

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



Introduction

1.1 The Sussex MAPPA SMB and the Sussex LSCBs have agreed this protocol to ensure there is effective cooperation and communication between the SMB and Sussex LSCBs and a clear understanding of responsibilities with regard to MAPP arrangements.

The relevant LSCBs are:

- Brighton & Hove LSCB
- East Sussex LSCB
- West Sussex LSCB

1.2 This document will not set out the processes within MAPPA, which can be found in detail in the National MAPPA Guidance 2009 (v3) and the Sussex MAPPA Operational Guidance.

1.3 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.

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

1.5 Agencies working with children and their families should be familiar with the work of both the MAPPA SMB and LSCB. Good communication, co-operation and close liaison and effective information sharing between these groups is essential. This includes attendance at all MAPPA Level 2 and Level 3 meetings from all agencies and for LSCBs, representation at all MAPPA Level 2 and 3 meetings across Sussex from an identified senior team manager.

1.6 This protocol sets the framework for the communication routes between the Sussex LSCBs and the Sussex Strategic Mappa Board:

Information Sharing

2.1 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 Child safeguarding. Both Boards 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.
- Disclosure to third parties outside of MAPPA is handled appropriately, is proportionate and that there is a clear audit trail where disclosure has been agreed as necessary.
- Information will be appropriately marked, sent through secure channels and securely stored in line with Government Protected Marking Scheme (GPMS).
- Information is shared with MAPPA via MAPPA Level 2 and level 3 Chairs and the MAPPA Coordinator.
- Referrals to LSCBs are dealt with and responded to within agreed timescales through the central referrals scheme in each LSCB operating in Sussex.

The Sussex LSCB's will:

3.1 Appoint a representative from each LSCB (Head of Safeguarding) to attend quarterly SMB meetings and act in an advisory capacity to the Sussex MAPPA SMB on Children's Social Care policy and practice in:

- a. Representing the views of LSCBs at the SMB meetings and attend 75% of SMB meetings per year
- b. Communicating any relevant issues back to the LSCB Business Managers or Chairs where issues arise
- c. Liaising as required in relation to any new guidance or training that should be developed in light of Serious Case Reviews or changes in MAPPA guidance and legislation
- d. Escalate any strategic issues identified by either LSCBs or the SMB.
- e. Ensure information sharing as above, within the statutory duties of agencies and agreed Memorandum of Understanding between the MAPPA Responsible Authority and Duty to Cooperate.
- f. Ensure the MAPPA Responsible Authority are adequately represented (from both police and probation) at the appropriate level at the LSCB. (In general this will be in place, through local senior Police or Probation Director membership)

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3.2 Identify senior team managers from Children's Services as the conduit for information sharing and for attendance at MAPPA Level 2 and Level 3 meetings to act as the single point of contact for each area.

3.3 Ensure that where an offender is aged 18 or under and is being managed at MAPPA Level 2 or level 3, LSCBs should ensure attendance from Children's Services team managers (along with the relevant Youth Offending Team).

3.4 Ensure identified team managers consider the involvement of both Children's Social Care and education in representing their LSCB at MAPPA meetings.

The Sussex MAPPA SMB will:

- a. Share relevant data with the LSCB representative so that it can be sent to all LSCB Business Managers and Chairs
- b. Share learning from any MAPPA serious case reviews undertaken by the SMB that have any child safeguarding issues so that all LSCBs can be made aware
- c. Ensure that where possible, duplication of serious case reviews are avoided by identifying whether an LSCB serious case review is taking place.
- d. Ensure that where a MAPPA serious case review has been agreed (where this is discretionary and not mandatory) that LSCBs are notified of the MAPPA serious case review and are invited to input to the review where there is LSCB involvement.
- e. Ensure that when a MAPPA serious case review has been agreed that time scales are considered and agreed with the relevant LSCB where there may be two separate serious case reviews taking place (although generally this should be avoided and the MAPPA serious case review may feed into the LSCB statutory serious case review where a review is mandatory for the relevant LSCB).
- f. Provide ongoing training opportunities to Duty to Cooperate agencies sitting on the LSCB through MAPPA Foundation training.
- g. Ensure that safeguarding needs of children are kept as a priority both for the SMB and MAPPA Chairs.
- h. Ensure relevant staff from LSCBs should be invited to and ensure attendance at relevant professionals meetings where MAPPA offenders are discussed.

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- i. The SMB will ensure that it considers its responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children as well as the risk of harm the young offender presents to others.
- j. Ensure that Strategic safeguarding issues brought to their attention are communicated to the local LSCB through LSCB SMB representatives.

This protocol was agreed in May 2011 and will be reviewed annually by representatives of both Boards.

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