



**Haringey Council**

<b>Report for:</b>	<b>Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Advisory Committee: 2 July 2013</b>	<b>Item Number:</b>	
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<b>Title:</b>	<b>Update on the Review of MASH Documents</b>
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<b>Report Authorised by:</b>	<b>Marion Wheeler - Assistant Director, Children and Families</b>
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<b>Lead Officer:</b>	<b>Stephen Lawrence-Orumwense – Assistant Head of Legal – Social Care and Contract.</b>
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<b>Ward(s) affected: All</b>	<b>Report for Non Key Decisions:</b>
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**1. Describe the issue under consideration**

1.1 At the meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2013, the Committee were informed of the legal advice obtained following the High Court Judgement in the case of AB and CD v London Borough of Haringey [2013]. The action required following the advice was to: a) review the MASH documentation and ensure they adequately address the issue of consent and take into account the Working Together to Safeguard Children (2013) statutory guidance; b) ensure that the revised and improved documents are approved by the appropriate Committee or body; c) prepare an easy guide for the public on the MASH information sharing arrangement; and d) ensure that relevant staff are fully aware of and trained on any new or revised information sharing documents. The purpose of



this Report is to update the Committee on the progress made since the last meeting.

## **2. Recommendations**

The Committee is asked to note the content of the Report

## **3. The Review of the MASH Documents**

3.1 The MASH documents are produced by the London MASH Project under the London Safeguarding Children Board. These documents have been discussed, negotiated and approved for use by local authorities with the MASH arrangement.

3.2 In August 2013, the following MASH documents were reviewed by Officers to ensure, amongst others, that they adequately address the issue of consent to information sharing;

- a) The MASH Information Sharing Agreement;
- a) The MASH Governance arrangement;
- b) The MASH Flowchart; and
- d) The MASH booklet for practitioners.

A new draft basic guide to members of the public about MASH has also been prepared.

3.3 Copies of these amended draft documents are enclosed.

3.4 After the review of these documents and on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2013, Officers were advised of a new Information Sharing Agreement prepared by the London MASH Project as a result of the AB & CD Judgement. Officers were able to obtain a copy of the new Agreement in advance of publication. Although, the London MASH would prefer that the Council adopt the new Agreement without any changes to ensure consistency across all London Boroughs, Officers are of the view that some amendments are required to improve on the new Agreement and to adequately deal with local issues of concern in Haringey. Therefore changes have been made to the Agreement most of which are set out in the Appendices.

3.5 Officers are liaising with the London MASH Project about the draft changes to the new Agreement to ensure that they are acceptable.



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- 3.6 Once all changes are agreed, there will be a Report to Haringey Local Safeguarding Children Board to approve the revised MASH documents.
  
- 3.7 Children and Young People's Service has had a number of learning workshops relating to the AB and CD judgement. However, the plan is to arrange another such workshop on the new revised MASH documents to ensure staff is familiar with the contents and practice standards expected.

#### **4. Conclusion**

- 4.1 The next step for Officers is to agree with the London MASH the revision to the MASH documents (in particular, the Information Sharing Agreement) and then Report to the Local Safeguarding Children Board for approval of the revised documents. There is more focus on information sharing and consent and keeping a record of information sharing decisions in the MASH documents.