

ANNUAL REPORT

2012 / 13



CUMBRIA MULTI-AGENCY PUBLIC PROTECTION ARRANGEMENTS



INTRODUCTION

PROTECTING PEOPLE IN CUMBRIA FROM SEXUAL AND VIOLENT OFFENDERS

Welcome to the 2012/13 annual report on Cumbria's Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA).

Now in its twelfth year, MAPPA continues to provide a framework for managing the risks to the public presented by sexual and violent offenders.

The number of sexual and violent crimes committed represent a small proportion of the total recorded crime in Cumbria, but for the victims and their families they inevitably cause a great deal of fear and concern.

It is with this in mind that protecting the public from offenders who carry out these crimes, and meeting the needs of victims, remain high priorities in Cumbria for the Police, Probation and Prison Services.

Public protection continues to receive high profile coverage nationally and remains a challenging issue for Cumbria MAPPA. We accept that the public expect us to do everything within our powers to reduce the risks presented by sexual and violent offenders, whilst at the same time recognising that we must make the most efficient use of our finite resources.

By embracing joint working within MAPPA we can communicate more effectively, reduce duplication and ensure a strong corporate response. No single agency can tackle these challenges alone and it is vitally important that agencies continue to support and inform the MAPPA process. This way, together, we believe we are able to offer the best protection for the public of Cumbria.

The working arrangements with partners in Cumbria make a vital difference to the success of MAPPA.

This Annual Report reflects the contributions made by all of the agencies involved in MAPPA across Cumbria, and sets out our commitment to you, to continue to develop strong partnerships and explore new ways of working to face the challenges of protecting the public from serious offenders.

We hope you will find the report informative and that it helps answer some key questions about community safety and public protection arrangements in Cumbria.

Bernard Lawson

Temporary Chief Constable - Cumbria Constabulary

Russell Bruce

Chief Executive Officer
Cumbria Probation Trust

Alan Scott

Deputy Director of Custody
Public Sector Prisons North West

WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP CUMBRIA SAFE



ABOUT MAPPA

MAPPA background

[a] MAPPA (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements) 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.

They bring together the Police, Probation and Prison Services in each of the 42 Areas in England and Wales into what is known as the MAPPA Responsible Authority.

[c] A number of other agencies are under a Duty To Co-operate (DTC) with the Responsible Authority. These include Social Services, Health Trusts, Youth Offending Teams, UKBA, Jobcentre Plus and Local Housing and Education Authorities.

The Responsible Authority is required to appoint two Lay Advisers to sit on each MAPPA area Strategic Management Board (SMB) alongside senior representatives from each of the Responsible Authority and duty to co-operate agencies.

[e] Lay Advisers are members of the public with no links to the business of managing MAPPA offenders and act as independent, yet informed, observers; able to pose questions which the professionals closely involved in the work might not think of asking. They also bring to the SMB their understanding and perspective of the local community (where they must reside and have strong links).

HOW MAPPA WORKS

MAPPA-eligible offenders are identified and information about them is shared by the agencies in order to inform the risk assessments and risk management plans of those managing or supervising them.

In the majority of cases that is as far as MAPPA extends but in some cases, it is determined that active multi-agency management is required. In such cases there will be regular MAPPA meetings attended by relevant agency practitioners.

There are 3 categories of MAPPA-eligible offender: Category 1 - registered sexual offenders; Category 2 - (in the main) violent offenders sentenced to imprisonment for 12 months or more; and Category 3 - offenders who do not qualify under categories 1 or 2 but who currently pose a risk of serious harm.

There are three management levels intended to ensure that resources are focused upon the cases where they are most needed; generally those involving the higher risks of serious harm. Level 1 involves ordinary agency management (i.e. no MAPPA meetings or resources); Level 2 is where the active involvement of more than one agency is required to manage the offender but the risk management plans do not require the attendance and commitment of resources at a senior level. Where senior oversight is required the case would be managed at Level 3.

