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# Staffordshire P O L I C E

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NEWS RELEASE

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## **MAPPA PROGRESS IN 2007/08**

Ongoing improvements in the management of violent and sexual offenders in Staffordshire are outlined today (20 October 2008) in a report from the area's police, probation and prison services.

The seventh annual Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) publication highlights co-ordinated work to reduce the risk posed by offenders. It has been published alongside other MAPPA reports across the country, following a Parliamentary announcement this morning outlining the national situation.

In Staffordshire, the total number of registered sex offenders living in the community rose to 696 in 2007/08 from 676 the year before. This increase is to be expected and reflects the national trend, given that more people join the register each year than leave it. Over 99 per cent of sex offenders comply with registration and monitoring procedures.

Assistant Chief Constable Marcus Beale said: "People can be confident that the chance of becoming a victim of a sexual crime in Staffordshire remains very small. What's more, the re-offending rate of serious offenders is extremely low.

"The purpose of MAPPA is to increase the level of protection given to the public from certain types of offenders and to help make Staffordshire a safer place in which to live. This is achieved through organisations working together, in a robust and co-ordinated way, as they continue to look for areas of improvement.

"As a force we have embarked on a comprehensive restructuring of our public protection department so we can give an even better service to victims and vulnerable people."

Improvements listed in the report include full access for the police, prison and probation agencies to the national Violent and Sexual Offenders' Register (ViSOR). This means all three agencies can share risk assessment information about violent and sex offenders via the same computer database.  
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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



The report also mentions the increasing, successful use of Sexual Offences Prevention Orders in Staffordshire. These can include restrictions on an offender's movements, activities and living arrangements, such as preventing an individual loitering near schools or play areas.

Rob Mandley, Chief Officer of Staffordshire Probation Area, said: "The annual report identifies the hard work and commitment shown by colleagues from all partner agencies in their work with offenders.

"The offenders dealt with under MAPPA are those whose behaviour can be both aggressive and confrontational, and for whom the risk of reoffending can never be eliminated. The fact that the majority of those subject to MAPPA management do not go on to seriously reoffend is evidence of effective management under MAPPA, and the benefits to the community of a collaborative approach by police, probation, prisons and their partner agencies."

The MAPPA approach is based on prevention by assessing and managing the risks of sexual and violent offenders through a layered system. Some offenders are managed by single agencies, others by local MAPPA partnerships chaired by police chief inspectors and the most serious by senior managers from the relevant agencies at a county level.

Sue McAllister, the Prison Service's West Midlands Area Manager, said: "Prisons in the West Midlands, including those in Staffordshire, continue to work hard to assess and reduce the risk of sexual and violent offenders while they are in custody, to support public protection following their release into the community."

The annual report also contains case studies and information about work with victims as part of the MAPPA process.

Ends

**Media notes:**

- 1) Bids for interviews should be made via Staffordshire Police Press Office on 01785 234864
- 2) The Staffordshire MAPPA Annual Report 2007/08 can be read on-line at [www.staffordshire.police.uk](http://www.staffordshire.police.uk) or [www.staffordshireprobation.org.uk](http://www.staffordshireprobation.org.uk)
- 3) For national MAPPA enquiries contact the Ministry of Justice Newsdesk on 020 33 34 35 36.