

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE: 25 JANUARY 2007

MULTI AGENCY PUBLIC PROTECTION ARRANGEMENTS

Report by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Committee of the introduction on 2 April 2007 of the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) in Scotland and highlight the progress made towards the implementation in East Ayrshire
- 1.2 To advise Committee regarding the installation of the Violent Offender and Sex Offender Register (ViSOR) in East Ayrshire.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In April 2005, the Justice Minister wrote to Chief Executives of Local Authorities, asking that Local Authorities, Police and the Scottish Prison Service jointly audit all medium to high risk sex offenders.
- 2.2 A report was presented to Social Work Committee in September 2005, which informed elected members of this request. A full analysis of the findings from the audit was presented to Social Work Committee in January 2006.
- 2.3 In March 2006 a report was presented to Committee advising of the introduction of a number of significant measures for Criminal Justice Social Work from the Management of Offenders etc. (Scotland) Act 2005.
- 2.4 In September 2006 a second report was presented which updated Committee regarding the progress of the implementation of this Act.
- 2.5 This report provides further information regarding Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) which was introduced by sections 10 and 11 of the Management of Offending etc (Scotland) Act 2005. This is aimed at improving the management of high risk violent or sex offenders in the community. It allows for early identification of high risk offenders who must be managed on a multi agency basis, the sharing of relevant information involved in assessment of risk and the management of the risk posed.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF MULTI AGENCY PUBLIC PROTECTION ARRANGEMENTS

- 3.1 The Scottish Executive has advised that each Community Justice Authority should set up a Joint Implementation Group. This group has been established in South West Scotland Community Justice Authority (East, North, South Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway).

- 3.2 The group membership includes those “Responsible Authorities as designated by the Scottish Executive.” (Police, Scottish Prison Service and the local authorities, as well as Health Boards for mentally disordered serious violent and sex offenders).
- 3.3 The responsibility of this group is to jointly establish arrangements for the assessment and management of risk posed by serious violent sex offenders and those whose convictions lead the Responsible Authorities to believe that they will pose a significant risk of harm.
- 3.4 Initially these arrangements will only apply to registered sex offenders with the provisions in the Act for serious violent offenders being introduced at a later stage.
- 3.5 A MAPPA co-ordinator and administrator is being appointed to support this development within the South West Community Justice Authorities. These posts are being funded by the Scottish Executive.

4. VIOLENT OFFENDER AND SEX OFFENDERS REGISTER

- 4.1 The Police operate an electronic system known as the Violent and Sex Offenders Register (ViSOR) which records details of offenders across England as well as Scotland. Plans have been made to introduce the ViSOR system to the Scottish Prison Service and Local Authorities.
- 4.2 The introduction of the system will provide enhanced arrangements for the joint monitoring and risk management of high risk offenders.
- 4.3 East Ayrshire Council will have access to the ViSOR system by March 2007. Access will be restricted to designated officers within Criminal Justice Social Work. The introduction of the system will be supported by security checks and training of staff.

5. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Management of Offenders etc (Scotland) Act 2005 continues to introduce changes to Criminal Justice Services in Scotland as outlined in Section 3 and 4 of this report. Committee will be advised as further new developments arise.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 As outlined in Section 3 of the report, the Scottish Executive is providing funds to employ a MAPPA co-ordinator with administrative support. The Scottish Executive have also invited bids from Local Authorities to cover any costs associated with the installation of ViSOR and East Ayrshire Council has submitted an application to cover all aspects of costs of installing the system.

7. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Enhanced working arrangements in relation to the joint monitoring of high risk offenders will provide increased demands in relation to staff time. Any staffing implications arising from these developments will be reported to committee in due course.

8. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The overall objective of the Management of Offenders Act is to reduce re-offending. This aspiration is consistent with the Improving Community Safety theme of the Community Plan.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Social Work Committee is asked to:-
- (i) note the developments in relation to the implementation of MAPPA and the introduction of the ViSOR system; and
 - (ii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

Graham Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services
FMack/MM
3 January 2007
Encl (0)

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- (1) Reducing Re offending – National Strategy for the management of Offenders 2006.
- (2) Implementation of the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) in Scotland Guidance.

A copy of the above reports is available in the Members Information Point

For further information on this report please contact:-
Sally Ann Kelly, Senior Manager, Children and Families and Criminal Justice
Telephone: 01563 576907

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: JACKIE DONNELLY