

Little Companions

Inspiring and nurturing young minds
Pre-School for 2-5 year olds

Child Protection - Contact Details

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Introducing Hillingdon MASH

The revised Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) states providers must have, and implement policies and procedures to safeguard children in line with the guidance and procedures of their Local Safeguarding Children Board.

In this local authority it will mean being aware of the newly formed **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)** - a joined-up approach to child protection and designed to prioritise the most important cases.

A MASH brings together staff from a range of agencies, such as local authority children's social care, education, probation, police and health. The multi-agency team of people are still employed by their individual agencies, but are co-located in one office.

This means the hubs are working together 'at the front door' to consider cases referred to Children's Social Services.

MAKING A JUDGEMENT

When a MASH receives information about a potential case, a social work manager makes a judgement about the level of risk to the child. This category determines the timescale for a decision to be made, which can range from a few hours (four in urgent cases) to a few days. Every case referred to the MASH is given a RAG rating (Red/Amber/Green) that signifies the levels of concern:

- **Red:** urgent child protection cases where a child is in imminent danger requiring immediate action, and dealt with by the MASH within four hours.
- **Amber:** cases where a child may be at risk of significant harm but not in imminent danger, and dealt with by the MASH within 24 hours.
- **Green:** a child in need case (or a child needing early intervention in order to reach a reasonable standard of development), and referred on for services within three working days.

Information is shared securely between agencies within the hub and is gathered from teachers, GPs, health visitors, school nurses, police officers and others, who are contacted by their professional lead who sits within the hub. Once this information is gathered, a social work manager decides what further action is required. This approach means a serious case can be recognised more swiftly. Equally, it helps services recognise when a situation is not serious and, therefore, avoids them wasting valuable resources.

Nursery workers, childminders and other early year's professionals have key roles to play in a MASH. They may engage with them in three ways:

1. By seeking information, advice or guidance about a safeguarding concern if they have identified a child who might be at risk, before deciding whether or not to make a referral to the local authority.
2. By responding to a request for information about a child who has been referred to the MASH.
3. By taking action as a result of an outcome from the MASH. This could include, for example, improving safeguarding procedures.

Referrals by childminders and settings remains the same. All incidents are reported to social care who then refer to the MASH.

LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer)

The LADO is responsible for providing advice, information and guidance to employers and voluntary organisations around allegations and concerns regarding paid and unpaid workers.

The Role of The LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer)

The role of the LADO is set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015) and is governed by the Authorities duties under section 11 of the Children Act 2004 and London Child Protection Procedures – London Safeguarding Children Board 2015. This guidance outlines procedures for managing allegations against people who work with children who are paid, unpaid, volunteers, casual, agency or anyone self-employed.

The LADO must be contacted within one working day in respect of all cases in which it is alleged that a person who works with children has:

- behaved in a way that has harmed, or may have harmed a child;
- possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; or
- behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children.

There may be up to three strands in the consideration of an allegation:

1. A police investigation of a possible criminal offence;
2. Enquiries and assessment by children’s social care about whether a child is in need of protection or in need of services;
3. Consideration by an employer of disciplinary action in respect of the individual.

The LADO is responsible for:

- Providing advice, information and guidance to employers and voluntary organisations around allegations and concerns regarding paid and unpaid workers.
- Managing and overseeing individual cases from all partner agencies.
- Ensuring the child’s voice is heard and that they are safeguarded.
- Ensuring there is a consistent, fair and thorough process for all adults working with children and young people against whom an allegation is made.
- Monitoring the progress of cases to ensure they are dealt with as quickly as possible.
- Recommending a referral and chairing the strategy meeting in cases where the allegation requires investigation by police and/or social care.

The LADO is involved from the initial phase of the allegation through to the conclusion of the case. The LADO is available to discuss any concerns and to assist you in deciding whether you need to make a referral and/or take any immediate management action to protect a child.

Local Authority Designated officer for Hillingdon, Rob Wratten, can be contacted on –

- **Tel:** 01895 250975
- **Email:** rwratten@hillingdon.gov.uk

Contact details for Hillingdon MASH

Hillingdon MASH - Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

If you are concerned about the welfare of a child the MASH team can help.

Address: Civic Centre High Street, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB1 1UW

E-mail: lbhmash@hillingdon.gov.uk

Telephone: 01895 556633

Telephone: 01895 250111 (*Out of hours Emergency Duty Team*)

Fax: 01895 277226

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 9am - 5 pm

Closed Saturday & Sunday

Local Safeguarding Children’s Board

Hillingdon LSCB

<https://hillingtonlscb.org.uk/>

Telephone Numbers

LADO - Robert Wratten	01895 250975 rwratten@hillington.gov.uk
MASH	01895 556 633
Hillingdon Social Care	01895 556633
Police Child Protection Team (8am - 6pm)	020 8246 1903
Childcare and early years service	01895 277 180
Prevent Borough Lead - Fiona Gibbs	01895 277 035
Prevent referrals to MASH	01895 556 644
Out of hours MASH	01895 250 111

For advice and support to parents concerned about radicalisation call the NSPCC. NSPCC helpline number is **0808 800 5000** and callers can remain anonymous.

Childline	0800 1111
NSPCC	0808 800 5000

Hillingdon MASH - Referral and Assessment Team

Website	https://hillingtonlscb.org.uk/professionals/useful-guidance/mash/
Phone	01895 556 633
Out of hours	01895 250111
Fax	01895 277 226
Email	ratduty@hillington.gov.uk

All referrals and requests for services for **children and families** go through the Social care triage team to MASH for assessment.

The interagency report form to be completed as requested please contact the LADO

Independent Safeguarding Authority - for advice re disqualification

www.isa-gov.org.uk

Parent's complaints regarding data protection or breaches of the GDPR contact the

ICO ico.org.uk

All Childcare Providers **must** also contact OFSTED Complaints, investigations and Enforcement Team on: **0300 123 1231 following any CP issues**

Ofsted

The National Business Unit
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

Helpline: **0300 123 1231**

Website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

If a child needs urgent medical attention you should contact the emergency Services by dialling: **999**

The main A&E department is at: Hillingdon Hospital, Pield Heath Road, Uxbridge. UB8 3NN

Tel: **01895 238282**