

Report to: Portfolio Holder for Housing

Decision Date: 4 November 2024

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Lee Brazier

Director Lead: Suzanne Shead, Director for Housing, Health and Wellbeing

Lead Officer: Julie Davidson, Business Manager Housing Services

Report Summary	
Type of Report	Open, Non-Key Decision
Report Title	Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPAs): Protocol for Housing, Police and Probation
Purpose of Report	This report sets out the joint working protocol for the housing of dangerous or potentially dangerous persons in Council accommodation within Nottinghamshire's Local Authority stock.
Recommendations	The Portfolio Holder approves the adoption of the MAPPAs Protocol
Alternative Options Considered	Continue with no working protocol in place, resulting in an inconsistent approach to housing MAPPAs nominals in county wide LA stock.
Reason for Recommendation	The protocol sets out expectations and responsibilities for all agencies involved in the housing of MAPPAs nominals across the County.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 All local authority housing services have a duty to assist and cooperate with partner agencies, the Police and Probation, in the rehousing of dangerous or potentially dangerous individuals.
- 1.2 This protocol at **Appendix 1** sets out how, when and under what circumstances local authorities will assist. The protocol was established following dissatisfaction from Nottinghamshire Probation Service when the council found the rehousing of a MAPPAs nominal difficult, we originally refused to rehouse this individual as we had nothing suitable at the time of the

request. We did agree with the probation practitioner that we would notify them if a suitable property became available however in the interim this refusal was escalated to the strategic MAPPA management board where it was agreed to progress the working document. Incidentally we sourced suitable accommodation for this individual.

- 1.3 This protocol is specific to referrals from Probation and does not cover all offenders but focuses on individuals assessed as dangerous or potentially dangerous.
- 1.4 The Criminal Justice Act 2003 established Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements in each of the 42 criminal justice areas in England and Wales, designed to protect the public, including previous victims of crime, from serious harm from sexual and/or violent offenders. MAPPA requires local criminal justice agencies and other bodies working with offenders to work in partnership.
- 1.5 All agencies named in the protocol are committed to working together to ensure the exchange of information informs the effective management of the risk posed by dangerous individuals.
- 1.6 The aim of this protocol is to ensure inter-agency work enables all relevant service providers to consider the needs of the offender and take account of the type and level of risk they may present to the community, with the long-term aim of influencing the successful accommodation and resettlement of the offender thus minimising the risk of re-offending whilst protecting victims and potential victims.
- 1.7 It is important to note that this does not guarantee the provision of a tenancy, as there is recognition that in some cases the risk levels are too high.
- 1.8 The protocol relies on the arrangement of timely multi-agency meetings being called, usually by our partners at Probation, ideally 3 months prior to any release date
- 1.9 Local authority housing teams contribute to the risk assessment with their local knowledge of accommodation and community dynamics, while police and probation services retain responsibility for the management of risk. This includes:
 - The availability of accommodation
 - Support and options
 - Local knowledge of areas and types of accommodation
 - Housing rights
 - Advice on anti-social behaviour and rent arrears policies
 - Advice on exclusions
 - Knowledge of who occupies surrounding accommodation owned and managed by the housing provider.
- 1.10 It is of paramount importance that any address being considered for an offender is approved by both police and probation – and that written confirmation is received and saved.
- 1.11 It is challenging to assess any levels of demand but during 23/24 we have housed three MAPPA nominals.

2.0 Proposal/Details of Options Considered

- 2.1 The introduction and adoption of a joint working protocol allows for all agencies involved in MAPPA to be clear on expectations, responsibilities and provides guidance for professional practitioners on process for housing dangerous or potentially dangerous persons in social housing accommodation.

- 2.2 A meeting with the probation lead for Nottinghamshire was held on 30 September 2024 with just a few minor amends required relating to the terminology. Probation services will also be uploading the referral forms so this will be a digital process.
- 2.3 The MAPPA protocol was tabled at SLT on Tuesday 1 October 2024 and recommended for portfolio holder decision.

3.0 Implications

- 3.1 In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, officers have considered the following implications:
- 3.2 Data Protection, Digital and Cyber Security, Equality and Diversity, Financial, Human Resources, Human Rights, Legal, Safeguarding and Sustainability, and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment below where appropriate.

3.3 Financial Implications

- 3.3.1 There are no financial implications associated with adoption of the protocol.

3.4 HR & Equalities Implications

- 3.4.1 These will be identified via the risk assessment of individuals at the commencement of the MAPPA.