

Appendix 2

Multi Agency Working and Risk Management

With the introduction of Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) in 2006 in Scotland there has been a growing emphasis on multiagency working to manage risk in the community. Some Health Boards have services where clinicians, often psychologists, work with police and justice social workers in a range of activities including consultation, liaison and assessment to support the multiagency risk management of high-risk offenders. In a small number of health boards this provision also included interventions.

NHS Psychologists working in Scottish prisons can be invited to risk management meetings for people on their caseload. This provides an opportunity to contribute to risk assessment and risk management plans where appropriate. There are also regular complex case forums held in which NHS and SPS staff meet to discuss and develop support plans for people living in prison with complex and multiple needs.

Risk

Risk assessment is a key component of psychological practice in secure care where psychologists lead on this. Psychologists working in forensic mental health have expertise in models of offending, delivery of risk assessment and risk management plans. In secure care, services use Structured Professional Judgement (SPJ) risk assessment tools which are the gold standard risk assessment tools, particularly when assessing offenders with mental health histories. Psychologists are responsible for the Risk Formulation aspect of the assessment and in some services are responsible for undertaking the whole assessment. A risk formulation provides a narrative hypothesis about why a patient has come to offend and what factors and underlying psychological mechanisms may lead them to offend again in the future. This therefore indicates which interventions are likely to be important in reducing the risk of future offending. In services, psychologists often provide training to the wider staff group on risk assessments in order the risk assessments can be communicated effectively within the team and to other teams on discharge from a service. Risk assessments allow for care plans to be developed that address both mental health and offending and also allow for change in risk profile to be tracked over time ([Standards & Guidelines - RMA - Risk Management Authority](#)).