

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Housing and Communities Committee

24 January 2022

TAYSIDE MAPPA ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

Report by Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)

(Report No. 22/17)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report introduces the Tayside Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) Annual Report for 2020-21.

1. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 The [Management of Offenders etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2005](#) introduced a statutory duty on Responsible Authorities (local authorities, Scottish Prison Service (SPS), Police Scotland and Health Boards) to establish joint arrangements for the assessment and management of the risk posed by certain offenders who constitute a risk of harm to the public. The Responsible Authorities are required to keep these arrangements under review and publish an annual report.
- 1.2 The development of MAPPA in 2007 introduced a consistent approach to the management of certain high-risk offenders, which includes Registered Sex Offenders (RSO); Restricted Patients (RPs) since 2008 and Category 3 offenders (violent) since 2016. The principal purpose of MAPPA is to secure public safety and reduce serious harm.
- 1.3 MAPPA is supported by the Violent and Sex Offender Register (ViSOR) which is a national IT system. The main function of which is to facilitate inter-agency communication and ensure that the responsible authorities contribute, share and store critical information for the management of MAPPA offenders.
- 1.4 Local MAPPA activity is overseen by the Tayside Strategic Oversight Group (SOG). The SOG not only provides oversight but leadership in respect of policy and procedures, thereby ensuring robust governance, performance monitoring and quality assurance. The Tayside SOG traditionally met quarterly, however, given the restrictions of the pandemic, meetings have been every six weeks. This has allowed for close monitoring and information sharing of a continually evolving situation while ensuring statutory duties and functions were met in the monitoring and management of offenders.
- 1.5 The Tayside MAPPA SOG members are also represented on their respective local public protection groups. In Perth and Kinross, this includes the Protecting People Co-ordinating Group (PPCG) and Chief Officers Group (COG). This ensures that there is a clear strategic link to both the MAPPA Co-ordinator and the Independent Chair of the SOG.

2. MAPPA ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

- 2.1 The MAPPA Annual Report covers the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. As of March 2020, there were 407 MAPPA offenders in Tayside, of which, 124 were at liberty in Perth and Kinross and 42 of the 124 offenders were being jointly managed by Criminal Justice Social Work (CJSW) and Police Scotland. As of March 2021, there was an increase of 2 offenders compared to the same reporting point in the previous year, although a decrease was noted in both Angus and Dundee.
- 2.2 As of March 2021, there were the following MAPPA offenders being managed in Perth and Kinross:
- 120 Level 1 offenders who are managed by Police Scotland only.
 - 4 Level 2 offenders who are managed jointly by CJSW and Police Scotland.
 - No Level 3 offenders who are multi-agency managed.

Although not within this reporting period, it is of note that as of October 2021, the number of Level 1 offenders had increased to 123 and Level 2 offenders to 6. This could be due to a number of factors. It is speculated that since the resumption of Court business, there has been a focus on sentencing those who have been remanded in prison. This may contribute to an increase of offenders being released from prison on back-dated sentences. Those who are subject to MAPPA Level 2 will be required to be supervised and undertake programme work with CJSW. This anticipated increase in work has been planned for with the temporary recruitment of additional CJSW staff to manage the additional work demand.

- 2.3 During the pandemic, it has required all Responsible Authorities to utilise technology where possible to maintain contact with MAPPA offenders. Although face to face contact was not the custom during periods of lockdown, it was necessary for staff to still have direct access to those deemed a sufficiently high risk of re-offending and harm. CJSW staff therefore utilised the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) provided by the Council to make a full assessment of the offender's circumstances, their vulnerability, and their level of risk to the public. The use of Microsoft Teams was employed as the digital solution to ensure all MAPPA operational and strategic meetings took place. This method of communication has proved to be an effective way of sharing information and will continue to be utilised for conducting future MAPPA business.
- 2.4 Although this reporting year has been challenging, it has helped develop innovative and more cohesive inter-agency practice. This was illustrated in the early release of prisoners in June 2020 which clearly evidenced the co-ordinated and collaborative approach between Police Scotland, the Safer Communities Team, CJSW and SPS. The success of this effort has also highlighted the innovative, and sector leading, mapping of MAPPA offenders in Perth and Kinross which is crucial when undertaking Environmental Risk Assessments (ERA).

