

**Children's Services Scrutiny Committee**  
**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2008**

---

**Wiltshire & Swindon Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements  
(MAPPA)**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. This report has been requested by Sarah Webb Head of Safeguarding and addresses the continuing development of the relationship between Wiltshire County Council Children's Services and the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) within Wiltshire.

**Action Required of the Scrutiny Committee**

2. To discuss the involvement of this council's children and families services in the strategic and operational work of MAPPA through allocation of staff time and expertise, practical resources and finance.

**Background**

3. Each of the police and probation areas now has MAPPA. These are multi-agency arrangements which enable locally based assessment, conferencing and management of offenders who have committed dangerous, violent or sexual offences.

Within Wiltshire and Swindon these arrangements have been running since the Sex Offences Act of 1997 required closer working between the Criminal Justice and Court Services. The arrangements now operating are based on further developments required by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and the Sexual Offences Act 2003. These run alongside the established arrangements for children and vulnerable adults.

The emphasis in MAPPA is to assess and manage the offender to reduce the risk they present to the community at large as well as in some occasions, to known individuals or staff working with them.

**MAPPA and Wiltshire County Council Children and Families**

4. The Police, Probation and Prison Service are the three "Responsible Authority" agencies involved in MAPPA. The other involved partners are defined as "Duty to Co-operate Agencies". On practical case management level all agencies work together to share information and assessments, decide on the risks individuals pose, meet to share plans and review actions. A list of all partners involved is listed below.

Wiltshire Constabulary Wiltshire Probation Area HM Prison Service Swindon Social Services Department: Wiltshire County Council: Children and Families Dept Wiltshire County Council: Education Dept Wiltshire Primary Care Trusts Avon and Wiltshire Partnership Trust: Mental Health	Swindon Borough Council: Housing Salisbury District Council: Housing Kennet District Council: Housing West Wiltshire District Council: Housing North Wiltshire District Council: Housing Other Registered Social Landlords and Housing Associations Wiltshire Youth Offending Team Swindon Youth Offending Team
---	--

As a Duty to Co-operate Agency it is expected that Wiltshire County Council Children and Families Department play a full part in both the strategic and operational work of MAPPA.

On a strategic level Sarah Webb represents both her department and jointly with Swindon Borough Council's relevant representative will have a view of children related interests in the development of the MAPPA. There are other representatives of Wiltshire County Council involved with the management and organisation of MAPPA in Wiltshire including the lead manager for Community Safety partnerships and the Head of Wiltshire Youth Offending Service

The management of the MAPPA system has a structure of sub-groups to work on the tactical and operational development of MAPPA reporting to the upper strategic structure. These cover: Finance, Quality Assurance & Performance, Serious Case Reviews & Preventative Planning, Media & Communications. Wiltshire County Council Children and Families Department are expected to be full participants in both the Management Board and in the Quality Assurance and Serious Case Review sub-groups with attendance at others as requested.

On an operational level there has been a difference in the way in which the two parts of the Wiltshire and Swindon MAPPA have operated. In Swindon a regular panel system has operated with participation from core members from Police, Probation, housing, Mental Health and Children's Services. In Wiltshire the core is only Police, Probation and Housing with Children & Families, Mental Health and other agencies attending when they have an active case connection with the subject for discussion. While this has not normally caused operational problems it can have the effect of sometimes needing to recall a case or re-refer to gain the attendance of an agency when discussion reveals a need for involvement.

Systems and forms are currently being developed to improve pre-meeting information sharing which should reduce the likelihood of surprises in meetings and will better enable agencies to decide if they need to attend and provide information when they cannot.

All agencies within Wiltshire and Swindon have a very good record of full participation within meetings with full, effective and professional contributions to the overall aim of protecting public from harm.

