

# A Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is starting in Coventry

## What is a MASH?

The Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) brings key professionals together to facilitate early, better quality information sharing, analysis and decision-making, to safeguard vulnerable children and young people more effectively.

## When will it open?

The Coventry MASH will be operational in **September 2014**.

## Why is a MASH being created?

Information from different agencies will be collated within the MASH, and used to decide what action to take. As a result, the agencies will be able to act quickly in a co-ordinated and consistent way, ensuring that children are kept safe.

For those concerns that meet the threshold for Social Care involvement, representatives from the different agencies in the MASH and outside will collate information from their respective sources to build up a picture of the circumstances of the case and the associated risks to the child. As a result, better decisions will be made about what action to take and support will be targeted on the most urgent cases. Feedback will also be given to professionals reporting concerns. Better co-ordination between agencies will lead to an improved service for children and families.

## What will the MASH do?

The MASH will work alongside the city council's social care referral and assessment service (RAS) collating information and intelligence across partners. The Coventry MASH will provide the highest level of knowledge to ensure all safeguarding activity and intervention is timely, proportionate and necessary for keeping vulnerable children safe. This ensures each partner is in the best position to make effective decisions and the relevant agency takes on the referral.

## What will happen when an enquiry is made?

Once an enquiry is made, partners in the MASH will come together and share information they know about the individual and their family to decide if:

- The child or young person has been harmed or could be harmed in the future
- The child or young person or parent/carer would benefit from support from other people who help with children and families

## What happens after the safeguarding concern?

If the child or young person is thought to have been harmed or could be harmed in the future, they will be referred to Coventry City Council's social care referral and assessment service (RAS). Information could also be given to police officers if it is necessary to help stop or solve a crime.

If the child or young person has not been harmed but we think they or their parent/carer would benefit from extra help, then their details will be passed onto the most appropriate service so that they get the support they need.

## Further information

If you have any questions or would like to find out more information about the Coventry MASH, telephone **024 7683 3060** or e-mail [mash@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:mash@coventry.gov.uk)

