



West Mercia Multi Agency **Public Protection** Arrangements

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## SECTION 1

### Introduction

This is the 8th year of reporting the progress of MAPPA and the focus of the West Mercia arrangements continues to be around building trust and confidence in our partners and the communities we seek to serve, in protecting the public.

In West Mercia (Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin) we continue to build on the effective working relationships between all agencies involved in the management of offenders who pose the greatest risk to our communities. These arrangements are called the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). Protecting the public is our top priority.

Effective information sharing, between the agencies, is of paramount importance. We have ensured that our staff, working within the community, have the information they need to manage risk and contribute to the MAPPA. Our approach is recognised nationally and we have been visited from around the country to learn from our experience. Our work has been acknowledged in complimentary terms by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Police (HMIC), the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA), Probation Inspectorate and our Safeguarding and Protecting Vulnerable people arrangements.

I am pleased to report that the use of preventive orders - Sexual Offences Prevention Orders (SOPO's) has significantly increased and we continue to explore innovative ways to manage offenders and keep the public safe.

Chief Constable Paul West leads nationally on MAPPA. His work also includes co-ordination of the national child sex offender disclosure pilot. To support this national profile we have set ourselves the challenge of West Mercia being recognised and acknowledged as a 'centre of excellence' in the area of public protection.

A great deal has been achieved throughout the last 12 months and you can be assured of the continuing commitment and determination of all the agencies to manage offenders and keep our communities safe.



Simon Chesterman

Assistant Chief Constable

Chair - Senior Management Board

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simon Chesterman".

## SECTION 2

## Key Achievements

This year has seen our arrangements assessed and inspected by a number of independent bodies namely the National Police Improvement Agency (NPIA) and a Probation Inspectorate, the findings being good. West Mercia has once again been at the forefront of innovative work.

West Mercia's Chief Constable Paul West leads nationally for the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) for managing sexual and other violent offenders and in September last year he secured the attendance of the Home Secretary to deliver the key note address at the national ACPO conference, underlining the importance of this work.

This national role has without doubt resulted in significant benefits to West Mercia's approach in this critical area. We have been at the forefront of informing and shaping national policy, which has been translated into local practice.

Our arrangements within West Mercia around information sharing concerning risk have been acknowledged as best practice. Vital information concerning those who pose a risk to the community is shared with local policing teams, which in turn is shared with partner agencies within the MAPPA world. They are then able to make effective contributions to their management by taking part in the MAPPA meetings thereby building trust and confidence in our arrangements across all communities. A series of good news stories are contained within this Annual Report to demonstrate our strong arrangements. We are proud to have been visited by numerous areas seeking to replicate our systems.

During the last 12 months an innovative programme entitled "Think you know? do you?" has been developed and delivered throughout the West Mercia partnership around raising awareness concerning internet safety. This has been driven through the Local Children's Safeguarding Boards. This work has been acknowledged by the NSPCC, Bernardo's, BECTA and many other agencies.

We have continued to ensure that our public protection arrangements are strengthened by our development of the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) across West Mercia in support of victims.

Members of the MAPPA met a delegation of Croatian judges to examine how MAPPA worked and how similar arrangements could be implemented in Croatia.

Much of the year has been spent building upon our sound foundations of our central multi agency public protection unit. A further review of our arrangements by the Strategic Management Board for MAPPA has been conducted against the new MAPPA standards and despite the current financial climate additional resources have been available to this important area. This reflects the commitment and willingness of agencies to commit staff, time and resources to work collaboratively to protect the public.

The Strategic Management Board are examining some exciting developments for the coming year such as forensic monitoring for offenders who use computers as part of their prevention strategies, and continuing to raise awareness around MAPPA.

The key to our success for the year has been commitment, professionalism and the determination of all key partners engaged within the MAPPA to make a difference in protecting the public.

## SECTION 3

### The Mappa Framework

#### What is MAPPA?

- MAPPA are a set of arrangements to manage the risk posed by certain sexual and violent offenders. They bring together the Police, Probation and Prison Services in West Mercia into what is known as the MAPPA Responsible Authority.
- A number of other agencies are under a duty to co-operate with the Responsible Authority. These include: Children's Services, Adult Social Services, Health Trusts and Authorities, Youth Offending Teams, local housing authorities and certain registered social landlords, Jobcentre Plus, and electronic monitoring providers.
- The purposes of MAPPA are:
  - to ensure more comprehensive risk assessments are completed, taking advantage of co-ordinated information sharing across the agencies; and
  - to direct the available resources to best protect the public from serious harm.