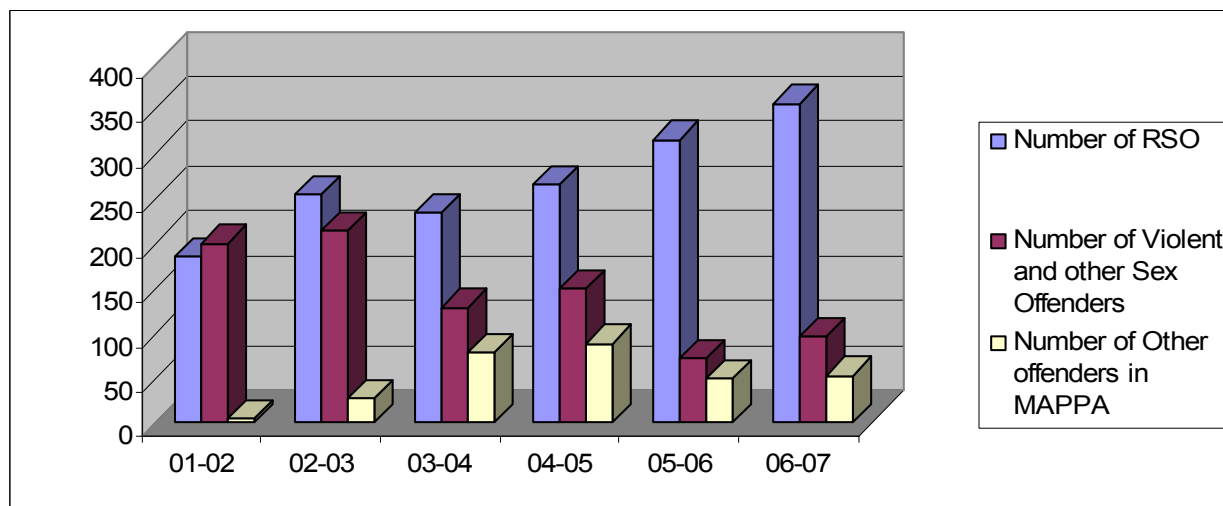
The systems now operating do so in conjunction with other relevant structures including Safeguarding Children, the Vulnerable Adults structures the recently developed Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC meetings) which focus on the Victims of Domestic Violence and the Care Programme Approach used by Mental Health Services

## **Numbers**

5. The MAPPA system as a whole covers Registered Sex Offenders (Category 1 Cases), Violent Offenders subject to supervision on release from prison (Category 2) and Dangerous Offenders who are convicted offenders who are not in the other two categories and have been referred into the system by an agency in order to share assessments and jointly plan to manage the risks identified.

The last publishable figures for Wiltshire and Swindon are as follows;

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
<b>Number of Registered Sex Offenders</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>356</b>
<b>Number of Violent and other Sex Offenders</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>Number of Other offenders in MAPPA</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>506</b>



<b>Number of Registered Sex Offenders By Basic Command Unit</b>	<b>Unit Number</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>RSO per 100K</b>
<b>“A” Division constituted by Kennet &amp; Salisbury District Council Areas</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>189,000</b>	<b>44.4</b>
<b>“C” Division constituted by North and West Wiltshire District Council Areas</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>243,000</b>	<b>56.4</b>
<b>“D” Division constituted by Swindon Borough Council Area</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>180,000</b>	<b>75</b>

## 6. Cases Considered in MAPPA Meetings

<b>Level 2 MAPPA cases</b>							
	<b>02-03</b>	<b>03-04</b>	<b>04-05</b>	<b>05-06</b>	<b>06-07</b>	<b>Diff</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Number of RSOs</b>	N/A	N/A	<b>36</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>+11</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>Number of V&amp;OS</b>	N/A	N/A	<b>33</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>+6</b>	<b>17%</b>
<b>Number of Other</b>	N/A	N/A	<b>20</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>Level 3 MAPPP Offenders</b>							
	<b>2001-02</b>	<b>2002-03</b>	<b>2003-04</b>	<b>2004-05</b>	<b>2005-06</b>	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Number of RSOs</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>Number of V&amp;OS</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>+2</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>Number of Other</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>+1</b>	<b>n/a</b>

## **Financial Implications**

7. Currently Wiltshire County Council does not have any direct regular contribution to the MAPPA costs for staffing or administration although Sarah Webb has authorised contributions to assist in producing the Annual Report. This is currently £1000 to assist in the production of the Annual Report, copies of which will be available to the Committee.

MAPPA in Wiltshire is seeking to find financial resources to secure the employment of a second Administrator who is central to the delivery of sound administration monitoring achievement of one of the LAA National Indicator 31, reduction in "Re-offending Rate of Registered Sex Offenders" which is central to MAPPA work.

## **Risk Assessment**

8. The current contribution to MAPPA by Wiltshire County Council Children and Families is satisfactory strategically and operationally. In common with other key agencies the resource implications of providing management representation on all meetings has been identified as a pressure and presents a continuing challenge to operational effectiveness. The risk borne by the agencies is therefore that information relevant to their operations may not be heard in a meeting that this could have prompted actions. This is probably a low likely hood of occurrence but is to be taken in the context of high risk cases being discussed.

The developments of more pre-meeting information sharing will assist in reducing the likelihood of child protection issues not being covered appropriately in the MAPPA processes.

## **Conclusion**

9. This report is presented for consideration by the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee for information. The strategic, financial and practical support of Wiltshire County Council Children Families Department is welcomed by the other agencies working within the MAPPA system and it is anticipated that it will have a continuing important role to play as MAPPA continues to develop.

---

**CAROLYN GODFREY**  
**DIRECTOR – DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN & EDUCATION**

**Report / Contact Officers:**  
**Sarah Webb, Head of Safeguarding, Wiltshire County Council and**  
**Alan Hemming**  
**MAPPA Co-ordinator (Wiltshire)**