

31st January 2018

Dear Colleague

Re: Guidance for MASH referrals

All concerns for children and young people who may be at risk of significant harm should be directed to MASH. We would encourage you to telephone MASH prior to making a referral to discuss your concerns, where appropriate you should follow up this call with a completed MASH Referral Form to the MASH GCSX E mail – MASH@westsussex.gcsx.gov.uk

Two recent external audits of MASH have highlighted concerns regarding the quality of the referrals received into MASH, parents were also too often unaware that a referral had been made, the consequences are that a considerable amount of Social work time in MASH is spent clarifying the referral information and trying to make contact with the child's parent / Carer. To view good practice examples of referrals to MASH visit <http://www.westsussexscb.org.uk/professionals/working-together/contacts-for-referral/>

It has been agreed through the West Sussex LSCB that from January 2018, unless the concerns are of an immediate child protection nature, if the MASH receive a poor quality referral and/or parents are unaware the referral has been made, the referral **will be returned in order for this to be completed**. Where consent is unable to be obtained a clear reason must be provided.

The Continuum of Need document enclosed can support you in identifying effective support for a child at the right time. The threshold guidance for this document can be found at <http://www.westsussexscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/WS1953-Threshold-Guidance-2016-MayV2-FINAL.pdf>

If however you are worried or concerned about a child and feel that the child and or their family/ Carer would benefit from early help services you can make contact directly with your local Integrated Prevention Earliest Help (IPEH) Hub. The contact details are listed below. **This will require consent from the parent / carer or child (where able to consent)**

<p>Adur and Worthing Email Adurworthinghub@westsussex.gcsx.gov.uk Tel 07841867340 Centenary House Durrington Lane Durrington BN132QB</p>	<p>Arun Email Arunhub@westsussex.gcsx.gov.uk Tel 07860858654 Durban House Durban Road Bognor Regis PO22 9RE</p>
<p>Chichester Email Chichesterhub@westsussex.gcsx.gov.uk Tel 07860858616 Chichester Nursery School Children and family Centre St James Chichester PO197AB</p>	<p>Crawley Email Crawleyhub@westsussex.gcsx.gov.uk Tel 07542856334 Bewbush Children and Family Centre Dorsten Square Crawley RH118XW</p>
<p>Horsham Email Horshamhub@@westsussex.gcsx.gov.uk Tel 07525211177 Horsham Youth centre Hurst Road Horsham RH122DN</p>	<p>Mid Sussex Email Midsussexhub@westsussex.gcsx.gov.uk Tel 01444255477 Bolney Children and Family centre (Rural Outreach) Unit 1 Highland Farm London Road Bolney RH175PX</p>

Kind Regards,

Lucy Short

Learning & Development Officer
WSSCB Business Team