

Disclosure Guidance



On occasion professionals involved in MAPPA or working with families/adults in the community may become aware that a Registered Sex Offender, violent offender or Schedule 1 offender has become involved with a child/family or vulnerable adult and presents a risk of significant harm.

Where it is believed that a child or vulnerable adult is at risk of significant harm Child or Adult Protection procedures must be followed and the concern raised with the appropriate Social Work Team Manager or PPU (child or adult protection referral).

1. The Team Manager or PPU Sergeant must initiate an IRD.
2. IRD participants must decide:
 - whether information about the person's convictions/past behaviour is disclosed to the child/family/vulnerable adult;
 - the exact wording of the disclosure;
 - which professional(s) should make the disclosure; and
 - to whom
3. These decisions must be clearly recorded on eIRD.
4. As usual, other risk assessment activity, safety planning and the need for a Child Protection Planning meeting, Child's Planning meeting or Adult Protection Case conference must be agreed.

A balance needs to be struck between on the one hand protecting the public, particularly children and adults at risk, and the maintenance of law and order, and on the other hand the protection of individuals' legal rights and any duty of care to them and their families.

In Scotland, there are lawful routes to disclosure, including:

- The individual can self-disclose;
- A Public Interest Disclosure can be made by police; or
- A disclosure can be made by social workers, in relation to the protection of children and vulnerable adults.

The public can also ask for information from the police

1. The [Community Disclosure Scheme](#) (Keeping Children Safe scheme) is managed by Police Scotland. The scheme encourages members of the public to apply for information about an individual who has access to a child if they are concerned that the individual poses a risk to a child's safety and wellbeing.
2. The [Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse](#) (DSDAS) aims to provide a way of sharing information by making disclosures about a person's abusive past with a potential victim. It also allows concerned members of the public, such as relatives and friends, the right to ask about someone's partner if they are concerned that person has been abusive in the past.