<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foreword</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effective protection</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAPPA background</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How MAPPA works</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lay advisers - representing you</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managing risk together</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strength to strength</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behind the scenes</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changing behaviours</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Channel Programme</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe and secure</td>
<td>14-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance and quality</td>
<td>16-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>18-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explanation commentary on statistical tables</td>
<td>20-21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As the current Chair of York and North Yorkshire’s Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements, I am pleased to present this year’s annual report to both our local communities and partner agencies.

Protecting the public from harm is essential to the MAPPA Responsible Authority (Police, Prison and Probation services) and everything we do is focused on ensuring the continued safety of our communities.

Sexual and violent offending forms a small percentage of the crimes dealt with by North Yorkshire Police. However the devastating impact these incidents have on both victims and communities is huge. While all risk cannot be eliminated, public protection is our priority. Members of the public can be assured, through this report, that work continues 24 hours a day, seven days a week to protect communities from harm.

North Yorkshire continues to be one of the safest places in the country, with a low chance of becoming a victim of crime. We have an excellent track record of disrupting criminality and bringing offenders to justice. MAPPA is one example of how our excellent working relationships with partner organisations and agencies is key to the continued delivery of excellent standards of service to communities.

The breadth of experience and expertise in managing high risk offenders is exceptional - and there is no doubt of the commitment agencies demonstrate to achieve the highest of standards.

They all do a very difficult job, often in adverse circumstances and this report reflects on their significant achievements throughout the year.

In recommending this report to you we would like to thank all those involved locally in working with MAPPA and in maintaining the high professional standards and effective collaboration that we have now come to expect in York and North Yorkshire.

Louise Johnson
Chair
MAPPA North Yorkshire
Strategic Management Board
Effective protection

As the current Head of Public Protection for the NE Division of the NPS, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for being part of your local MAPPA.

The MAPPA are fundamental to the effective protection of the public, management of offenders and the support of victims. This is not a task any of us can take on alone. MAPPA is composed of experienced and specialist police and probation staff working comprehensively to be the single point of contact for all cooperating agencies, prisons, youth offending services, Job Centres, education, housing and health services. Together we can share significant information, provide advice and training to the agencies managing the risk posed by the most serious and complex offenders.

Key developments relating to MAPPA that I will oversee in the next 12 months are:-

• Ensuring any MAPPA Level 3 offenders have the appropriate input from the NE NPS Division Psychologist, Karen Saxby (pictured below).

• Implement a consistent job description for MAPPA managers via the Strategic MAPPA Boards.

• Embedding the new CSE definition in NPS practice and that offender managers are confident in working with this group of offenders.

• Ensuring the continuous improvement of the 20 approved premises (hostels) in the NE Division and maximising the usage of the 328 bed spaces we have.

• Effective identification and management of extremist offenders in the NE Division.

• Implementation and oversight of the new NE wide contract for Circles of Support.

Thank you again for your continued commitment to MAPPA and to the MAPPA staff for their professionalism and hard work. I look forward to working with you over the next 12 months.

Sarah Mainwaring
Head Of Public Protection
sarah.mainwaring@probation.gsi.gov.uk
MAPPA background

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.

A number of other agencies are under a Duty to Co-operate (DTC) with the Responsible Authority. These include social services, health services, youth offending yeams, 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 DTC agencies.

Lay advisers are members of the public appointed by the Minister with no links to the business of managing MAPPA offenders who 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 between agencies to inform the risk assessments and risk management plans of those managing or supervising them.

That is as far as MAPPA extend in the majority of cases, but some cases require structured multi-agency management. 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** – mainly violent offenders sentenced to 12 months or more imprisonment or a hospital order; 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 levels of management to ensure that resources are focused where they are most needed; generally those involving the higher risks of serious harm.

- **Level 1** involves ordinary agency management (i.e. managed by the lead agency with no MAPPA formal meetings);
- **Level 2** is where the active involvement of more than one agency is required to manage the offender.
- **Level 3** is where risk management plans require the attendance and commitment of resources at a senior level.

MAPPA are supported by ViSOR

This is a national IT system to assist in the management of offenders who pose a serious risk of harm to the public.

