

**Lancashire Area Responsible Authority**  
Managing Dangerous Violent and Sexual Offenders In Lancashire  
Annual Report 2002-3





# Contacts

## Lancashire Probation area

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	Address	Phone
Colin Dearden, Deputy Chief Officer colin.dearden@lancashire.probation.gsx.gov.uk	99/101 Garstang Rd PRESTON PR1 1LD	01772 201 209
Anne Matthews, Communications Officer anne.matthews.@lancashire.probation.gsx.uk	99/101 Garstang Rd PRESTON PR1 1LD	01772 201 209

## Lancashire Constabulary

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Superintendent Gary Stephenson Gary.stephenson@lancashire.pnn.police.uk	Lancs Constabulary HQ Hutton PRESTON PR4 SB	01772 412416
Peter Lovett-Horn Senior Press Officer peter.lovett-horn@lancashire.pnn.police.uk	Lancs Constabulary HQ Hutton PRESTON PR4 SB	01772 412658



# Managing dangerous violent and sexual offenders

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# 1 Foreword

*By Paul Goggins, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Community and Custodial provision in the Home Office*

As the recently appointed Minister with responsibility for the MAPPA, I am pleased to introduce this, the second, annual MAPPA report. It is clear that in the last year (2002/3) the multi-agency public protection arrangements (the MAPPA) continued to play an important role in what remains one of this government's highest priorities – the protection of the public from dangerous offenders.

As someone with many years experience of working in the field of child protection, I am particularly impressed by the important contribution the MAPPA are making to strengthen collaboration between agencies at a local level where the focus is on the dangerous offender. These improvements must, however, impact on the protection of children. As the tragic death of Victoria Climbié showed, an effective multi-agency partnership is crucial and the MAPPA are an important element.

To ensure greater consistency in the MAPPA across the 42 Areas of England and Wales, and to prepare for the implementation of measures contained in the Criminal Justice Bill, we published the MAPPA Guidance in April. Building on good practice, that Guidance clarified the structure of the operational arrangements as well as the importance of formal review and monitoring – of which this annual report is a vital part. The Criminal Justice Bill will strengthen the MAPPA in two ways. First, it will make the involvement of other agencies part of the statutory framework. Second, it will introduce the involvement of lay people – those unconnected with day-to-day operation of the MAPPA – in reviewing and monitoring the MAPPA. Annual reports and this new lay involvement show the Government's commitment to explaining how the often sensitive and complex work of public protection is undertaken.

The Government is also strengthening the protection of the public with other measures in the Criminal Justice Bill. They include new sentences for dangerous offenders to prevent their release if they continue to be dangerous. Additionally, the Sexual Offences Bill will tighten up sex offender registration, introduce a new offence of 'grooming', and enable sex offender orders to be imposed on violent offenders who pose a risk of causing serious sexual harm – thereby extending sex offender registration to them.

I commend this report to you and congratulate all the agencies and individuals who have contributed to the achievement of the MAPPA locally in your local Area.



Paul Goggins

## 2 The National Picture

This section of the report draws attention to wider context of the operation and development of the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (the MAPPAs).

The most important work undertaken within the MAPPAs is done locally, led by the police and probation – who act jointly as the ‘Responsible Authority’ in your Area – and in each of the 42 Areas of England and Wales. The experience and good practice upon which this work is based began in the 1990s – most significantly as a result of the closer working relationship required by the Sex Offender Act (1997). The Criminal Justice and Courts Services Act (2000) formalised that relationship and built on the existing experience by requiring the police and probation services to establish arrangements (the MAPPAs) for assessing and managing the risks posed by sexual and violent offenders. The Act also required the Responsible Authority to publish an annual report on the operation of those arrangements. This report, covering April 2002 to March 2003, is the second annual report.

### The importance of partnership

Key to the development of the MAPPAs in the past year has been the closer involvement of other agencies, such as housing, health and social services, working alongside police and probation. The truly multi-agency nature of the MAPPAs and the collaboration which underpins it is to be strengthened further by the Criminal Justice Bill. The Bill will place a ‘duty to co-operate’ on a wide range of organisations including local health authorities and trusts; housing authorities and registered social landlords; social services departments; Jobcentres; Youth Offending Teams; and local education authorities. In addition, the Prison Service will join the police and probation services and become part of the MAPPAs ‘Responsible Authority’.