#### How do the MAPPA work?

- Offenders eligible for MAPPA are identified and information is gathered/ shared about them across relevant agencies. The nature and level of the risk of harm they pose is assessed and a risk management plan is implemented to protect the public.
- In most cases, the offender will be managed under the ordinary arrangements applied by the agency or agencies with supervisory responsibility. A number of offenders, though, require active multi-agency management and their risk management plans will be formulated and monitored via MAPP meetings attended by various agencies.

#### Who are the MAPPA offenders?

There are 3 categories of offender eligible for MAPPA:

**Registered sexual offenders** (Category 1) - sexual offenders who are required to notify the police of their name, address and other personal details and notify any changes subsequently;

**Violent offenders** (Category 2) – offenders sentenced to imprisonment /detention for 12 months or more, or detained under hospital orders. This category also includes a small number of sexual offenders who do not qualify for registration and offenders disqualified from working with children; and

**Other dangerous offenders** (Category 3) – offenders who do not qualify under categories 1 or 2 but who currently pose a risk of serious harm, there is a link between the offending and the risk posed, and they require active multi-agency management.

## SECTION 3

## The Mappa Framework

**How are they managed?**

There are 3 levels of management which are based upon the level of multi-agency co-operation required to implement the risk management plan effectively. Offenders will be moved up and down levels as appropriate:

**Level 1 - Ordinary Management**

These offenders are subject to the usual management arrangements applied by whichever agency is supervising them. But this does not rule out information sharing between agencies, via the Violent and Sexual Offenders Register (ViSOR) and other routes.

**Level 2 - Active Multi-agency Management**

The risk management plans for these offenders require the active involvement of several agencies via regular multi-agency public protection (MAPP) meetings.

**Level 3 - Active Multi-agency Management**

As with level 2 but these cases additionally require the involvement of senior officers to authorise the use of special resources, such as police surveillance or specialised accommodation, and/or to provide ongoing senior management oversight.

**What is the role of the Strategic Management Board?**

- Senior representatives of each of the agencies involved in MAPPA form a strategic management board (SMB) which meets at least quarterly to monitor the arrangements and direct any necessary improvements.

**What do the Lay Advisers do?**

- The responsible authority is required to appoint 2 lay advisers to sit on the SMB. The lay advisers 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 or have strong links.

**ViSOR**

ViSOR is a database holding details of sexual and violent offenders, and other dangerous persons. The three MAPPA Responsible Authority agencies - police, prison and probation - are able to work on the same IT system enabling the sharing of risk assessments and risk management information on individual violent and sex offenders in a timely way to reduce re-offending.

## SECTION 4

How the  
MAPPA  
operate  
locally

The Strategic Management Board for MAPPA in West Mercia includes representatives from each of the Responsible Authority and Duty to Cooperate agencies with the exception of Electronic Monitoring Authorities. West Mercia area includes a number of Local Authority Areas, Housing Authorities and Health and Mental Health Trusts. Consequently a number of the individuals who attend the SMB have a liaison role with neighbouring agencies on behalf of the Board.

Mention has been made of the increasing role local policing and sharing information plays in our work, including Community Support Officers and others in key positions in the community. Case Study A illustrates this aspect being actively encouraged and developed over the year.

The following case was managed at Level 2 in West Mercia on behalf of another Probation area during the period of A's residence in this area. The complexities of managing high risk offenders in an area are a challenge. This can be made much more complicated if there are two areas involved. Clear arrangements were agreed between the areas to ensure there was neither duplication nor gaps regarding the management of A.

**Case Study 'A'**

A had received a lengthy custodial sentence for serious sexual offences against his daughter. They had started when she was very young and spanned a number of years. There were suggestions that his son was also a victim. A is a Registered Sexual Offender for life.

A's release plan included the need for him to initially be accommodated in Approved Premises (Accommodation managed by the Probation Service). Due to physical disability issues, he required adapted provision which was not available in his home authority. Arrangements were made for him to be placed, on a temporary basis, in a provision in West Mercia that could meet his needs.