The interpretation of this information is critical to placing MAPPA offenders in suitable accommodation and ensuring the safety of the public. It has also proved to be a pivotal intelligence tool to manage potential community risks, not only to the public, but the individual subject to MAPPA.

- 2.5 Following the appointment of the Independent Chair for the SOG in September 2020, there has not only been a focus on risk management during the pandemic, but a continued drive to take forward improvements in practice and develop a more informative performance framework. This has included streamlining the reporting mechanisms through operational sub-groups which are now more focused on self-evaluation, case review and audit. This will help garner pertinent information to benchmark service delivery and inform the strategic direction for MAPPA locally. As part of these improvements, there has been a review of the training plan for the SOG. This is in the early stages but includes proposals to offer the opportunity for mentoring and coaching for those chairing MAPPA meetings and expand the awareness and understanding of MAPPA for those peripherally involved in the process, as well as local statutory and third sector agencies and communities.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The management of risk within the community presents many challenges and impacts on a number of agencies across organisational boundaries, and most importantly, communities themselves. While it is not possible to entirely eliminate risk, the agencies within Tayside have always worked collaboratively and in partnership to manage those individuals subject to MAPPA and present a significant risk to the public.
- 3.2 This reporting year has highlighted a particular set of challenges in the ability to deliver MAPPA and ensure public safety. Although the collaboration and co-production between Responsible Authorities has been tested, service delivery has adapted and not diminished. This is a testament to the strength of the partnerships which exist in Perth and Kinross and across public protection agencies. In addition, the SOG has adapted to the changed environment while continuing to maintain its focus on reviewing and improving standards. This ethos is also reflected in the public protection arrangements in Perth and Kinross and will serve to inform the future safety measures for our communities and citizens.
- 3.3 It is recommended that the Committee:
- (i) Notes and endorses the Tayside MAPPA Annual Report 2020-21; and
 - (ii) Request that the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) brings forward future Annual Reports to Committee.

Author

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Approved

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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes/None
Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	None
Workforce	None
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	None
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	None
Strategic Environmental Assessment	None
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	None
Legal and Governance	None
Risk	None
Consultation	
Internal	None
External	Yes
Communication	
Communications Plan	None

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement

1.1 This section sets out how the proposals relate to the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement in terms of the following priorities:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible, and informed citizens;
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable economy;
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

This report relates to Objective No. (v).

Corporate Plan

1.2 This section sets out how the proposals relate to the achievement of the Council's Corporate Plan Objectives:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible, and informed citizens;
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable economy;
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

This report relates to Objective No. (v).

1.3 The report also links to the Education & Children's Services Vision, Values and Priorities in respect of the following key Priority area:

- Safe and Protected

2. Resource Implications

Financial

2.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Workforce

2.2 There are no workforce issues arising from this report.

Asset Management (land, property, IT)

2.3 There are no asset management issues arising from this report.

3. Assessments

3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.

These proposals have been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:

- (i) Assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

3.2 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals. However, no action is required as the Act does not apply to the matters presented in this report. This is because the Committee are requested to note the contents of the report only and the Committee are not being requested to approve, adopt, or agree to an action or to set the framework for future decisions.

Sustainability

3.3 Under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003, the Council has to discharge its duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. Under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 the Council also has a duty relating to climate change and, in exercising its functions must act:

- In the way best calculated to delivery of the Act's emissions reduction targets.

- In the way best calculated to deliver any statutory adaption programmes.
- In a way that it considers most sustainable.

3.3.1 There are no sustainability issues in respect of this report.

Legal and Governance

3.4 This report contains no issues which would have a legal or governance impact on the Council.

3.5 There are no implications for the Council's Scheme of Administration in this report.

Risk

3.6 There are no issues of risk arising from the proposals in this report.

4. Consultation

Internal

4.1 None.

External

4.2 The Tayside MAPPA Co-ordinator has approved the report.

5. Communication

5.1 Not relevant to this report.

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

2.1 No background papers were relied upon during the preparation of this report.

3. APPENDICES

3.1 Appendix 1 – MAPPA Annual Report 2020-2021