

What is the Wolverhampton Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub?

Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub



WHAT IS THE MASH?

The Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is the single point of contact for all safeguarding and early intervention concerns/requests for support regarding children and young people in Wolverhampton. 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 and information to keep children safe from harm.

WHAT DOES THE MASH DO?

The MASH:

- Is a 'front door' to manage all safeguarding referrals and early intervention requests for support.
- Provides a secure and confidential environment for professionals to share information.
- Enables early identification of potential safeguarding concerns and facilitates access to timely and effective interventions.
- Prioritises referrals using Red, Amber & Green (RAG) rating.
- Refers cases to other agencies where appropriate.
- Where necessary, activates 'immediate response' social work services to provide protection for a child or young person(s).

HOW DOES THE MASH PROCESS WORK?

When the MASH receives a referral, the MASH Screening Officers first check if the child is already known to a CYP Service e.g. Social Care, Early Intervention and Youth Offending.

If it is an open case, or a case that has been closed within the last 28 days, the allocated worker is considered to be the best person to support the child or young person, so the case is referred directly to them.

If there is no allocated worker, then the MASH Screening Officers will collate any relevant information, which may include, accessing other systems such as Housing information and present this to the Lead Professional for Social Care and Early Intervention within the MASH. The Lead Professionals for Social Care & Early Intervention will then review the information and apply a threshold/RAG.

The following will then apply:

RED - There is a potential child protection issue (e.g. serious injury to the child). To be dealt with in 4 hours (or immediate if required) – straight to Strategy Discussion. In some cases information will still be collated from agencies within the MASH to inform future decisions/plans.

AMBER - There are significant concerns but immediate action is not required. To be dealt with in 24 hours. – Referred into MASH for information gathering and a MASH discussion to inform action.

GREEN - There are concerns regarding a child's wellbeing but these do not meet statutory requirements (e.g. poor school attendance). To be dealt with in 72 hours – straight to Early Intervention for action.

For reds and ambers the Social Work Unit Manager will decide what agency information is required and then trigger an information request using the MASH Guardian System. This will include the referral information and the RAG rating that has been applied.

The Social Work Unit Manager may change the RAG rating as new information comes to light. Similarly, where referrals have gone direct to Early intervention, if more information is received that indicates the risk may be higher, this will be stepped back up to the MASH to reassess the threshold.

THE MASH TEAM

The MASH is split into two elements:

- 1 Initial Contact and Triage**
- 2 The MASH Information Gathering Hub**

The following staff will be in each element:

Initial Contact and Triage
Initial Referral Officers - both for Early Intervention/Social Care
Early Intervention Professional Lead
Social Work Unit Manager (covers both elements)

The MASH Information Gathering Hub
Social Work Unit Managers (covers both elements)
Early Intervention
Police
Health
Housing
Recovery Near You
Probation
Wolverhampton Homes

The MASH is made up of staff from different teams and partner agencies. Children's Social Care staff are managed and supervised by the Social Work Unit Manager. Early Intervention staff are managed and supervised by an Early Intervention Professional Lead.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

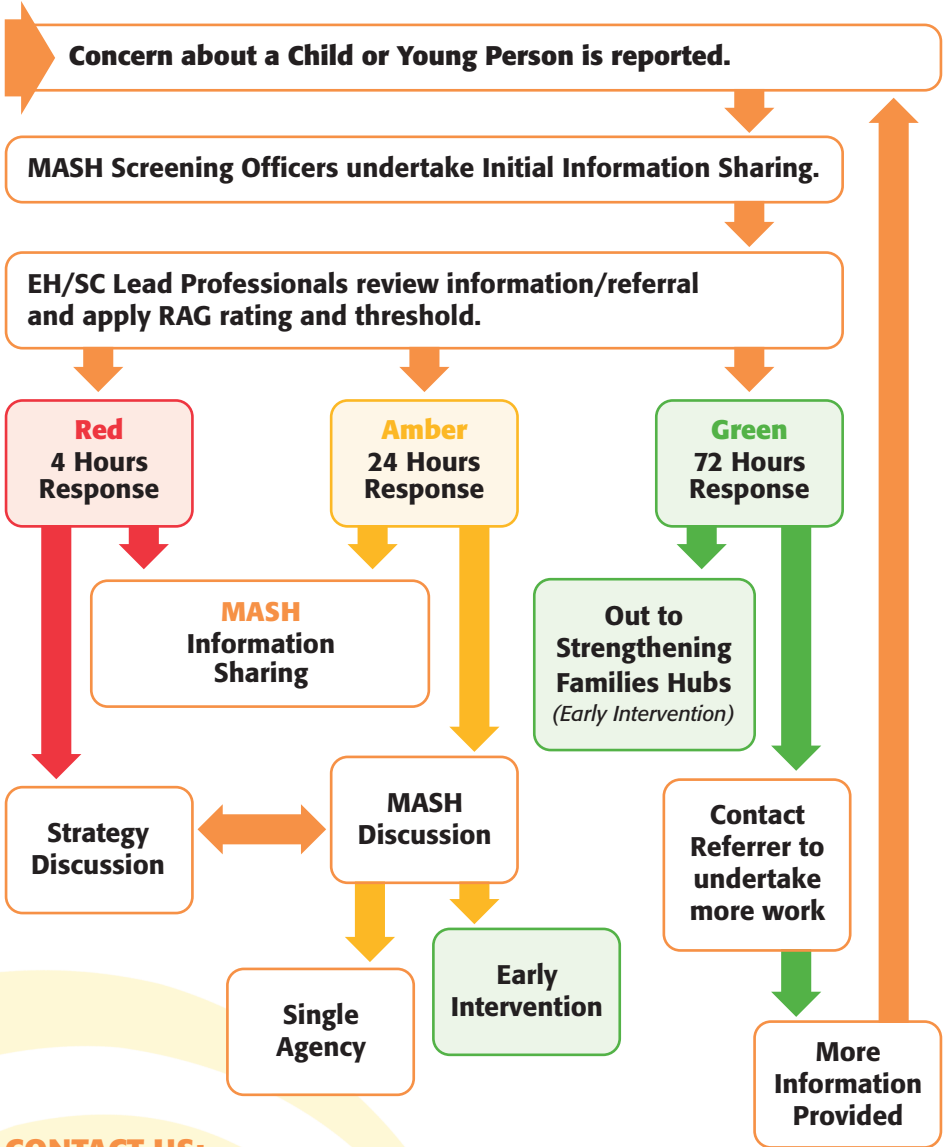
RAG - Red/Amber/Green risk rating (see Page 2)

Referral - when a professional or member of the public reports a concern about a child or young person's welfare to the MASH.

Initial Referral Officers - the Early Intervention or Social Care Officers who will take the initial referral and undertake some initial checks/information gathering.

Information Gathering Hub - MASH professionals who will research information to inform a decision and jointly discuss action to MASH referrals

Safeguarding Children - Protecting children and young people from maltreatment; preventing impairment of their health or development; and ensuring that they are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.



CONTACT US:

If you would like to find out more visit the website at
www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/MASH

If you are concerned about a child's welfare, please contact the MASH using the phone number below.

Daytime 8.30-5.00pm (Mon-Thurs) and 4.30pm (Fri)

01902 555392