It became apparent to professionals working with A, through close observation, that he was exaggerating the extent of his disability. It was also perceived that he used it to gain sympathy from members of the local community, identifying himself as a victim. This local community included members of the local church which he had joined very quickly after release. The positive aspects of a faith and belonging to a faith community, and A's right to do so are acknowledged and respected. However, this had to be balanced against protecting children and families with whom he would come into contact. This was managed by the involvement of the Diocesan Child Protection Officer and the Church Minister. A contract was drawn up which agreed that A could only attend adult services.

This contract was reviewed when very localised knowledge provided by Police Community Support Officers highlighted activities involving families and children following immediately after one adult service. Particular vigilance was exercised around Christmas celebrations and with regard to any developing relationships with members of the congregation.

The Diocesan Child Protection Officer and Minister were key partners in the management of A whilst he was in West Mercia. In addition they played an important role in ensuring churches in his home area were alerted to safeguarding issues on his return.

It is seen as good practice to invite members of the local policing team to MAPP meetings, alongside specialised police officers. The local team covering the areas of the Approved Premises routinely attend meetings regarding residents. They very quickly 'got to know' A, and he knew them. They were able to inform colleagues of his activities and routines on a regular basis. In addition there were times when their very presence deterred A from potentially "risky" activities.

The arrangements made between the two Probation areas ensured that the overall risk management plan in respect of A was kept on track. Particular issues identified from his behaviour and activities in West Mercia allowed for adjustments and fine tuning of this plan. For example, an additional licence requirement for A to disclose developing relationships was requested.

**Current Situation**

A has now returned to his own area where the work undertaken by MAPPA agencies and the multi-agency approach to his management in the community is helping to contain any risk that he poses.

## SECTION 4

How the  
MAPPA  
operate  
locally

MAPPA work is often conducted over a considerable time period, and there are setbacks and frustrations, together with some notable successes. Patience and persistence can bring rewards.

There can be no doubt that MAPPA clearly demonstrate that “the sum of the whole is worth more than the parts”. Much of the work of criminal justice and other agencies is straight-forward and easily visible – agencies fulfil their specific roles and responsibilities as part of an overall risk management plan based on information exchange and risk assessment.

The following case managed at Level 2 illustrates that a collective approach by Responsible Authorities and Duty to Cooperate Agencies can achieve much more through a coordinated and questioning approach than could be achieved by agencies in isolation, or merely exchanging information.

**Case Study ‘B’**

B was referred to MAPPA by the police as they felt unable to manage the risks she presented on a single agency basis, having attempted to do so for some time.

B experienced behavioural and psychological issues and was diagnosed with a Personality Disorder. She was a risk to herself in terms of self harm, and extremely vulnerable.

B represented a serious risk to the public as her behaviour had a real potential to lead to serious road traffic collisions. She would sit in the middle of main roads brandishing knives. Emergency services staff were at risk of violent assault, including the use of weapons. Uniformed police staff were particularly vulnerable to unprovoked attack.

Whilst the focus of MAPPA always has to be the protection of the public, the need to address specific issues regarding the vulnerability of offenders also has to be addressed. In this case it was vital that resources were directed to enable B to stop through appropriate support and information.

The role of Criminal Justice Liaison CPN was crucial to ‘interpret’ issues for MAPPA colleagues in addition to providing expert operational support to the police and courts.

Meanwhile B’s inevitable continued offending in the community was managed in a way which reduced the risk to herself, the public and professionals. A single point of contact (who became involved in MAPPA meetings) was established with the Ambulance Trust. B was referred to Safeguarding Adults in light of her own vulnerability.

B was arrested for an unprovoked attack on a Police Community Support Officer and remanded in custody. The opportunity was taken for further mental health assessments to be made and it was hoped these would pave the way for a Hospital Order. It became clear prior to sentencing that this would not be the case.

This meant that community mental health services would need to play an active role in supporting B on release from prison – something advocated in all the MAPP meetings. Work was undertaken to ensure that managers within that service were aware of the situation. The sentencing judge confirmed that appropriate support was the positive way forward for B. The community mental health services responded promptly and positively by identifying a residential care placement for B.

