**MASH Steering Group**

**Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), including Early Intervention (Early Help) coordination and connected pathways**

**Terms of Reference**

1. **Purpose**

To review the development of the MASH across the partnership to ensure it remains pivotal to making the right decision at the right time for some children.

To ensure the timeliness of the MASH is compliant with Working Together 2018.

To ensure any learning or lessons are shared and implemented from overarching boards.

The Operational Group will also support:

* The day to day running of the MASH, ensuring all MASH partners are fully engaged in sharing information, have agreed information sharing protocols in place, and to support decision making and that Early intervention functions are without problem.
* The identification of issues or challenges and work to find solutions, holding children and families at the centre of all decisions, by using data and intelligence from across the partnership in a timely manner.
* Have a focus on quality assurance, and set the direction for how this is completed effectively, i.e. audits, supervision.
* Oversee and champion the effective implementation of the workforce development plan for the revised threshold document.
* Timelines of MASH enquires, conversion rates to referrals, and reviewing contacts, which do not meet threshold and how we can best manage these within the partnership.
* To offer a safe space for challenge and support to ensure the MASH provide a service, which is highly functioning and willing to learn and develop together.
* Work together to continue to develop a space for co-location that meets the needs of the MASH.

MASH and Early Intervention Coordination activity and pathways

* Review and champion the progress of the MASH Development Plan
1. **Objectives**

**The primary objective of the Monthly MASH Steering Group is to:**

* Provide the opportunity for all partners to consult and plan in respect of day-to-day operations and practice as per the agreed partnership MASH Operating Principles and guidance.
* Gather and provide oversight of performance information - data analysis for MASH (all partners’ data) and Early Help activity at the front door.
* Gather and provide oversight of quality information – supervision guidance and multi-agency audits.
* Organise the ongoing development and delivery of the MASH and Early Intervention Priority areas and Ofsted readiness. This to include all pathways that needs to be connected to the MASH to ensure visibility at all levels for children and young people.
* Establish subgroups that will lead on performance, quality and voice and oversee these work streams (see governance structure below).
1. **Membership**
* The Steering Group shall be appointed by the Multi Agency Partnership to ensure representation from all agencies.
* Members will include statutory partner’s representation from the MASH and Early Intervention service, Children Social Care (DCST), Education safeguarding lead, South Yorkshire Police, Probation service, and various Health colleagues.
* Attendee’s at this group must have delegated authority to contribute to the day-to-day operational decision making and be able to make decisions in this group to support delivery.
* Should an agency/individual be unable to attend a suitable representative is to be nominated.
* Director of Children’s Social Care within DCST will chair the meeting.
1. **Attendance**

It is expected that attendance is prioritised, and representation from partners within the MASH and those who can support its delivery, for example Police, Health CCG, Education, Probation and Children Services and in line with statutory responsibilities as set out in the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

1. **Attendance by others**

The group can invite, as they deem necessary others when the group is discussing areas/issues of the operation and practice that concern the work of that individual. The representative should be able to make decisions within the remit of this ToR.

1. **Accountability and reporting arrangements**

The MASH Steering Group will be accountable to the Improvement Board until January 2021 and then to the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board and will provide a highlight report and update to this Board each quarter. The progress of the meetings will be submitted and presented to this group by the Chair who shall draw attention to any issues that require decision and action. The group will consider actions and make decisions on ongoing practice or work or any other matters referred to it.

1. **Frequency**

The steering group will meet every month. Additional meetings may be arranged when required to support the effective functioning of the MASH. Subgroups to meet monthly but 2 weeks prior to each MASH Steering group meeting to allow time for them to prepare updates and share with the steering group any papers.

1. **Authority**

The MASH Steering group is authorised by the MASH Strategic Group (Recovery and Resilience) to operate within its Terms of Reference. Senior leaders in the partnership and operational staff form part of the MASH activity and this forum provides line of sight for all at every layer.

1. **Effectiveness**

The steering group will undertake a monthly review of its performance and quality against the objectives of the Terms of Reference in order to evaluate the achievement of its duties. This review will inform the:

* Auditing of information sharing processes and associated decision making.
* Monitor how teams are performing against the partnership performance framework.
1. **Other matters**

Minutes will be shared following each meeting. Within 5 working days. Agenda planning will be informed and driven by the service development plans.

1. **Review**

The Steering group will review the Terms of Reference on an annual basis as a minimum. In the first instance this will be reviewed after 6 months.

1. **Governance**

The governance arrangements are as follows:

Improvement Board/ Doncaster Children’s Safeguarding Partnership

MASH Steering Group

Performance and Data Sub Group

Threshold Application and Learning Sub Group

Audit and Quality Sub Group

Voice Sub Group TBC

1. Version Control

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| Version  | Change  | Date Approved  |
| 1 | New  | March 2021  |
| 2 | Updated to ensure focus in the MASH Steering Group  | October 2021 |
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