VISOR

MAPPA is supported by ViSOR. This is a national IT system for the management of people who pose a serious risk of harm to the public. The police have been using ViSOR since 2005 but, since June 2008, ViSOR has been fully operational allowing, for the first time, key staff from the Police, Probation and Prison Services to work on the same IT system, thus improving the quality and timeliness of risk assessments and of interventions to prevent offending. The combined use of ViSOR increases the ability to share intelligence across organisations and enable the safe transfer of key information when these high risk offenders move, enhancing public protection measures.

MAPPA CUMBRIA: STATISTICS

MAPPA-eligible offenders on 31 March 2013

	Category 1: Registered sex offenders	Category 2: Violent offenders	Category 3: Other dangerous offender	Total
Level 1	366	172	-	538
Level 2	3	2	4	9
Level 3	0	0	-	0
Total	369	174	4	547

MAPPA-eligible offenders in Levels 2 and 3 by category (yearly total)

	Category 1: Registered sex offenders	Category 2: Violent offenders	Category 3: Other dangerous offender	Total
Level 2	17	12	25	54
Level 3	3	2	1	6
Total	20	14	26	60

RSOs cautioned or convicted for breach of notification requirements	9
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Restrictive orders for Category 1 offenders SOPOs, NOs & FTOs imposed by the courts

SIPOs	NOs	FTOs
38	0	0

Level 2 and 3 offenders returned to custody Breach of licence

	Category 1: Registered sex offenders	Category 2: Violent offenders	Category 3: Other dangerous offender	Total
Level 2	2	1	4	7
Level 3	0	0	0	0
Total	2	1	4	7

Level 2 and 3 offenders returned to custody Breach of SOPO

	Category 1: Registered sex offenders	Category 2: Violent offenders	Category 3: Other dangerous offender	Total
Level 2	0	-	-	0
Level 3	0	-	-	0
Total	0	-	-	0

Total number of Registered Sexual Offenders per 100,000 population	82
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Explanatory commentary on statistical tables



MAPPA BACKGROUND

The totals of MAPPA-eligible offenders, broken down by category, reflect the picture on 31 March 2013 (i.e. they are a snapshot). The rest of the data covers the period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013.

- [a] MAPPA-eligible offenders – there are a number of offenders defined in law as eligible for MAPPA management, because they have committed specified sexual and violent offences or they currently pose a risk of serious harm, although the majority (93% this year) are actually managed under ordinary agency (Level 1) arrangements rather than via MAPP meetings.
- [b] Registered Sexual Offenders (RSOs) – those who are required to notify the police of their name, address and other personal details and to notify any changes subsequently (this is known as the “notification requirement.”). Failure to comply with the notification requirement is a criminal offence which carries a maximum penalty of 5 years’ imprisonment.
- [c] Violent Offenders – this category includes violent offenders sentenced to imprisonment or detention for 12 months or more, or detained under a hospital order. It also includes a small number of sexual offenders who do not qualify for registration and offenders disqualified from working with children.
- [d] Other Dangerous Offenders – offenders who do not qualify under the other two MAPPA-eligible categories, but who currently pose a risk of serious harm which requires management via MAPP meetings.
- [e] Breach of licence – offenders released into the community following a period of imprisonment of 12 months or more will be subject to a licence with conditions (under probation supervision). If these conditions are not complied with, breach action will be taken and the offender may be recalled to prison.
- [f] Sexual Offences Prevention Order (SOPO) – a court may make a SOPO at the time of dealing with certain sexual offenders or when the police make a special application on account of the offender’s behaviour in the community. The full order lasts for a minimum of five years, and can last indefinitely. A SOPO will require the subject to register as a sexual offender and can include conditions, for example to prevent the offender loitering near schools or playgrounds. If the offender fails to comply with (i.e. breaches) the requirements of the order, he can be taken back to court and may be liable to up to five years’ imprisonment.
- [g] Notification Order – this requires sexual offenders who have been convicted overseas to register with the police, in order to protect the public in the UK from the risks that they pose. The police may apply to the court for a notification order in relation to offenders who are already in the UK or are intending to come to the UK.
- [h] Foreign Travel Orders – these prevent offenders with convictions for sexual offences against children from travelling abroad where this is necessary to protect children from the risk of sexual harm.