**Outcome**

B remains at Level 2 management until the stability of her placement is established. There are no easy answers in this case, or misconceptions that B will be ‘cured’; but there is a belief that the risks she poses will be reduced through appropriate care and management. In a sense, the MAPPA partnership agencies became B’s advocate and they did that to discharge their collective public protection responsibilities.

## SECTION 4

### How the MAPPAs operate locally

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) are now established in each division of West Mercia, and over the year there has been improved coordination of efforts to work with and support victims. This supplements the roles of probation Victim Liaison Officers with regard to domestic abuse cases. Independent Domestic Abuse Advisors (IDVAs) are key contributors to both MAPPAs and MARAC work.

The following case managed at Level 3 and then at Level 2 illustrates how various 'tools' can be used to manage the risk posed by an individual offender. The MAPPAs process ran alongside the MARAC process which focuses on victims of domestic abuse. This was to ensure that the victim's voice was clearly heard when considering management of the offender.

In addition the existence of a CRASBO (an Anti-social Behaviour Order linked to a conviction) gave local police powers in respect of certain activities.

#### Case Study 'C'

C has an extensive offending history involving many offences against the person. He is known to be extremely aggressive and violent, particularly when he has been drinking. He frequently carries and is prepared to use weapons. Despite the number of convictions they do not represent the seriousness or frequency of his offending, particularly in regard to his partner.

Staff from both the police Domestic Abuse Unit and Probation believed that he posed the gravest of risks to his partner and that a murder would occur.

As with many victims of domestic abuse C's partner was reluctant to make complaints against him. She was particularly vulnerable as a result of a previous abusive relationship. Attempts to support her through MARAC and the Probation's Women's Safety Officer made little progress due to her reluctance to engage. Unlike much domestic abuse, which habitually happens "behind closed doors", C assaulted his partner in public places.

The MAPPAs process allowed the considerable concerns held by a number of agencies regarding C's behaviour to be fully shared. More importantly it was able to devise a strategy to address them in a coordinated manner, utilising the specific responsibilities and powers of partners in public protection.

Eventually police were able to obtain independent witnesses to a further serious assault. This combined with enforcement of the CRASBO resulted in a remand in custody.

At that point attention turned to how the court could best be informed regarding the risk posed by C and the extent of the harm he represented. Without this knowledge, and combined with a tendency to 'water down' offences, sentencing is reduced to relatively minor matters.

The police role was to fully brief the Crown Prosecution Service and Probation prepared a Pre-sentence Report which reflected all the risk issues relating to C.

#### Outcome

C received a substantial custodial sentence for the latest assault against his partner. In addition the police representative on the SMB was consulted regarding the issue of the dangerousness of C not being recognised when dealing with him. As a result of this a thorough review of C's offending was to be undertaken by police and the CPS.

In some cases, coordinated by MAPPA, there is a significant investment of specialist resources, much of which from the public point of view is “behind the scenes”. In the final case study considerable resources were used to safeguard young children over a wide range of locations, and in family settings where it was thought to be unlikely that the adults present would be able to protect them.

This case was initially referred as a Level 2 case to ensure agencies were aware of an offender who had recently been located and convicted in West Mercia.

By the end of the first Level 2 meeting it was evident that the level of risk of harm, imminence of the risk and resources needed to manage the risk necessitated this case being elevated to Level 3.

## SECTION 4

### How the MAPPA operate locally

#### Case Study ‘D’

D’s sexual convictions were for two separate extremely serious offences against very young females within his family. The second offence was committed within a matter of weeks of his release for a lengthy prison sentence for the first offence. He received a further long custodial sentence. In addition he has convictions for drugs and firearm offences.

D came to the attention of the Criminal Justice System in West Mercia following information received from Children’s Services. He was identified as a convicted sexual offender from outside the area, who had failed to notify police of a change of address and report for annual registration on the sex offender register. His whereabouts had been unknown for approximately 18 months. For breaching the requirements of his sexual offender registration he received a three year community order with a requirement to undertake a sexual offenders treatment programme. He was further barred from having contact with under 18 year olds.

D had locally formed a relationship with a much younger partner, extremely vulnerable in her own right, and who refused to accept his previous convictions. She stated that it was their wish to have a child of their own. D’s partner was part of an extended family, also assessed as being vulnerable, with a number of young female children who had clearly had contact with D prior to his arrest by West Mercia Police. Concerns had been raised via yet another family that one of the girls was demonstrating highly sexualised behaviour.

