

What benefits will it bring?

The **MASH** brings a number of benefits including:

- Faster, more co-ordinated and consistent responses to safeguarding concerns about children and young people
- An improved 'journey' for the child or young person with a greater emphasis on early intervention and better informed services provided at the right time
- Greater ability to identify potential vulnerability, enabling more preventative action to be taken, dealing with cases before they escalate
- A more straightforward and responsive process offering clear guidance and support
- Closer partnership working, clearer accountability and less duplication of effort



Worried that someone is being harmed or neglected?

We all have a responsibility to make sure children and young people are safe from harm or abuse.

If you have any suspicion, or information, suggesting a child is being harmed, don't ignore it.

If you do need to speak to somebody about your concerns:

- Contact a social worker: 024 7678 8555
- Social worker (out of office hours): 024 7683 2222



For more information about the **MASH** visit www.coventry.gov.uk/MASH

For more information about safeguarding, visit www.coventry.gov.uk/safeguarding

Coventry Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub

A Guide for Professionals



NHS
England



Coventry and Warwickshire **NHS**
Partnership Trust

University Hospitals **NHS**
Coventry and Warwickshire
NHS Trust



Staffordshire and West Midlands
Probation Trust

NHS
Coventry and Rugby
Clinical Commissioning Group

About the MASH

How does it work?

The Coventry Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (**MASH**) brings together intelligence from a host of different agencies in one room to look at possible safeguarding concerns involving a child or children.

Within the **MASH**, information from different agencies will be collated and used to decide what action to take. As a result, the agencies will be able to act quickly in a co-ordinated and consistent way, ensuring that vulnerable children are kept safe.

The **MASH** includes representatives from services such as social care, health, the police, education, housing, domestic violence, community safety and probation working together in the same location. Virtual links exist to other services and agencies such as early intervention and young people's services.

The Coventry **MASH** is not a new 'front door' that replaces any existing services. It actually extends the existing 'front door' so that the checks required on new/existing referrals are much more timely and decision based upon information known by all agencies.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. You still need to report concerns in the same way that you do now as your safeguarding role and responsibilities will not change. All the numbers for reporting a children's safeguarding concern remain the same and it is from these reports – if thresholds are met – a referral is made to the **MASH**.

If a referral is made, all agencies involved in the **MASH** quickly share information on a case and make a swift decision on the most appropriate action needed. This better co-ordination between agencies should ensure quicker decisions are made based on all the evidence available. This will mean an improved service for children and their families.

Where does the idea come from?

The **MASH** model originated in Devon where the local council, police, health and education worked together to form a **MASH** in 2010. Other areas have now replicated the approach including Staffordshire, Nottinghamshire, Norfolk and Birmingham. The **MASH** in Coventry builds upon the best practice elsewhere in the country.

www.coventry.gov.uk/MASH

www.coventry.gov.uk/safeguarding