MAPPA ANNUAL REPORT





MAPPA in Cumbria

Who is in Cumbria MAPPA?

Within Cumbria, the responsibility for chairing the MAPPA Strategic Management Board (SMB) is shared between the three Responsible Authorities (RA's).

The current MAPPA SMB Chair is an Assistant Chief Executive Officer from Cumbria Probation Trust.

The following agencies are represented on the Cumbria MAPPA SMB:

- Cumbria Constabulary
- Cumbria Probation Trust
- Haverigg Prison / National Offender Management Service (NOMS) Northwest
- Cumbria County Council Children's Services
- NSPCC
- Mental Health Services
- Lay Advisers
- NHS Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- Cumbria County Council Adult and Local Services
- Cumbria Youth Offending Service
- Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- Carlisle City Council Housing
- Electronic Monitoring – G4S
- Jobcentre Plus
- Cumbria County Council Supporting People
- Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

CHILDREN'S PROTECTION ENHANCED BY DISCLOSURE SCHEME

The Child Sex Offenders Disclosure Scheme (CSOD) was introduced in August 2010 to give members of the public, usually parents, carers or other interested parties, the means to ask Cumbria Police if an individual who has access to children has a record of committing child sexual offences. The aim of this scheme is to keep children safer.

Since the scheme was introduced there have been 23 applications resulting in 13 disclosures being made in Cumbria.

Although not every application under the scheme results in a disclosure, the information received under the scheme can assist the agencies who work together under MAPPA to introduce further safeguarding measures around an individual.

The following case study shows that while the case did not qualify for disclosure, the information received under the scheme led to a case being brought into the MAPPA management process to monitor the person's behaviour and increase protection for the public.

For information or to make an application and report a concern then contact Cumbria Constabulary on 0845 33 00 247

Information can also be found on a national website
www.parentsprotect.co.uk



JULIE'S STORY...

An application was made under the CSODS Scheme after a single mother had concerns around a new platonic relationship she had formed.

Julie is the mother of a 9 yr old girl. Julie had recently moved into a new estate. Julies neighbour was aware that a man she knew locally as Malcolm was now a regular visitor to the address. The neighbour had heard in the past that Malcolm was known to have an interest in young children. Neighbour contacted Julie who in turn contacted the police.

Through the CSODS process we identified that Malcolm had been investigated some ten years previously over allegations of grooming young girls, though no prosecutions ensued.

Due to our concerns the applicant was disclosed to as was the subject. This has resulted in the applicant being able to safeguard her child. Malcolm is no longer a visitor to the address and the police have additional intelligence which is being used to monitor his behaviour.

MANAGING RISK AT HMP HAVERIGG

HMP Haverigg is Cumbria's only prison. After converting from an old RAF training centre in 1967 the Category C prison now accommodates 644 male prisoners and is recognised as a safe and secure prison that is dedicated to protecting the public and reducing re-offending through partnership and enterprise.

Staff and officers at Haverigg are committed to delivering a safe, constructive and challenging regime to support a change in behaviour and provide opportunities that will allow offenders to increase their capacity to lead a legitimate lifestyle in the community. Currently, there is a unit housed primarily by Category D prisoners many of whom are working on local community based projects including working in the prison shop. Recently there have been two County Shows in Westmorland and Cartmel where suitable prisoners have had the opportunity to assist in the selling of produce from the Haverigg's own Smokery.

Whilst increasing purposeful activity and employment opportunities forms the basis of daily prison life it is public protection that underpins the work of the Offender Management Unit. This area is not always entirely clear and allows for professional judgement by the Probation Officers who are linked to the Public Protection Team. On arrival every prisoner is assessed by a member of the team who is responsible for checking information from OASys and CNOMIS. This process allows any concerns linked to Child/Public Protection, Restraining Orders or issues that might impact upon staff safety to be addressed promptly and efficiently.

