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North Somerset
Council



Healthier Together
Improving health and care in Bristol,
North Somerset and South Gloucestershire

NHS

**Bristol, North Somerset
and South Gloucestershire**
Integrated Care Board



North Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership Strategic Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Subgroup

Terms of Reference

1. Aim

The aim of the Strategic MASH Subgroup is to drive forward the priorities of the North Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSSCP) and oversee effective delivery of a 'Front Door' provision into Children's Services.

2. Purpose of the Strategic MASH Subgroup

The Strategic MASH Subgroup is dedicated to ensuring the effectiveness and continuous improvement of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), including the Adolescent Safety Hub, which play a pivotal role in safeguarding children. The group is committed to upholding quality and timeliness standards as outlined in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 and facilitating shared learning among overarching boards. Additionally, the subgroup aims to:

- Facilitate the seamless operation of the MASH: ensuring active engagement from all partners, establishing information sharing protocols and effective decision-making processes.
- Identify challenges and proactively seek solutions, always prioritising the well-being of children and families, leveraging intelligence across the Partnership.
- Maintain a focus on quality assurance, steering effective regular audit processes and supervision and receiving reports on these on a bi-monthly basis from the operational MASH group.
- Provide oversight of performance and quality data including MASH enquiry timeliness, referral conversion rates, and review contacts not meeting thresholds to optimise partnership management strategies.
- Drive the implementation of the Front Door delivery plan.

- Provide a supportive environment for constructive challenge and mutual development, ensuring the MASH functions optimally and is open to continual improvement.
- Collaborate on the ongoing development of suitable co-location spaces tailored to MASH needs.
- Facilitate consultation and planning among partners based on agreed MASH operating principles and guidance.

3. Accountability and Responsibility

- The operational MASH group is accountable to the Strategic MASH Subgroup of the North Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership. A bi-monthly highlight report will be provided by the Head of Service Front Door, with the chair presenting meeting progress and highlighting actionable items for decision and action.
- The Strategic MASH Subgroup is accountable to the 3 named safeguarding partners via the NSSCP Delegated Safeguarding Partners' group.
- The Strategic MASH Subgroup will report to the NSSCP Operational Safeguarding Group as required.
- The subgroup links with other subgroups of the partnership.
- All members will be responsible for linking to their senior management teams within their agencies and will take on projects/tasks as appropriate to their role on behalf of the group.

4. Structure

The Strategic MASH Subgroup will have 2 co-chairs representing police and the local authority who will share the responsibilities of the group.

In accordance with [Working together to safeguard children 2023](#)

“Strong, effective multi-agency safeguarding arrangements should be responsive to local circumstances and engage the right people in a collaborative way. This approach requires flexibility from all relevant agencies, to enable joint identification and response to existing and emerging needs, and to agree priorities to improve outcomes for children.”

5. Membership, Quoracy, Authority

- Membership is appointed by the multi-agency partnership to ensure representation from all relevant agencies, including statutory partners such as MASH and Early Help services, Children's Social Care, education safeguarding leads, Avon and Somerset Police, substance misuse and domestic abuse services and health representatives.

- Attendees must possess delegated authority for operational decision-making and be empowered to contribute effectively.
- Suitable representatives should be nominated in case of absence.
- The operational MASH group operates within the authorisation of the Strategic MASH Subgroup ensuring visibility and alignment with senior leadership and operational staff across the Partnership.

Quoracy: for the Strategic MASH Subgroup to be quorate, there will need to be at least one representative from health, police and the local authority present.

The subgroup will be made up from the following representatives:

Job title	Organisation	Representing
Assistant Director Family Support & Safeguarding	Children's Services	Local Authority
Head of Inclusion	Children's Services	Local Authority
Head of Service Front Door	Children's Services	Local Authority
Designated Nurse	BNSSG ICB	Health
Regional Manager	Lighthouse Safeguarding Unit	Police
Safeguarding Lead for Children in CAMHS Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	CAMHS	Health
Head of Safeguarding	Sirona	Health
Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children	Sirona	Health
Deputy Director of Safeguarding	NBT/UHBW	Health
Business Manager	NSSCP	Partnership
Business Support Officer	NSSCP	Partnership
Head of Service	Bath and North Somerset PDU	Probation
Operations Manager	WithYou	Drug and Alcohol Service

- The co-chairs of the subgroup will be members of the NSSCP Operational Safeguarding Group and will attend its meetings in that capacity.
- Professional advisers may be co-opted as necessary.
- The subgroup is authorised by the Delegated Safeguarding Partners Board of the NSSCP to undertake the activities described in these Terms of Reference.

6. Frequency of Meetings

- The Strategic MASH Subgroup will meet 4-6 weekly, with the option for additional meetings as needed to support MASH effectiveness.

7. Reporting and Governance Arrangements

- Governance and challenge will be provided by the Delegated Safeguarding Partners Board of the NSSCP to support the work of delivering the actions.
- All subgroup members are responsible for ensuring proactive support and delivery of the Business Plan.
- The Chair will provide a report to the Operational Safeguarding Group meeting as required.
- There is an expectation that all representatives attend the subgroup 4-6 weekly or send a nominated deputy.
- All representatives will familiarise themselves with the group's terms of reference.
- All representatives will commit to supporting the group's work plan by carrying out actions in between meetings.
- Representatives will work with partners to complete tasks as agreed by the subgroup.
- Co-chairs of the Strategic MASH Subgroup will be appointed by the NSSCP Delegated Safeguarding Partners Board for a term of three years.

8. Review of the Terms of Reference

Terms of reference will be reviewed annually.

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Strategic MASH Subgroup TOR	Feb 2025	Feb 2026