

Version: 2 FOI Status: Controlled	Derbyshire County Council – Adult Social Care & Health MAPPa Practice Guidance for Adult Social Care	Issued: February 2026 Review due: February 2028 Author: Lynne Hyland
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# Derbyshire County Council - Adult Social Care & Health

## MAPPa Practice Guidance for Adult Social Care

### Version 2

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If you would like to make any comments, amendments, additions etc please email [ASCH.adultcare.policy@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:ASCH.adultcare.policy@derbyshire.gov.uk)

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## 1. What is MAPPA?

Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) are the statutory framework through which the Police, Probation Service, and Prison Service work jointly with partner agencies - including Adult Social Care (ASC) - to manage the risks posed by individuals who have committed sexual, violent, or other serious offences. MAPPA provides a structured approach for information sharing, coordinated planning, and multi-agency oversight to ensure that risks to the public are identified, assessed, and managed effectively. It does not replace the responsibilities of individual agencies; rather, it brings them together to develop robust, defensible, and proportionate risk-management plans that promote public protection and support safe community living where possible.

## 2. MAPPA Management Levels Explained

MAPPA uses **three levels of management** to ensure that individuals who pose a risk of serious harm are supervised in the most appropriate and proportionate way. These levels reflect the **complexity of the case**, the **degree of multi-agency involvement required**, and the **level of risk posed to the public**. The levels apply across all MAPPA categories.

### Level 1 – Ordinary Agency Management

Level 1 involves **single-agency management**, usually by Police or Probation. The offender does not require active multi-agency meetings because the risk can be effectively managed within the lead agency’s normal arrangements. Other agencies, such as Adult Social Care, may still contribute information when relevant, but there is **no formal MAPPA meeting**.

Typical for:

- Registered sexual offenders who are stable and compliant
- Violent offenders whose risks can be managed without multi-agency coordination
- The majority of MAPPA cases (approximately 98% nationally)

### Level 2 – Active Multi-Agency Management

Level 2 cases require **regular multi-agency meetings** because risk management is **more complex**, involves **multiple services**, or requires **coordinated planning**. The offender’s behaviour, needs, or circumstances mean that information sharing and joint decision-making are essential.

Agencies such as Police, Probation, Prison Service, Adult Social Care, Mental Health, Housing, Substance Misuse Services, and others are brought together to develop and review a **multi-agency Risk Management Plan**.

Typical for:

- Individuals with escalating or unstable risk

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- Cases involving complex mental health, accommodation, or safeguarding dynamics
- Prison release planning for high-risk offenders

### Level 3 – Senior Management Oversight

Level 3 is reserved for the **highest-risk and most complex cases**, where risks are exceptional and require **senior-level multi-agency involvement**, often including senior Police, Probation and local authority managers. These are rare but critical cases where strategic decision-making, resourcing, or exceptional measures are required.

Level 3 cases usually involve:

- Very high risk of serious harm
- Offenders requiring intensive multi-agency coordination
- Significant public protection issues or media interest

Only around **0.2%** of MAPPAs cases nationally are managed at Level 3.

### In Summary

- **Level 1:** Single-agency management – risk manageable without meetings
- **Level 2:** Multi-agency meetings required – complex cases needing coordinated planning
- **Level 3:** Senior-level oversight – highest risk, most complex cases

## 3. Adult Social Care’s Role in MAPPAs

Adult Social Care plays a vital role within Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPAs) as a Duty to Cooperate (DTC) agency. Although ASC is not responsible for the supervision or enforcement of offenders, it contributes essential expertise on care and support needs, safeguarding, mental capacity, accommodation options, and the vulnerabilities that may influence risk. ASC’s involvement ensures that risk-management planning takes into account the needs and rights of adults with care and support needs, while also supporting public protection. Through timely information sharing, professional analysis, clear communication of service boundaries, and participation in multi-agency planning, ASC helps ensure that MAPPAs decisions are lawful, proportionate, defensible, and aligned with statutory duties under the Care Act and related legislation.

Adult Social Care is a **Duty to Cooperate** agency and therefore must engage, share information, attend meetings when required, and contribute to risk management.

## 4. Accessing Legal Advice During MAPPAs Planning

In complex MAPPAs cases, Adult Social Care may need to seek advice from the Council’s Legal Services team during the planning stage - particularly where risk management

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arrangements may require the use of statutory powers, place restrictions on an individual's liberty, involve accommodation-based controls, or raise questions under the Mental Capacity Act or Human Rights Act. Legal colleagues can support practitioners and managers to consider the lawfulness, proportionality, and defensibility of proposed actions, including any potential need for Court of Protection involvement or formal legal orders. Early legal consultation is recommended wherever there is uncertainty about ASC's powers, duties, or liabilities, or where multi-agency partners request actions that may exceed ASC's legal remit. Legal advice should be factored into MAPPA planning at the earliest opportunity to ensure decisions are robust, safe, and compliant.