It is at this point that prisoners are allocated an Offender Supervisor and, where appropriate, their details entered onto ViSOR so that information can be shared with other agencies. Those identified as managed under MAPPA levels 2 and 3 or who fall under the auspice of Public Protection, are supervised by Probation Officers, and their case reviewed by the Public Protection Co-ordinator who manages monthly meetings, case reviews and oversees the monitoring of prisoner mail, visits and phone calls.

Six months prior to release, officers provide comprehensive reports to MAPPA detailing prison behaviour. The aim of this process is to assess risk and ensure that agencies stay informed about when offenders are to be released back into the community, so that the relevant protection can be put in place at an early stage. It is at this point when more detailed and relevant information may come to light. Some individuals present a positive demeanour and attitude throughout their sentence never coming to the attention of staff in a negative way and, on one level, appear to be conforming to prison rules/regulations. However, sometimes information from the prison Security Department presents a conflicting view.

Attending MAPPA meetings and providing agencies with this type of information from prison often helps those who will be working with individuals in the community to develop more robust Risk Management Plans which reflect factors that might otherwise have been undetected until a later stage. At Haverigg we strive to balance rehabilitation with public protection and work towards sustaining positive professional relationships with our colleagues in the community.



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HM PRISON SERVICE

Over the last year the Prison Service has improved partnership working when the most dangerous offenders are due to be released from custody. Prison and Probation now work to joint National Instructions for inputting intelligence onto the national database for violent and sexual offenders. This database supports MAPPA and the protection of the public in the management of violent and sexual offenders. Effective information sharing has been extended by key criminal justice agencies to include extremism and counter terrorism.

This year saw an important national development to the NOMS risk management system (OASys). For the first time Prison and Probation staff are able to use the same electronic risk assessment tool to share critical risk information speedily and efficiently. The implementation of the new OASys has closed a considerable gap enabling assessments on all offenders including those serving short sentences.

This year also saw the introduction of stretching performance targets to measure MAPPA effectiveness, I am delighted that the Prison Service has exceeded these targets, with our staff routinely sharing risk information and attending MAPPA meetings. The Prison Service has seen extraordinary changes to staffing and management structures over the last year including the welcome introduction of a specialist role for Prison Officers in Offender Management Units. This enables us to target interventions more effectively and ensure resources follow risk. New ways of working are being introduced across public sector prisons over the coming year which will further professionalise the work done in prisons to protect the public.

Alan Scott

Deputy Director Custody
HM Prison Service



DW'S STORY

DW 40 year old white male sentenced to 12 months custody for Indecent Assault of male over 13. DW had a life long registration period and he was disqualified from working with children. DW also had a Sexual Offences Prevention Order in place.

DW's previous convictions included multiple indecent exposures and downloading indecent images of children.

Legislation dictates he was to be released after serving 6 months custody and on a post release licence for 6 months under the supervision of the Probation Trust.

DW was assessed as posing a Very High Risk of Serious Harm to children, his target group being pre pubescent males.

Referred to the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) 4 months prior to release. Given the immediate risk of serious harm posed by DW and level of multi agency involvement it was agreed to manage his case at Level 3.

A robust risk management plan was put in place from the Level 3 meeting and these included: A residency requirement at a Probation Approved Premises. A period of covert surveillance by the police. Relevant disclosures about the risks DW presented were made to local schools and Job Centre Plus. Unfortunately due to the short time DW was on licence it would not serve as long enough for him to complete a sex offender programme. These can take up to 18 months. However, a comprehensive list of restrictive and rehabilitative additional licence conditions were inserted into his release licence:

- To permanently reside at (name and address e.g. an approved premises) and must not leave to reside elsewhere without obtaining the prior approval of your supervising officer; thereafter must reside as directed by your supervising officer.
- To notify your supervising officer of developing relationships
- Not to undertake work or other organised activity which will involve a person under the age of 18 either on a paid or unpaid basis without the prior approval of your supervising officer;
- Not to use a computer or other electronic device for the purpose of accessing the Internet or have access to instant messaging services or any other on line message board/forum or community without the prior approval of your supervising officer.
- Not to own or use any computer without the prior approval of your supervising officer.
- Not seek to approach or communicate with (victims name withheld) without the prior approval of your supervising officer and/ or the name of appropriate Social Services Department.

