



Haringey has a multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH)

**This booklet is a basic guide to
members of the public about Haringey's
MASH.**

September 2013

1. Background to Information Sharing

- 1.1 Sometimes information on which decisions are made to safeguard children from harm is held by many agencies. Over the years, there have been many sad cases where harm to children could have been prevented by the sharing of information between agencies.
- 1.2 The Working Together to Safeguard Children Guidance 2013 now requires effective sharing of information between professionals and agencies to ensure the early identification and prevention of harm to children. The fears about sharing information should not be allowed to stand in the way of the need to promote the welfare and protect the safety of children. Organisations should have arrangement in place which sets out clearly the processes and principles for sharing information between each other.

2. Haringey Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) – Information Sharing

- 2.1 The Haringey Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) brings together a number of agencies into an integrated multi-agency team, where they can identify and share information that would assist to safeguard the welfare of vulnerable children.
- 2.2 The types of information that may be shared between agencies in the MASH include personal data and sensitive personal data such as: a) the name and date of birth of the child and other

family members, their carers and other persons whose presence and/or relationship with the subject child or children, is relevant to identifying and assessing the risks to that child; b) the age/date of birth of the subject and other family members, carers, other persons detailed; b) relevant Police information and intelligence; c) School and educational information (to include family members where appropriate and relevant) and d) GP and health records (to include family members where appropriate and relevant).

- 2.3 The Haringey MASH consists of the following co-located core agencies and satellite agencies:

Core agencies

- Core First Response Screening Team (Haringey Council)
- Public Protection Desk (MET Police)
- YOS Police (MET Police)
- Specialist Health Visitors (Whittington Health)

Satellite agencies:

- Adult Safeguarding Team (Haringey Council)
- Adult Mental Health (Barnet Enfield & Haringey Mental Health Trust)
- Probation (London Probation Trust)

- Housing (Haringey Council)
- Education welfare (Haringey Council)
- Child adolescent Mental Health Service (Barnet Enfield & Haringey Mental Health Trust)
- Youth Offending Service

3. Information Sharing Agreement

3.1 There is an agreement between the agencies in the Haringey MASH. The agreement governs how the information sharing arrangement would operate so that the aims and objectives of the MASH are achieved and individual rights under the Data Protection 1998 and the Human Rights Act 1998 are also protected. The agreement includes:

- a) information about the MASH;
- b) the aims of the MASH arrangement;
- c) the types of information that will be shared (i.e. personal data and sensitive personal data);
- d) the legal powers to share such information;
- e) compliance with the Human Rights Act and Data Protection Act and Principles;
- f) the process for sharing information;

- g) the need to consider seeking consent from children or young person of sufficient age and understanding or their parents where appropriate prior to sharing their personal information;
- h) the circumstances where it would not be appropriate to seek consent;
- i) the need to keep a record of the decision made to share information whether with or without consent including reasons for the decision;
- j) the arrangement for safe and secure retention and where necessary the disposal of data shared;
- k) the bodies responsible for the effective workings of the MASH arrangement (The Strategic Board, the Operational Steering Group and Local Safeguarding Children Board);
- l) arrangement for annual information audit to ensure compliance with legal requirements including the Data Protection Act; and
- m) arrangement for dealing with queries and complaints from members of the public on information shared within the MASH.

4. Queries and complaints

4.1 The Data Protection Act gives individuals certain rights over their personal data. These include the right to access personal

data held about them; the right to know how their data is being used; and the right to object to the way their data is being used. Individuals may have queries or complaints about how their personal data is being shared. Haringey Children and Young People's Services will be the single point of contact for queries or complaints from members of the public relating to information shared in the MASH and will take lead responsibility in responding to such queries or complaints.

Frequently asked questions

How will the MASH information be used?

MASH will act as an intelligence hub, in which each agency identifies what information they hold on a child/young person and the adults around them. Each agency will then assess whether it is appropriate for their information to be shared (in line with a 'Purpose Specific Information Sharing Agreement 2013') with partners in the hub as well as outside of the hub. Collectively an agreement will be made on the best course of action for that referral.

The sensitivity of this information requires that it is held securely and managed in a certain way. The information will be used to risk assess but will not in all cases be shown on the record which is transferred to the First Response Duty Team, CAF or another route. It will be made clear on the record

whether there is additional sensitive information available and details for a contact person will be shown.

Will there be a breach of client confidentiality if information is shared in the MASH?

As stated in the Purpose Specific Information Sharing Agreement any information that is shared into and within the MASH Hub will be decided on a case-by-case basis and must be relevant to the aims of this Agreement. Information will only be shared in accordance with the legal basis and requirements for information sharing with or without consent. Practitioners would apply the practice guidance in the Information Sharing: Guidance for practitioners and managers 2008 and the London Child Protection Procedures 2013.

How will MASH affect the way we work with families?

Within the MASH agencies will work collaboratively with partners to assess and manage risk of cases referred to MASH. They use their experience and knowledge of their discipline to aid improved information sharing and better intervention.

Where will the information shared in MASH be stored?

All information shared will be held on Framework-i (the Council's secure social care IT system), within a MASH gathering episode. If an agency specifies that the information should not be shared outside the hub it will be restricted and only viewable by MASH staff. It will however be made clear on

Framework-i that there is further information and who they should contact about it.

What are the MASH line management arrangements?

Line management and supervision arrangements will remain with the host agency. Maintaining independence within professions is essential for the success of the MASH.

Are the public aware of the MASH and that information will be shared?

Posters will be put up in most public places and full information is on the Haringey website.

Is anyone else implementing the MASH model?

There are a number of local authorities in London operating the MASH model. For further information see the London Safeguarding Board website at <http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/mash/>

How do I contact the MASH?

Contact is via First Response. Unless there is already an allocated social worker, all contacts will then be considered for MASH.

Tel: 020 8489 4592

020 8489 4582

020 8489 5652

020 8489 5762

Fax: 020 8489 2110

Out of Hours (not MASH) : 020 8348 30000

I am worried about a child or young person but don't know if I should make a referral?

Mash staff are available during working hours to discuss any concerns with you.