Supporting and co-ordinating the development of the MAPPAs throughout the 42 Areas of England and Wales, is the National Probation Directorate’s Public Protection Unit (PPU). This Unit acts as a central point for advice and, increasingly, involvement in the management of difficult cases. These include, for example, UK citizens who have committed serious offences abroad and return to this country without anywhere to live. The Unit is also able to provide financial support when the risk management plans make exceptional demands upon local resources.

### Involving the public

MAPPAs developments in the next 18 months will also include the appointment by the Home Secretary of two ‘lay advisers’ to each Area. The eight Areas of England and Wales which have been piloting these arrangements since January (Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Durham, South Wales, Dorset, Hampshire, Surrey and West Midlands) report that they add real value. Lay advisers will contribute to the review and monitoring of the MAPPAs which is undertaken by each Area’s Strategic Management Board – the work of which you can read more in this report.

The purpose of appointing ‘lay advisers’ is to ensure that communities understand more of what is done to protect them and that those involved professionally with the MAPPAs are aware of the views of the community. The lay advisers will not ‘represent’ the community in the way, for example, that local councillors do, nor will they be involved in operational decision-making.

And, given the sensitivity of much of what the MAPPAs do, especially with the few offenders who pose a very high risk of serious harm to the public, it is not practicable for the general public to be involved. Lay advisers will, however, ensure an appropriate and a practical level of community involvement.

### **MAPPA Offenders**

This year the annual report provides a more detailed breakdown of the number of sexual and violent offenders who are covered by the MAPPAs in your Area. As last year, the figures include the number of registered sex offenders. Because sex offender registration is for a minimum of 5 years (and generally for much longer) the figures are cumulative. This is why they have increased – by 16 per cent in England and Wales. Only a very small proportion (about six per cent throughout England and Wales) are considered to pose such a high risk or management difficulty that they are referred to the highest level of the MAPPAs – the Multi-Agency Public Protection Panels (the MAPPPs).

Figures alone do not, of course, tell the whole story. The anonymised case studies illustrate the practical work of the MAPPAs, and demonstrate the preventive action which can be taken. Prior to the MAPPAs, action of this kind was mainly taken by one agency alone, with the effect that on occasion offenders' behaviour which might have triggered preventative action went unnoticed. The multi-agency approach of the MAPPAs helps ensure that if an offender does breach the condition of the licence under which they were released from prison or a court order prohibiting certain activities, then action to enforce the condition or order and protect the public can be taken more swiftly.

If you are interested in reading the reports of other Areas, they will be published on the National Probation Service's website [www.probation.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.probation.homeoffice.gov.uk) (under the public protection section) with all of them being available once the last Area has published its annual report in September.

### 3 Area Summary

The Lancashire Constabulary and National Probation Service Lancashire, are the "Responsible Authority" for Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements in Lancashire. This report is the joint report of both Police and Probation. The arrangements cover all offenders who reside in Lancashire, or who will be released at the end of their sentence to Lancashire and who have been sentenced to 12 months or more imprisonment for a violent or sexual offence, or any other offender considered to be a potential danger to the public.

In Lancashire, joint arrangements between Police and Probation commenced in response to a 1996 inspection on the management of dangerous offenders. By the time of the 1997 Sex Offender Act, arrangements were well developed for the joint assessment of sex offenders required to register, and for the assessment and management of violent offenders. A formal protocol for joint High Risk Strategy meetings was agreed, and shortly afterwards a joint media protocol. Involvement of other agencies, where appropriate, in these strategy meetings led to increased confidence in sharing relevant information.

A senior probation officer was appointed in 2000 to manage risk registration and information sharing with the police. The SPO is located for part of the week at Police headquarters and has access to the sex offender register held by the police, and the Probation Service risk database.

In 2001, these arrangements became statutory in response to the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000. Multi-Agency Public Protection Panels were established. A protocol for the assessment and management of sexual and potentially dangerous offenders was agreed between the Police and Probation and publicly launched. Statements of commitment to the protocol have been signed by a range of other agencies. The MAPPP Strategic management Board was established in Jan 2002, to involve a range of agencies in the strategic management of the arrangements.