- Not to have unsupervised contact with children under the age of 18 without the prior approval of your supervising officer and Cumbria County Council Children's Services
- Not to reside (not even to stay for one night) in the same household as any child under the age of 18 without the prior approval of your supervising officer
- Not to enter or remain in sight of any children's play area, swimming baths, or schools without the prior approval of your supervising officer.

DW was released from custody and escorted by the police to the Approved Premises. During the first 10 days of his release the surveillance team indicated that they had seen DW approach a boy 10 years of age in a local shop. CCTV was obtained and witness statements secured from staff at the store. This was enough to secure a further conviction for Breach of SOPO. As there was clear evidence of DW breaching his licence the Probation Trust were able to recall DW to custody during the intervening period whilst the court process was ongoing.

DW was sentenced to 30 months custody for Breach of SOPO. Again DW was referred to MAPPA 6 months prior to release. The same licence conditions were inserted into his post release licence. As his licence supervision period was now 18 months this meant DW had enough time to complete a structured work programme around his sexual offending and the following additional licence condition was added:

- To comply with any requirements specified by your supervising officer for the purpose of ensuring that you address your sexual offending behaviour problems by attendance at the Northumbria Sex Offender Group Programme..

DW was released on licence and took up residency at the Probation Approved Premises. He managed to comply well with his licence conditions and completed an 18 month programme aimed at addressing his sexual offending. DW secured suitable employment. Through the help of local authority housing DW also had appropriate move on accommodation approved by police and probation. This accommodation was also structured to include a floating support package from a local charity who work with offenders to help with practical advice.

DW was also referred into Circles of Support and Accountability (COSA).

DW was reduced to Level one ordinary management during the course of his licence and he has since completed his licence period successfully and has not been reconvicted of any offence.



THIS CASE EXEMPLIFIES :

Timely and focused pre-release work. Specific risk management plans were reported to be developed pre-release with appropriate conditions and restrictions and areas operated swift recall policies.

- Panel attendance of victim liaison workers. This enabled presentation of victim issues and a focus on victim protection strategies (e.g. rapid response phone contact, alarms, and so on).
- Early identification of need and referral to relevant treatment/group work programme, supported by relevant one-to-one work.
- Offence-focused individual work, for example working with offenders to develop internal controls and recognise and avoid triggers to offending.
- Attention in one-to-one-supervision to relapse prevention, especially following completion of treatment.
- Probation officers working with offenders to jointly manage risk with the goal of engaging offenders in their own regulation..
- The use and enforcement of appropriate external controls (curfews, exclusion zones, and so on).
- Use of home visits to check and be 'lifestyle vigilant'
- Police surveillance.
- Swift and appropriate information exchange (e.g. between police and probation especially when offenders were breaching licence conditions).

SPECIALIST SOFTWARE STRENGTHENS PUBLIC PROTECTION IN CUMBRIA

Cumbria is now one of a number of areas to adopt the use of specialist software to monitor the internet activity of sexual and other relevant offenders.

The software is installed on an offender's computer and works by scanning online material viewed by the user. It also monitors data entered online by the offender, such as the words typed into a search engine or a conversation on a social networking site.

Based on years of research, a list of key words, are built into the software as well as the ability to tailor additional words to a specific offender.

If a key word is detected, the software triggers an alert in real time, sending a screen shot of the web-page to public protection officers. They can then decide if further action needs to be taken. The data can also be stored as evidence if required.

