

Can I see what is written about me?

Yes. The Data Protection Act 1998 lets you ask for a copy of the information held about you.

If you would like to request this write to:
Coventry City Council
Earl Street
Coventry
CV1 5RR

What happens after the safeguarding concern?

If the child or young person is thought to have been harmed or could be harmed in the future, they will be referred to Coventry City Council's social care referral and assessment service (RAS). Information could also be given to police officers if it is necessary to help stop or solve a crime.

If the child or young person has not been harmed but we think they or their parent/ carer would benefit from extra help, then their details will be passed onto the most appropriate service so that they get the support they need.

Want more information?

To find out more about the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) visit www.coventry.gov.uk/MASH

Remember

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 are concerned about a child, young person or vulnerable adult and want to speak to someone, call 024 7678 8555 or, if it is outside normal office hours, 024 7683 2222.



Visit www.coventry.gov.uk/safeguarding for more information.

Coventry Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub

Information for parents and carers



What is the MASH?

The Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (**MASH**) brings key professionals together to facilitate early, better quality information sharing, analysis and decision-making, to safeguard vulnerable children, young people more effectively. Around 23 staff from across health, social care, the police, education, probation and community safety are based in the **MASH** at any one time at its base in Christchurch House in the city centre.

What does the MASH do?

The **MASH** works alongside Coventry City Council's social care Referral and Assessment service (RAS) collating information and intelligence across partners. The Coventry **MASH** provides the highest level of knowledge to ensure all safeguarding activity and intervention is timely, proportionate and necessary for keeping vulnerable children safe. This ensures each partner is in the best position to make effective decisions and the relevant agency takes on the referral.

Will I be told if there is a safeguarding concern about my child?

Yes. Usually you will be told at the time the concern is raised. If the safeguarding concern has been made by a professional, for example a social worker or a teacher, they will tell you what their concerns are and may ask your permission to contact us.

What happens when an enquiry is made?

For concerns that meet the social care threshold, representatives from the different agencies collate information from their respective sources to build up a picture of the circumstances of the case and the associated risks to the child and their family.

As a result, better decisions are made about what action to take and support is more timely and appropriate. Feedback is also given to professionals reporting concerns. Better co-ordination between agencies will lead to an improved service for children and families.

Can information be shared without my permission?

Yes. Information may be shared without your permission if:

- Someone is being harmed or may be harmed in the future
- The information may help to stop or solve a crime

How will my information be used?

Your information will only be used to decide whether:

- You or someone else is being harmed or may be harmed in the future
- You or your family would benefit from help and support
- A crime has been committed or could be committed in the future

Your information will be held in a safe place and will not be shared with other people unless they have a legal power to see it.