

VICTIM INFORMATION



This booklet has been produced for victims by the agencies involved in the Public Protection Arrangements Northern Ireland (PPANI). The priority of all the agencies is keeping the public safe.

The purpose of the booklet is to:

- Provide you with information about how the agencies work to protect the public.
- Explain how you can engage with the agencies involved to share your concerns or receive information.
- Signpost you to organisations that may provide further support and assistance.

How The Agencies Work To Protect The Public

Through the Public Protection Arrangements, the Police, Probation and Prison Services work together with other agencies to manage the risks posed by certain violent and sexual offenders in order to protect the public.

All PPANI offenders are assessed at Local Area Public Protection Panels (LAPPPs) to establish the level of risk of harm they pose to the public. This results in the offender being placed in one of three risk categories (Categories 1 to 3, with Category 1 being the lowest and Category 3 being the highest risk).

Risk management plans are then worked out for each offender to manage those risks.

Risk management plans may include restrictions on offenders such as:

- Only living in accommodation approved by their Designated Risk Manager (DRM)
- Not entering a specific area

- Completing a treatment programme regarding their offending
- Not having contact with their victim
- Advising their Designated Risk Manager (DRM) if they enter a new relationship
- Not having contact with children without the approval of their DRM/Social Services
- Not consuming alcohol
- Electronic monitoring

There are also a number of special orders which the court can grant to assist the PSNI in managing the risk posed by sexual or violent offenders. These orders include:

- Sexual Offence(s) Prevention Orders (SOPPO)
- Risk of Sexual Harm Orders (RHSO)
- Notification Orders
- Foreign Travel Orders
- Non Molestation Order (NMO)
- Violent Offences Prevention Order (VOPO)

These orders give police additional powers to protect the public especially children and vulnerable adults, from serious sexual harm, by placing specific restrictions on individuals.

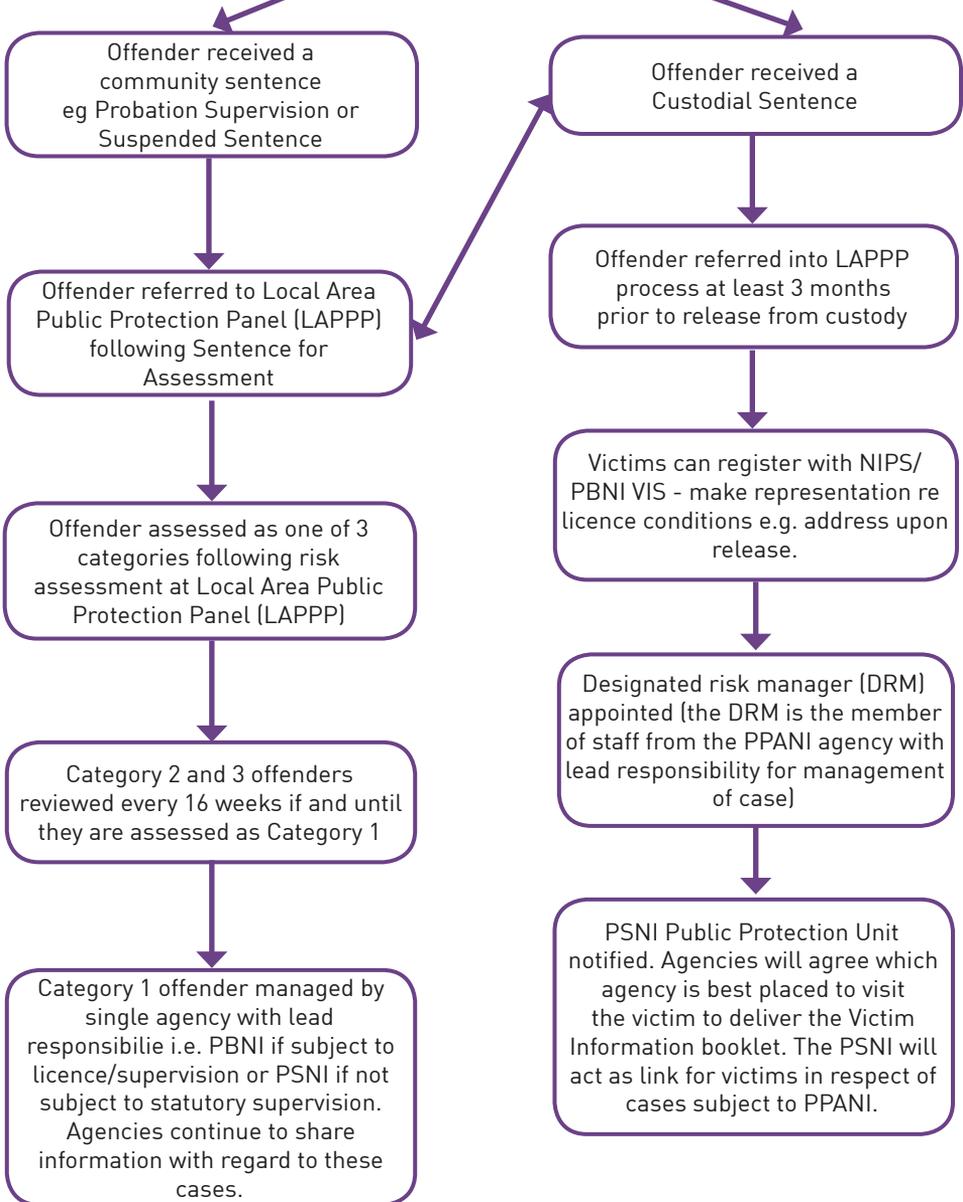
Offenders who fail to comply with supervision requirements may be returned to court or recalled to custody.

