

# Agenda Item 8.

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Delivering Effective Safeguarding Services - Development of Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee 21 July 2015
<b>WARD</b>	None specific
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Judith Ramsden, Director Children's Services

## **OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY**

Nationally, many Local Authorities have established Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASHs) to mitigate the risk of any child slipping through the safeguarding net. The multi agency nature of the Hub makes it possible for all professionals working with children to identify risk early and put in place plans to address them. The children and families benefit from improved information sharing, joint decision making and coordinated action.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That this paper is noted by the Committee.

## **SUMMARY OF REPORT**

The report is looking at the development, purpose and function of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). It details the planning of the project, how they will be delivered and the expected outcomes. The governance arrangements for MASH are also specified.

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Panel with a summary of the stage status of the development of Wokingham Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).
- 1.2 A decision has been made that all six Berkshire Local Authorities will have MASH. We are now working on developing this model.
- 1.3 We are a very good position of setting up and developing a MASH as the past 18 months have seen the development of the Triage and Early Help Hub, which is a solid foundation on which to build MASH.

## **2.0 What is MASH?**

- 2.1 The MASH model is a national multi-agency initiative to provide information sharing arrangements across all agencies involved in safeguarding. Those involved are employed by their respective agency i.e. police, health and local authority and located in one office.
- 2.2 The MASH model is intended to provide information that is already known within separate organisations in a coherent format that enables timely, effective and appropriate response to concerns or referrals received by the MASH. This contributes to improved outcomes for safeguarding children due to its ability to swiftly collate and share information held by various agencies and improves communication between agencies due to integrated working.
- 2.3 Having a single point of access and one decision making process ensures consistent a standard of risk assessment and decision making, which in turn assists quality assurance and threshold parameters.
- 2.4 MASH objective is to decrease the number of contacts and referrals received by Children's Social Care due to more informed decision making at an earlier stage.
- 2.5 MASH leads to early identification and understanding of risk. All safeguarding contacts will be routed through MASH to ensure the fullest partnership information and intelligence picture is available to assess the potential risk to a child, young person or vulnerable adult. Once completed the best possible decision can be made based on the information available at that time. This decision making informs the appropriateness and intensity of any intervention.

## **3.0 WBC MASH Strategic Implementation Board**

- 3.1 The first meeting of the WBC MASH Strategic Implementation Board took place on 03 July 2015. The Board is chaired by the Head of Children's Social care and members include key partners such as Thames Valley police, Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, and Adults Mental Health. Probation, Public Health and Clinical Commissioning group will join the Board.
- 3.2 The Board considered the Terms of Reference and its makeup to include Housing, Probation, Children's Social Care, Youth offending service, Clinical

Commissioning Group Berkshire HealthCare NHF Foundation and Berkshire Women's Aid. .

- 3.3 The Board agreed the Governance document to be signed by partner members which specifies that the Board oversees the functions of the MASH Operational Steering Group and reports to Local Safeguarding children's Board.
- 3.4 The Board agreed to adopt the MASH Project Implementation Document which set out the stage of the implementation plan.
- 3.5 The Board agreed CSC proposal for the appointment of a MASH Project Manager to start on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

#### **4.0 WBC MASH Operational Steering Group**

- 4.1 The Group will be responsible for the day to day operations of MASH and will report to the MASH Strategic implementation Board.
- 4.2 It is chaired by a Social Care Service Manager and developed by the MASH Project Manager
- 4.3 The Group will meet regularly to drive the implementation plan

#### **5.0 Firewalled Confidential Space**

- 5.1 For those agencies that will be co-located, planning is looking at establishing arrangements around restricted confidential space.
- 5.2 Seating arrangements for co-located partners will be confirmed subject to agreed negotiations within the implementation plan.
- 5.3 The video conferencing to be set up for use with virtual partners.

#### **6.0 ICT**

- 6.1 We are looking at using the current FWI system as the MASH confidential system of recording.
- 6.2 Initial work to be undertaken with TVP ICT related to connectivity.
- 6.3 Set up for key partner agencies (virtual or co-located) and their own systems to be agreed once working arrangements have been finalised

#### **7.0 Communication Strategy**

- 7.1 Communication Strategy to develop material for the Website, media release, leaflets and posters for internal and external MASH advertising, awareness and promotion.
- 7.2 Awareness raising lunch time workshops to be initiated for all internal and external partners

7.3 WBC Comms will be liaising with other comms departments in partner agencies for coordinated promotion.

### **8.0 Next Steps**

8.1 Partner agencies to agree proposals and commitments regarding their future involvement in MASH

8.2 Information Sharing Agreement and other key protocols to be developed and signed by partner agencies.

8.3 Co-location arrangements to be agreed

8.4 ICT connectivity and systems set up

8.5 Training and development

8.6 Pilot implementation plan

8.3 Setting up a Countdown programme for the launch and agree a launch date

**Felicity Budgen**  
**Head of Social Care and Inclusion**  
**08/07/2015**