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How Multi-Agency are Multi-Agency Public Protection Panels (MAPPP)?

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Short Answer = Not Very Much
What are MAPPPs? What do they do?

“…led to better co-operation between the police and probation services and other agencies…led to more effective inter-agency working.” (Home Office, 2002: 7)

“…the lack of a joined-up, strategic approach…has resulted in poor co-ordination and inadequate service provision.” (Lovell, 2002: 1)
The Project

• Part of larger study into experiences of sex offenders in a Probation Approved Premises (hostel)

• Observation of 12 MAPPPs (locally known as MARAC) over 12 months

• (undertaken just as NOMS was announced)
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Who Wasn’t there?

- Where was Social Services?
- Health problems
- Excluded Housing

- But, others were involved external to MARACs
  - Query: how was the MARAC used?
The Inner Circle of Knowledge Keepers

• By number:
  – Consistent presence of 2-3 SPO
  – SPO chairman
  – PO (key workers) continually in & out of MARAC

• By information held:
  – Role of ‘keeper of knowledge’ and ‘expert’
  – The inner circle
The Inner Circle of Knowledge Keepers
The Inner Circle of Knowledge Keepers

Knowledge Keepers:
- ‘Experts’
  - MARAC Chairman: SPO
    - SPO
    - SPO
    - Police PPU
  - Information providers
How poor was the representation?

• In line with previous research:
  • Young et al (2008): MAPPP organisation inconsistent and un-coordinated
  • Maguire et al (2001): Housing and Health services representation problematic and variable
  • Lieb (2003): Need to know, not nice to know
The result of this….?

- Poor representation resulted in an elevated ‘expert’ status for the inner circle

- Information sharing in MAPPP was highly tactical by Probation

- It was not altruistic by probation nor with the expectation of reciprocation by other agencies
References