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# Annual Report

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# 2020-2021



## INTRODUCTION

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This is the first Tayside MAPPA Annual report of my tenure as the Tayside MAPPA Strategic Oversight Group (SOG) Independent chair having taken up the post in September 2020. I would like to acknowledge the achievements of my predecessor Elaine Torrance who chaired the SOG during a challenging time and who's leadership helped lay the strong foundations on which I now stand.

Protecting the public from violent and sexual crime is one of the highest priorities across the Tayside MAPPA SOG partnership. The reporting year of April 2020 to March 2021 was a challenging one with services, the public and those managed under MAPPA all having to deal with the impact of the global Covid-19 pandemic. I can honestly say that as the first lockdown was imposed I would never have thought that services would have the ability to adapt, transform and continue to deliver protective services in the way they have. It hasn't been an easy journey for any of us however the professional, 'can do' attitude of those involved in the delivery of MAPPA has shone through. Whilst visits to MAPPA subjects have at times had to be adjusted to telephone contact and risk assessed personal visits involving PPE became a regular feature business continued as near as usual as possible. Innovative approaches to virtual partnership meetings at a strategic and operational level were possible due to partners use of Microsoft Teams and outside meetings with MAPPA managed individuals are examples of a new way of working, which I suspect will in a blended way stay with us for the future.

During the pandemic the number of Register Sex Offenders in Tayside fell, whilst we suspect this may have been due to the slowing of the Court system we are still to fully understand the causal factors. This has helped services operate under the strain of the pandemic, however it is a situation that is constantly monitored as we suspect that the opening up of the Court system may in some way reverse the trend.

MAPPA is an area of public protection that rarely catches the public attention unless related to negative coverage. It is unfortunate that the excellent work carried out on a daily basis isn't wider publicised as without MAPPA many more offences would be committed and the risk to the public would be increased. This wouldn't be possible without the dedication of those involved in delivering MAPPA keeping the public and those managed under it safer from harm. I appreciate the efforts of all involved in MAPPA in Tayside and wish to offer them my personal thanks for their efforts in the most challenging of years.



**Alan Small**  
**Independent Chair**

*Tayside MAPPA Strategic Oversight Group*

## TAYSIDE MAPPA

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Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) are a set of arrangements to manage the risk posed by the most dangerous offenders under the provision of the Management of Offenders etc (Scotland) Act 2005.

In Tayside, Community Justice Social Work (CJSW), Police, Scottish Prison Service (SPS) and Health (NHS Tayside), known as the responsible authorities, are committed to working in partnership to prevent people becoming victims of serious harm. Making our communities safer is the highest priority and work undertaken through MAPPA is of critical importance to achieving this.

Victims and the public have a right to feel protected and safe. Whilst it is never possible to eliminate risk entirely all reasonable steps need to be taken to reduce the risk of serious harm to the public from known offenders. MAPPA is designed to bring agencies together to help manage that risk and keep it to a minimum.

The responsible authorities of Tayside are:

- Dundee City Council
- Perth & Kinross Council
- Angus Council
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Prison Service
- NHS Tayside

## 2020 A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

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As we began this reporting year the Covid-19 pandemic struck and the country was in lockdown, causing us all to change the way we lived and worked. In this report each responsible authority will give details of how they adapted and gone on to ensure that MAPPA and the management of offenders has continued to ensure the safety of the communities of Tayside.



In Dundee a decision was taken to keep the Friarfield House office open throughout the pandemic. Safe systems of work were implemented and physical safety features, such as perspex screens in interview rooms, were introduced. Interviews with offenders have continued throughout by appointment only. The building continued to operate as a multiagency hub with MAPPA co-ordinator, MAPPA admin, NHS liaison, CJS Public Protection Team (PPT), Police Sex Offender Policing Unit (SOPU) and the Tay Project (Programme intervention team) all having a proportion of staff in the building each day. This also allowed continued access to Visor for all key agencies. A risk and need assessment was conducted at the start of the pandemic response and the frequency of face to face contact, based on risk and need rating was supplemented by telephone contact.

Due to the higher risk associated with many MAPPA offenders, a high frequency of face-to-face contact (both office appointment and home visit) has been maintained throughout the phases of the public health response, with PPE used to protect staff. This applied to both supervision and to programme work, where individual work replaced groupwork during the peak periods of lockdown. The net effect has been that all jointly managed MAPPA offenders have had their supervision managed according to a risk and need assessment and programme work has been sustained at such a level that no individual is assessed as requiring extra time to complete due to public health changes to delivery.

