ABSTRACT

The report advises elected members of the publication of the fourth annual report on the Tayside Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) for managing high risk offenders across Tayside. A copy of the report is appended to this Committee Report.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Social Work and Health Committee note the contents of this fourth Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) Annual Report and the on-going developments in relation to high risk offenders.

2. BACKGROUND

The Management of Offenders etc (Scotland) Act 2005 introduced a statutory duty on Responsible Authorities - Local Authorities, Scottish Prison Service (SPS), Police and Health to establish joint arrangements for the assessment and management of the risk posed by certain offenders who pose a risk of harm to the public. The Responsible Authorities are required to keep the arrangements under review and publish an annual report.

The introduction of Multi Agency protection Arrangements (MAPPA) across Scotland in April 2007 introduced a consistent approach to the management of offenders. Within Scotland the implementation of MAPPA has been phased and currently extends to registered sex offenders and Restricted Patients.

Restricted Patients (RP's) are defined within Section 10, 11 (a)-(d) of the Management of Offenders etc (Scotland) Act 2005 as persons who by virtue of their mental health are confined for treatment under current Mental Health legislation.

Work continues on a national basis to agree the arrangements for violent offenders. It should be noted, however, that locally partners continue to work co-operatively in relation to violent offenders and risk management meetings are held within each local authority area on certain violent offenders.

Managing risk within the community can be difficult and challenging and cuts across the organisational boundaries of many agencies. The public also play an important role in public protection and can help to protect vulnerable members of their communities by contacting the agencies about the concerns they may have in relation to concerning behaviour.
Sexual offenders reside within every community and although reconviction rates are low it is recognised that the public are concerned about the risks presented by these offenders.

The authorities continue to strengthen arrangements and it is hoped that the Tayside MAPPA Annual Report 2010-11 will help to improve awareness as to how known sex offenders and restricted patients are managed within our communities.

MAPPA is the process whereby the assessment and sharing of information on offenders is managed. The Responsible Authorities and Duty to Co-operate agencies within Tayside have an agreed Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate this process. Duty to Co-operate agencies are those who may come into regular contact with high risk offenders.

Tayside Police and Social Work Departments across Tayside have been partners in managing and assessing offenders for many years. The introduction of the Management of Offenders etc (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) only strengthened this approach and enhanced arrangements within Tayside. MAPPA has also allowed for other agencies, including Health and the Voluntary sector, to be recognised for the significant role they have in relation to the management of offenders.

It is important to remember that MAPPA is not in itself a separate agency but is the mechanism through which agencies can fulfil their statutory duties and protect the public in a co-ordinated manner.

**Highlights from the report**

In late 2010 an independent external review of the MAPPA Health Liaison post was carried out, this report highlighted that the post is innovative and as such is ahead of all other areas in Scotland.

Following on from the Keeping Children Safe pilot which was introduced by Tayside Police in September 2009 the disclosure scheme has now become core business for Tayside Police and close links with MAPPA have remained (Reference is made to Report No. 260/10). By 31 March 2011 the scheme had received 43 applications, following extensive enquiries into each application, resulted in 7 disclosures of information to protect children.

Training events are also a significant way of raising the awareness of MAPPA and understanding risk. The MAPPA Co-ordinator is closely linked with the lead officers in Child Protection, Adult Protection and Violence Against Women Partnerships across the three authorities.

**Statistics to Note**

- As of 31 March 2011 there were 327 registered sex offenders within Tayside this is an increase of 33 offenders since March 2010.
- 315 (96.3%) of offenders across Tayside complied with their registration requirements, this is similar to the 97% compliance rate of the previous report.
- 261 (80%) are assessed as presenting a low or medium risk of harm and the majority are managed by Police only.
- 99.66% of the offenders in Tayside are male.
- 98 (30%) of the offenders are on Statutory supervision.
• 199 (61%) of the offenders were convicted of an offence against a child aged under 16 years

• There are 23 restricted patients managed by NHS Tayside included in this report

Future Developments

In terms of future developments for 2011/2012, revised national guidance is anticipated over the coming months and will require to be implemented. In addition there has been changes to the Sex Offender legislation in relation to the indefinite registration and this will include links to MAPPA prior to any decision being taken regarding removing the offender's requirement to register. In addition, work will be ongoing to ensure that MAPPA is widely understood and is linked to arrangements for the protection of children and vulnerable adults.

3. PROPOSALS

It is recommended that the Social work and Heath Committee note the contents of the fourth annual report on the Tayside Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA).

4. RISKS

This report does not require any specific risk issues to be addressed.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no specific financial implications arising out of this report.

6. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

7. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

The issues dealt with in this report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective. An equalities impact assessment is not required.

8. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services, Head of Finance and Head of Law and Administration have been consulted in the preparation of this report

9. CONCLUSION

This report advises elected member of the publication of the fourth annual report on the Tayside Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA).

ROBERT PEAT
DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH

NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

SW&H/RP/TA