

TITLE	Update on Multiagency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 23 January 2018
WARD	Non Specific
DIRECTOR	Interim Director of People Services - Paul Senior

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

The Multi agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is a well-established approach within Local Authorities to the triaging and sharing of information to establish more holistic and accurate risk assessments about safeguarding and child protection incidents relating to children and their families.

As part of a Pan Berkshire project, Wokingham Borough Council established a MASH, which launched in April 2016. The MASH in Wokingham has now been established 18 months.

RECOMMENDATION

For the Board to review the update below.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report is a requested update to Overview and Scrutiny.

The update regarding MASH should also be considered within the item on progress and update of the Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) action plan, of which the ongoing development of MASH formed a significant part of the inspection feedback.

On a business as usual basis the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) continues to function well and feedback from partners remains positive. Through 2017, the arrangements in MASH and the children's services front door was quality assured through an LGA peer review in March 2017 and through an Ofsted and partner inspection through the JTAI. The outcome of both reviews was that MASH and the children's front door were fit for purpose but required further development.

The Strategic MASH group is now a subgroup of the LSCB and the developments in MASH is now sponsored by the safeguarding partnership. The subgroup meets monthly because of the need to implement change and project manage the increasing developments.

To illustrate the ongoing quality of service and the well-functioning use of the MASH function, the report on performance data is attached, showing increasing use of MASH.

To demonstrate the plan for development of the MASH, the project implementation documentation is attached and features within the JTAI action plan.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)			
Next Financial Year (Year 2)			
Following Financial Year (Year 3)			

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision
N/A

Cross-Council Implications
N/A

List of Background Papers
N/A

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