to health staff generally. As long as NHS staff understand and are directed to the single point of contact for their organisation this will better serve than individual training, which may never then be used.

It was agreed that the MAPPA awareness training sessions that are undertaken across the 5 Local Authorities are beneficial and offer health staff a better understanding of the work undertaken to manage RSOs.

14. Health Boards should ensure that there is an appropriate long term arrangement in place to maintain compliance with VISOR standards.

RESPONSE:

This is a matter primarily for the Scottish Government mental health division and relates to the creation of VISOR nominals relative to restricted patients.

15. The SPS should monitor and maintain the continued improvement in the use of VISOR

RESPONSE:

SPS have increased their VISOR terminals from 1 to 3 within their headquarters and they will continue to improve their use of VISOR.

16. RA's in partnership with the SG should provide opportunities to raise awareness of the release processes, including the role of the Parole Board, in order to enhance planning and mitigate risk for those released in communities.

RESPONSE:

The group agreed that this was a matter for the Scottish Government to discuss with the Parole Board rather than each Local Authority seeking to raise this issue.

17. The process of engagement with victim support services could be further improved through involvement with SOG Chairs at a national level

The group agreed this was a matter for the National Strategic Group who should invite a senior representative of victim support to join this national group.

Local Community Planning Partnerships will have representation from victim support services.

Agreed by SOG on 08.03.16 with a review date by 31.12.16

Reviewed by MAPPA Operational Group on 23.11.16

Reviewed and ratified by SOG on 06.12.16