

Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)

Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) are a set of arrangements to manage the risk posed by the most serious sexual and violent offenders (MAPPA-eligible offenders) under the provisions of sections 325 to 327B of the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

MAPPA brings together the Police, Probation and Prison Services in England and Wales into what is known as the MAPPA Responsible Authority.

Other agencies are under a "Duty to Co-operate" with the Responsible Authority. These include Social Services for children and adults, health care providers, Youth Offending Teams, Jobcentre Plus and Local Housing and Education Authorities.

MAPPA brings together the professionals working with an offender to assess the risk that he/she presents and to devise a robust plan to manage that risk. The MAPPA forum then holds partners to account by reviewing the progress of the plan.

Northamptonshire County Council Adult Social Care (ASC) is the lead agency within MAPPA for the protection and safeguarding of adults. Within MAPPA their role is to ensure that the needs of the offender are addressed in a holistic manner, either whilst in custody or as part of their risk management plan on release.

During 2013/14 the key challenges have involved offenders with mental health problems or those who have developed eligible needs that can no longer be met in a prison setting.

The implementation of Care Act in April 2015 has been an important consideration for ASC over the last year. The act has codified some of the local authority's existing practices into law, as well as adding some new ones. In terms of adult safeguarding, the act requires local authorities to make enquiries, or ensure other agencies make enquiries, where they think an adult with care and support needs is at risk of abuse or neglect.

Since April 2015 local authority areas that contain prisons or approved premises are responsible for the continuity of care for offenders coming into their area on release from prison. Adult social care staff have received MAPPA training and are represented at all Level 2 and Level 3 meetings.