

## Lay Advisors

**One of the most important innovations in the MAPPA process is the recruitment of two lay advisors to sit on the MAPPA Strategic Management Board.**

The role of the lay advisors is to bring an outside perspective to MAPPA issues, challenge assumptions and advise the way in which MAPPA can be communicated to the wider public.

They also ask questions of the board and bring areas of expertise from their personal life into the decision making process.

Charles Beal, a retired company director, and John Pridham, formerly a head of adult education, have sat on the Avon and Somerset MAPPA for three years and are considered a critical friend of the process.

Telling the public about the work of MAPPA and breaking down stigmatism and fear around how offenders are dealt with in the community is the hope of the advisors, with people then learning more about the process and procedures.



## Victim Support

**Victim Support Avonvale and Victim Support Somerset are key members of the Strategic Management Board of the Avon and Somerset MAPPA.**

As charities independent of the statutory criminal justice system, our remit is to act as advocates for victims and witnesses of crime.

While the MAPPA is offender focused in terms of protecting the public from potentially dangerous individuals in our communities, we must not lose sight of the fact that while the risk is small, all of us are potential victims.

In recognising this, victim support provide a 'victim perspective' to their work.

We do not get involved in case-specific activity as this might involve possible breaches of data protection and a conflict of interest.

We are able, with the lay advisers, to ensure victims' issues are addressed.

It will never be possible to achieve absolute protection, but we believe all the agencies work together to reduce the risk as best they can.

### **Russell Kent**

Chief Executive, Victim Support Somerset



If you would like to find out more about the work of MAPPA or view past annual reports log onto:

**[www.avonandsomerset.police.uk](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk)**

and go to the document downloads section.

**[www.avonandsomersetprobation.org.uk](http://www.avonandsomersetprobation.org.uk)**

**[www.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk)**

These websites can not only tell you more about MAPPA, but give contacts for all members of the Avon and Somerset MAPPA Strategic Management Board and directions to further information from respective agencies.



## Avon and Somerset Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements Annual Report 2006-7



Protection through Partnership



## Chairperson's Foreword

### Protection through partnership

That is how agencies across Avon and Somerset are working together closer than ever through Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements, (MAPPA).

MAPPA are the procedures in place to manage sexual and violent offenders and protect the communities in which they are living.

Avon and Somerset Constabulary, Avon and Somerset Probation Area and HM Prison Service are committed to working together to ensure our communities remain safer than ever.

As well as the lead agencies, local authorities, housing associations, youth offending teams, health and mental health agencies all play their part in a rapidly expanding area of business.

While we recognise it is never possible to eliminate risk entirely, the public are entitled to expect the authorities to do their jobs properly - something we value highly in Avon and Somerset.

You may see many stories in the media concerning sexual offenders and their management in the community - are you are right to be concerned?

We would reassure you that everything possible is done to protect you from offenders.

What you may not read about is the ever developing multi agency work involving experts across many fields which means you are safer as a result.

Risk is minimised by the dedicated partnership working which exists with MAPPA ensuring that offenders are managed through every step of their release, from prison onwards.

You may well also have seen many reports about a so-called Sarah's or Megan's law in this country.

As a partnership we are already involved in ensuring offenders make us aware of their address, home life and any change to personal circumstances.

It remains to be seen how helpful it would be to have the public know the addresses of sex offenders in the community.

One school of thought is that offenders would move around more and possibly be driven underground by such a law.

What we want is as much transparency as possible to reduce risk and reassure the public that offenders are being properly tracked and managed.

Our challenge is to improve accountability to local people and respond rapidly to new learning.

Remember, the chances of you ever coming into contact or being a victim of a sexual or violent offence remain very small.

The majority of such offences are still committed within the family or a friendship group.

This is something carefully managed by all agencies, particularly when an offender is released back into the community.

Avon and Somerset is a safer place because of MAPPA and the responsible authorities working together.



**Jackie Roberts**  
Assistant Chief  
Constable  
Avon and Somerset  
Constabulary



**Jill Cotgrove**  
Assistant Chief  
Officer  
Avon and Somerset  
Probation Area



**Suzy Dymond-White**  
Governor  
Bristol Prison

## Statistics on offenders 2006/07

In your area between 1st April 2006 and 31st March 2007

### Category One: Registered Sex Offenders (RSO)

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| (i) The number of RSOs living in your area on 31st March 2007 |     |
| Bristol   | 270 |
| South Gloucestershire   | 84  |
| Bath and North East Somerset                                  | 72  |
| Somerset East   | 130 |
| Somerset West   | 158 |
| North Somerset  | 95  |
| Avon and Somerset total                                       | 809 |

|   |    |
|---|----|
| (ii) The number of sex offenders having a registration requirement who were either cautioned or convicted for breaches of the requirement |    |
| Avon and Somerset total   | 11 |

|   |    |
|---|----|
| (iii) The number of Sexual Offences Prevention Orders (SOPOs) |    |
| (a) applied for   | 46 |
| (b) interim SOPOs granted                                     | 2  |
| (c) full SOPOs imposed by the courts                          | 44 |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| (iv) The number of                                 |   |
| (a) Notification Orders applied for                | 4 |
| (b) interim Notification Orders granted            | 0 |
| (c) full Notification Orders imposed by the courts | 1 |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| (v) The number of Foreign Travel Orders |   |
| (a) applied for                         | 0 |
| (b) imposed by the courts               | 0 |

### Category 2: Violent offenders and Other Sexual offenders

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| (vi) The number of violent and other sexual offenders |     |
| Avon and Somerset total                               | 311 |

### Category 3: Other Offenders

|                                       |     |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| (vii) The number of 'other offenders' |     |
| Avon and Somerset total               | 161 |

### Category 4: MAPPA Cases

(viii) How many MAPPA offenders in each of the three previous categories have been managed through the MAPPP system (level 3) and through local inter-agency risk management (level 2)

|  | Level 2 | Level 3 |
|--|---------|---------|
| Registered Sex Offenders                     | 167     | 5       |
| Violent offenders and other sexual offenders | 120     | 5       |
| Other Offenders                              | 161     | 0       |

|  |    |   |
|--|----|---|
| (ix) Of the cases managed by the MAPPA system, how many, whilst still in MAPPA   |    |   |
| (a) Were returned to custody for a breach of licence?                            | 98 | 4 |
| (b) Were returned to custody for a breach of a sexual offences prevention order? | 2  | 0 |
| (c) Were charged with a serious sexual or violent offence?                       | 6  | 0 |