



‘Common Sense’ system to protect the county from dangerous offenders works well, say Criminal Justice chiefs.

In Essex, over the last 8 years, with nearly 4000 referrals to the ‘MAPPA’ system, there have been only 2 serious re-offences.

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Another year of protecting the public from serious sexual and violent offenders has again demonstrated that the right systems, operated well, go a long way to preventing serious crime, say Criminal Justice chiefs from Essex Probation, Chelmsford Prison and Essex Police.

Launching their new report on the year’s activities under the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements, the three lead Criminal Justice Agencies for MAPPA look back on a year of grindingly hard work, including information and intelligence sharing, careful planning and supervision, which has produced good results.

“The general public can’t know how much work goes into these cases,” said Mary Archer, Chief Officer of Probation. “Nor are they likely to be aware of how much they are protected from serious crime. People only know of the times when an offence takes place. There are no guarantees, and we are not complacent. Some people will re-offend, despite best efforts. But the way we manage dangerous offenders through MAPPA, where we include a raft of professionals from other agencies at our planning meetings, makes total common sense, both to the professionals, and to the public.”

The new report explains how MAPPA works, and gives examples of what the agencies actually do to prevent further crime. Numbers of registered sexual offenders in the county are available too. “These numbers are not out of the ordinary,” said DCI Paul Johnson of Essex Police, “and in terms of serious harm, those offenders committing Domestic Violence are more dangerous as a group.”

“Prisons also have an important role to play,” said David O’Neill, Head of Public Protection at Chelmsford prison. “Planning for the safe management of an ex-prisoner returning to the community starts in the prison, alongside our police and probation colleagues.”

For information about how all the agencies cooperate to ensure public safety, read the Essex MAPPA annual report, which is in newspaper format, for easy access.

To obtain a copy, contact Essex Probation Head Office, Cullen Mill, 49 Braintree Rd., Witham, CM8 2DD. Or download from

[http://www.essexprobationtrust.org.uk/publications\\_6.html](http://www.essexprobationtrust.org.uk/publications_6.html) and click on MAPPA Annual Report 08-09

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Photos of MAPPA meetings are available.