The offender cannot access the internet without agreeing to the acceptable user policy which activates the software. Changes in internet use, such as a reduction in the use of the computer, will result in further investigation by the Police to ensure the user is not attempting to circumvent the system.

The software can only be installed under the conditions of a Sexual Offences Prevention Order (SOPO), a Prison licence managed by the Probation Service, as part of bail conditions or with the consent of the person being managed.



INTERVENTIONS: WHAT WORKS IN CUMBRIA

PROGRAMMES FOR CHANGE

When an offender first comes into MAPPA the panel draws up a risk management plan, outlining what the risks are, how they will be managed and by whom.

MAPP panels are influential in driving an offenders risk management plan and have a wide range of choices available in order to manage risk. These choices can include ensuring that an offender lives in an approved premises or undertakes an accredited programme. Intervention programmes, known as 'accredited programmes', are designed to address particular types or root causes of offending behaviour. Offenders are assessed to determine which programme is most suitable for them. For many MAPPA offenders this may include compulsory attendance at a sex offender, domestic violence or anger management programme. National research has shown that these programmes have the best chance of reducing reoffending.

Cumbria Probation Trust deliver the nationally-accredited programmes that aim to reduce reoffending by getting offenders to address offending behaviours and challenge their attitudes and beliefs. The courses they deliver are intensive and can last over long periods of time.

The Programmes that Cumbria Probation Trust deliver in Cumbria are:

SEX OFFENDER GROUP WORK PROGRAMME (NSOG)

Sex offenders can often have distorted ways of thinking which include blaming the victim, denying their own responsibility and minimising the harm they have caused. This programme aims to help sex offenders develop understanding of how and why they have committed sexual offences. The programme also increases awareness of victim harm. The main focus is to help the offender develop positive life goals and practice new thinking and behaviour skills that will lead him away from offending. The core programme comprises of 4 modules of 8 weeks. Men can attend at the beginning of any module. Men who are assessed as low risk/ low deviancy will normally do individual work followed by the Relapse Prevention Programme.

BUILDING BETTER RELATIONSHIPS (BBRP)

The Building Better Relationships (BBR) Programme aims to address the behaviour of men who perpetrate violence and abuse towards women.

THINKING SKILLS PROGRAMME (TSP)

The Thinking Skills (TSP) Programme aims to develop persistent offenders' thinking and problem-solving skills. It also aims to challenge attitudes to offending and reduce the risk of further crimes

INTERNET SEX OFFENDER TREATMENT PROGRAMME

The aim of the programme is to help male offenders develop an understanding of how and why they have committed sexual offences by means of the internet. The programme also increases awareness of the harm caused to victims.

The main focus is to help the offender develop meaningful life goals and practice new thinking and behavioural skills that will lead him away from offending. It also introduces links between the internet and obsessive behaviour.

ALCOHOL TREATMENT REQUIREMENT

This requirement is delivered in partnership with UNITY Drug and Alcohol services and is targeted at offenders who have an alcohol dependency which causes them to commit crime.

The alcohol treatment requirement provides access to a tailored treatment programme with the aim of reducing alcohol dependency.

DRUG REHABILITATION REQUIREMENT

The Drug Rehabilitation requirement is also delivered in partnership with UNITY Drug and Alcohol services and provides access to a drug treatment programme with the goal of reducing drug related offending.

Offenders must agree their treatment plan with the probation and treatment services. The plan will set out the level of treatment and testing and what is required at each stage of the order.

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

Basic Skills are identified as being:

- reading
- writing
- speaking and listening
- using numbers

Not possessing these skills can have a detrimental effect on individual's life.

In Cumbria we work in partnership with ACHIEVE North West in order to bring opportunities to offenders, helping them improve their basic

skills and offering them the chance to receive formal qualifications which can increase their chances of employment and reduce re-offending.

Cumbria Probation Trust also works with a range of voluntary sector organisations to support offender learning.

IMPROVING RELATIONSHIPS – SUPPORTING CHANGE (IR-SC)

The Improving Relationships – Supporting Change Course is a Specified Activity Requirement that has been developed and evaluated by Greater Manchester Probation Service. It is designed to reduce re-offending by adult male domestic violence perpetrators.