Groupwork has been facilitated at a lower staff to offender ratio, with two periods of complete suspension at the highest level of lockdown. Programme (MFMC) delivery staff during Covid used their contact with offenders to not only offer programme work but also support the coping mechanisms of individuals during the unique challenges of lockdown. Programme staff also supplemented the supervision regimes of case managers, for example carrying out the face-to-face contacts for PPT staff who were medically advised to shield.

Overall, there was a highly disciplined and committed response by staff to keep MAPPA support and monitoring continuing throughout the pandemic and due to the strict public health regime, with no known transmission of Covid to staff through offender contact.



## PERTH & KINROSS COUNCIL

Access to services was severely curtailed for offenders during 2020/21 because of the restrictions brought about by COVID-19. To maintain a service, criminal justice social work (CJSW), had a skeleton staff who remained in the office and dealt with offender unplanned emergency situations. All appointments and interviews were initially conducted via telephone, only gradually moving to face to face contact as restrictions eased. However, some home visits continued throughout the pandemic either due to offender vulnerability or their level of risk of offending or to themselves. In adhering to Scottish Government and Council guidance, all staff wore Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to ensure not only their own safety but that of offenders, particularly those who were shielding.

Basic mobile phones were purchased and supplied to offenders who did not have these devices and were pre-loaded with a small amount of credit. This was done for a number of vulnerable and socially isolated offenders as well as those who had been granted early release from prison. Food parcels were also delivered to these people and others in need, the parcels being stored in the office and delivered by the staff who were manning the office. Offenders were therefore prioritised not only on the basis of their level of risk of re-offending and harm but their primary needs and included:

- Perpetrators convicted of domestic violence
- service users at high risk of harm and re-offending
- people released from prison
- people subject to MAPPA in the community
- vulnerable service users at risk

The service slowly transitioned to face to face appointments between lockdowns but had to be flexible and revert to more restrictive contact as guidance fluctuated and further restrictions were imposed.

Technology provided by the Council was well utilised by the service particularly the facility to conduct virtual meetings via Microsoft Teams. This technology greatly assisted – given the geographical challenges in Perth and Kinross – to access vulnerable offenders and help them in attending appointments with other services e.g., Health, Independent Advocacy, solicitors, SHINE mentoring service.

Microsoft Teams has proved to be a preferred method for facilitating meetings including Multi-Agency Public Protection Meetings (MAPPA). Initially these were conducted via telephone conferencing however as the capability spread, MS Teams became the preferred forum for this business and has proved more expedient and efficient.



## ANGUS COUNCIL

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At the onset of Covid and lockdown, the Public Protection Team in Angus attempted to prioritise risk and needs levels in relation to offenders, in a hope services could ensure they continued to supervise and support the riskiest and most vulnerable on a face-to-face basis where possible. Services kept weekly contact with all offenders by phone, text or teams/zoom. It very quickly became apparent that the majority of lower risk and less vulnerable offenders were not coping well with this type of contact. Services saw an immediate increase in people breaching their CPO/licence requirements/conditions and immediately went back to attempting face to face contact with all offenders. Loneliness and anxiety appeared to be the significant contributory factors to the offenders struggling to manage. Workers did doorstep visits, delivered 'well being' packages of toiletries, jigsaws, games, books etc and on top of this kept in regular telephone contact. Following the increase in face to face contact services saw a reduction in breaches.

Staff have continued to supervise and support offenders both at home and in the office, going on walks or meeting in risk assessed areas, adhering to PPE guidance and ensuring everyone is kept safe. Both workers and offenders have commented they have enjoyed experiencing more of the creative and different forms of contact and are keen to ensure this continues in the future. Workers feel they are able to engage with, form and sustain better relationships, in a much more natural environment. Services have seen the opportunity for more pro-social modelling and mirroring behaviour and feedback from our offenders suggest this has been a positive change.

