

Joint Protocol between the Thames Valley Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) and the Strategic MAPPA Board (SMB)

Introduction

The SMB and the Thames Valley LSCBs have agreed this protocol to ensure there is effective cooperation and communication between all relevant LSCBs and the SMB. This document will not set out the processes within MAPPA; which can be found in detail in the National MAPPA Guidance 2009 and the Thames Valley Local Working Requirements.*

The overall purpose of MAPPA is to help to reduce the re-offending behaviour of sexual and violent offenders in order to protect the public, including previous victims, from serious harm.

The purpose of this protocol is to identify how MAPPA will work with the LSCB's and how strategic information will thereby be shared.

The LSCB is not responsible for operational safeguarding. Any sharing of information about the matters must take place directly with the relevant agencies. If there are disagreements between agencies regarding MAPPA work they should be escalated to senior managers within the relevant agency.

Agencies working with children and their families should be familiar with the work of both the Strategic Mappa Board and the Local Safeguarding Children Boards. Good communication, co-operation and liaison is essential.

This protocol sets the framework for the communication routes between the Thames Valley LSCBs and the Thames Valley Strategic MAPPA Board:

Information Sharing:-

Information will be shared between both boards in a necessary and proportionate manner with lawful authority. Timely and confident information sharing is critical to both public protection and children's safeguarding. Both boards and will ensure:-

- Relevant information is freely shared within the above context in the interests of public protection and the safeguarding of children and the statutory responsibility of both boards.
- Information will be marked and securely stored in line with Government Protected Marking (GPMS).
- The LSCB Business Managers will ensure that relevant strategic information from the SMB is presented to the LSCB and ensure that any relevant information from the LSCB is taken to the Board via the representative.
- Strategic information can be shared with MAPPA via the SMB secretariat or the Central MAPPA Unit and MAPPA Co-ordinator, or local chairs.
- There will normally be little difficulty sharing strategic information under a "Restricted Marker".

- MAPPA has a responsibility for disclosure and both boards will be aware of responsibilities under the Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme, which applies in Thames Valley.
- Each board should consider the role of the other when reviewing individual cases.

The Thames Valley LSCBs will:-

The Thames Valley LSCBs will collectively appoint one representative and one substitute who between them will sit on the SMB and act as a liaison with all Thames Valley LSCBs to ensure that there are effective lines of interaction in relation to:

- a. representing the views of LSCBs at the SMB meetings;
- b. communicating any relevant issues back to the TV LSCB Business Managers or Chairs;
- c. liaise as required in relation to any new guidance or training that should be developed in light of Serious Case Reviews or Government publications for either LSCBs or the SMB and
- d. escalate any strategic issues identified by either LSCBs or the SMB.

LSCBs have a function of strategic oversight; therefore direct referrals into MAPPA will not occur. Local safeguarding agencies are responsible for referring cases into the multi-agency process in a timely manner and attending/co-operating appropriately in line with their statutory functions. The LSCB is responsible for ensuring the overall effectiveness of those agencies in safeguarding children and promoting their welfare.

- . The LSCB will ensure the effectiveness of safeguarding including how well agencies share information.

LSCBS should ensure that they have members who can inform them of MAPPA issues.

- a. share relevant data with the LSCB rep so that it can be sent to all LSCBs Business Managers and Chairs;
- b. share learning from any case reviews undertaken by SMB that have any child safeguarding issues so that all LSCBs can be made aware;
- c. provide training opportunities to Duty to Co-operate¹;

- d. ensure that the safeguarding needs of children are kept as a priority both for the SMB and MAPPA Chairs;
- e. the SMB will ensure that it fulfils its responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and manages the risk of harm young offenders presents to others; and
- f. ensure that strategic safeguarding issues brought to their attention are communicated to the local LSCB through the representative. Operational issues should be taken up direct with the relevant local agency.

This protocol will be reviewed annually by representatives of both boards.

- Copies of these documents can be obtained via the Central MAPPA Unit, Fountain Court, Kidlington, Oxon OX5 1NZ
centralsmappaunit@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Appendix A

- Section 325(4) of the Criminal Justice Act 2003:- Sets out a duty within DTC agencies to share information within MAPPA.
- Section 115 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998:- allows local authorities to share information for the purposes of that Act.
- Common Law; - RAM doctrine for agencies of the Crown.
- Children's Act 2004:- For the prevention of "serious harm".
- Data Protection Act 1998:- Allows for the sharing of personal information for the Prevention and Detection of Crime.