



Derby City Council

INSPIRING YOUNG PEOPLE BOARD
29 February 2016

Report of the Acting Strategic Director of
Children and Young People

ITEM 7

Progress of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The mini multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) was set up with the aim of enhancing safeguarding arrangements for children in Derby city. The agreement was for Derby City Children's Social Care to co-locate a team manager and casework support officer into the Police Central Referral Unit based in Ripley. The intention was to strengthen existing multi-agency information sharing and to ensure speedier and shared assessments of risk.
- 1.2 There were a number of anticipated outcomes from the arrangement which fundamentally was to strengthen the quality of front line practice in children's social care and the police when undertaking child protection investigations and to improve information sharing and communication channels between the police and children's social care.
- 1.3 Arrangements in relation to the children's 'mini-MASH' have been reviewed and strengthened; the Police are now actively involved in weekly triage meetings looking at medium risk domestic abuse incidents with children's social care. A Health representative is also present and is now able to access some health records remotely. The role of education in these meetings is also being strengthened including more timely feedback to individual schools.
- 1.4 In March 2015 agreement was reached at chief officer level that arrangements and a process should be put in place for the city to develop MASH-type-arrangements for children and adults. Since then, a project board has been set up to develop and drive forward the MASH in the city and good progress is being made. It is currently too early to state when arrangements will go live but it is hoped that the latest date will be September 2016 although it could be as early as June 2016.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To receive the report and note the updated position regarding the joint adults and children's multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH).
- 2.2 To note that currently the view is that an adults and children's MASH involving the police, health and children and adults social care staff will be set up in the Council House by September, 2016 at the latest.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To strengthen the quality of front line practice in children's and adults social care, health and the police when undertaking safeguarding investigations in relation to vulnerable people and to improve information sharing and communication channels between the police, health and social care.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 In 2014 a mini-MASH for children was set up with the aim of enhancing children's safeguarding arrangements. The intention was to strengthen existing multi-agency information sharing and to ensure speedier and shared assessments of risk. Unfortunately, the anticipated outcomes have not been fully achieved although arrangements are still in place and have recently been strengthened.
- 4.2 Derby Safeguarding Adults Board has discussed the feasibility of setting up a MASH for some time and this has been a priority in their business plan although had not progressed any further than a strategic discussion paper to the adults safeguarding board.
- 4.3 In March 2015 agreement was reached at chief officer level that arrangements and a process should be put in place for the city to develop MASH-type-arrangements for children and adults. Since then, a project board has been set up to develop and drive forward the MASH in the city.
- 4.4 The board has developed the business operating model for the arrangements from both a children's and adults' perspective. Whilst this is essentially around sharing information in relation to safeguarding children and adults, the function, purpose and tasks within the model are different for children and adults.
- 4.5 The Derby city MASH will consist of staff from the following agencies:
- Derby City Council: children's and adult services – team managers, social workers, and business support.
 - Derbyshire Constabulary: Detective sergeant, constables and civilian researchers.
 - NHS Southern Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group: Safeguarding nurse advisors and/or health visitors and administrative support.
- 4.6 It will be imperative for there to be a positive culture of openness and collaborative working underpinning the strategic and operational development and delivery of the MASH, with a focus on staff (and associated systems and processes) being integrated and not simply co-located.

- 4.7 The board is also responsible for determining:
- Business processes (what is and is not included in the MASH).
 - Accommodation and estate management – it has been agreed that that staff will be based at the Council House. An area on the ground floor is being considered as it is quite isolated and therefore issues of confidentiality and data protection are easier to manage. This will require the staff currently occupying this space to be relocated to different parts of the building. The SIROs for the police and the Council have agreed the arrangements already in place in the Council House for data security will suffice for the MASH with some small modifications.
 - IT issues and capabilities. – the police will run a communications line into the Council House in order to access their systems and ensure information security. They are asking for staff who enter the area e.g. cleaners to have enhanced security checks. They will comply with the clear desk and locking away of computers policy that already exists within the Council House.
 - Information sharing protocols and issues – the existing protocols will be adapted to fit the new arrangements.
 - Performance framework and evaluation of impact/improved outcomes.
 - Policies and procedures (not already included in the children's and adults safeguarding procedures).
- 4.8 Arrangements in relation to the children's 'mini-MASH' have been reviewed and strengthened; the Police are now actively involved in weekly triage meetings looking at medium risk domestic abuse incidents with children's social care. A Health representative is also present and is now able to access some health records remotely. The role of education in these meetings is also being strengthened including more timely feedback to individual schools.
- 4.9 The additional resources to staff a MASH have not yet been identified by health partners. However, discussions are on –going between the CCG and Public Health to identify these. As there are currently health staff based at the Council House, it is not anticipated that IT will be an issue.
- 4.10 It is currently too early to state when arrangements will go live but it is hoped that the latest date will be September 2016 although the earliest go live date could be June 2016.
- 4.11 The plan is for the social care children's team manager to have a face to face initial strategy discussion with the Detective Sergeant on all child protection enquiries that are not already open to social care. In addition, the team manager would discuss all high risk domestic violence referrals with the Detective Sergeant on the day of referral (Mon-Fri) and next working day following a weekend or bank holiday. All medium risk referrals will to be screened by the team manager within 3 days and standard referrals within 7 days.

4.12 The anticipated outcome from the arrangement is:

- That risk is jointly assessed more quickly.
- That information sharing is improved.
- That there are improved communication channels between Police and Local Authority People's Services.
- That adults, children and families receive the right response at the right time following domestic incidents.
- That arrangements for child and adult protection investigations are strengthened.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 There is the option of reverting back to arrangements which were in place prior to the mini multi-agency safeguarding hub. However, this would not lead to any improvement in the quality of practice and increase the risk of poor inspection outcomes for the council, police and health.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Estates/Property officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Maureen Darbon, Acting Service Director Early Help and Children's Social Care
For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	None Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

1.1 None.

Legal

2.1 None.

Personnel

3.1 None.

IT

4.1 None.

Equalities Impact

5.1 None.

Health and Safety

6.1 None.

Environmental Sustainability

7.1 None.

Property and Asset Management

8.1 None.

Risk Management

9.1 None.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

10.1 None.