

## Remember defensible decisions are those where:

- All reasonable steps have been taken.
- Information has been collected and thoroughly evaluated.
- Reliable assessment methods have been used.
- Decisions are recorded and subsequently carried out.
- Policies and procedures have been followed.
- Everyone adopts an investigative approach and is proactive.

For further information see the MAPPA Guidance and the Warwickshire Memorandum of Understanding on [www.warwickshire.police.uk](http://www.warwickshire.police.uk)

## MAPPA Agencies

The Responsible Authorities are the

- Police.
- Probation.
- Prison Service.

The following organisations have a legal duty (set out in the Criminal Justice Act 2003) to work together to protect the public:

- Youth Offending Teams.
- Jobcentre Plus.
- Local Education Authorities.
- Local Housing Authorities.
- Registered Social Landlords.
- Social Services.
- Strategic Health Authorities, Primary Care Trusts and NHS Trusts.
- Electronic Monitoring Providers.



**Warwickshire**  
protection through partnership



## (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements)

Public Protection Unit  
Warwickshire Police Headquarters  
PO Box 4  
Leek Wootton  
Warwick  
CV35 7QB

Telephone 01926 415000

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# What is Mappa?

The Warwickshire Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements or MAPPAs are the means by which local agencies work together to best protect our community from the serious harm that some offenders may still present after being convicted.

The Warwickshire MAPPAs Protocol available on [www.warwickshire.police.uk](http://www.warwickshire.police.uk) describes these arrangements in greater detail but this leaflet outlines the key features.

## The four key stages of the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements



### Stage 1 - The identification of MAPPAs offenders

Early identification of those offenders that should be considered under the MAPPAs is vital. Three categories of 'MAPPAs Offender' have been defined to focus risk management.

**Category 1:** Registered Sex Offenders for the period of their registration.

**Category 2:** Violent & Other Sex Offenders, often summarised as violent offenders imprisoned for 12 months plus. The full definition is more complex and includes those detained under hospital or guardianship orders. They usually exit MAPPAs when statutory supervision ceases.

**Category 3:** Other Offenders who have been convicted of an offence which indicates that he/she is capable of causing serious harm to the public and the responsible authority reasonably considers that the offender may cause serious harm to the public.

### Stage 2 - Information sharing

The exchange of information is an essential element of effective public protection. The Warwickshire MAPPAs Protocol covers this area in detail but information sharing must:

- Have lawful authority.
- Be necessary.
- Be proportionate and undertaken in ways which ensure the safety and security of the information shared.
- Be accountable.

### Stage 3 - Assessing risk

Whilst agencies use various methods to assess risk it is important that we have a common understanding of the terms used to describe risk. The MAPPAs use definitions taken from the Probation Service's risk assessment tool called OASys (Offender Assessment System).

**Serious Harm** - a risk which is life threatening and/or traumatic and from which recovery, whether physical or psychological, can be expected to be difficult or impossible. The potential event could happen at any time and the impact would be serious.

#### Levels of risk:

- Low** No significant, current indicators of risk of harm.
- Medium** There are identifiable indicators of risk of harm. The offender has the potential to cause harm but is unlikely to do so unless there is a change in circumstances, for example, failure to take medicine, loss of accommodation, relationship breakdown, drug or alcohol misuse.
- High** There are identifiable indicators of risk of harm. The potential event could happen at any time and the impact would be serious.
- Very high** There is an imminent risk of serious harm. The potential event is more likely than not to happen imminently and the impact would be serious.

### Stage 4 - Risk management

This structure of risk management has been designed to enable resources to be used in the most effective and efficient manner.

- The principle is that cases should be managed at the lowest level, consistent with providing a defensible risk management plan.
- When deciding about the level of risk management, consideration is given to the nature of the risk and how it can be managed.
- The levels of risk management do not necessarily equate directly to levels of risk but generally the higher the assessed level of risk, the higher the level of management required.

**MAPPAs Level 1:** used in cases where the risk posed by the offender can be managed by one agency without actively or significantly involving other agencies.

**MAPPAs Level 2:** used where the **active** involvement of more than one agency is required but where either the level of risk or complexity of managing the risk is not so great as to require referral to level 3.

**MAPPAs Level 3:** used for the management of the 'critical few'. Where the offender is assessed under OASys as being a high or very high risk of causing serious harm **and** presents risks that can only be managed by a plan that requires close cooperation at a senior level due to the complexity of the case and/or because of the unusual resource commitments it requires, **or** although not assessed as a high or very high risk, the case is exceptional because of the likelihood of media scrutiny and/or public interest in the management of the case is very high.