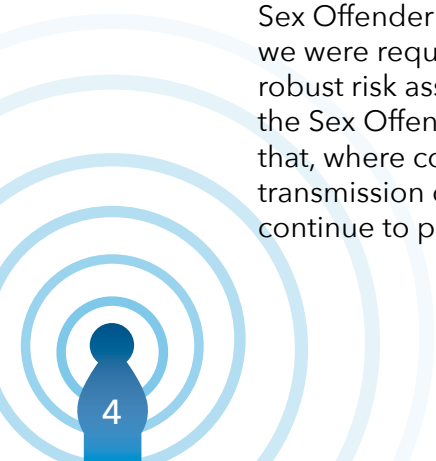
## POLICE SCOTLAND

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The impact of the Covid19 pandemic affected all areas of policing and, in relation to the Sex Offender Policing Unit (SOPU), caused us to examine how we would continue to perform our core role of managing offenders within the community while keeping our staff, offenders and other members of the public safe from harm.

Recognising the critical nature of offender management, Police Scotland ensured that SOPU was supported and that resourcing levels were maintained in accordance with the nationally recognised Lead Investigator / Offender ratios.

From the outset we followed guidance issued by public health and the National Sex Offender Policing Unit (NSPOU) and, given the restriction on social contact, we were required to revise the manner in which we interacted with offenders. A robust risk assessment process was implemented and all police officers within the Sex Offender Policing Unit were equipped with suitable PPE which ensured that, where contact with an offender was essential, any risk of infection or transmission of the virus was mitigated. These revised processes allowed us to continue to perform our core role without adverse impact.



## SCOTTISH PRISON SERVICE

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### HMP Perth

HMP Perth has continued to operate with very few interruptions to regular MAPPA business during the period of the Pandemic. The ICM team have continued to enjoy regular correspondence and assistance from the MAPPA Co-ordinator and the local Sex Offender Policing Units within Tayside.

The introduction of MAPPA meetings by TEAMS has had a positive impact to the process and has allowed staff to attend without any major disruption to their working day. It has been seen as a positive move and has not disrupted the ability of sharing information.

SOPU staff have continued to be involved in pre-release ICM case conferences and again the use of telephone case conferences has aided this process.

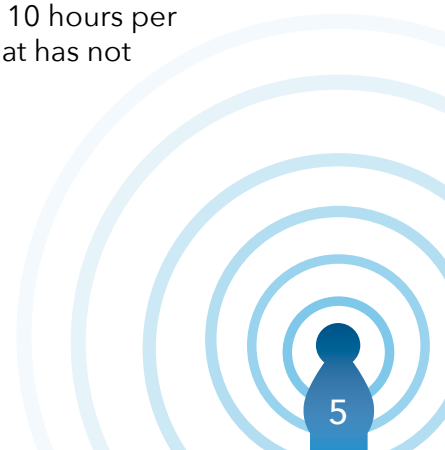
Numbers within custody from Tayside have remained relatively constant throughout with a small reduction in Tayside custody cases between April and August 2020. August 1st 2021 figures show slight rise to 56 but predominantly figures have remained in the low 50's.

### HMP Castle Huntly

The Covid19 pandemic had an immediate impact on HMP Castle Huntly, how it operated and how we managed those in our care.

Our core business is to prepare those in our care for a return to society by way of gradual testing and integration to their local communities via placements, external project attendance and monthly home leaves. The restrictions imposed on society signalled an immediate cessation of all community access and we effectively operated as a closed establishment for the majority of the pandemic. The residents responded positively by making good use of the internal activities and opportunities we made available.

We ceased taking admissions for approximately 4 months and our population dropped by approximately 40% until a gradual return, this drop in population allowed us to operate a single cell policy, helping keeping our residents safe and healthy during this period. Whilst 'closed' prisons were required to curtail their regimes we adopted a one household approach and allowed those in our care to continue to work internally and access outside activities for 10 hours per day. We remain the only public or private prison within Scotland that has not had a positive case amongst our residents.



HMP Castle Huntly have managed safely a total of 4 Tayside MAPPA prisoners since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Two were liberated and are managed in the community by MAPPA, in June and November of 2020. 2 prisoners remain and are being managed by us under MAPPA.

During 2020 our normal monthly multi-disciplinary MAPPA meetings to over view each case was suspended due to no community access/movement, and RMT remained the platform to manage them. The HMP Castle Huntly monthly MAPPA meeting recommenced in March 2021 as we moved closer to a position whereby community access was being planned for. This meeting remains a good practice to ensure HMP Castle Huntly manages and reviews all aspects of a MAPPA prisoners plan - and is not a decision making forum.

