

AGENDA ITEM 2**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL****CABINET****19th MARCH 2015****ESTABLISHMENT OF A CWM TAF MULTI AGENCY SAFEGUARDING HUB
(MASH)****REPORT OF GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES****AUTHOR: Alexis Williams, Project Manager for MASH
Tel. No. 01443 425406****1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To update Cabinet Members on progress in developing a Cwm Taf Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 note the contents of this report and the progress made by all agencies involved in the project since the last report in November
- 2.2 note the areas included within the legal agreement
- 2.3 agree to receive further reports after the full implementation of the Cwm Taf MASH Model
- 2.4 delegate authority for the Group Director of Community and Children's Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's Social Services and Equalities, S151 officer and Director, Legal & Democratic Services to agree and finalise the terms of legal agreement.

3. BACKGROUND & PROGRESS TO DATE

3.1 In November 2014 Cabinet agreed:

- work on the revised model for Safeguarding Adults via the MASH and authorise progression to the next stage of the creation of this service;
- receive further reports, in due course, outlining the detailed arrangements for the operation of Children's Processes in MASH;
- agree the move of the Emergency Duty Team to Pontypridd Police Station;

- agree the re-location of the Multi Agency Risk Assessment (MARAC) Coordinator to the MASH
- 3.2 Since this date there has been multi-agency work coordinated by the MASH Programme Board, which reports to the Cwm Taf Children and Adult Safeguarding Board. In January the following functions transferred to the MASH in Pontypridd Police Station:
- the Adult Protection stages 1-4;
 - the MARAC Co-ordinator; and
 - the Emergency Duty Team

- 3.3 Since the last update the Police and Crime Commissioner has agreed to fund the role of a 'MASH Co-ordinator' for a one year period. The role will co-ordinate performance and provide support to the Partnership Executive Board. Interviews will take place during March and the post is due to commence in April.

4. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ADULT PROTECTION MASH DELIVERY MODEL

- 4.1 From the 12th January 2015, Adult Protection stages 1-4 of the All Wales Adult Protection Process in the Cwm Taf area have commenced transfer to the MASH; stages 1-4 includes alert, referral, threshold, information sharing and strategy discussion. Referrals are submitted directly to the relevant agencies in the MASH, if the local authority is the lead investigator they process the VA1 or if the incident has taken place on a Health setting the referral is managed by Health within the MASH.

5. DOMESTIC ABUSE

- 5.1 The MARAC Coordinator moved to the MASH on the 12th January 2015 from the Oasis Centre. Pending final testing of the Mhub system, all MARAC referrals will be subject to daily information sharing and a 'Domestic Abuse Strategy Discussion'; any action will be undertaken swiftly by the partners within the MASH.

6. EMERGENCY DUTY TEAM (EDT)

- 6.1 The Emergency Duty Team (EDT) provides an emergency response to a social care crisis outside of normal office hours, on bank holidays and at weekends.
- 6.2 EDT moved to Pontypridd Police Station on the 19th January 2015; contact details for the public and partners have been updated. Since the move EDT workers have worked jointly with South Wales Police on numerous cases.

7. DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES MASH

7.1 The pathways agreed for the Children's Services MASH model are:

- All public contacts to Children's Services will be taken by the Council's Contact Centre; where the First Response Team will document the referral and send to the MASH
- All professional referrals relating to a Child/Young person will be sent directly to the MASH

7.2 Within the MASH Children's Services staffs will threshold the referral against newly developed Threshold Guidance (RCT) and, where appropriate, divert the referral to a Universal or an Early Intervention Service, such as Team Around the Family (TAF). Referrals that will need to progress through the MASH information sharing process, will be RAG rated and information will be shared with partners via the bespoke MHub information sharing package.

7.3 Decisions will be made on the best course of action for a referral based upon the enhanced package of information and work will be allocated to Children's Services outside of the Hub based upon the decisions made by the MASH.

7.4 In December 2014 a MASH staffing structure for Children's Services was confirmed and expressions of interest were invited from the current Initial Assessments Teams; this process was supported by HR and the Trade Unions.

The structure confirmed was:

- 1x Team Manager
- 2x Senior Practitioner
- 4 x Assessor Care Manager (ACM)

7.5 Appointments have been made to all posts, with the exception of two ACM roles. The expression of interest exercise has been expanded to all teams within Children's Services to complete the staff complement.

7.6 Work is ongoing to develop the Contact Centre Model for the Children's Services model and the anticipated delivery date for the full Children's Services MASH model will be during the first quarter of the new financial year.

7.7 Education is a key partner in supporting the information sharing and decision making within the Children's Safeguarding process. Rhondda Cynon Taf have identified a post that will be offered as a temporary secondment opportunity to support the Children's Services model in MASH and will be in place at the launch. The post and the activities will be reviewed after six months.

8. LEGAL AGREEMENT

- 8.1 The legal agreement is currently being developed by the South Wales Police Force Solicitor; it is draft format and has been shared with Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC legal department.
- 8.2 The key areas covered in the agreement are:
- 8.2.1 Set up of the project (including ICT); the bespoke MHub system is hosted via the South Wales Police server, due to higher security arrangements. In order to access the South Wales Police server a Service Level Agreement is included within the legal agreement which outlines system accessibility, partner data hosting and support arrangements from South Wales Police helpdesk.
 - 8.2.2 Principles of collaboration; all staff within the MASH are employed and managed by their own organisation; they retain the statutory responsibility to discharge processes relating to protection; as outlined in the All Wales Adult Protection Procedures and the All Wales Child Protection Procedures.
 - 8.2.3 Partners within MASH will report via the Partnership Executive Board and the Cwm Taf Local Safeguarding Adults Board and the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children's Board.
 - 8.2.4 The WASPI agreements for each area of business will be included within the legal agreement.
 - 8.2.5 Vetting; staff working within the MASH are subject to enhanced vetting, NPPV level 3. This is due to the environment in which they are working and the information that will be disclosed to staff.
 - 8.2.6 Currently there are no pooled budget arrangements for the MASH and this is indicated in the legal agreement. Accommodation costs have been waived for a two year period and recharging arrangements have been agreed for incidentals.
- 8.3 The MASH legal agreement will be submitted to the Executive Board for comment and sign off during March 2015.