



The ten children chosen for this audit were aged between 6 months and 16 years old at the time of the audit.

The children have a range of needs and experiences including neglect, special guardianship order, domestic abuse, parental substance misuse, obesity, physical & mental health conditions of parents, young carers, asylum seeking family

### What we are worried about?

- Voice of child not heard for most children audited
- Transition from nursery- information not shared with school
- No minutes from MASH which may have an impact on cumulative risk for future concerns
- GPs not aware of MASH taking place in this audit group but the aspiration is that every GP will receive an outcome form for each MASH discussion going forward
- No gathering of Father's Voice or older sibling who referred
- Curiosity to identify richness of information – did not work for Education in MASH for one child
- No evidence of trauma informed approach for one young person – although action has been taken to address this already
- For two children it was not clear that MASH was needed
- Need to ensure information is available in native language, and interpreters are used

### What Good Practice did we see?

- MASH process helpful following anonymous referral to agree threshold of need and intervention
- Good recording
- Key partners able to share information together
- Curiosity by GP about exploring family network including father
- Request for additional information went out prior to MASH and worked well
- Enhanced pastoral package in school
- Education feeding into MASH well
- MASH working well in a timely way – proportionality of intervention for the audit group
- Evidence that child's lived experience heard in MASH for two children
- Detailed and curious referral from hospital using a think family approach
- Follow up from GP when parent did not attend
- Completion of DASH when Domestic Abuse disclosed

The audit of 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 reviewed the records of ten children who have been heard at the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) which has been in place for 6 months. The aim of the audit was to ascertain whether there were good multi-agency standards for managing cases and whether organisations have implemented a robust and consistent response in line with statutory and good practice guidance, and the Children's Partnership policies and procedures.



Organisations that audited their involvement with the ten children were: GPs, Social Care, Sirona, NBT, AWP, Police, YJS, EDT and Preventative Services, Education.



### Themes for Learning: Curiosity

- Consider patterns of school exclusion
- Check for further information especially when a child has transferred across borders or is known in neighbouring areas
- Think about family networks and ask about fathers
- Face value information – seek evidence to confirm
- Think about what has happened in a child's life when considering their current presenting behaviour
- Think about self reporting: This audit identified a parent telling professionals they will inform school while child is electively home educated (EHE)



Professional Curiosity Training [Click here](#)



Trauma informed approach – consider what vulnerabilities there are and what may have happened to lead to a child's behaviour



Be curious when a parent says their child is a 'protective factor' and make sure this is explored and recognise impact of parental mental health on a child



Transition across boundaries – check out what is known by previous provision when moving areas

In one audit a professional was given a disclosure by a potential perpetrator about stalking. Avon & Somerset Police have some information about stalking – [click this box to read](#)

### Themes for Learning

#### What we found: Voice of child not heard

- Lack of child's voice evident for children of all ages in this audit across agency records
- Daily life experience not gathered, who is making food? who looks after the child on a daily basis? Who does the washing?
- Voice of older sibling making a referral not captured in assessment

#### What needs to Happen?

- All practitioners should be seeking to hear the child's view
- Recording a child's demeanour, behaviour and their own words is vital

Information about EHE [click here](#)

Support for Young carers [click here](#)

The Right Help in the Right Way at the Right Time [Click to read](#)

# Multi Agency Quality Assurance Audit: Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) March 2024