The use of ViSOR increases the ability to share intelligence across organisations and enable the safe transfer of key information when high risk offenders move, enhancing public protection measures. ViSOR allows staff from the police, probation and prison services to work on the same IT system for the first time, improving the quality and timeliness of risk assessments and interventions to prevent offending.

All MAPPA reports from England and Wales are published online at: [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)
Lay advisers are volunteer members of the public with no links to the management of MAPPA offenders.

They act as independent yet informed observers, who are able to pose questions which the professionals closely involved in the day to day work might not think of asking.

Lay advisers are members of the MAPPA Strategic Management Board (SMB) and bring to the board their understanding and perspective of the community in which they live and have strong links.

In North Yorkshire and York the SMB has two lay advisers, Sue Bentley and Nicholas Todd. They are appointed by the Secretary of State for Justice as critical friends to represent the community interest in the work of MAPPA. Their role is to challenge processes and procedures, monitor and evaluate the operation of MAPPA and help make MAPPA accountable.

Both Sue and Nicholas have received training in the work of the MAPPA agencies and they participate in various working groups, as well as the SMB.

Both lay advisers enjoy the mix of oversight and involvement as critical friends - helping to develop and monitor the work of MAPPA.

In the past year they have been involved in the monitoring of the implementation of the SMB’s business plan, the evaluation of MAPPA processes and oversight of the MAPPA budget and key performance indicators.

Both advisers have noted that staff training and continual improvement has remained high on the agenda, so that MAPPA arrangements can be implemented consistently and safely. In particular, during the year the implementation of the programme ‘Circles of Support and Accountability’ has continued to progress to help high risk individuals. Improved attendance at the SMB has also been observed.

Considerable work has been done to consolidate the e-learning project, which has been rolled out across all relevant agencies with great success and is now being implemented in other MAPPA areas.
Members of the Adult Safeguarding team are representatives for North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) health and adult services, at both MAPPA 2 and MAPPA 3 meetings.

If an offender or a victim is open to health and adult services the appropriate allocated worker is also invited, as they can contribute helpful information and share their views and experiences.

The team value taking part in these meetings as it is a formal way to share relevant information, skills and expertise with other agencies. It is an ideal opportunity for them to learn about what other services can offer and get a better understanding of their role; it is also an effective way to share resources and knowledge.

This multi-agency way of working ensures all perspectives of the case are considered, in order to assess the risk and reach the best outcomes. It enables health and adult services to contribute to a protection plan that safeguards the offender, victim, other individual adults and children at risk, the public, staff and professionals.

Health and adult services advise when a request for a needs assessment would be appropriate, or can outline other services which would be beneficial. They also identify when a safeguarding concern should be raised for any adults at risk with care and support needs.

An important action which is frequently agreed at the MAPPA meetings is when there is an identified risk to professionals working with the offender; the process allows health and adult services to clearly document the risks posed to staff and enables them to place a management plan on their electronic client records.

"...an effective way to share resources and knowledge"
From strength to strength

They say a little bit of knowledge can be a bad thing.

When I was told in the summer of 2016 that I would be taking over as the Head of the MAPPA team in North Yorkshire Police, I thought I knew what I was letting myself in for. I could not have been more wrong!

Having had some limited involvement in MAPPA a few years ago, I thought I knew what the job entailed. It did not take me long to realise that there is an awful lot more to the role than what I first thought. The number of Level 2 and Level 3 meetings alone is challenging to say the least and I am so grateful to all our partners and duty to cooperate agencies who have demonstrated such a commitment over the last year.

The North Yorkshire Police MAPPA Unit is in a constant state of flux. That can be a good thing; it makes for a dynamic and innovative working environment. The unit prides itself on keeping pace with new developments in the field. We have been at the forefront of the use of internet technology, and pioneering in our approach to Criminal and Civil Orders. The unit has faced some internal changes over the past year. The MAPPA team merged with Integrated Offender Management to become the Offender Management Unit (OMU) in May 2016.

Reflecting the national trend, the number of MAPPA subjects in North Yorkshire rises every month. Since I took up my post, we have passed the 1,000 mark and still it rises. In an effort to manage the numbers, we have adopted the new national guidelines regarding reactive management.