Public Protection is the primary aim of the arrangements. Sexual and violent offenders create anxiety among the public and cause considerable harm and trauma to their victims. However sexual and violent offences cover a wide range of activity and offence seriousness. Offenders can be of all ages, and social groups, and may be women as well as men. Many are previously known to their victims. The majority will serve a determinate sentence, and be released on licence into the community, where they must lead law abiding lives. Therefore public protection work also takes account of human rights legislation and rights to privacy, provided that they aren't compromising the rights of others to a safe life and environment

The key to a robust management of the risk posed by these offenders is good risk assessment. Both Police and Probation use structured assessment techniques

which have been developed and tested over some years (Offender Assessment System and Thornton Risk Matrix 2000). Following good assessment, Courts are advised on sentencing, and the Parole Board is advised on release plans. Sex Offenders are required to register on the Sex Offender Register. Those released from prison are required to spend a period on licence. Good supervision of people on licence or on the sex offender register is based on enforcing a range of conditions which can be put into licences as well as building on work begun in the prisons to stop reoffending. Where required controls can be reinforced with electronic tagging. Joint work among a number of agencies is essential to impose a range of effective controls combined with effective support, such as housing, social services, police, and Probation.

Within a framework of these strict controls, the Probation Service, Prison service, and other agencies, provide comprehensive programmes, which constructively work with the offender to increase their understanding of their own behaviour, develop internal controls and reduce risk: these include sex offender programmes and follow up relapse prevention courses, domestic violence programmes, and offending behaviour programmes. During the year there has been significant development of the accreditation of these programmes, which include monitoring and improving their effectiveness.

## 4 Summary of Roles and Responsibilities

The Police and Probation Service in Lancashire have statutory responsibility for the arrangements for managing potentially dangerous offenders. A protocol was signed at a public launch, on August 31st 2001, attended by a broad range of relevant agencies, who were asked to sign a statement of commitment, and to identify their specific contribution to Multi Agency Public Protection arrangements.

The following agencies have signed:

- Youth Offending Teams
- NHS Trusts and Primary Care Trusts
- Lancashire County Council Social Services Directorate, and Education Directorate
- Blackpool Unitary Authority – Housing and Social Services Department
- Blackburn with Darwen Unitary Authority, Social Services dept
- Employment Service district office
- NHS NW Secure Commissioning Team
- Lancashire Police
- National Probation Service – Lancashire
- Borough Councils – Housing Departments (All district councils and unitary authorities have signed a protocol with the Probation Service for the accommodation of potentially dangerous offenders)
- Prisons
- NSPCC
- Victim Support Lancashire

All the agencies have a primary concern for public and child protection.

In exercising this duty, the role of local agencies in relation to joint management of sex offenders and

potentially dangerous offenders is as follows:

*Police and Probation* - assessment and management of the risk posed by offenders, using statutory powers where appropriate to return offenders to prison or bring them before a court.

*NSPCC* : Protection of children. NSPCC in Lancashire work in partnership with the Probation Service to assess risk posed to children by sex offenders in the community. The NSPCC works with the Social Services to assess risk and contribute to protective measures where there may be a risk to children in specific families.

*Health Services*: Treatment of mentally disordered and learning disabled offenders, to reduce the risk of offending – using statutory powers where appropriate to place mentally ill offenders in secure accommodation. Health Services also provide drugs assessment and treatment. Health Services work to strict guidelines on patient confidentiality and the protocols on information sharing

*Housing Departments*: Duties include provision of accommodation for vulnerable and homeless people. In Lancashire protocols have been signed with probation for accommodation to be provided in locations appropriate for the risk assessed by the Probation Service.

*Employment Service*: Employers have a duty to check Criminal Records for applications to certain posts. Employment Service can advise on this. The Probation Service in Lancashire will notify the Employment Service of risks posed

by individuals through the Multi Agency Public Protection Panel process.

*Her Majesty's Prison Service*. Contributes to the protection of the public, by keeping in custody those offenders committed by the courts and working to reduce the risk they pose. It does this through a range of interventions aimed at addressing offending behaviour including sex offender treatment programmes, cognitive skills programmes and substance misuse work, as well as a wide array of resettlement activities related to accommodation, employment and education. The Prison Service contributes to the case management of dangerous offenders, by identifying and addressing concerns during custody (and prior to release), and contributing to the setting of licence conditions post release.