Child Protection enquiries suggested that D had connections with families and young children in his home area and other cities in the UK. These were partially confirmed by information he provided to his Probation Offender Manager.

In addition to the active management of the current situation, thorough research was undertaken by the Probation Offender Manager into D’s previous offences and previous involvement with Probation. This confirmed D as a highly dangerous sexual offender, with a marked contempt for women.

Police cooperation with another force area established that D was in contact with children in a family setting, and he was returned to court in breach of his order. Coordinated work resulted in an application to the court, and the court agreed to make a Sexual Offences Prevention Order with further clear prohibitions. Should he breach this order he could face up to 5 years in prison.

#### Outcome

D is currently managed at MAPP Level 2 as there are now a number of constraints in place that maximise the control of his behaviour. He continues to pose a high risk of serious harm but agencies are now more fully equipped to manage this.

The management of this case is an excellent example of agencies fulfilling their own responsibilities to a high standard and the pieces coming together in a cohesive risk management plan. There is clear confidence in the MAPPA process in this case; in the views of a number of professionals involved it has achieved tangible results in protecting the public.

## SECTION 5

### Lay Advisor Comment



Deena Glazzard-Mahon  
Lay Advisor

#### **Lay Advisor, Deena Glazzard-Mahon reports as follows:**

I am Deena Glazzard-Mahon and have been lay adviser for West Mercia SMB for four and a half years. During this time the chairing of the SMB has moved from Probation to Police. Apart from this there has been very little change in the structure of the SMB and I am pleased to say that many of the original members remain the same. I feel that this consistency of long term professionals is both reassuring and important to ensure good practice and gain continued knowledge regarding the work of MAPPA.

On a local level, the role of the two co-ordinators to chair all level 3 meetings is, in my opinion, both vital and reassuring. As lay adviser I myself still regularly attend both level 2 and 3 MAPP meetings and report back on good practice and also areas where we can identify improvements.

As an independent observer, I am not drawn into "issues" that may concern individual agencies. My main objective is to ensure that both SMB and MAPPA, as a structure always endeavour to offer the best service possible when dealing with public protection.

Overall, my experience of working within MAPPA has been a reassuring one illustrating the way agencies work together to protect the public from this group of offenders.

**Number of MAPPA eligible offenders at 31 March 2009**

• Registered Sexual Offenders	734
• Violent Offenders	214
• Other Dangerous Offenders	55
• Total	1003

**Offenders managed via MAPP meetings - Level 2**

• Registered Sexual Offenders	76
• Violent Offenders	96
• Other Dangerous Offenders	47
• Total	219

**Offenders managed via MAPP meetings - Level 3**

• Registered Sexual Offenders	23
• Violent Offenders	29
• Other Dangerous Offenders	8
• Total	60

**Enforcement for offenders managed via MAPP meetings**

## Returned to custody for breach of licence

• Level 2	22
• Level 3	3
• Total	25

## Sent to custody for breach of Sexual Offences Prevention Order (SOPO)

• Level 2	1
• Level 3	2
• Total	3

**Serious Further Offences involving offenders managed via MAPP meetings**

## Charged with a serious further offence

• Level 2	0
• Level 3	0
• Total	0

## Of those charged during the year (Level 2 and 3 combined) plus those who remained charged with an SFO last year, ie at 31 March 2008:

• Convicted of a serious further offence	0
• Other outcome	0
• Remain charged with serious further offence	0

## SECTION 6

MAPPA  
Statistical Information  
2008/09

## SECTION 6

MAPPA  
Statistical Information  
2008/09**Further data on Registered Sexual Offenders**

## Registered Sexual Offenders in:

• S.Worcs	219
• N. Worcs	156
• Herefordshire	121
• Telford and Wrekin	108
• Shropshire	121
• HQ	9

