

# Sandwell

Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub



### **Information Sharing**

Information is only shared to protect children and safeguard their welfare and will not be used for any other purposes.

All information held by agencies within MASH will be kept and processed securely in line with the Data Protection Act 1998. It will be kept securely and only be accessed by those with a legal duty to do so.

### **Contact Details**

During Working Hours (Monday -Thursday 8am-5:30pm and Friday: 8:00am – 5pm) 0121 569 3100.

Evenings and Weekends (including Bank Holidays): 0121 569 3100.

If a child or young person is in immediate danger, then call the Police on 999.

# Sandwell

Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub



## SANDWELL

## Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)



**Guidance for Parents & Carers**  
**Sandwell MASH: 0121 569 3100**



### What is MASH?

Sandwell Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is a partnership between Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC), Children's Social Work Services, Education, Housing, West Midlands Police and Health agencies. These professionals work together and share information to safeguard children and young people in response to a referral about a child who may have been harmed or put at risk.



### How does MASH Work?

If a referral has been received about your child, Children's Social Work Services will decide if the information suggests that there is a safeguarding concern. If there is, the agencies in the MASH will share relevant information they hold to better inform the decisions made about what action needs to be taken regarding the referral. The aim is to get a better understanding of the difficulties your child and family may be facing as soon as possible. This allows us to offer the right level of support, at the right time, from the right people



### Information Sharing

If professionals are referring your child to Children's Social Work Services they will need to ask your permission first, unless they are reporting child protection concerns then your permission may not be required. MASH will aim to only share information with other agencies with your consent. However, if seeking your permission would cause a delay in safeguarding a child from harm of significant risk of harm, or in solving a crime or, in circumstances where there is a legal requirement to share the information then information may be shared without your immediate consent.

### What happens after my child/young person is discussed within MASH?

If your child is thought to have been **harmed** or to be at risk of **significant harm**, now or in the future, a member of the MASH team will refer you to the Safeguarding and Assessment Team, who will carry out a Child Protection Enquiry. This means that a Social Worker and sometimes a Police Officer will be in contact with you



If there **are worries and concerns** for your child but these are **not felt to be child protection**, then a member of the Safeguarding Assessment Team will contact you to arrange a social work assessment. This will help identify the right support and services to help these circumstances improve.



If it felt that you do not need a **social work service** but extra support and assistance may help your child and your family, this may be available within Sandwell's Early Help offer. A representative from Early Help or Targeted Services e.g. school, children's centre etc, will contact you to discuss what is available and whether you wish to access support