*Social Services Directorates*. Social Services have a primary responsibility for the protection of children. Their role is assessment of children who might be in need of care and support, and provision of appropriate care and safety.

*Youth Offending Teams*: are multi agency teams of Police, Probation, Social Services, Education and Health staff who work as an integrated team to prevent juvenile crime and reoffending by young offenders (under 18). Locally, Youth Offending Teams have recently finalised a strategy for work with high risk young offenders.

*Local Authority Education Dept.* Advice to schools about child protection, and education of children in safety procedures

*Victim Support.* To provide emotional support, help and information to any victim of crime who requests the service. To offer a victims' perspective to the work of MAPPA

In addition multi agency steering groups for Mentally Disordered

Offenders oversee arrangements for assessment and management of mentally disordered offenders, and multi agency Area Child Protection Committees, for child protection in Lancashire. Area Child Protection Committees have been active in promoting public education and child

safety and programmes with parents and schools. The MAPPA Strategic Management Board has very close links with the 3 Area Child Protection Committees in Lancashire, and there is considerable joint membership.

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## 5 The Operation of MAPPA

The Probation Service routinely assesses the risk posed by any offender for whom it has a statutory duty, using structured assessment. All offenders who receive 12 months or more imprisonment, are released on a licence supervised by the Probation Service. Following a risk assessment, the prison may be asked to include a number of conditions in the licence. Any breach of any condition will result in the Probation Service alerting the sentence enforcement unit, who may issue a warrant for the police to arrest the offender, and return him to prison.

The police routinely assess the risk posed by any offender on the Sex Offender Register also using structured assessment. Any identified risk is then managed jointly with Probation (while a licence is in force) and then by the police. However if either agency, or any other agency, assesses that the potential risks are too great for these normal arrangements, they can make a referral for a Multi Agency Public Protection Panel. Members of the public who have a concern should contact their local probation office or police station.

The referral is considered jointly by police and probation, working together at police HQ

If the criteria for a Panel do not appear to be met, further information will be sought, and advice given about other avenues for information sharing or to obtain a desired outcome.

If criteria are met the Probation Service arrange a meeting with the Police as quickly as possible. Initial meetings are scheduled regularly and are chaired by Assistant Chief Officers (Probation). Review meetings are chaired by the Senior Probation Officer (risk). Police attend all meetings and other agencies who have a current or potential interest in a case attend as appropriate. Minutes of the meetings are accessible electronically at both Probation and Police HQ. Multi Agency Public Protection Panels consider all potential risk information, including any previous history of violence or sexual behaviour or threats, and factors likely to increase risk, such as alcohol or drugs misuse. The Panel also considers the known triggers for violence, and who is most likely to be at risk. The current situation and any previously agreed action is reviewed and an action plan agreed. Normally the action plan will be multi-agency and include any appropriate intervention and restrictions, such as statutory or

voluntary controls on behaviour, attendance at offending behaviour programmes (e.g. Sex Offender Programme, Domestic Violence Programme), drugs treatment, mental health treatment and appropriate accommodation. The Multi Agency Public Protection Panel will consider any resource implications, disclosure issues and media strategy arising from the action plan. The protocol contains a confidentiality statement which is read out at the beginning of each meeting.

In most cases offenders are subject to prison licence or a court order, and if necessary additional conditions can be inserted into the licence or order. Court orders and prison licences and their requirements are rigorously enforced by the Probation Service and any breach of requirements results in a probation report to the court or Home Office, with the probability of immediate recall to prison (if on licence) or court sanction. If they are not on any order, then the Panel may recommend that an order be sought from the court, such as a sex offender order. Although there have been some breaches of licence condition resulting in a return to prison, further offending while subject to Multi Agency Public Protection Controls, has been

effectively prevented.

Any case deemed to meet the criteria of dangerousness, by the Multi Agency Public Protection Panel is placed on a public protection register, which is held by Police and Probation Service. This case is then reviewed regularly, until it is determined that there is no imminent risk, when the case is placed in an archived list.

Any sex offender subject to a Sex Offender Order remains on the Public Protection Register until the end of the order.

In addition to these controls, a management plan will usually include working with the offender to reduce the likelihood of reoffending: in particular attendance at a sex offender treatment programme (often in addition to one attended in prison) or an offending behaviour programme, which have been accredited and demonstrated to be effective.

