

Could you please answer these seven (7) Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) questions for me?

Please respond to all questions, as they relate to SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

1. Is the MASH process to safeguard the 'child', who is the 'subject' of the MASH meeting/ strategy discussion?

The MASH process will always refer to the subject child, however there may be several siblings/half-siblings etc who will also need to be subject of the same MASH strategy meeting and if this is the case they will added onto the Electronic Child Assessment Framework (ECAF) system.

2. Is it a requirement that all 'intelligence' (incoming information/ details etc) that is received into the MASH, needs to be officially recorded (i.e. on a WC392 form/ WC393 form/ MARF form / MASH Database etc)?

No, it would not be appropriate to record all intelligence/information that is received as this may not be relevant.

3. Do all associated 'full details' of the intelligence (information) need to be recorded; (i.e. the details of the person who provided it / time it was provided / where it was obtained it / how it was communicated into the MASH)?

No

4. What would be the least time period for the recorded information to be securely kept?

Any information that the police record on the ECAF system will be kept indefinitely.

5. Where a child (the subject of a MASH process) has a sibling, can invocation of Section 47 of the Children's Act 1989 occur on the child, without there being a suspicion of the child 'suffering harm' or 'likely to suffer harm'?

No, as there must be concern for the second sibling, however there will be cases where a S47 investigation will be required for all siblings

6. Is it a standard requirement that the minutes of MASH meetings, (or the recorded decisions of a MASH Meeting/ Strategy Meeting outcome), are shared to all the MASH partner agencies?

No there is no requirement for there being MASH minutes for all strategy meetings. However, all decisions/outcome of every meeting are recorded on the ECAF system.

7. Would the answers you provide to questions 1 through 6, have differed between 2013-2015 due to your policies/ UK laws? If so, please concisely explain how.

The Freedom of Information Act applies to recorded information held by West Midlands Police. We have searched our systems and there is no recorded information held

This Regional West Midlands protocol came into force on 1 April 2014

More information can be found on the following websites

<http://westmidlands.procedures.org.uk/local-content/1QzN/localised-content-regional-disclosure-of-information-protocol>

http://www.proceduresonline.com/sandwell/cs/files/sandwell_mash_proced.pdf