

Warwickshire Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub



MASH

Information for parents and carers



What is the MASH?

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is a partnership between Warwickshire County Council, Warwickshire Police, Warwickshire NHS health services and other key partner agencies working together to safeguard children and young people.

What does the MASH do?

When a professional, family member or member of the public is concerned about a child or young person's welfare or safety, they can contact us so we can look into it. This is called reporting a safeguarding concern.

Will I be told that there is a safeguarding concern about my child?

Yes. Usually you will be told at the time the concern is raised. If the safeguarding concern has been made by a professional, for example a teacher, GP, Health Visitor, they will tell you what their concerns are before they contact us. Unless they think telling you at the time will place a child at increased risk of harm.

Can information be shared without my permission?

Yes. Information may be shared between professionals without your permission if there are concerns for the welfare of a child that they are being harmed or may be harmed in the future. Information can also be shared without permission if it may help to stop or solve a crime.

What will happen after a child or young person has been referred to the MASH?

Partners in the MASH will share information to decide if:

- the child or young person has been harmed or could be harmed in the future;
- the child or young person or you would benefit from support from other people who help children and families.

How will my information be used?

Your information will only be used to decide whether:

- you or someone else is being harmed or may be harmed in the future
- you or your family would benefit from help and support
- a crime has been committed or could be committed in the future.

Your information will be held in a safe place and will not be shared with other people unless they have a legal power to see it.

Can I see what is written about me?

Yes. The Data Protection Act 1998 lets you ask for a copy of the information held about you. If you would like to request this, it must be in writing to Warwickshire County Council.

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, we will refer them to one of the Warwickshire County Council district Children's Teams who will complete a statutory Single Assessment.

Information will also be given to the police 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 you would benefit from extra help, then their name, address, reason for the enquiry and outcome will be passed onto the most appropriate service so that you and your family get the support you need.

We will also write to you and where appropriate the child or young person, explaining the outcome of the safeguarding concern.



More Information

To find out more about the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) visit:
www.warwickshireMASH.org.uk

For further information about local support services visit the Family Information Service online at **www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fis** or call **01926 742274**.

Remember

If you have a safeguarding concern about a child or young person and want to speak to someone, contact the Warwickshire MASH on **01926 414144** and give as much information as you can.

The MASH Operating Times are:

8.30am - 5.30pm Monday - Friday

8.30am - 5.00pm on a Friday

Outside of office hours for an immediate concern about a child in danger dial 999 and contact the Emergency Duty Team on telephone number 01926 886922.