## NHS TAYSIDE

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Like all organisations this has been a challenging year for NHS Tayside mainly due to the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic. Whilst NHS Tayside has been at the forefront of care delivery locally, the Public Protection agenda was prioritised within the organisation. NHS Tayside has developed a Public Protection framework which has seen all aspects of this business progressed and prioritised with the development of the Public Protection Executive Group which is chaired by the Executive Nurse Director. MAPPA falls within this framework and is part of the core public protection agenda within NHS Tayside.

NHS Tayside identified that the MAPPA Health Liaison Officer (MHLO) post was essential throughout COVID and continued as 'business as usual'. This ensured that NHS Tayside continued to support joint working with our key partners and fulfil our duty to co-operate with a focus on risk management and continued protection of the public.

As a result of Covid, significant challenges were highlighted in relation to information sharing and technological challenges for participation in meetings etc. NHS Tayside moved to online platforms for some appointments and meetings with the use of MS Teams and Near me platforms becoming core business in this new virtual era. The MHLO has continued to provide support throughout the NHS, offer advice in relation to risk assessment and risk management of MAPPA Clients and has introduced the use of alerts within core e-health systems to support clinical staff.





## MAPPA CO-ORDINATION

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As each of the agencies faced the challenges of Covid, to ensure that information sharing continued the way we held MAPPA meetings had to change. Initially the meetings were held by teleconference with agencies being given a telephone number to call and the meetings taking place over the telephone. As we moved through the months the meetings were moved to MS Teams which then allowed for each agency attending to see the others. MS Teams has been an excellent way of continuing to share information and allowing great attendance of all participants and will be a permanent fixture for future MAPPA meetings as we come out of the restrictions.

The Strategic Oversight Group has continued to meet every 6 weeks to ensure that the management of offenders has continued with each agency providing updates and assurances that public protection remains a critical role.

Throughout this year the MAPPA Co-ordinator and the Chair of the Strategic Oversight Group continued to attend national meetings, which are now held via MStTeams, thus allowing for national themes and information to be shared at a local level. One of the main themes this year has been the review of the MAPPA Guidance which was shared with local Strategic Oversight Groups for comments.



## WHAT WE SAID WE WOULD DO IN 2020/2021

Although many of us have been working from home and meetings have no longer been face to face, the agencies involved in MAPPAs have continued to work together and this year's priorities have still been foremost in our minds.

### Further development of Risk Register for SOG following impact of Covid.

The SOG has met every 6 weeks to ensure that each agency is coping and that there are no gaps in the MAPPAs arrangements. This has been strengthened by the Risk Register which was produced at the start of the pandemic and is presented to each of the Chief Officers Groups in the three local authorities. It is reviewed at each SOG and the probability, impact and risk ratings are scrutinised.

### Implement the Strategic Plan including outstanding actions identified from Significant Case Reviews

The development of a Case Review group chaired by the SOG chair has ensured that all actions from Significant Case Reviews are examined and evidenced in practice. This group have examined both Person X and Prisoner Z action plans and will continue to ensure that all actions are completed and become standard practice in each agency.

### Training plan to be developed and agreed.

The MAPPAs Management Group has now oversight of the training plan and all future training. This year has been difficult for training, however the agencies take comfort in the personnel currently working within the areas of MAPPAs are all trained in the accredited risk assessment tools.

### Communication plan to be agreed and implemented

This work is yet to start but will be a priority in the coming year.

### Further progress with data collection and analysis

The Self Evaluation and Audit Working Group has been established to implement a self-evaluation regime for the examination of inter-agency working to encourage and develop self-evaluation which assesses impact and outcomes in line with the MAPPAs Quality Indicators. The Group has also developed a Tayside MAPPAs Performance Report to provide management information and statistics on MAPPAs and the wider work to both the MAPPAs SOG and MOG.



