

What is a MASH?

- MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) is the forum for different agencies to work together in a common way. It is a single point of referral for all agencies and the public in relation to care and welfare of children (unborn – 18 years).
- The MASH brings together a core membership which includes Children's Social Care, Police, Probation, Mental Health, Education, Housing, Youth Offending Service and Health. These agencies are key components to the process which must encourage them to share fully, and to build bridges to key decision makers e.g. Head teachers
- The aim of the MASH is Prevention - to identify risk and harm to allow timely and appropriate interventions
- The MASH provides a co-location which allows the tension between privacy and sharing information to be undertaken safely and is seen as a key tool to building strong partnership working to identify vulnerable children earlier.
- The MASH provides a common process, which is adapted to fit locally, to allow clarity on sharing within and between boroughs
- The MASH will allow for the system to link into Adult services

Essential Criteria for a Mash

1. All notifications relating to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children go through the hub
2. Co-location of professionals from core agencies
3. The hub is fire walled, keeping MASH activity confidential and separate from operational activity
4. An agreed process for analysing and assessing risk, based on the fullest information picture and dissemination of a suitable information product to the most appropriate agency for necessary action
5. A process to identify those vulnerable or at risk of emerging harm through research and analysis

Who will be in the MASH

- The Police (Public Protection Desk)
1 Sergeant, 5 police officers
- Children's Social Care MASH team,
consists of 1 team manager, 3
experienced social workers, 5 social
work assistants, 5 admin support staff
- 1 Health worker full time
- 1 Education rep (2 days per week
initially)
- Housing worker

Other Contributors

They will be joined by core representatives:

- Early Intervention Services
- Probation
- Youth Offending Service/ Targeted Youth Services
- CAMHS
- Adult services (drugs & alcohol, mental health, etc.)
- The MASH will have a direct link to these services and representatives from each agency will join the MASH one day a week

THE PURPOSE OF MASH

- The Mash will provide a single point for referrals
- Common threshold and risk assessments used by all agencies leading to less duplication
- Early identification leading to appropriate “Early help” (Munro)
- To identify gaps in the services

Referrals

- It is expected that all agencies referring to the MASH will either inform the parents or carers that they are going to refer to the MASH or seek consent.
- The only exception is where it is felt that the child will be placed at an increased risk (physical/ sexual abuse)
- A leaflet will be available on Barnet's website for parents /carers explaining the MASH

INFORMATION SHARING

- The MASH provides a fire walled environment in which agencies can be assured of the confidentiality of the process. This is particularly important for agencies such as the police and health when sharing information.
- All key agencies have signed the MASH Information Sharing Agreement.
- Information shared has to be proportionate and in order to promote the well being of children.

Information Sharing

- Paragraph 3.3.7 of the current London Child Protection Procedures summarise the position.
- “the key factor in deciding whether to share information or not is proportionality (i.e. whether the proposed sharing is a proportionate response to protect the public interest in question). In making the decision professionals must weigh up what might happen if shared against what might happen if it is not , and make a decision based on reasonable judgement “

Legal Basis for Sharing Information

- Children Act 2004 - Sections 10 and 11 place the obligations upon Local Authorities, Primary Care Trust and Police to cooperate with other relevant partners in promoting the welfare of children.
- Data Protection Act - Section 29 provides a possible gateway for sharing information by stating that '*...if no disclosure of the information would prejudice or is likely to prejudice the prevention/ detection of crime and/or the apprehension/ prosecution of offenders, personal data can be disclosed*'.
- Working Together document clarifies information sharing arrangements amongst agencies
- Information Sharing Agreement - signed by all key agencies

How will the MASH work ?

- All referrals will be checked initially on the ICS and the E CAF systems (this system will sit below ICS and keep a record of all the referrals that do not reach social care threshold)
- Cases with an allocated social worker will be automatically transferred to the SW without going through the MASH
- All police referrals (Merlins) will be checked against their systems
- A social worker will assess the referrals and rate them according to the BRAG rating system

Brag Ratings

Blue	Red	Amber	Green
<p>Children with no additional needs and whose developmental needs are met by universal services but who may benefit from support from a single agency</p>	<p>Child or young person appears to be at risk of immediate harm and or serious harm .SECT 47 Enquiry likely</p>	<p>Child or young person at risk of harm , no immediate urgent action required S47 investigation possible , but more likely to be a S17</p>	<p>Concerns about the well being of a child or young person , which if not addressed may lead to poor outcomes may be a sect 17 or CAF</p>
<p>Same day no checks</p>	<p>As soon as possible , but with 4 hours Referred to CAIT and CSC Duty team immediately</p>	<p>As soon as a possible but within 24hours</p>	<p>As soon as possible , but within 2 working days</p>
<p>See threshold document for details</p>	<p>See threshold document doe details</p>	<p>see threshold document for details</p>	<p>See threshold document for details</p>
<p>Universal services no action required</p>	<p>Children’s services Police Specialist services ie CAMHS , YOS</p>	<p>Children’s social care</p>	<p>Children’s social care CAF</p>

Following Actions

- Following initial Brag rating a decision will be made as to whether to gather information and if so at what level
- In Child Protection referrals the case will pass immediately to the relevant CSC duty team to do a joint/single investigation with the police Child Abuse Investigation Team while the MASH information gather
- Information gathering may be basic such as education or health
- It may be a full MASH process is followed gathering detailed information from partners, followed by a sit down MASH meeting
- Following the gathering of information the case can be re rated this will mean a case can escalate from Amber up to Red or reduce in perceived risk down to Green

When should I share information

- You may be called advising you that an information form will be sent to you
- The request will contain a summary of the referral concerns
- The form will indicate whether we have consent from the parents or we are seeking the information under section 47

Info sharing (cont)

- In order to observe timescales for BRAG ratings, professionals where possible should respond immediately to information request

Outcomes

- No Further Action required
- Referral to the Early Help Services
- Referral to one of the front line teams for assessment (Duty Assessment Team, DCT , ARTS or Hospital SW team)
- Sign posting

Referrals

Please go to

www.barnet.gov.uk/wwcib/mash

please find the **referral form** link ,
complete and this will come to the
MASH

QUESTIONS?

Any Questions and Feedback?