Lancashire Constabulary is committed to the active management of dangerous offenders and this is reflected by the appointment of High Risk Offender Officers who have a dedicated role within each of the six geographical divisions.

There are also officers based at police headquarters who take a higher level view of sex offenders across the county and carry out work to identify serious sex offenders who network with others and who travel across divisional, force or international borders. Divisional High Risk Offender Officers interview sex offenders when they report to a police station to comply with their initial registration requirements. This interview is followed by a home visit when a comprehensive risk assessment is undertaken and a multi-agency

approach is implemented to manage that offender in the community in line with the assessed risks.

The main emphasis of the work is aimed at protection of the public and if any intelligence indicates that an offender is a threat to the public then a proactive response will be initiated, involving other agencies as appropriate, in order to reduce or eliminate the identified risk. It has been recognised that the majority of offenders are compliant with the legislation and action plan for their management and a substantial amount of work undertaken by the High Risk Offender Officers is aimed at preventing the person re-offending.

Sex Offender Orders and Anti Social Behaviour Orders, are regularly used by officers as these are seen as being effective in the prevention of further offences.

#### *Managing Risk: The process*

- 1) Presentence Report  
Specialist assessment. Includes information from victim statements.
- 2) Sentence.  
Prison Sentence, up to Life. May include restraining order or extended supervision on release. Community sentence (for less serious offence) will include conditions and programmes
- 3) During Prison:  
Accredited programmes, including Sex Offender programme.  
Re assess Risk. parole if appropriate  
MAPPP at least 3 months before release

#### 4) After Release.

Licence conditions and further treatment by Probation  
Police monitoring if sex offender  
Additional resources needed, or high risk: MAPP Panel manages case  
Any concerns re behaviour :  
apply for recall or sex offender order

Throughout: inform victims.  
Disclosure to others if necessary to protect public

#### *Disclosure*

Information about key dates during a dangerous offenders sentence is always disclosed to the victim of the offence, by the Probation Service Victim Liaison Officer. The Victim is also consulted about release plans. Where public safety would be increased by disclosing information about the offender to someone else not attending the meeting, or not already involved in the case, the Multi Agency Public Protection Panel will recommend it. The Police have the power to disclose to third parties, without the offenders consent, on the authority of the Assistant Chief Constable (or higher grade). This is however a last resort, and the offenders consent is sought and to date has been obtained.

Examples of disclosure in Lancashire are to:

- Accommodation providers (Housing Departments, and Private Landlords)
- Head Teachers
- Employers and Employment agencies
- Social Service Departments
- Partners of the Offender

## Case Studies

### 1) Normal Agency Management.

A is a professional man in his forties, with no previous convictions. He was convicted of 4 indecent assaults against children who he had accessed through his work. He was sentenced to 4 years imprisonment and placed on the sex offender register. He was assessed at the time of being high risk of reconviction, as he clearly had sexual preferences for under age girls.

While in prison he attended the Sex Offender Treatment Programme, which is run jointly by prison officers, probation officers and psychologists, at the end of which the risk was assessed as being substantially reduced. Following detailed reports, and assessments he was released on parole in early 2002.

While he had been in prison, probation staff had contact with the victims' parents, and in accordance with their requests ensured that licence conditions included a prohibition on travelling to their area, or any form of communication with them. He was required to reside at a Lancashire Hostel, where his behaviour and attitudes could be continually monitored, and where he was required to attend further Sex Offender Treatment sessions. His licence also prohibited contact with any children, and if he had done so, then probation staff would have informed the Home Office, who would have returned him to prison. Near the expiry of his licence, probation

staff assisted him to find his own accommodation, and housing officials who were fully informed allocated a property approved by the police, where he would not have access to children, and social services informed of his address.

Although the licence has now expired, he still receives visits from the police who monitor his adherence to sex offender registration requirements. Although there are no particular concerns now about his likelihood of reoffending, he will continue to be monitored by the police to ensure there is no relapse.

### 2) A MAPP Panel case. Joint work, including the offender. Disclosure to potential victims

B is a woman in her mid forties, sentenced to 4 years imprisonment for assault on her stepfather. Sexually abused as a child, she had had years of mental health problems, exacerbated by illegal drug use. She made numerous death threats against herself, her parents, and social workers. She was transferred from prison to a medium secure mental health unit. Because she remained very unstable, she did not get parole. When her prison sentence came to an end, she was due to come out of the medium secure unit on licence: it was felt unlikely that there would be grounds to detain her compulsorily under the mental health act. However Police and Probation felt they needed additional professional help to protect the public, in particular

named threatened individuals, and called a MAPPP, attended by Social Services and Health.