## Total number of registered sexual offenders in West Mercia per 100,000 head of population

- 64 per 100,000

## Registered Sexual Offenders cautioned or convicted for breach of notification requirements

47

## Sexual Offences Prevention Orders

• Applied for	59
• Interim Order issued	0
• Full Order issued	35

## Notification Orders

• Applied for	0
• Interim Order issued	0
• Full Order issued	0

## Foreign Travel Orders

• Applied for	0
• Interim Order issued	0
• Full Order issued	0

**Explanation/Commentary**

The totals of MAPPA eligible offenders, broken down by category, reflects the picture on 31st March 2009, ie a snapshot. This year has seen a sharp drop in the total number of Category 2 and 3 offenders reported. This is due mainly due to the difference in reporting method made to ensure a more accurate picture of the number of MAPPA eligible offenders living in the community at any one time. Last year's figure reflected the number of such offenders over the whole year rather than the snapshot given this year. The Category 1 figure has been a 31 March snapshot for some years. The rest of the data covers the period 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009, in order to give an indication of activity and outcomes in relation to those offenders managed at MAPPA levels 2 and 3 over the whole year.

## SECTION 6

MAPPA  
Statistical Information  
2008/09

**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 and/or currently pose a risk of serious harm, although the majority are actually managed under ordinary agency (level 1) arrangements rather than via MAPP meetings.

In West Mercia there has been an increase in the number of Registered Sex Offenders of about 6% in the year, which is consistent with what was expected based on the introduction of the law requiring registration in the late 1990s.

The number of violent offenders is considerably lower (down from 342) than last year due only to the new way of calculating the figure given in this report. This figure now represents the number of post-release licences held in the area on 31st March '09 rather than the cumulative total for the year reported in previous Annual Reports.

**Registered Sexual Offenders (RSOs)** - those who are required to notify the police of their name, address and other personal details and notify any changes subsequently. Failure to comply with the notification requirements is a criminal offence which carries a maximum penalty of 5 years' imprisonment.

There have been 2 fewer Registered Sex Offenders sent to custody for breaching their registration requirements this year. Numbers are consistently low over several years, which is an encouraging indicator of compliance.

There is a 15% increase in the use of cautions and convictions in the management of Registered Sex Offenders. This, combined with the slight reduction in the use of custody for breach, suggests that the close management of these offenders is successful in ensuring compliance through enforcement action.

**Violent Offenders** – this category includes violent offenders sentenced to imprisonment/detention for 12 months or more, or detained under hospital orders. It also includes a small number of sexual offenders who do not qualify for registration and offenders disqualified from working with children.

**Other Offenders** – offenders who do not qualify under the other 2 MAPPA eligible categories, but who currently pose a risk of serious harm which requires management via MAPP meetings.

There has been an increase in the number of cases dealt with at Level 2, in particular in Category 2 (Violent) offenders – up about 36%. This increase reflects the changes to coordination of this work introduced in our area in the previous year. Near the end of this year the numbers were reducing.

The total of cases managed at MAPPA Level 3 has reduced by 10 compared to the previous year. This trend is a result of efforts to ensure that cases are managed at the lowest level possible. Some cases now managed at Level 2 may previously have been managed at Level 3. Reducing the numbers at the higher level allows better focus on those few cases requiring such resources.

SECTION 6

MAPPA  
Statistical Information  
2008/09

**Breach of licence** - Offenders released into the community following a period of imprisonment of 12 months or more are 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.

The recall figure is down about 50% from the previous year. It reflects a better level of compliance with licence requirements in cases supervised by Probation and YOS.

**Serious further offences (SFOs)** – serious sexual or violence offences listed in Probation Circular 22 of 2008.

For the first time West Mercia is able to report that no offenders managed at MAPPA levels 2 and 3 have been charged with a serious further offence in the reporting period. This is an excellent result.

**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 5 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 5 years' imprisonment.

There has been a 37% increase in the number of applications for Sexual Offences Prevention Orders, and of 29% in orders granted. The courts are not always in agreement about the need for such orders when sexual offenders are sentenced, or when applications are made to courts outside the sentencing for current offences. However, the increasing use of such measures suggests that close attention is being given to using the available powers to maximise the constraints placed on sexual offenders in this area.

**Notification Order** – requires sexual offenders who have been convicted overseas to register with police, in order to protect the public in the UK from the risks that they pose. Police may apply to the court for the order in relation to offenders in or intending to come to the UK.

and

**Foreign Travel Orders** - prevent offenders with convictions for sexual offences against children from traveling abroad where it is necessary to do so to protect children from the risk of sexual harm.

There have been no cases this year where these orders have been needed.

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## SECTION 7

## Contacts

## SECTION 7

### Contacts

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