

MASH

The Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is a single point of referral for all agencies /public in relation to care and welfare concerns about children (unborn-18 years)

Why do we need a MASH

- The MASH has been developed as a result of numerous Serious Case Reviews and public inquiries
- A common theme of serious case reviews has been the inability of agencies to effectively share information
- The Munro Review of Child Protection recognised the necessity for co-located , multi agency teams to be able to build the full picture and to ensure families receive effective support early on

Advantages to a Single Point of Entry

- Common thresholds & consistent approach
- Seamless referral process
- Early Identification of Need(Munro)
- Identifying gaps in the service
- Coordinating intelligence and provision for children who are victims, go missing, subject to sexual exploitation & gang activity

Who is in Barnet's 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 1 day a week

Other Contributors

- Early Intervention Services daily
- Probation one day a week
- Adult mental health worker one day
- Young people's drug & alcohol service once a month
- MASH has a direct link with representatives from; CAHMS, Youth Offending Service/ Targeted Youth, Adult services (drugs & alcohol)

Referrals

- Referrals are made via the on-line link on the MASH information page available to professionals
- It is expected that all agencies referring to the MASH will 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 is available for professional's to print off the Barnet's website to give to 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.

Legal Basis for Sharing Information

- Children Act 2004 - Sections 10 and 11 place 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

How will the MASH work ?

- All referrals will be checked initially on children's social care data base system. From mid 2014 the E CAF system will be operational & lower level referrals will be recorded on this
- Cases with an allocated social worker (SW) will be automatically transferred to the SW without going through the MASH
- All police referrals (Merlins) will be checked against their systems & BRAG rated by the police
- A social worker will assess all referrals including Merlins 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 within 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>

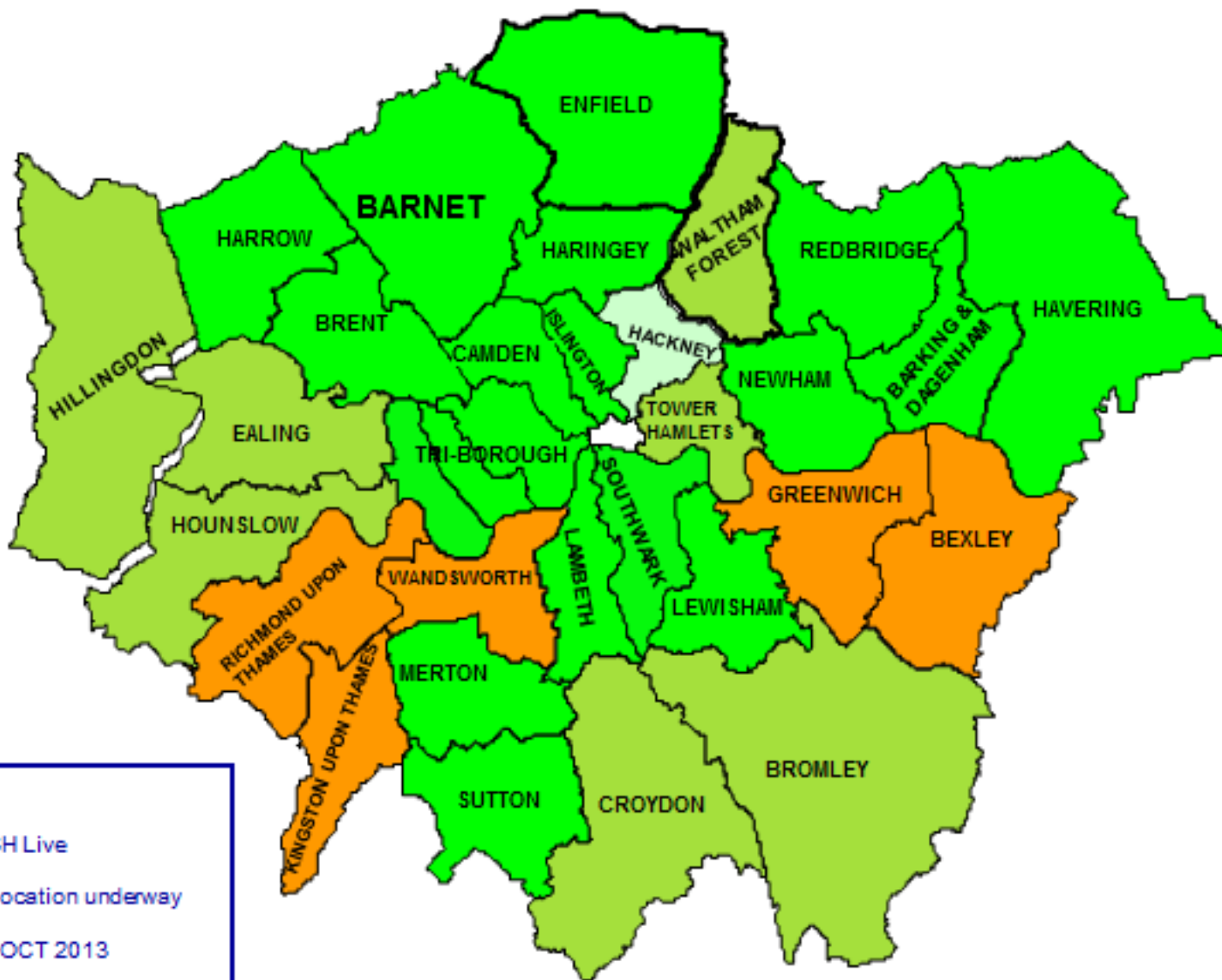
Following Actions

- 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 (school attended) or health (GP details)
- 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 and can escalate from Amber up to Red or reduce in perceived risk down to Green

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 ,Hospital SW team or CAHMS)
- Sign posting

London MASH Map October 2013



KEY

	MASH Live
	Co-Location underway
	Live OCT 2013
	Projected Live Spring 2014

MASH web site

- www.barnet.gov.uk/wwcib/mash

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