A compromise was reached with B that she would remain at the mental health unit for a further year, as a voluntary patient, but with a requirement in her licence that she would cooperate with psychiatric treatment. All the people who had been previously involved with her, and who might be at risk were notified of her position, and enabled to contact police immediately if concerned.

Unfortunately after some months B did absent herself from the unit, and was immediately arrested and returned to prison. However considerable progress had been made on counselling her for her sexual and drug abuse, and there is a high probability of successful release in the near future.

### 3) MAPPP Case. Joint work combining control and constructive supervision

C was nearing the end of a short prison sentence. He was heard by prison staff making explicit threats against his girlfriend, and because he had a record of violence, a MAPPP was convened. It was decided that as his sentence was too short for a licence period, he should be prosecuted. After some analysis with him of the circumstances, he pleaded guilty at the Crown court, and was placed on a Community Rehabilitation Order, during which requirements were imposed to have no contact with her, and for

the first time in his life, intensive work was done with him about his aggression and violence, and attitudes towards women. He was a man who was capable of and motivated towards changing his behaviour, and his potential for violence has now been significantly reduced. Nevertheless he will remain for 3 years under supervision on the CRO, to ensure that he does not relapse.

#### 4) When controls are essential

D is a man in his 50s with a record of sexual assaults on young females. During his licence from prison, he had breached his licence and had been recalled. At the point of his next release a MAPPP was called. He was assessed as still posing a considerable risk to young females, but this time it was feared that to avoid close supervision he might “disappear” as soon as he was released. A condition was put in his licence that he must reside at a certain address, well away from the area of his previous offending. He was

moved to a prison near to his release address, and because of the concerns about going “underground” surveillance was set up to monitor his movements on release. Therefore as soon as he went to another place instead of his release address, he was again arrested and returned to prison

#### 5) A Successful Community Order

E (in his mid 20s) was placed on a 3 year Community Rehabilitation Order in 2000, for offences of indecent assault on a 15 year old girl. The victim was a close neighbour and friend of the family. E was diagnosed as suffering from mental illness including depression.

A MAPPP was convened before sentence to determine a multi agency action plan, and met regularly throughout the order to review progress of the order. The victim's parents were consulted throughout. The CRO contained conditions that he should reside in another area, and could only

return to visit his parents (on whom he depended to a considerable extent) under supervision.

Throughout the order there was constant joint work by probation and police with NSPCC to provide a sex offender treatment programme, with hostels and housing associations to provide supported accommodation with gradually increasing independence, with health service to provide treatment for his condition, with psychologists to assess his progress, and above all with his own parents and the victim's parents to ensure that supervision took full account of victim and offender needs. Although there were a number of difficult decisions because of the offender's unsettled state of mind, the officer could always be in touch with the situation and rely on quick responses from other agencies. By the end of the order the offender had come to a good understanding of his behaviour, with a very good prediction of future behaviour.

## 6 Strategic Management Arrangements

A Strategic Management Board has been established. This group comprises representation at a senior management level from:

- Police
- Probation
- Housing and Social Services Directorates
- YOTs
- Prison
- Health
- NSPCC
- Education
- Victim Support

The objective of the group is to provide strategic management oversight with a perspective from each of the key agencies – not to provide geographical representation from all the agencies who have signed a statement of commitment to the protocol. This model will be reviewed in 12 months.

*What the Strategic management Board does:*

- Monitor and review the effectiveness of the joint arrangements
- Develop and agree systems for sharing information
- Establish and agree systems to ensure that only those few offenders who represent a serious risk of harm are referred to the multi agency protection panel

- Consider training needs and resource implications
- Consider communication issues in relation to local communities and media
- Prepare and publish an annual report

The Board receives monitoring information half yearly, which is also shared with Area Child Protection Committees.

The board although nationally new in its formation, has already made progress in the areas of sharing information between agencies. The board has also been instrumental in communicating to a much wider audience, the valued contribution MAPPPs make to public protection.