Robust risk assessment remains uppermost, but we are exploring all possible avenues, to ensure we focus our main attention on those identified as posing the highest risk.

Our IOM colleagues within the newly formed OMU will assist us further by taking on the management of some of our lower risk Registered Sexual Offenders (RSOs) as well as Violent Offenders. Where appropriate, applications by those eligible to come off the register are also being progressed. At time of writing, eight RSOs have been removed since July 2016.

I feel confident that MAPPA, now embedded within OMU, will continue to go from strength to strength. A newly appointment digital lead officer, about to take up post, will ensure that we stay ahead of the game when tackling the growing problem of internet offending.

DI Fiona Wynne
Detective Inspector
Offender Management Unit

“...it makes for a dynamic and innovative working environment”
Behind the scenes

The role of public protection administrator (PPA) has changed dramatically over the years.

When I took on the newly created role in 2007 there were far fewer formal processes in place and meetings were held as Risk Management meetings rather than MAPPA.

Since that time the MAPPA process has become much more rigorous and robust in managing the risk that an offender presents when in the community.

Meetings are held and reviewed within nationally set timescales and minutes are written on a nationally agreed template. There is a national MAPPA guidance which all areas work within and this is reviewed periodically.

An area of significant change in the MAPPA process has been the sharing of information between agencies. Police and probation work more closely within the MAPPA team and whereas previously information sharing was reliant on verbal conversations or e-mail, we now use ViSOR on a daily basis. This is a national database that allows probation, police and prisons to share information on MAPPA offenders and therefore be better able to manage the risks presented.

There are three public protection administrators (PPA’s) across North Yorkshire and alongside the MAPPA administrator based at the Police Headquarters we work closely as a team, providing cover for each other where required and ensuring that information is shared promptly between Police and Probation.

As well as providing administrative support for MAPPA meetings and managing ViSOR on behalf of probation, PPA’s have many other tasks including monitoring when MAPPA referrals are due, ensuring the case management system’s risk flags are kept up to date and being involved in MAPPA audits.

For these we collate information on meetings that have taken place over the previous year and we have also been involved in the auditing of cases, which highlights what is working well within MAPPA and where further improvements can be made.

The PPA role has always been an interesting one as well as challenging at times and it will continue to evolve as new processes are implemented, both on a local and national scale.

Nicola
Public Protection Administrator

“...a very tight team who work closely together providing support to each other and colleagues at all times and provide an invaluable service to the MAPPA process”

Sheena
MAPPA Administrator

“Inter-agency collaboration and information sharing within agreed protocols works exceptionally well, enabling effective assessment and management of known risks and consideration of potential risks“

Mandy
Public Protection Administrator
Changing behaviours

The York and North Yorkshire cluster of the National Probation Service delivers the Northumbria Sex Offender Groupwork Programme (NSOGP) to men convicted by the courts of sexual offences.

The programme is suitable for adult male sexual offenders aged 21 years and over, who fall within the normal IQ range (80+).

It is designed to meet the needs of those who have offended against children and/or adults, as well as those who have committed non-contact offences. Offenders who do not fit these criteria may qualify for clinical override or treatment may be delivered on a one to one basis.

NSOGP is a treatment programme accredited by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS). This means that it has to be delivered to the quality standards set out in the accreditation process and is subject to audit procedures.

This ensures that the programme is delivered by appropriately qualified and trained probation staff who are monitored to assess quality of programme delivery and facilitators records. At operational level this entails monitoring by Treatment Managers of video recordings of sessions, copies of facilitator records and pre and post treatment reports.

In York and North Yorkshire, most men will complete two stages in the NSOGP process. The first stage will be a core programme of four modules, each of eight weekly sessions. This is designed to enable the offender to understand and address the factors that motivated and enabled their offending.

The programme initially involves introductory and assessment exercises, followed by personal work specific to the men’s offending behaviour and thematic exercises designed to address problematic behaviours, cognitive distortions or functional deficits.

Following successful completion of the core group, the man will usually go on to attend a twelve week Relapse Prevention Group called Community Better Lives Programme (CBLP).