Engaging With The Agencies

We want to ensure that victims receive the support and assistance they need. We know that many victims want to engage with the agencies and this section outlines how best to do that. Victims issues are also on the agenda when cases are discussed at LAPPPs.

If you have concerns in relation to the person who committed the offence against you, such as seeing the offender in your street, we would encourage you to speak to the police about your concerns.

Court - Offender Convicted/Sentenced



There are also a number of schemes/organisations that can provide assistance and information. They include:

The Prisoner Release Victim Information Scheme

The Prisoner Release Victim Information Scheme is a scheme which provides for victims of crime or where the victim is deceased, the family of the victim, to register to receive information about a prisoner's sentence, about any periods of temporary release from prison for which a prisoner is being considered and about their release from prison at the end of their period in custody. The scheme also provides for the written submission to the Prison Service of any concerns victim's/victim's families have about a prisoner's release.

The scheme only provides for information to be given about the month and year in which a prisoner is to be released whether temporarily or at the end of their time in custody.

An application form for the Prisoner Release Victim Information Scheme can be obtained via victiminfo@pbni.gsi.gov.uk or via Tel. 0300 1233269.

PBNI Victim Information Unit

The Victim Information Unit provides post sentence information to victims when their case has resulted in:

- Any prison sentence of 6 months or more received by an adult of 18 years or over;
- Any sentence supervised by the Probation Board for Northern Ireland; or
- A Hospital Order with a Restriction Order.

Through the PBNI Victim Information Scheme the following information will be provided to victims:

- Information about the specific sentence in their case and general information about PBNI's supervision of offenders.
- The opportunity to discuss concerns which may inform the management of the offender.
- Information can be provided in writing, by phone or in a face-to-face meeting with a PBNI Victim Liaison Officer.

- Information can be provided, if appropriate, about any organisation which may be able to offer specific support in relation to the victim's experiences /needs as a victim of crime.
- The opportunity to be involved, on a voluntary basis, in direct or indirect restorative contact with the offender if this would help address issues resulting from the offence.

Information about the PBNI Victim Information Scheme can be obtained via victiminfo@pbni.gsi.gov.uk or via Tel. 0300 1233269.

Mentally Disordered Offender Victim Information Scheme (DoJ)

The Mentally Disordered Offender Victim Information Scheme (DoJ) is a statutory scheme which offers victims the opportunity to submit their views when consideration is being given to applications for leave of absence or for the discharge of mentally disordered offenders.

The Prisoner Release Victim Information Scheme, the Probation Board for Northern Ireland Victim Information Scheme and the Mentally Disordered Offender Victim Information Schemes are co-located and are managed under the PBNI Victim Information Unit. These schemes are voluntary and it is necessary to register with them.

Victim Support NI

Victim Support NI is the charity supporting people affected by crime.

They offer a free and confidential service, whether or not a crime has been reported and regardless of how long ago the event took place. They are an independent organisation - not part of the police, courts or any other criminal justice agency.

Information can be found on their website www.victimsupportni.co.uk

Support Services

PPANI agencies recognise the importance of providing support for individuals who have been affected by sexual or violent offending. There are a number of services providing support for individuals who have been affected by sexual or violent offending.

Useful Contact Numbers

Cruse Bereavement Care NI

Tel: 0808 808 1677

Web: www.cruse.org.uk

Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline

Tel: 0808 8021414

Web: www.dsahelpline.org

Women's Aid

Tel: 028 9024 9041

Email: info@womensaidni.org

Web: www.womensaid.ni.org

Men's Advisory Project (MAP)

Tel: Belfast: 028 9024 1929 / Foyle: 028 7116 0001

Email: info@mapni.co.uk

Web: www.mapni.co.uk

Nexus (Survivors of Sexual Abuse)

Tel: Belfast: 028 9032 6803 / Enniskillen: 028 6632 0046 /
Foyle 028 7126 0566

Web: www.nexusni.org

NSPCC

Tel: 028 9035 1135

Web: www.nspcc.org.uk

Support after Murder and Manslaughter

Tel: 028 9442 9009

Email: pam.surplis_samm.ni@live.co.uk

Web: www.samm.org.uk

Victim Support Northern Ireland

Tel: Central Office: 028 9024 3133 / Belfast Hub: 028 902 3133
Foyle Hub: 028 713 70086

Web: www.victimssupportni.co.uk



Local Public Protection Unit or PSNI Public Protection Team