### 5. Management Oversight and Escalation

Throughout the MAPPA process, practitioners should maintain regular communication with their service manager and, where appropriate, the group manager. MAPPA cases often involve complex risk dynamics, high-profile decision-making, and multi-agency expectations; therefore, ongoing management oversight is essential to ensure that Adult Social Care's actions are lawful, proportionate, and aligned with organisational responsibilities. Colleagues are expected to discuss emerging risks, proposed risk-management measures, legal considerations, resource implications, and any concerns about multi-agency expectations at the earliest opportunity. Escalation to the group manager should occur where risks are significant, decisions carry strategic implications, or where additional senior support is required to progress safe and defensible planning. This ensures ASC maintains robust governance and a clear, accountable decision-making trail.

### 6. Adult Social Care Boundaries and Service Limitations

Adult Social Care operates within defined legal frameworks, eligibility criteria, and resource limits, and it is essential that these boundaries are clearly articulated during MAPPA planning. ASC's role is to assess needs, support wellbeing, and safeguard adults with care and support needs - not to provide supervision, enforcement, or risk-monitoring functions that fall to Police or Probation. Practitioners must be explicit about what ASC can reasonably provide, what cannot be delivered within statutory duties, and where requests from partners fall outside ASC's remit or resource capacity. This includes being clear when accommodation options, care packages, or staffing levels cannot meet proposed restrictions or risk-management expectations. Maintaining firm professional boundaries ensures that decision-making remains lawful, proportionate, and defensible, and prevents ASC from being drawn into responsibilities that sit with other agencies.

### 7. When Should Adult Social Care Make a MAPPA Referral?

A referral should be considered when:

- An adult you are working with fits MAPPA criteria **and**
- There are indicators that the individual poses a **serious risk of harm to the public, staff, or carers**, or

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- Multi-agency planning is required to manage the risk effectively.

Examples include:

- A service user leaving prison who has a history of sexual or violent offences
- Emerging concerns about escalating risk behaviour
- Safeguarding enquiries identifying significant risks to others
- Complex cases where ASC services may be required to provide accommodation, support packages, or risk-mitigating arrangements

## 8. How to Refer

When Adult Social Care identifies that a case meets MAPPa criteria and requires multi-agency oversight, practitioners should complete the MAPPa A Referral Form for Level 2 or 3 management. All sections of the form should be completed as fully as possible, including current risk assessment information and the Lead Agency’s Risk Management Plan. Once completed, the referral must be sent via **secure email only** to the MAPPa Co-ordination Unit at: [mappa@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:mappa@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk) .

Practitioners should ensure their line manager is aware of and supports the referral before submission. For referral guidance, see [Appendix 1](#).

## 9. What Happens After a Referral?

1. **Screening** – The MAPPa Coordinator reviews the referral to determine the category and whether a meeting is required.
2. **Level Setting** – Cases can be managed at:
  - **Level 1:** Ordinary agency management
  - **Level 2:** Multi-agency meeting required
  - **Level 3:** Senior management-level oversight for the highest-risk cases
3. **Invitation to Meeting** – If Adult Social Care involvement is relevant, you will be invited to a MAPPa Level 2 or 3 meeting.

You’ll receive:

- Meeting date/time
- Case summary (often from Police or Probation)
- Requested areas for contribution (accommodation, care provision, risk assessment, capacity, vulnerabilities)

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## 10. Preparing for a MAPPa Meeting

Before attending, ASC colleagues should:

### Gather Relevant Information

- ASC case notes and assessments
- Care and Support Plans
- Current or historical safeguarding information
- Capacity assessments and best-interest decisions
- Accommodation arrangements
- Relevant health, mental health or substance misuse information
- Known risks to staff, carers, or others
- Professional analysis of risk and protective factors
- Any gaps in information

### Clarify Your Role

You may attend as:

- Allocated worker
- Senior practitioner
- Service manager
- Service representative
- Specialist professional (e.g. Approved mental health professional)

Come prepared to clearly explain **ASC's role, responsibilities, and limitations.**

## 11. What to Expect at a MAPPa Meeting

A typical MAPPa Level 2/3 meeting includes:

### Who Will Be There

- Police
- Probation (Chair usually from Probation)
- Prison Service (if relevant)
- Adult Social Care
- Children's Services (if relevant)
- Mental Health Services
- Housing representatives

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- Substance misuse services
- NHS / ICB / Forensic services
- Other relevant agencies (education, YOS, safeguarding teams)

