

Portsmouth MASH

A guide on information sharing

What is Portsmouth MASH?

The Portsmouth Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) was established in 2016 to manage all safeguarding (contacts) in relation to a child's safety or wellbeing.

The Portsmouth MASH applies the locally agreed threshold criteria to determine whether statutory services should be provided by Children's Social Care or whether Early Help support should be offered to meet identified needs for the child.



Information Sharing

Portsmouth City Council and partners have an established information sharing framework which outlines responsibilities associated with information gathering, recording and sharing.



What is consent?

The information being shared within the MASH is sensitive and therefore underpinned by statutory principles. Good practice guidance highlights that informed consent should be obtained from parents and/or carers before sharing information.



When and how should I obtain consent?

It is expected that any professional making an enquiry, contact or referral to the Portsmouth MASH about a child has consent from the parent or the person that has parental responsibility. Obtaining explicit consent for information sharing is the best practice and can be expressed either verbally or in writing. Where it is appropriate and possible written consent is preferable. Where there is strong evidence that indicates a child may be at risk of or is likely to be at risk of significant harm information can be shared without consent (please refer to the [PSCP Thresholds Document](#)). However, it can still be good practice for the practitioner to share with the parent or carer that they have or will be contacting Portsmouth MASH.



What if I don't obtain consent?

The MASH provides the first contact point for any enquiries about a child's wellbeing. Consent is reviewed at this point and if it has not been obtained you may be contacted by the MASH team about seeking consent from the family. If you are unsure about seeking consent, please contact the MASH team on 023 9268 8793 for further discussion.

Further Information



The MASH can be contacted on 023 92 688 793



All referrals are to be made via the [Inter-Agency Contact Form](#)

Should you have a safeguarding concern please contact the MASH via phone and follow up in writing.

To report concerns outside of working hours, please call the Out of Hours Service on 0300 555 1373.

This leaflet can be read in conjunction with the following guidance:

- The Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Partnership (PSCP) Thresholds Document
- The Safeguarding Strategy
- HM Government Information Sharing Document 2018
- The PSCP threshold of Children with complex needs - tiers of need and support
- Working Together 2018
- 4 LSCB Policies and Procedures

