

## **Havering Integrated MASH Pilot**

### **Briefing Note for Children & Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

**1 September 2014**

#### Background

In common with most London authorities, London Borough of Havering has had a multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) dealing with contacts to Children's Social Care for some time. The MASH in Havering developed incrementally over several months and became fully operational in December 2012.

On 9 June 2014, London Borough of Havering became the first London borough, and one of the first authorities in the country, to integrate adult safeguarding into its existing children's MASH. As part of this pilot, the borough is also trialling the development of a Community Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (Community MARAC), which will serve as a referral route out of the MASH for adults and families who do not reach the thresholds for statutory services but who nonetheless evidently require some form of service or support, or multi-agency response, in order to hold them below these thresholds.

#### Which agencies are represented in the MASH?

Since the new, all-age MASH went live, a Housing Link Worker has joined the MASH and the North-East London Foundation Trust (NELFT) has increased the resources it places in the MASH, particularly to support adults at risk. The integrated MASH team now consists of:

- 2.0 Group / Team Managers (1 for Children's Social Care and 1 for Adults' Social Care)
- 1.0 Practice Manager
- 4.0 Senior Practitioners (2 for Children's Social Care and 2 for Adults' Social Care)
- 6.56 Social Workers (4.56 for Children's Social Care and 2 for Adults' Social Care)
- 0.8 Mental Health Practitioner
- 0.6 Health Link Worker
- 1.4 Health Visitors
- 1.0 Detective Sergeant
- 1.0 Police Constable
- 0.2 Probation Officer
- 1.0 Housing Link Worker
- 10.7 Information Researchers
- 3.0 Administrators

A colleague from the Council's Early Help service is now also sitting in the MASH on a part-time basis. Discussions are also underway with the Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospital Trust (BHRUT) about the viability of Queen's Hospital becoming either a virtual or co-located partner in the MASH. The Children's Society, which provides advocacy services as well as services to

children who go missing and / or are at risk of child sexual exploitation, has also expressed an interest in co-locating into the MASH.

### Activity and Volumes

During June and July 2014, the MASH dealt with 1,382 contacts relating to children and young people. This is significantly (15%) higher than the previous two months, in which 1,200 such contacts were dealt with. The vast majority of these contacts came from the Police, with a lower than usual number originating from schools in July due to the summer holidays.

Of the contacts made relating to children and young people since the integrated MASH went live, equal proportions (17%) have been referred to Children's Social Care and progressed to Early Help.

### Progress to date

- Referral pathways and processes have been agreed (but are continuing to be adjusted as necessary in response to the initial learning from the pilot).
- A Strategic Steering Group and Operational Group are in place to lead and steer the project
- A performance management framework / data set has been agreed across the multi-agency partnership
- Two conferences have been held for agencies likely to make referrals into the new, all-age MASH, attended by approximately 100 staff working with vulnerable adults and children across the borough.
- A pan-London information-sharing agreement in respect of adults at risk has been drafted (led by the Metropolitan Police Service) and is currently being progressed through the Association of Directors of Adults Social Services (ADASS) network.
- The Community MARAC has now met twice and discussed 19 cases. There has been good multi-agency attendance at both meetings. The actions and outcomes arising from the Community MARAC meetings include adjustments to care plans and, on one occasion, a case conference being called.

### Next steps

- One final referrals conference is scheduled to take place on 15 September and is almost fully booked
- Two agency open days are scheduled in November and December to showcase the learning so far from the pilot to other agencies across London and elsewhere who may be considering implementing their own integrated MASHs
- Updating the Council's MASH web page to reflect the recent expansion of its remit into adult safeguarding
- A formal, independent initial qualitative and quantitative evaluation of the MASH (including case file audits) is scheduled to take place in October / November (six months after the integrated MASH went live)
- Learning from the pilot, and particularly the Community MARAC, will be used to help identify gaps in existing service provision and inform future commissioning intentions and market shaping activities