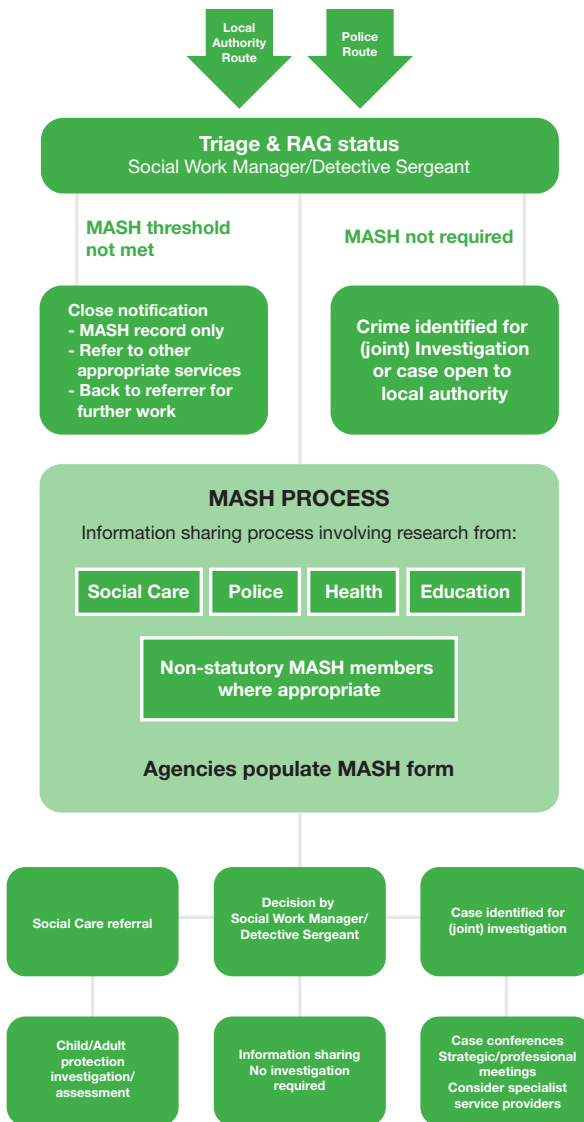


MASH process flowchart

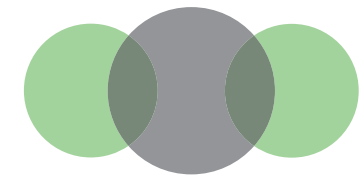


How can you support the MASH?

If you are contacted by the MASH, please provide information in a timely way.

Have the confidence and trust in the MASH 'firewall' to engage fully and share appropriate sensitive information.


Let us know if we are improving our service to children and young people – help us to get it right.




milton keynes
multi-agency safeguarding hub



How to contact the MASH

 To make a referral to the MASH, please call 01908 253169 or 253170.

 You can also email - children@milton-keynes.gov.uk

What is the MASH?

From September 2014, Milton Keynes will have a Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub, known as **MASH**. This brings together professionals from partner agencies to deal with safeguarding concerns, where someone is concerned about the safety or wellbeing of a child.

Information from partner agencies is collated within the **MASH** to assess risk and decide what action to take. As a result, the agencies are able to act quickly, in a coordinated and consistent way, ensuring that vulnerable children and families are kept safe.

How is this different?

The referral process into the Integrated Referral Hub is unchanged but the **MASH** improves how we manage child protection referrals.

Who is in the MASH?

The **MASH** involves a core team of representatives from Milton Keynes Council Children's Services, Police and Health co-located at Saxon Court, Central Milton Keynes.

The **MASH** has links with other services such as probation, youth offending and housing.



How does the MASH work?

- The **MASH** team analyse each contact made with them and a dedicated decision maker decides whether it goes into the **MASH** information sharing process.
- The **MASH** team manager prioritises those **MASH** contacts using a RAG rating (Red/Amber/Green).
- Staff from every agency in **MASH** gather and share securely information to enable an informed decision to be made.
- The **MASH** team manager uses the collected information to decide the most appropriate interventions for the child's identified needs. This could be:
 - Assessment by children's social care
 - Signpost to a service – such as early help or a specialist intervention
 - Case closed, no further action
- The team receiving the case will receive a summary of the relevant information and feedback will be provided on the outcome of **MASH** process to the referrer.



What are the benefits?

- Faster, more coordinated and consistent responses to safeguarding concerns about children and families.
- An improved service 'journey' for each child with greater emphasis on early intervention and better informed services provided at the right time.
- Greater ability to identify potential vulnerability, enabling more preventative action to be taken and dealing with cases before they escalate.
- Closer partnership working, clearer accountability and less duplication of effort.
- A reduction in the number of inappropriate referrals and referrals to children's social care.

