



Probation's collaboration with other agencies in Essex protects the public from dangerous crime.

The work done by Probation with its Criminal Justice colleagues to protect the public from dangerous offenders is acknowledged by many as exemplary, with its systems of cooperation between key agencies to plan for individuals who pose a risk. It makes total common sense, both to members of the public who learn about it, and to the professionals themselves.

Probation in Essex takes a lead in the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) with the Police and Prison Services. In 8 years, around 4000 offenders have been referred to MAPPA. Only two serious re-offences have taken place in that time. Given the nature of the offenders being managed, the result represents a lot of hard work and clever planning. The case below is typical of the planning, supervision, surveillance, and above all, sharing of information and intelligence that goes into a MAPPA case.

The case

- Mr. D is unhappy about his partner having contact with anyone else. He is possessive and controlling.
- The relationship ends after two violent incidents which Alison would not take further with police.
- He moves out to his own flat
- Mr. D takes an overdose – not his first – and is in hospital for two weeks.
- After discharge, he contacts Alison, invites her out for a drink. She agrees out of sympathy.
- After what she views as a normal evening of socialising, Mr. D offers her a lift home. She accepts
- He drives to a secluded wooded area, claiming he wants to talk to her. Alison is concerned.
- She tries to get out of the car. He grabs her arm, holding a knife to her throat, then using it to cut off a chunk of her hair, then cuts her dress, her bra strap, and exposes part of her body. He holds a lighted cigarette against her skin, burning it. Alison fears for her life.
- He then expresses remorse. She gets him to drive her home. He leaves; she calls the Police.
- He is arrested; remanded in custody for five months, then receives 2-years' imprisonment. He will do 6 months: remand time counts towards the total.
- **MAPPA makes plans for his release.** Personnel needed at the meetings: Probation's Offender Managers; Victim Contact Officer & Approved Premises Manager; Police Domestic Violence

Officer and Public Protection Officers; Criminal Justice Mental Health; Local Authority Housing; Essex Social Services; MAPPAs Manager and Administrator.

Plans include:

- **The Victim:** She is recovering, but will need a Non-Contact condition and Exclusion zone in Mr. D's Licence requirements. The police will install an alarm in her home.
- **Accommodation:** MAPPAs turns down Mr. D's plans to live with daughter. This is in the exclusion zone. More control over him is needed at first: he will live short-term in Probation Approved Premises. He will need settling and checking in his own home before long, though: his Licence is only 12 months.
- **Mental Health:** MAPPAs agrees Criminal Justice Mental Health Team will assess him in prison, and plan treatment on release.
- **Keeping the checks going:** As Mr. D will not be a registered sex offender on release, the mandatory visits from Police Protection Officers cannot happen. Instead, Probation will request another condition in his Licence, "to comply with Police monitoring visits." If he fails to comply, Probation will recall him to prison.
- **Extra conditions include:** to advise Probation of any developing relationships, and of any vehicle he owns.
- **MAPPAs continues the work:** Regular meetings receive reports on treatment for depression, offender management, his growing understanding of, and empathy for, Alison as a victim. He makes no attempt to contact her.
- **Looking to the future:** hostel curfew conditions are gradually relaxed, ready for move-on from the hostel. Probation helps him find a warehouse job, and a flat to rent. He eventually moves in.
- **Watchful work:** Including supervision both at the Probation Office and in his home; unannounced visits by Police Monitoring Officers; support from the Community Mental Health Team. The Victim Contact team still visit Alison.
- **Never zero risk:** This year, Mr. D disclosed to Probation and Police that he had started a relationship with a woman in her forties, and that she knew of his offending. He was asked to repeat his disclosure to her in front of Probation staff. Police Domestic Violence Officers later visited her alone at home, to check her safety. The Licence is now successfully completed. Mental Health support continues.