This designed to build on the work completed in the core programme and develop long term lifestyle changes that will enable the man to avoid further offending in the future. Some men who are assessed to be low risk or need, or who have completed programmes in custody may, with support from their supervising officer, just complete CBLP.

Each week in York, sixteen men attend the NSOGP programme and twelve men attend CBLP.
Channel-\textit{ing} support

Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

The programme uses a multi-agency approach to protect vulnerable people, from radicalisation and extremism, by:

- Identifying individuals at risk;
- Assessing the nature and extent of that risk; and
- Developing the most appropriate support plan for the individual concerned.

Channel may be appropriate for anyone who is vulnerable to being drawn into any form of terrorism. Channel is about ensuring that vulnerable children and adults of any faith, ethnicity or background receive support before their vulnerabilities are exploited by those that would want them to embrace terrorism, and before they become involved in criminal terrorist related activity.

The Channel process is managed by the Local Authority, who will chair the panel, in conjunction with the police, on behalf of the Home Office. The Channel panel is the principal decision-making and coordinating body for the Channel programme in North Yorkshire. Decisions and actions made by the panel will be based on discussions and input of all core members, with the final decision resting with the chair.

Since November 2015 the North Yorkshire Channel Panel meets on a monthly basis and discusses both Adult and Children’s and Young People concerns.

Safeguarding individuals with care and support needs from radicalisation is no different from safeguarding them from other forms of harm. In a few cases the concerns around the individual may go beyond being vulnerable to extremism.

When a professional has identified the need to refer an individual, the relevant safeguarding procedures should be followed to ensure that an appropriate referral is made to Children’s Social Care or health and adult services in an effective and timely way.
Housing offenders

Why house MAPPA cases?

This is an emotive question for people. On the face of it, everyone needs accommodation regardless of their circumstances. It could be argued that a person who presents a high risk to others needs accommodation above everyone else to protect the public but most definitely needs to be housed appropriately, somewhere that reduces the risk to the public, somewhere that ensures the individual can be monitored as necessary but is safe for them to live in.

On the other hand, the public, communities and even staff fear those who have committed sexual or violent crimes and are often concerned that the offender presents too high a risk and do not want them living in the area and worry about local residents.

So what are the options? Through MAPPA meetings, the risk of each individual is discussed alongside the precautions which need to be put in place to reduce the risk. Safe and secure housing is often needed.

In North Yorkshire, Southview is the only approved premises. Southview is situated in York and is a psychologically informed planned environment (PIPE), which is a national resource.

As it is sometimes the case that offenders outside of North Yorkshire are placed at Southview, it is also the case that our offenders will need to be placed in approved premises outside of the county. This can be positive where offenders released from custody cannot return to their home area in order to safeguard victims. However, as approved premises are not places of permanent residence, there is a significant amount of work to do, in most cases, to secure an appropriate move on plan.

“...the risk of each individual is discussed alongside the precautions which need to be put in place to reduce the risk. Safe and secure housing is often needed”
Not all MAPPA cases however need 24/7 supported housing but private rented housing is expensive in York and social housing is in short supply. So moving on from hostels can be problematic.

In York, the average rent for a one bedroom flat in the private sector is £648pcm is but Local Housing Allowance is £430pcm. There are approximately 1,600 households on the housing register for York, of which 787 require general needs one bedroom properties. In York’s own stock there were only 266 vacant one bed roomed properties last year. These are the properties which are generally needed by MAPPA cases.

The way forward, is to work together to understand the issues and constraints of housing, to ensure all offenders are offered realistic advice prior to and upon release, and to have an appropriate release plan. That is why at a local level training, collaboration, communication and MAPPA meetings are so important.

Becky Ward
Service Manager, Housing Options and Support
City of York Council

“the way forward is to work together, to understand the issues and constraints of housing”
Nationally set MAPPA key performance indicators have traditionally focused on quantitative outputs and like all the work we do it was of interest to our MAPPA SMB to develop a focus on the quality of the MAPPA in North Yorkshire.

In 2016 it was therefore agreed that the SMB would invest in a research project to closely examine the benefits and added value active MAPPA management at Level 2 and 3 provides.