## OFFENDER PARTICIPATION

During this year the way in which agencies contacted the offender had to change and group work, like Unpaid Work and Tay Project programmes, had to be suspended. When the offenders were visited their supervising officer and police manager had to wear specific PPE during any home visit. To ensure that their voices were heard a questionnaire was devised and several offenders throughout Tayside completed them. Their responses to some of the questions can be seen below:

**Q Have you been told that you are managed under MAPPA?**

- A Yes I'm aware and been told I'm on MAPPA,
- A Don't know what MAPPA is
- A Yes I was informed of this at the start of my order

**Q : During this time of Covid 19 what contact have you had with your social worker/police manager?**

- Telephone/office visits/home visits,
  - Were you comfortable with the home visits,
  - Did your social worker/police manager wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) during your home visit/office appointment and were you comfortable with this.
- A During covid 19, social work/police manager have made every attempt to keep up contact and visits if not in person then via phone. They have always worn PPE during visits and made me feel relaxed.
- A I have had a mix of phone and home visits. These have been well spaced out and thought through depending on the lockdown period etc. All have been exceptionally professional on visiting the house, even continuing to wear the mask when I have offered them the option to remove it. On request they have also worn carpet protectors over their shoes without any questions or issues, something I had been worried about asking them to do.
- A Mixture of home, office and walks in the community, Felt comfortable with home visits, Both social workers and police wore appropriate PPE, workers took off masks due to my hearing impairment and asked for my permission for this.



**Q : If we were to provide you more information about MAPPA, what would you like to know?**

- A** Who is there, How decisions are made, What the risk levels mean, Why can I not go, Why do I not get minutes, What do I do if I disagree with the decision
- A** Don't really know much about MAPPA except for the fact that its multi-agency focussed on managing me safely in the community keeping me and others safe.
- A** A bigger description of what MAPPA is about and a description of what each individual does and their roles, this would help me understand better.

**Q Do you feel supported by the agencies involved in your management?**

- **Social work/police/health/housing**
- A** Definitely, they have always made it clear that should I have problems or questions they are just a phone call away.
- A** Yes. If I have any queries, concerns or problems I feel supported and able to contact both social work and offender management. I have had good support in dealing with a few problematic situations. I have only felt uncomfortable with one police contact but all other contacts have been supportive.
- A** I have been extremely impressed by the support so far as everyone has had to change their working practices so much, including covering for staff off sick or self isolating.

The results of the questionnaire will be examined by the Self- Evaluation & Audit Group and the answers will be used to look at future work required to provide a better understanding of MAPPA for the offenders.



## STATISTICAL INFORMATION

As of 31 March, 21, there were **364** Registered Sex Offenders managed in the community in Tayside, a decrease of **43** offenders on the previous year. Of the **364** there were **104 (29%)** subject to statutory supervision requirement with Community Justice Social Work and managed jointly with Police Scotland, Sex Offender Policing Unit.

The number of offenders managed in each local authority area is detailed below;

<b>ANGUS</b>	<b>98</b> (a decrease of <b>18</b> on the previous year)
<b>DUNDEE</b>	<b>140</b> (a decrease of <b>27</b> on the previous year)
<b>PERTH &amp; KINROSS</b>	<b>126</b> (an increase of <b>2</b> on the previous year)

In March 2016, MAPPA was extended to include Category 3 offenders, who are considered to be High risk individuals subject to a statutory order and require multi-agency management. This year **3** individuals have been considered and managed under the Category 3 process.

In this reporting year there has been **42** new offenders convicted and made subject to MAPPA management and **91** offenders were archived. Archiving occurs when an offender dies or their term of sex offender notification registration comes to an end.

Throughout this past year despite all the restrictions MAPPA meetings have continued to be a priority with **418** Level 1 meetings, **136** level 2 meetings and **3** Level 3 meetings taking place, thus ensuring business as usual for the management of the offenders within our communities.

The management of offenders is a complex task and more so when internet technology is the method used in the commission of the crimes. **111 (30%)** of the offenders in the community have convictions involving the use of the internet. To assist in the management of such offenders Police and Social Work can request the sentencing courts to place restrictions such as licence conditions or preventative orders such as Sexual Offences Prevention Order (SOPO) conditions to allow for the monitoring of their electronic devices.

## PRIORITIES FOR 2021/2022

The following priorities have been identified for the coming year:

Communication plan to be agreed and implemented

Progression of training programme

On publication of the reviewed MAPPA Guidance ensure local practice is up to date.

the Self Evaluation group will look to extend self-evaluation work, build a calendar and consider appropriate audits.

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**MAPPA**

Tayside Multi Agency  
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