Southwark Schools Safeguarding Forum: Social Care update

Lizebeth Samuels – MASH team manager







- Request a MASH consultation when guidance is required to determine whether a referral is the right course of action, or whether support could be offered through other means
- Details of the child / family are NOT shared during a consultation, therefore prior parental consent is not required.
- However, if the information shared indicates immediate risk, the consultation will be converted into a referral and details will be requested.
- Advice and details of the discussion will be recorded and shared with the caller via a 'MASH Consultation Form'.
- Consultations are available Mon-Fri 9am-5pm via the MASH Contact Number: 0207 525 1921.

[Do not use the consultation service to seek an update on an existing referral or case already open to Children's Social Care]



Don't delay: refer to MASH immediately if concerned child is at risk of harm



Use the online form to make a referral to MASH.



Use **full names** of family members and job titles of professionals.

Ensure accurate and consistent spelling.

Refer to the Threshold document
in the London Safeguarding
Children Procedures and specify
which of the 4 Levels of Need on
the Continuum of Help and
Support you think the referral
relates to





Refer to the

Threshold document

What are you worried about?

Details of the risk / disclosure: what have you seen/ heard / been told? Who was involved? Where
did it happen? When did it happen? What's the frequency? Provide a timeline of concerns; quantify
terms like as 'all the time', 'happened before', 'historic'.

- Provide examples to explain your concern e.g. % school attendance; clear descriptions of what's been observed rather than phrases like 'poor home conditions' or 'sexualised behaviours'.
- · Use the child's exact words where you can.
- Be child centred evidence impact on / risk to the child (even if the incident relates to parent/carers e.g. domestic abuse)

 Apply curiosity to ascertain details using clarifying but not leading questions

Context of the disclosure

disclosure

- When did the child make the disclosure?
- Who did they speak to?
- How did the child present during this? e.g. were they tearful? Are they scared?

Child / family's wider context Provide enough detail to create a full picture of the family's situation.

- Consider relationships, friendships, behaviour, mental health, substance misuse, domestic abuse etc.
- Describe the family's identity including ethnicity; language; cultural practices; disabilities / additional needs. Considering the family's functioning creates fuller understand of the risk & helps determine the most effective support.

 Consider intersectionality: how is the

What do you know about the wider family?
 Ensure to include details of siblings and father(s) / male carers.
 Who else in the home or family network could be a support / risk?

- child's identity knitted together?

 How does the family's specific context impact this concern?
- What support has been offered already? What was the outcome of this? Have there been any previous referrals?
- What's going well? Identify strengths to create a full picture of the family's experience and protective factors that could be built on to address the risk.



- MASH managers will read the referral, allocate a RAG rating based on the severity of the concern, and seek information from relevant partner agencies (including Health, Police, Education, Probation, Housing etc.) to determine what needs to happen next.
 - This is done within 24 hours.
- MASH should always inform the referrer of the outcome within five days.
- If you do not agree with the outcome of the referral, you can pursue <u>Southwark's</u> <u>escalation policy</u>.



Remember: your involvement doesn't end once you've submitted a referral – safeguarding is everybody's responsibility, you can continue to play a role in contributing to the safety & wellbeing of the child / family.