

AGENDA ITEM 6**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL****CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD****11TH MAY, 2015.****MULTI AGENCY SAFEGUARDING HUB (MASH) UPDATE.****REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES.**

Author: Alexis Williams – MASH Project Manager
Tel: 01443 425406

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this Report is to provide an overview to Members on the changes brought about by the implementation of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 To note and agree the content of the report

3. WHAT IS MASH?

3.1 The MASH is to be the single point of access for all safeguarding concerns relating to Vulnerable Adults, Children and Young People. It brings together expert professionals from services that have contact with children, young people and families making the best possible use of their combined knowledge to keep children safe from risk of harm.

3.2 The MASH is a secure environment where information can be shared by key partners who have responsibility for safeguarding. Partners working within the MASH are:

- Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC Children's and Adults Social Services
- Merthyr Tydfil CBC Children's and Adults Social Services
- Education
- South Wales Police
- Cwm Taf UHB
- National Probation Service
- Community Rehabilitation Company

3.3 For Children's Services the MASH marks a significant change to the current arrangements. The MASH replaces the three district Initial Assessment

Teams as the single contact point for all new safeguarding referrals. It will be the 'front door' and will include:

- a. All professional referrals relating to a Child/Young person will be sent directly to the MASH
 - b. All Public contacts are re-aligned to the Council's Contact Centre (within Customer Care) where the First Response team will document the concern and refer onto the MASH immediately.
- 3.4 In the MASH Children's Services staff will undertake a risk analysis of the information and will not only pass on referrals to the appropriate Children Services Teams but also divert the referral to Universal or Early Intervention Services.
- 3.5 For referrals that progress through the MASH, information sharing will take place on a multi agency basis and the decision made based on an enhanced package of information.
- 3.6 Information is shared with partners via a secure bespoke system, called Mhub and is supported by an information sharing protocol.

4.1 BENEFITS OF THE MASH

4.1 MASH is designed to provide the highest level of knowledge and analysis of all known intelligence and information across the safeguarding partnership to ensure all safeguarding activity and intervention is timely, proportionate and necessary; as a result the MASH will support:

- early identification and analysis of risk
- the identification of victims and emerging harm
- the early identification of repeat low level referrals

5. CHILDREN SERVICES MASH

5.1 The Children Services staff within MASH are:

- One Team Manager
- Two Senior Practitioners
- Four Assessor Care Managers
- One Business Support

5.2 In order to accommodate the establishment of the Children's Service model of MASH within existing resources, the three Initial Assessment Teams have been reconfigured to:

- MASH Children's Services Team
- Initial Assessment Team East
- Initial Assessment Team West
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The changes will be implemented fully on the 7th May 2015.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 MASH represents a significant change to the operating model for Children's Services in Rhondda Cynon Taf; it is anticipated that through working collectively with partners at the earliest opportunity we will be able to strengthen our safeguarding arrangements for Children and Young People.

