



# South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Board and Children's Partnership

Safeguarding Newsletter  
MASH Edition

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE FOR ALL PARTNERS

AUGUST 2023

## MASH Edition

This Special edition of the newsletter is a combined newsletter for both the South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership and the Safeguarding Adults Board. Please share widely within your organisation.

This newsletter aims to provide all the information you need to understand how the South Gloucestershire Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) will work when it launches on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023

This newsletter, and back copies from the last few months are now available on the website. You can find them all [here](#) on the



What is MASH?

The South Gloucestershire **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub** (MASH) is a multi-agency group of professionals whose aim is provide an effective and rapid response to new safeguarding children concerns.

It is important that professionals who work with children and adults know about MASH.

To make an informed decision the team will gather and share information from partner agencies, children, young people and their families to decide who is best placed to respond to the concerns.

The South Gloucestershire MASH is due to go live on

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023

### Spotlight on Training

MASH Stakeholder Event – virtual Event Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 2pm

Click here to

[Book Now!](#)

## Which organisations are part of MASH?

- South Gloucestershire Council Children's Social Care and Preventative Services
- Avon & Somerset Police
- Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board and Primary Care (NHS) BNSSG ICB
- Health Providers including SIRONA, UHBW (University Hospitals Bristol & Weston), AWP (Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership) and NBT (North Bristol Trust)
- South Gloucestershire Council Education
- Next Link (Domestic Abuse Service)
- DHI Developing Health and Independence- Drug and Alcohol Service
- South Gloucestershire HomeChoice (Housing)
- South Gloucestershire Public Health
- South Gloucestershire Community Safety Team (IDVA)

## What is MASH?

The MASH is a multi-agency group of professionals with its main aim to ensure collaborative working to deliver effective and focused services to children, young people and their families, at the earliest opportunity.

The MASH is based at the South Gloucestershire Council Offices, within the Access and Response Team hub (ART), who receive the initial enquiries. The MASH operates on a hub and spoke model where information is securely, swiftly, and legally shared across partner agencies to determine the next steps.

Partners of the MASH recognise that risk is best managed when shared, and the right service is supporting a family with the right help at the right time in the right way.

## When do we MASH?

When a referral to ART (Access and Response Team) is made that requires further information from more than one partner agency to make a decision about risk/need and who is the best agency to work with the family in line with the Threshold Document [The Right Help in the Right Way at the Right Time](#)

When agencies share information via MASH, it helps identify the best placed agency to work with children and their families. This will look at what Childrens Services Early Help or Universal Services can offer to reduce risk and support change.

Equally if information shared in the MASH means there are significant concerns a strategy discussion can take place promptly.

## When don't we MASH?

When the threshold for a Strategy Discussion / Single Assessment / Early Help provision / No Further Action is clearly evidenced in the Contact.

When the referral is not accepted and does not progress to a contact.

## What is the Process?

1. Every Referral is considered by a Team Manager in the Access Team and if it progresses to contact it is given a RAG rating and a decision as to whether it needs to come to MASH is made.
2. **Red**  
High risk enquiries potential or obvious child protection concerns, requiring decisions within 4 hours. These will not go to the MASH.  
**Amber**  
Medium risk enquiries; potential or obvious child in need/safeguarding concerns, requiring decisions within 24 hours. These may go to the MASH.  
**Green**  
Lower risk enquiries; unclear whether the s.17 threshold is met; decisions made within 48 hours. These may go to the MASH.
3. Once MASH is agreed, the MASH Social Worker and relevant professionals from the hub and spoke model will be passed the referral information. They will check the information that they have about the family and take a view based on this, about what the RAG rating would be for the family and the next action. They will also have the opportunity to view other professional's information as part of the decision making.
4. The Social Worker will speak with the referrer to obtain fuller information or gain clarity about their concerns.
5. The Social Worker evaluates the information in the Referral (together with any previous Contacts, Referrals / assessments / Closing summaries / information in social care systems, to determine the indicated levels of risk and/or need.
6. The Team Manager in Access will then collate agencies' information into a single Request for Information form and **critically evaluate the information provided to make an outcome decision** (Strategy Discussion / Single Assessment / Early Help Assessment / Provision of Information / No Further Action). If there is shared agreement on BRAG rating this will progress without delay.
7. If there is a difference in thresholding from more than one agency a MASH meeting will be held to agree an outcome. If a consensus cannot be reached, Children Services will make the final decision as to whether to progress for an assessment. This is subject to the professional differences process.
8. Families receive a response that has been considered by a collaborative multi-agency process.
9. Referrers and Children and Families are updated on the plan agreed by agencies and the next steps.

## What Do I need to do?

- ✓ You don't need to change the way you report concerns or make a referral. You don't ever refer to MASH – just contact us on 01454 866000 in the usual way
- ✓ Ensure all referrals are on the [new request for help form](#)
- ✓ Book a place on the free launch event taking place at 2pm on 14<sup>th</sup> September – [Book here](#)
- ✓ Share this information with everyone in your organisation



If you would like to be added to the distribution list for newsletters or have something you would like to include in a future edition please get in touch with Sarah Taylor [here](#)