It is likely that in the future the board will consist of a number of lay members, representing the wider community.

*Key issues dealt with by the SMB during the year:*

- Information sharing protocol: progress has been made in establishing a multi agency information sharing protocol, in common with Area Child Protection Committees
- An in principle agreement with ACPC for joint Training
- Arrangements with Social Services Departments to notify them of any offender against a

- child, residing in their area
- Prison Service involvement integrated by appointment of regional risk coordinator sitting on the Strategic management Boards
- Communications Strategy drafted
- Induction/Briefing for SMB members, including attendance at MAPP Panel meetings

Regional Strategic Arrangements.

In the NW Region, police, probation and prisons have modelled shared responsibility at a strategic level, regionally.

Senior managers from all three agencies meet regularly to look at the strategic implications and development arrangements to ensure consistent implementation of national policy and guidance across the region.

This work has culminated in an annual seminar attended by SMB members and representatives of other agencies, to emphasise responsibility for assessing and managing risk presented by potentially dangerous offenders. These seminars update delegates on national issues, and provide an opportunity to share best practice at a regional level.

## 7 Work with Victims

Victim Support is a 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 to victims, witnesses, their families and friends.

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

The Probation Service in Lancashire contacts victims of serious violent or sexual crimes, in accordance with the requirements of section 69 of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act. Contact is made by specialist victim liaison officers, employed by the Probation Service, but not responsible for the supervision of the offender. A victims administration co-ordinator receives information about all offenders who have been sentenced to 12 months or more for a violent or sexual offence. With police assistance the victims' names and addresses are identified and contacted by the victim liaison officer. Victims are approached

sensitively and informed that if they wish, they may be informed of key events during the offenders sentence. In addition victims may make representations about release conditions, such as where the offender will or will not live, and whom the offender should be prohibited from contacting.

Victims' concerns are taken into account by MAPP panels, when assessing and managing risk, either reported by Victim liaison officers, represented by Victim Support, or by personal attendance at meetings.

## 8 Statistical Information for MAPPA Annual Report 2002/3

	No. of Offenders
i. The number of registered sex offenders on 31st March 2003 (note 1)	637
ii. The number of sex offenders having a registration requirement who were either cautioned or convicted for breaches of the requirement, between 1st April 2002 and 31st March 2003	2
iii. The number of Sex Offender Orders applied for and gained between 1st April 2002 and 31st March 2003	
a) The total number of Sex Offender Orders applied for	5
b) The total number granted	4
c) The total number not granted	1
iv. The number of Restraining Orders issued by the courts between 1st April 2002 and 31st March 2003 for offenders currently managed within MAPPA	4
v. The number of violent and other sexual offenders considered under MAPPA during the year 1st April 2002 and 31st March 2003 (as defined by Section 68 (3), (4) and (5)) (note 2)	782
vi. The number of "other offenders" dealt with under MAPPA during the year 1st April 2002 and 31st March 2003 as being assessed by the Responsible Authority as posing a risk of serious harm to the public (but who did not fall within either of the other two categories as defined by s.67 (2b)) (note 3)	22
vii. For each of the three categories of offenders covered by the MAPPA ("registered sex offenders", "violent and other sex offenders" and "other offenders") identify the number of offenders that are or have been dealt with by:	
a) MAPPP – registered sex offenders	51
b) MAPPP – violent and other sex offenders	19
c) MAPPP – other offenders	22
viii. Of the cases managed by the MAPPP during the reporting year, what was the number of offenders:	
a) who were returned to custody for a breach of licence	12
b) who were returned to custody for breach of a Restraining Order or Sex Offender Order	1
c) charged with a serious sexual or violent offence	0

**Notes.** The numbers of registered sex offenders is expected to rise for the next few years. This is because the legislation introduced registration in 1997, but did not apply to earlier offences, unless the offender was still in custody or under supervision. Registration is from 5 years to life. So the numbers will go up for several years until a peak is reached.

- Notes.**
1. S 68 (2) This applies to any sex offender required to register with the police under the requirements of Part 1 of the Sex Offender Act 1997
  2. S 68(3),(4),(5) refers to sexual or violent offenders who either receive 12 months or more imprisonment, or who are made subject to a mental health order
  3. s 67 2 (b) refers to any other person who by reason of their offences is considered by the Police or Probation Service to be persons who may cause serious harm





