

Management of Sex and/or Violent Offenders Procedures

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DEPARTMENT: Safeguarding Children

DIRECTORATE: Nursing and Governance

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Procedure Reference Information Management of Sex and/or Violent Offenders

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Sex Offenders Act came into force in 1997. The Act is designed to protect everyone in society from sexual crimes – especially people who are particularly vulnerable to abuse such as children, the elderly and people with a learning disabilities.

All offenders registered under the Act have to register at a designated police station, in the area in which they reside. The police public protection unit and probation undertake an initial risk assessment based on past offending history and information received from other agencies involved with the offender. This assessment has two purposes:

- To assess the offenders likely risk of re offending and any action that needs to be put in place to reduce that risk.
- To assess the risk to the offender from the local community and any action that needs to be put in place to reduce that risk.

1.3 This assessment will be taken to the monthly Multi Agency Public Protection Panel (MAPPP) where a risk management plan will be put in place.

1.4 In Newham the agencies represented on the MAPPP are police, probation, youth offending team, health, education, housing and social services. The designated nurse for child protection represents the Primary Care Trust and Newham University Hospital Trust. East London and the City Mental Health Trust have a separate representative.

The following procedure identifies how information is shared and how actions recommended by the MAPPP are passed onto the relevant professionals.

2. THE AIMS OF THE PROCEDURE

This procedure aims to:

- Support staff in their day to day work, improve communication and promote safe outcomes for children.
- Ensure that all Trust procedures conform to agreed standards.
- Establish clear procedures to monitor, evaluate and develop the departmental function.
- Promote the sharing of good practice in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of standards of practice between departments and Trusts.

3. DEFINITION

Violent and sexual crime, and the fear of crime, has a profound and damaging effect on individuals, families and communities. Such crimes can include registered sex offenders; violent offenders and those sexual offenders who are not required to register under the Sex Offenders Act 1997; and any other dangerous offenders who are considered to pose a risk of serious harm to the public.

4. OBJECTIVES

- Outline the practice standards for gathering and disclosing information.
- State the expectations on staff when working with sex/violent offenders.

5. GATHERING OF INFORMATION

Following receipt of an individual's detail via the MAPPP forum, the designated nurse for child protection will initially check the child health data base and electronic patient records to identify whether s/he is known to health services and whether there are others residents/family members who might be receiving home visits from health staff. This is required to contribute the MAPPP risk assessment to the individual/family and to protect health professionals.

Depending on the outcome of the MAPPP meeting, type of information shared and level of risk posed, the designated nurse for child protection may do further checks and liaise with health services colleagues. The search for information will follow Caudicott Guardian Guidance.

6. RESTRICTED DISCLOSURE

- 6.1 Where individual health professionals are identified at being at possible risk from the offender it will be agreed at the MAPPP what information can be shared with the Trust(s) to protect the health professional/s concerned. The health professional in contact with the offender must be provided with adequate information to ensure their safety as well as enabling the patient to receive treatment and remain safe with in the community.
- 6.2 All health professional must comply with their contractual obligations and guidance from professional bodies, specifically confidentiality.

7. HEALTH SERVICE RISK MANAGEMENT

Where a known sex and/or violent offender requires health services as an inpatient or is known to be visiting patients, the health service and MAPPP risk assessment action plan must implemented to ensure continued provision of service and maintenance of safety to the offender and others.

7.1 Newham Primary Care Trust Employees

The designated nurse for child protection will inform the health professional's service manager the Trusts risk manager of the situation and the advice provided by the MAPPP meeting. A risk assessment must be completed by the service manager taking into consideration MAPPP advice and a copy of their assessment must be sent to the designated nurse for child protection,

the Trusts Risk Manager and the Director of Nursing. In extreme instances this may involve employment of additional staff (e.g. security staff) to ensure staff safety or moving the patient to a secure setting for treatment.

7.2 General Practitioners Employees

The designated nurse for child protection will inform the General Practitioner of the situation and the advice offered by the MAPPP. The General Practitioner has responsibility for carrying out a risk assessment and ensuring the safety of practice staff.

7.3 Newham University Hospital Trust Employees

The designated nurse will inform the Director of Nursing and Patient Care Newham University Hospital of the situation and the advice given by the MAPPP. The Director of Nursing will initiate a risk assessment and send a copy to the designated nurse for child protection.

8. STAFF SUPPORT

- 8.1 Workings with sex and/or violent offenders will in many cases cause anxiety and distress for staff. They must at all times be supported personally and in the provision of care to patients by their line managers. Support can also be gained through child protection supervision, occupational health and/or the confidential staff support lines (Appendix A), however staff must be mindful of the confidentiality and disclosure issues involved.

9. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

- 9.1 When an offender is identified and becomes an object of media attention the police will take the lead in managing any press releases required working within the agreed protocol liaising closely with all MAPPP partner agencies.
- 9.2 When the MAPPP decide that it is in the public's interest to make a partial or full disclosure regarding an offender living within Newham the police will take the lead in managing any press releases required working within the agreed protocol.

10. RECORD KEEPING

- 10.1 Any checks the designated nurse for child protection makes will be recorded along with any liaison and action taken using form PP1 (Appendix B)

11. STORAGE OF RECORDS

11.1 The PPP1 forms and agendas must be kept in a locked secure unit at all times. Minutes of meetings and offender profiles are distributed at the beginning of meetings and returned for shredding at the end of the meeting.

NB In the absence of the designated nurse for child protection, a member of the safeguarding children's team or the East London and the City Mental Health Trust representative will deputise at the MAPPP and liaise back to the designated nurse child protection.

STAFF SUPPORT

Newham Primary Care Trust - Confidential staff service:
Employees Assistance Programme
CORE CARE Tel: 0800 181 392

Newham University Hospital Trust - Confidential staff service:
Employees Assistance Programme
CORE CARE Tel: 0800 181 392

PP1 FORM

REFERENCES:

Metropolitan Police Service; City of London Police Service & London Probation Service. Multi - agency arrangements for managing sexual, violent and other dangerous offenders. Annual Report 2003 – 2004.

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/sexualoffences/legislation/act.html

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Newham Primary Care Trust Intranet

Newham University Hospital Trust Intranet.

PP1 FORM

APPENDIX B

Date	Name	Action	MAPP informed	Comments