

Guidance to LB Haringey Mash Flowchart

For MASH criteria refer to Haringey Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub Threshold Screening document

(A) Referral (non Police referral)

Social worker checks whether referral includes information as to whether:

1. The referrer has informed the parent/carer of the referral to CYPS
2. The parent/carer has consented to information being shared

NB: If consent has not been obtained this should not be an obstacle to making a referral if the LSCB/MASH threshold has been applied appropriately. Discussion will occur with the referrer in this regard as part of the gathering information episode.

NB: Where the referral is from an anonymous source, social worker will undertake proportionate and relevant checks, applying LSCB/MASH threshold.

(B) SCREENING CONTACT/REFERRAL

- Screening Team Manager or Practice Manager reads every contact/reviews Framework-I info and decides on action against Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub Threshold Screening criteria

(C) MASH gathering episode or MASH meeting episode assigned to Screening Team Social Worker and FR Duty Team advised

- If a Section 47 investigation is required (and or red) MASH episode assigned to Screening Social Worker but contact passed immediately to Duty TM as a dual outcome. The two processes run in parallel.

(D) MASH gathering episode

- Agency research carried out proportionate to referral information
- MASH gathering episode completed and reviewed by Screening Team Manager
- NB through RAG review contacts can be escalated to MASH meeting if appropriate

(E) 9.30 Referral Consultation Meeting (For MASH meeting gathering episode)

- Referral shared verbally with MASH Agencies. Decision made as to whether case is suitable for MASH and Timescale for return of information agreed.
- NB Attendance by Core MASH agencies is compulsory (CYPS, Health & Police).
- NB this process is undertaken for more complex contacts

(F) 2 o'clock MASH meeting

- Attendance by Core MASH agencies is compulsory (CYPS, Health & Police).

Decision making process in MASH meeting:-

- Multi agency decision
- Social worker acts as conduit for virtual agencies from e-mail responses
- Attendance required by FR Duty Team (TM/PM)
- Outcomes decided (e.g. IA/Strategy discussion/Sec 47/remains in screening team for further checks)
- Outcome decisions are noted by each individual agency and are recorded on their respective systems.

(G) PURPOSE OF MEETINGS

- The MASH meetings have been embedded into the process as a way of providing a structure for multi agency targeted discussions for emerging or presenting safeguarding issues.
- The MASH Process is dynamic. Where a contact is received that requires immediate attention, there is no delay in this either being discussed at the same day meeting or requests for information being sent to MASH partners for immediate response back, outside of the MASH meeting structure.
- All section 47 enquiries are immediately sent to the First Response Duty Team for a Multy Agency Strategy Discussion.

The MASH process and consent to information sharing.

From the time of the initial contact or referral, MASH agencies will consider whether to seek consent from the child or young person (of sufficient age and understanding) or their parents to share their personal information with another agency unless it is unsafe or inappropriate to do so. There are a range of circumstances where the obligation to seek consent do not apply. These include circumstances where seeking consent would:

- a) place a person (the individual, family member, yourself or a third party) at increased risk of significant harm if a child, or serious harm if an adult; or
- b) prejudice the prevention, detection or prosecution of a serious crime; or
- c) lead to an unjustified delay in making enquiries about allegations of significant harm to a child, or serious harm to an adult.

Agencies will observe the seven golden rules to information sharing.

- 1) **Remember that the Data Protection Act is not a barrier to sharing information** but provides a framework to ensure that personal information about living persons is shared appropriately.

- 2) **Be open and honest** with the person (and/or their family where appropriate) from the outset about why, what, how and with whom information will, or could be shared, and seek their agreement, unless it is unsafe or inappropriate to do so.
- 3) **Seek advice** if you are in any doubt, without disclosing the identity of the person where possible.
- 4) **Share with consent where appropriate** and, where possible, respect the wishes of those who do not consent to share confidential information. You may still share information without consent if, in your judgement, that lack of consent can be overridden in the public interest. You will need to base your judgement on the facts of the case.
- 5) **Consider safety and well-being:** Base your information sharing decisions on considerations of the safety and well-being of the person and others who may be affected by their actions.
- 6) **Necessary, proportionate, relevant, accurate, timely and secure:** Ensure that the information you share is necessary for the purpose for which you are sharing it, is shared only with those people who need to have it, is accurate and up-to-date, is shared in a timely fashion, and is shared securely.
- 7) **Keep a record** of your decision and the reasons for it – whether it is to share information or not. If you decide to share, then record what you have shared, with whom and for what purpose.

Please note:

- *All information provided through the MASH process is stored securely and the reasons for seeking that information are recorded clearly on the children's social care electronic file.*
- *Not all contacts will go through the MASH process. Decision to MASH does not indicate level 3 or 4 threshold has been met (LSCB threshold guidance).*
- **RAG** process – reviewing the RAG rating occurs throughout the MASH process as cases noted as less urgent can be escalated to urgent and vice versa. Re-grading is part of the multi agency discussion.