Like the Building Better Relationships Programme for high risk domestic violence perpetrators IR-SC requires co-operation between the agencies concerned with domestic violence and prioritises women's and children's safety. A key part of the requirement is the service offered to victims and/or current partners of the men on the programme. This service to women includes work on:

- Safety planning for women and children
- Providing information about the programme
- Referring women to local services for ongoing support and assistance
- Gathering information from women to contribute to the programme evaluation

A VITAL ROLE IN PROTECTING THE PUBLIC IN CUMBRIA

Approved Premises (APs) are one of the most important parts of public protection arrangements

Serious offenders can be directed to live, for a specific period of time in Approved Premises. They may be on licence from Prison or be ordered by the Court to reside there.

They provide a greater level of supervision and support than would normally be available to offenders residing at other locations.

Approved Premises play a significant role in helping to protect the public by monitoring offenders and helping to ease them back into the community. Residents must adhere to strict rules including attending activities and adhering to curfews and programmes which encourage them to lead law abiding lives. If the offenders fail to abide by these rules, then they can be sent to Court or returned to prison and lose their place in the hostel.

Cumbria is home to one Approved Premises, Cumbria Probation Trust fund and manage. Residents receive full supervision available 24 hours a day, (including an overnight curfew) whilst being in a structured environment. It has 24 beds and consistently achieves a high occupancy rate. All residents are encouraged to use their time constructively and have the opportunity to achieve a range of Basic Skill awards which can help them gain employment.

Whenever appropriate, staff of the Approved Premises work with other agencies and the Local Authority to ensure that the local community is kept informed of the work of the Probation Trust in Approved Premises.

Should you require any more information on Approved Premises, please contact:

Sarah Ward,
 Director of Operations,
 Cumbria Probation Trust
 Headquarters, Magistrates Court,
 Rickergate,
 Carlisle,
 CA3 8XP
0300 47 3774

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CUMBRIA REDUCING OFFENDING PARTNERSHIP TRUST (CROPT)

CIRCLES CUMBRIA

Circles Cumbria, a project of Cumbria Reducing Offending Partnership Trust (CROPT), was set up in 2009 and provides Circles of Support and Accountability for sex-offenders across the county.

Each Circle is made up of an offender – referred to as the ‘core member’ – and four or five trained volunteers with whom the ‘core member’ meets weekly, normally over a period of twelve months.

During the twelve month period the volunteers look to their ‘core member’ to acknowledge the serious nature of their offence and then go on to explore ways in which the ‘core member’ might endeavour to manage their life in a socially acceptable manner. Emphasis is placed on the development of hobbies and interests and on education and training which is aimed at improving employability.

Circles Cumbria is managed by a Co-ordinator and an Assistant Co-ordinator both of whom are former Probation Officers with significant experience of working with sex-offenders. The Co-ordinators liaise with the Probation Service in order to identify suitable ‘core members’ and are responsible for the recruitment, training and supervision of volunteers.

There are currently six Circles in place in Cumbria – three in Carlisle, one in Workington, one in Kendal and one in Barrow-in-Furness - which are funded through a contract between CROPT and Cumbria Probation Trust, as well as an amount of funding from local charitable trusts. It is hoped that the number of Circles in the county will grow as further funding becomes available and as the Circles model is increasingly recognised as a valuable and effective tool in the reduction of re-offending and the creation of safer communities.

A few years ago I made a stupid mistake. What is now I ended up being in a strange room with strange people. I felt safe having Margal there as she is a nice person to get on with, after a while I noticed that my confidence grew as we talked about my time here. It was nice to share my life with people who wanted to know more about me.

My wife was effected by my mistake also and circles helped by doing a time line with her. When it came to bank holidays they would pick us up and take us out for a trip as being in the room was not very getting hot, so we arranged to meet up on bank holidays. Sometimes Margal would join us. Even one day as we met up we began to talk about other things instead of my offending. And its nice.

