



# The Wandsworth Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

Information for families



## What is the MASH?

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub is a team of individuals who come from different organisations – for example the council, the health service and the police – working together to protect children and young people from harm.

## What does the MASH do?

When a professional, family member or member of the public is concerned about a child or young person's welfare or safety, they contact the council to share their concerns. The MASH team is located within the council and work together to look into the case to decide on what action should be taken.

The individuals in the MASH will look for any information held by their organisation that is related to the child or young person. They will then share this information with their colleagues in order to decide if the child or young person is at risk of harm and/or what services should be involved.

## Will I be told if the MASH is going to look for information about my family?

Yes. Usually the person contacting the council will tell you that they are doing so and will share their concerns with you. Before any information is shared within the MASH, a team member will usually contact you to ask your permission for this information to be shared.

However, there are a small number of circumstances in which you may not be contacted. This could be if making contact with you might:

- Result in an increased risk of harm to the child or young person, or an adult.
- Prevent a serious crime from being detected.
- Result in a significant delay in making enquiries.

## What happens after the MASH has shared information?

Once a case has been looked into by the MASH, a decision will be made about the best action to take. If there are concerns that the child or young person may be at risk of harm or may be in need of specialist support then a social care assessment may be opened. If the child or young person and their family might benefit from some extra support then they may be referred or signposted to another service that can provide this support.



# How will my information be used?

Your information will only be used to decide whether:

- You or someone else is being hurt or may be hurt in the future.
- You or your family would benefit from help or support.
- A crime has been committed or could be committed in the future.

Your information will be stored in a safe way and will not be shared with other people unless they have a legal power to see it.

More information about the use of personal data can be found on the Wandsworth Council webpages.



**REMEMBER** – if you are concerned about a child or young person in Wandsworth and want to speak to someone, contact the MASH on 020 8871 6622 or [MASH@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:MASH@wandsworth.gov.uk)