### Meeting Format

1. **Introductions and purpose of the meeting**
2. **Case presentation** (usually led by Probation or Police)
3. **Information sharing** – each agency shares what they know
4. **Analysis of risk** – discussion of nature, triggers, and likelihood of harm
5. **Development of a Risk Management Plan**, including:
  - Monitoring
  - Supervision
  - Restrictions (licence conditions / safeguarding arrangements)
  - Support needs
  - Accommodation planning
  - Contingency planning
6. **Allocated actions**
7. **Review arrangements**

### What MAPPA Is *Not*

- It is *not* a safeguarding meeting (though safeguarding may link with MAPPA)
- It is *not* a forum for allocating tasks you cannot resource
- It is *not* about punishment - it is about **risk reduction and protection**

<b>12. The Role of Adult Social Care at MAPPA</b>
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ASC contributes by:

### Information Sharing

- Social care needs
- Communication needs
- Risks posed **by** the individual and **to** the individual
- Engagement with support or care arrangements
- Any concerns about carers, family, or accommodation options
- Professional risk assessment within ASC's remit

### Risk Management

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You may be asked to contribute to:

- Safe accommodation planning
- Visiting arrangements
- Support packages
- Contingency plans
- Safeguarding planning
- Mental capacity assessments
- Advocacy arrangements

### Setting Boundaries

It is important to clearly state:

- What ASC **can** and **cannot** provide
- Resource availability
- Legal frameworks (Care Act, MCA, safeguarding duties)
- Professional concerns about unmanageable or inappropriate requests

## 13. Presenting at a MAPPA Meeting

When presenting, aim for:

### Clear, concise, factual information

Include:

- Overview of involvement
- Summary of needs
- Risks and protective factors
- Capacity considerations
- Current services or support
- Known triggers, behaviours, or deterioration
- ASC’s professional opinion (use evidence)

### Recommended Structure

1. **Who you are and your role**
2. **Summary of ASC involvement**
3. **Key risks** (to self, staff, public, carers)
4. **Support needs and vulnerabilities**

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5. **Professional analysis of risk**
6. **ASC contributions to risk management**
7. **Limitations and risks if support is withdrawn or unavailable**

**14. After the Meeting**

ASC should:

- Update case notes with a full record
- Share agreed actions with your line manager
- Complete any tasks assigned to Adult Social Care
- Ensure the individual’s plan is updated (Care and Support Plan, Risk Assessment, Safeguarding Plan)
- Communicate with partners as required
- Attend review meetings

**15. Key Professional Expectations**

ASC colleagues are expected to:

- Attend when invited
- Provide high-quality information
- Share concerns transparently
- Respond promptly to MAPPAs actions
- Work collaboratively with partner agencies
- Challenge decisions respectfully
- Prioritise the safety of the public, workforce, and any adults with care and support needs

**16. In Summary**

This guidance is intended to support Adult Social Care colleagues in confidently and effectively contributing to MAPPAs processes across Derbyshire. By working collaboratively, sharing information appropriately, and maintaining clear professional boundaries, we help ensure that risk is managed lawfully, proportionately, and in a way that promotes the safety of the public, partner agencies, and the individuals we support. Staff should always seek managerial advice when needed and use this document alongside local policy, professional judgment, and multi-agency communication to guide safe and defensible practice.

**17. Useful Contacts and Websites for Further Information**

**Derbyshire MAPPAs Information and Contact Information**

- **MAPPAs Co-ordination Unit** - [mappa@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:mappa@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk)

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- **Derby City Council** – [MAPPA Information Page](#) - Provides an overview of MAPPA in Derby and Derbyshire, responsible authorities, and how agencies work together.

### National MAPPA Guidance

- **Ministry of Justice** – [MAPPA Statutory Guidance \(England & Wales\)](#)  
Authoritative national guidance covering MAPPA categories, duties, meetings, disclosure, risk management, and multi-agency responsibilities.
- **College of Policing** – [MAPPA Operational Practice](#) - Professional practice guidance for police and partner agencies on managing sexual and violent offenders under MAPPA.

### General MAPPA queries

For general MAPPA queries, advice or clarification relating to the referral process, practitioners can contact the national MAPPA helpdesk at [MAPPA1@justice.gov.uk](mailto:MAPPA1@justice.gov.uk).

Adult Social Care staff **must not** send referrals or personal information to this query address; referrals must always be submitted to the Derbyshire MAPPA email above.

### MAPPA Derbyshire Annual Report

The [MAPPA Annual Report](#) provides detailed local MAPPA data, partnership structure, responsible authorities, Duty to Co-operate agencies, and performance indicators.

### Training for Derbyshire Practitioners

**Safer Derbyshire** – [MAPPA Training \(Foundation & Practitioner\)](#) - Training for ASC, police, probation, health, housing, and multi-agency professionals who need to understand or attend MAPPA meetings.

<b>Author History</b>
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### Change History

Version 1			New guidance
Version 2	February 2026	Lynne Hyland	Review & update