

## **Report from Information Sharing Task and Finish Group to the Havering Child Protection Leads Delivery Group**

The Information Sharing Task and Finish Group was commissioned by the Havering Child Protection Leads Delivery Group to review and address practical difficulties in sharing information across agencies for children referred or known to Havering children's social care services.

The group met four times between 10<sup>th</sup> March and 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022 and addressed the key issues identified at the first meeting.

### **Information on outcomes from referrals into the MASH**

Members of the group were able to clarify the routes by which the outcome from a referral would be communicated to referrers and an audit undertaken during the time the group was in existence confirmed that these were working well in most cases. It was also recognised that feedback from referrals was being given directly via phone in many cases. Further work is being planned to achieve an objective of providing outcome information within 24 hours.

It was agreed that this remains an area for ongoing monitoring, which the Delivery Group should address. A MASH steering group is being restarted in July and members of the Task and Finish group were invited to either join the group or suggest alternative members.

### **Sharing minutes from child protection conferences**

The same routes for sharing MASH referral outcome information were confirmed as those for conference minute sharing. In cases where a child protection medical has been carried out it was agreed that the name of the examining paediatrician will be added to the conference invitation list so that they will receive a copy of the minutes and it was confirmed that routes exist for social workers to ensure they know which GP's are involved.

### **Justification for social care services requesting information from practitioners for assessments other than Section 47**

Members of the group were clear that requests for information for Section 47 assessments was justified but in other situations, such as Section 17 or early help, they were not always receiving sufficient information to justify sharing. The request form and the processes used to request such information was reviewed and improved and both health and education members reported that this was now an effective process.

Again, it was felt that some ongoing assurance that this remains the case will be needed for the Delivery Group. The school Designated Safeguarding Leads meetings was identified as one forum that could feed in any problems or concerns to the Delivery Group.

### **GP's accessing information on status of child protection plans**

This had been recognised as a long-standing problem. Work carried out under the aegis of this group has enabled a short-term solution to be put in place whereby updated information is channelled to GP's via the Designated Nurse. This has received Information Governance approval from the Local Authority. A long-term solution in the form of the establishment of a health information portal through which health practitioners can access key information on social care involvement is being planned.

As well as these key issues, the group also agreed to share structure plans to ensure that practitioners across all agencies would know how to escalate any problems with information sharing and communication. It was agreed by all members of this group that they would also be willing to be contacted about any issues and it was felt that the work of the group had established a useful working network and helped to develop good interagency relationships.

The need for training in information sharing and communication was discussed and dates for training established and shared.

The group also discussed the value that could ensue from a well-functioning MASH portal and hope that this will be operational in the near future.

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Chair of the Information Sharing Task and Finish Group

14<sup>th</sup> July 2022