The Department of Social Policy and Social Work at the University of York were approved and commissioned to undertake this research and earlier this year they commenced their fieldwork. This part of the project involves interviews with a range of practitioners across the spectrum of agencies involved in MAPPA and service users who have been managed at Level 2 or 3.

In addition, there are a number of detailed case studies being undertaken and many observations of MAPPA meetings throughout the year and across the county.

There are two researchers involved in the project and at this stage they report that good progress is being made and an interim report will be submitted to MAPPA SMB in November, with the final report being completed for December 2017.

The Board is looking forward to reading the findings of this research and taking forward any recommendations to benefit the quality of service delivery - and where possible improve public protection.
The first MAPPA audit for York and North Yorkshire cases took place in March 2004 and a MAPPA audit has been held every year since, with the most recent taking place in March 2017.

Audits are multi-agency events, where cases are randomly selected from all cases listed for MAPPA meetings over the previous year.

All female, youth and BME cases are included in the audit, as are all cases referred by mental health (the second biggest referrer next to probation), police, youth offending teams and youth justice.

This year 20 cases were audited, of which 13 were held by the probation service.

Working in pairs, referrals, reports presented to the MAPPA meetings and the minutes for each case are assessed to provide evidence of the quality of the MAPPA process, with regards to:

- timeliness
- quality of referrals
- agency attendance
- disclosure
- victims
- risk assessment/management
- action planning, and
- overall management of the case.

The 2017 audits demonstrate:

- Improvements in the timeliness of referrals into MAPPA - especially custody cases now referred at least nine months prior to release.
- All cases met timeliness targets for sending out invitations, scheduling meeting and circulating minutes.
- Improved agency attendance at meetings; and in all but one case every agencies needed to formulate a defensible action plan were in attendance at the meeting.
- Good practice was identified in the detail of risk management plans in the MAPPA minutes; in one particular case, the transition from youth justice to probation was assessed 'as really well managed'.
- In all cases good multi-agency liaison took place and third party disclosure was discussed and considered throughout meetings.

Overall, this year saw the highest ever number of cases assessed as ‘excellently managed’ (17 out of the 20 cases).

Areas for development focused on the need for better quality information at the referral stage and for more emphasis on contingency planning in the minutes.

Risk management plans within the minutes have now been formatted in a way that will ensure more detailed information is available and the quality of contingency plans will be a feature for the 2018 audits.
### MAPPA-eligible offenders on 31 March 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Category 1: Registered sex offenders</th>
<th>Category 2: Violent offenders</th>
<th>Category 3: Other dangerous offenders</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level 1</td>
<td>769</td>
<td>190</td>
<td></td>
<td>959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>17</td>
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<td>Level 3</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>780</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>979</td>
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### MAPPA-eligible offenders in Levels 2 and 3 by category (yearly total)

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<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Category 1: Registered sex offenders</th>
<th>Category 2: Violent offenders</th>
<th>Category 3: Other dangerous offenders</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Level 2</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>47</td>
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</table>

#### RSOs cautioned or convicted for breach of notification requirements
- 14

### Notification Requirement

- **RSOs having had lifetime notification requirements revoked on application**: 6
- **People subject to notification requirements for breach of an SRO**: 0
### Restrictive orders for Category 1 offenders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SHPOs &amp; Nos imposed by the courts</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SHPOs</td>
<td>105</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHPO with foreign travel restriction</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOs</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Level 2 and 3 offenders returned to custody

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Category 1: Registered sex offenders</th>
<th>Category 2: Violent offenders</th>
<th>Category 3: Other dangerous offenders</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Breach of licence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breach of SOPO/SHPO</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total number of Registered Sexual Offenders per 100,000 population

This figure has been calculated using the mid-2016 estimated resident population, published by the Office for National Statistics on 22 June 2017, excluding those aged less than ten years of age.

107
MAPPA background

The totals of MAPPA-eligible offenders, broken down by category, reflect the picture on 31 March 2017 (i.e. they are a snapshot). The rest of the data covers the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017.

(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 are actually managed under ordinary agency (Level 1) arrangements rather than via MAPPA meetings. These figures only include those MAPPA eligible offenders living in the community. They do not include those in prison or detained under the Mental Health Act.

