

BEV HUGHES
DEPUTY MAYOR
OF GREATER
MANCHESTER

Secretary of State for the Home Department
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

September 2022

Dear Home Secretary,

**SUBJECT: A Joint Thematic Inspection of Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements:
Twenty years on, is MAPPA achieving its objectives?**

I welcome the scope of the above inspection, and inclusion of Greater Manchester Police (GMP) in the inspection fieldwork phase of the review.

Upon reviewing the report it is encouraging that inspectors found effective practice across various forces, including designated strategic leads at an appropriate senior officer level for MAPPA and the adherence to national and local policies in respect of the required processes.

The joint thematic inspection identified varying levels of investment by probation regions into MAPPA across England & Wales and I was pleased to see that Greater Manchester was recognised by inspectors as having an unusually high level of resource dedicated to it. This is Greater Manchester Probation policy, which is designed to provide consistently excellent multi-agency risk management and public protection and therefore I am gratified to see this recognition within the report. I welcome the joint working between GMP and the National Probation Service Greater Manchester to threshold and audit cases, deliver training and maintain best practice across the partnership.

The report makes four recommendations in connection to policing that I will address below:

Recommendation 1 - The Probation Service, police forces, and prisons should ensure that Category 3 referrals are made to manage individuals who present a high risk of domestic abuse where formal multi-agency management and oversight through MAPPA would add value to the risk management plan.

This is a recognised area of development for GMP and has been identified as a priority area of focus.

I understand that an initial assessment has been completed by GMP's dedicated MAPPA Coordinator with opportunities identified, and consideration has been given to the associated updated national guidance which was published in November 2021.

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This review process will be overseen by the Domestic Abuse Senior Leadership Team Lead and included in both the ongoing cross-agency Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Review, and will form part of the Domestic Abuse Arrangements Review considerations, which is also currently taking place.

I am assured that the Greater Manchester MAPPA Strategic Management Board (SMB) was provided with a full briefing of the Greater Manchester position and future plans at a recent meeting. Cross-agency strategic leadership and oversight of this recommendation will be delivered through the MAPPA SMB, where this will remain a standing agenda item until addressed.

Recommendation 2 - The Probation Service, police forces, and prisons should ensure that there is a comprehensive training strategy for all staff involved in the MAPPA process that fully utilises existing training packages and makes sure they can enable staff in all roles to prepare for and present or contribute to a case in a multi-agency forum and understand how MAPPA fits with other multi-agency forums, such as Integrated Offender Management and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs)

The management of effective training across partners is an area of strength within Greater Manchester.

The training packages have been written by the dedicated Detective Sergeant MAPPA Coordinator and are regularly updated and reviewed to meet the developing learning demand across the region.

The Greater Manchester MAPPA SMB has a dedicated training sub-group and the Coordinator ensures delivery of MAPPA learning inputs across the responsible authorities. This remains a standing agenda item on the Greater Manchester MAPPA SMB with data being provided to confirm attendance, impact, and breadth of training offer.

In addition, the Greater Manchester MAPPA Team has regularly contributed to national working groups for MAPPA Training and have been featured in a podcast for the national training products developed by Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS). Furthermore, the team were part of the national design sprint team for the uplift learning material implemented with the re-integration of the Probation Service with the former community rehabilitation companies.

Recommendation 3 - Police forces should ensure that all MAPPA nominals managed at Levels 2 and 3 are allocated to a suitably trained police offender manager.

Category 1 registered sex offenders are covered by GMP's Sex Offenders Management Unit (SOMU), and all nominals are allocated to an appropriately trained offender manager.

Similarly, Counter Terrorism Policing North West (CTPNW) have a dedicated Nominal Management Unit which has been created under the National Counter Terrorism (CT) Nominal Management Programme to allocate appropriately trained officers to Category 4 MAPPA Terrorism Act (TACT) offenders.

I am assured that management of level 2 and 3 nominals is being looked at via GMP's Spotlight Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Review Lead and that processes are in place that provide appropriate oversight of MAPPA nominals. Additionally future management of these nominals will be addressed through this review process.

Furthermore, GMP's Domestic Abuse Arrangements Review (DAAR) Project, which I have referred to previously, includes the management of domestic abuse offenders within its scope and consideration.

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I will ensure I and my officials continue to keep apprised of developments in connection to this work.

Recommendation 4 - Workloads for staff managing sexual offenders are reviewed against national expectations and, where found to be excessive, take steps for mitigation and communicate this to affected staff.

I have invested in ensuring that SOMU has received additional funding in response to caseload requirement but also beyond this, that innovative ways of working are being considered which have been fed into the national review being undertaken by Mick Creedon and the Home Office.

Actions taken in response to other recent HMICFRS inspections has led to required improvements in this area and GMP will be seeking to close this recommendation at the next review meeting with the inspectorate.

Finally, please note that in Greater Manchester, MAPPA and MARAC arrangements sit within the context of the development of a new Perpetrator Framework as part on the Greater Manchester Gender-Based Violence Strategy delivery. The three key areas that have been identified are: Sex Offending; Domestic Abuse and Stalking. The approach is formed around a Protect, Enforce, Change – structure.

The Domestic Abuse workstream features the Drive Programme and locally commissioned interventions; Sex Offender Management builds on our original GM ACCORD model of a whole system approach and; Stalking is a new initiative with victim services, Probation, GMP and health partners.

There will be referral routes through MAPPA and MARAC structures and we are engaged in ongoing discussions with probation colleagues to ensure there is appropriate freedoms and flexibility to support this work beyond probation-only interventions. For example, as part of our devolved arrangements with HMPPS, GMCA will be leading on commissioning GM Probation and Police-led interventions for sex offenders.

Yours sincerely



Rt Hon Baroness Beverley Hughes
Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester
Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire

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