

### Background:

In Nottinghamshire, as with many local authorities, we receive safeguarding concerns regarding children into the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). This enables a partnership approach to safeguarding and speeds up information sharing and access to support for children in need of help and protection. In 2020, we received 33,262 enquiries into the MASH. However, more than half of those enquiries required no further action (54%).

### Why it matters:

Continually faced with high levels of demand, enquiries which do not require further action impact on the time and focus which social workers can give to responding to safeguarding concerns regarding children who are most in need of protection from harm. This is further exacerbated by the high demand arising from the Covid-19 pandemic.

### Before contacting the MASH, stop and consider:

Is the child in immediate danger? If so call the Police on 999

The pathway to provision – find out if there is a more appropriate service to provide support. For advice, contact the Early Help Unit on 0115 804 1248.

If you think the family is at Level 2 or 3, make a referral to the Early Help Unit via this online form:

[https://www.nottshelpyourself.org.uk/kb5/nottinghamshire/directory/service.page?id=0-CFpHHz\\_bE&newdirectorychannel=0](https://www.nottshelpyourself.org.uk/kb5/nottinghamshire/directory/service.page?id=0-CFpHHz_bE&newdirectorychannel=0)

Is social care already supporting the child? If so, contact the social worker for the child directly. If you don't know how to contact them, contact details are available through the Customer Service Centre on 0300 500 80 80

Contacting your safeguarding lead for advice in the first instance if you are not sure



# Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

## Concerns regarding children

### Where you can find out more:

MASH webpage:

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/safeguarding/childrens-mash>

New NSCP e-learning:

'What makes a good MASH referral' (access via My Learning My Career)

<https://nottsccl.learningpool.com/login/index.php>

Do's and don'ts of making a MASH referral:

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/media/1734902/dos-and-donts-children-261018-v4.docx>

Pathway to Provision:

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/childrens-social-care/nottinghamshire-childrens-trust/pathway-to-provision>

Your safeguarding lead

### If you still need to make a safeguarding referral:

Gather as much information as you can beforehand including full names, dates of birth, addresses, school attended, ethnicity, religion, language spoken and full details of the concern.

You will be expected to have obtained consent from parents prior to making a referral, unless you think a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, in which case parental consent can be over-ridden

For urgent referrals which require the child to be seen that day, call the MASH on: 0300 500 80 90

For all other referrals, complete the online referral form:

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/safeguarding/childrens-mash/report-a-new-concern-about-a-child>