(b) Registered Sexual Offenders (RSOs) – those who are required to notify the police of their name, address and other personal details and to notify of any subsequent changes (this is known as the “notification requirement.”) Failure to comply with the notification requirement is a criminal offence that 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.

(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 MAPPA meetings.

(e) Breach of licence – offenders released into the community following a period of imprisonment 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 Harm Prevention Order (SHPO) (including any additional foreign travel restriction). Sexual Harm Prevention Orders (SHPOs) and interim SHPOs replaced Sexual Offence Prevention Orders. They are intended to protect the public from offenders convicted of a sexual or violent offence who pose a risk of sexual harm to the public by placing restrictions on their behaviour. It requires the offender to notify their details to the police (as set out in Part 2 of the 2003 Act) for the duration of the order.

The court must be satisfied that an order is necessary to protect the public (or any particular members of the public) in the UK, or children or vulnerable adults (or any particular children or vulnerable adults) abroad, from sexual harm from the offender. In the case of an order made on a free standing application by a chief officer or the National Crime Agency (NCA), the chief officer/NCA must be able to show that the offender has acted in such a way since their conviction as to make the order necessary.

The minimum duration for a full order is five years. The lower age limit is 10, which is the age of criminal responsibility, but where the defendant is under the age of 18 an application for an order should only be considered exceptionally.

(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) Sexual Risk Order (including any additional foreign travel restriction)

The Sexual Risk Order (SRO) replaced the Risk of Sexual Harm Order (RoSHO) and may be made in relation to a person without a conviction for a sexual or violent offence (or any other offence), but who poses a risk of sexual harm.

The SRO may be made at the magistrates’ court on application by the police or NCA where an individual has done an act of a sexual nature and the court is satisfied that the person poses a risk of harm to the public in the UK or children or vulnerable adults overseas.

A SRO may prohibit the person from doing anything described in it, including travel overseas. Any prohibition must be necessary to protect the public in the UK from sexual harm or, in relation to foreign travel, protecting children or vulnerable adults from sexual harm.

An individual subject to an SRO is required to notify the police of their name and home address within three days of the order being made and also to notify any changes to this information within three days.

A SRO can last for a minimum of two years and has no maximum duration, with the exception of any foreign travel restrictions which, if applicable, last for a maximum of five years (but may be renewed).

The criminal standard of proof continues to apply. The person concerned is able to appeal against the making of the order and the police or the person concerned are able to apply for the order to be varied, renewed or discharged.

A breach of a SRO is a criminal offence punishable by a maximum of five years’ imprisonment. Where an individual breaches their SRO, they will become subject to full notification requirements.

Individuals made subject of a SRO are now recorded on VISOR as a Potentially Dangerous Person (PDP).

(i) Lifetime notification requirements revoked on application

A legal challenge in 2010 and a corresponding legislative response means there is now a mechanism in place that allows qualifying sex offenders to apply for a review of their notification requirements.

On 21 April 2010, in the case of R (on the application of F and Angus Aubrey Thompson) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2010] UKSC 17, the Supreme Court upheld an earlier decision of the Court of Appeal and made a declaration of incompatibility under s. 4 of the Human Rights Act 1998 in respect of notification requirements for an indefinite period under section 82 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

This has been remedied by virtue of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (Remedial) Order 2012 which has introduced the opportunity for offenders subject to indefinite notification to seek a review; this was enacted on 30th July 2012.

Persons will not come off the register automatically. Qualifying offenders will be required to submit an application to the police seeking a review of their indefinite notification requirements. This will only be once they have completed a minimum period of time subject to the notification requirements (15 years from the point of first notification following release from custody for the index offence for adults and 8 years for juveniles).

Those who continue to pose a significant risk will remain on the register for life, if necessary. In the event that an offender is subject to a Sexual Offences Prevention Order (SOPO)/Sexual Harm Prevention Order (SHPO) the order must be discharged under section 108 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 prior to an application for a review of their indefinite notification requirements.

For more information, see the Home Office section of the gov.uk website: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sexual-offences-act-2003-remedial-order-2012
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