Well I mean Me and my wife got married last year. And decided to make Circles invitation Margal to our special day. It was nice that they could come. As we don't have many friends.

Circles is coming to an end soon my last review is in November. I people from circles want to say whats with us and I want to join circles if possible. I think it would

Give you a acknowledge telling the offender know that one of the circles members is a sex offender who has been on this and has gained the courage last it has helped me in so many ways. I as a person have looked at my life and turned it around with the help and support what was given to me. I just hope I can give it back in any way I can. I would never be a representative for circles and talk to other offenders about my experience through circles. It has made me into a different person who I'm glad to be now.

The memory of me offending will stay with me forever, but being on circles has helped me to be on control of what I do!!!

Thankyou for listening to what I had to say.

Mr Scott

AN INDEPENDENT VIEW

My name is Alan Rawsthorne and I am one of two Lay advisers who are members of the Cumbria MAPPA Strategic Management Board. I have fulfilled this role since my appointment in December 2010 and I am delighted to be able to contribute to the 2013 annual report.

The following extract from the MAPPA guidance sets out the role of Lay Adviser:

Section 326 of the Criminal Justice Act (2003) requires the Secretary of State to appoint two Lay Advisers to each Responsible Authority (RA) area. The Act makes clear that the Lay Advisers will be appointed to assist in the MAPPA review functions and not the organisational decisions making. Lay Advisers will operate as full members of the area's Strategic Management Board (SMB) participating in the SMB itself and relevant sub-groups.

The Lay Adviser role is a voluntary and unpaid one. It is expected that they will attend each of the SMB meetings and undertake such familiarisation and reading as necessary to enable them to understand and to contribute to those meetings. They are not expected to become experts; their value is as informed observers and as posers of questions which the professionals closely involved in the work might not necessarily think of asking.

As such, the role is invaluable as they can provide a challenge to the professionals by acting as a "critical friend".

During my time to date as a lay adviser I have been privileged to be able to visit a variety of establishments and meet with professionals from those agencies with a duty to implement/cooperate with, MAPPA arrangements. From Police station custody suites, HM prisons, Young Offender Institutes, to Approved Premises and Probation Service and Victim Liaison meetings, I have been able to see for myself a common thread of practice based upon the MAPPA guidance.

A constant challenge to the Strategic Management Board (SMB) is to ensure that the many diverse organisations with a duty to cooperate with the MAPPA arrangements are kept abreast of the latest guidance. These organisations have their own primary roles, functions and staff pressures and consequently do not have people whose sole task is to service the sporadic demands of the MAPPA arrangements.

I am pleased to be able to note in this report that this year, 4 training events have been conducted, reaching 82 people who are new to MAPPA.

As a lay adviser and therefore member of the Cumbrian public I find it reassuring that the SMB is active in making sure that the arrangements are up to date and in place where they are implemented throughout the County.

In my role as a critical friend at SMB and MAPP meetings I am able to halt a discussion with a simplistic – I don't understand what that means/why did that happen/what does the guidance expect here – query. I would like to place on record my appreciation for the patience and understanding of those subject to such interruptions: I have never been disappointed in the quality and detail of the explanations and hope that I have helped to bring clarity to the process. I was unable to take part in the 2013 audit of MAPP meetings so my comments relate to the process as experienced in 2012 which was conducted under the same guidance. Random MAPP meetings were observed at each of the four venues in Cumbria. The meetings were audited against expected standards set out in the MAPPA guidance. The results were then moderated by a sub group of SMB and an action plan drawn up to address any deviation from the expected standards. I am particularly impressed by the openness and transparency of this approach and the underlying desire to ensure that consistency is achieved by the Chairs of the MAPP meetings.

I am confident from what I have seen that the decisions taken in Cumbria, in relation to protecting the public from violent and sexual offenders are appropriate, effective and proportionate.

Alan Rawsthorne
Cumbria Lay Advisor

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