Managing Sexual Offenders, Violent Offenders and Other Potentially Dangerous Persons
(Policy)

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<th>Publication Scheme Y/N</th>
<th>Policy section can be published on Force Website Procedure should be withheld</th>
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<td>Department of Origin</td>
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Statement

Merseyside Police Force is firmly committed to protecting the public from violent offenders who pose a risk of serious harm. This duty extends to the general public at large as well as vulnerable groups and communities and our own staff. Successful delivery of this core police business is essential in maintaining and enhancing public confidence in our Force and partner agencies.

No single agency has the capacity to provide public protection alone and success depends on a proactive approach in effective partnerships including Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). Our actions will therefore be taken in accordance with APP Guidance on the Management of Sexual and Violent Offenders and MAPPA Guidance 2012 National Offender Management Service (NOMS) in all aspects of identification and management of sexual offenders, violent offenders and other potentially dangerous persons.

Aims

The aim of this policy is to protect the public by ensuring Merseyside Police, along with its partners, manages sexual offenders, violent offenders and other potentially dangerous persons effectively. The policy is designed to supplement national guidance and provide a framework to maintain a consistent, structured approach to assessing and responding to the potential risk of harm posed by the above persons.

The policy also aims to ensure Merseyside Police fully discharges its responsibility to protect the identity of these offenders and their families from unwarranted public/media attention.

The policy is underpinned by procedures designed to provide clear, definitive and unambiguous direction for all those involved in its deployment.

Objectives

A broad objective is to enable managers, supervisors, individual police officers and police staff to deal effectively with all relevant issues involved in the assessment and management of the risk posed by sexual offenders, violent offenders and other potentially dangerous persons. More specific objectives relating to distinct activities are to:

a) Reduce the number of further offences committed by managed offenders
b) Minimise the opportunities for violent and sexual offenders and potentially dangerous persons to commit criminal acts
c) Decrease the number of missing/non-compliant registered sex offenders
d) Improve the level of relevant training for all officers and staff involved
e) Continue to develop effective links with partners within the Criminal Justice System to enhance the monitoring arrangements around managed offenders
f) Improve the volume and quality of:
   - Intelligence analysis / source tasking
   - Information sharing
OFFICIAL

☐ Risk identification and assessment
☐ Partnership working

Application and Scope

Application of this policy will accord with the following key principles:

a) Protection of the public is core police business reinforced by Human Rights legislation.
b) The investigative approach is central to every stage of managing sexual/violent offenders and potentially dangerous persons.
c) Decisions on risk identification, assessment and management should always be justifiable and defensible.
d) All processes regarding risk identification, risk assessment and risk management must be robust.
e) To maintain collaborative partnerships within Public Protection
f) To increase public satisfaction and build confidence.
g) Diversity issues should be recognised and met with appropriate responses.

All police officers and police staff, including the extended police family and those working voluntarily or under contract to Merseyside Police must be aware of, and are required to comply with, all relevant policy and associated procedures.

This policy document sets out principles to help guide decision making and is in some parts quite prescriptive. However, it is vital that officers and staff have the freedom to innovate, exercise discretion and take risk based decisions centred on the needs of the victim and the merits of each case. Non-statutory policies, including College of Policing APP, provide guidance only. They are ‘living documents’ and it is recognised that there may be a better way of doing this. Accordingly, if staff depart from a policy but are able to give a good rationale for their actions, and have acted with honesty, integrity and professionalism, to make the best decision for the community we serve, they will be trusted and supported.¹

This policy particularly applies to officers and staff where:

a) Their work influences or involves assessment/management of offenders covered by the MAPPA Guidance
b) Their work influences or involves assessment/management of risk by offenders who may fall outside the criteria contained in the MAPPA Guidance, but who pose a risk of serious harm

Outcome Evaluation

Outcomes will reflect specific objectives and be measured against these objectives on a routine annual basis. Responsibilities and activities involved in measurement will be included in a separate deployment plan monitored on an ongoing basis by the Head of PVPU.

Policy compliance may also be measured through internal inspection conducted by Corporate Support and Development (CSD)

¹ This paragraph inserted 16/06/2016 to emphasise appropriate use of discretion. Version number remains unchanged.
Professional Standards Department will monitor complaints under the Codes of Practice for Victims of Crime.

In general terms, specific objectives reflect the Force’s strategy of Community First. It is expected that successful outcomes will significantly contribute to increased public confidence and satisfaction.