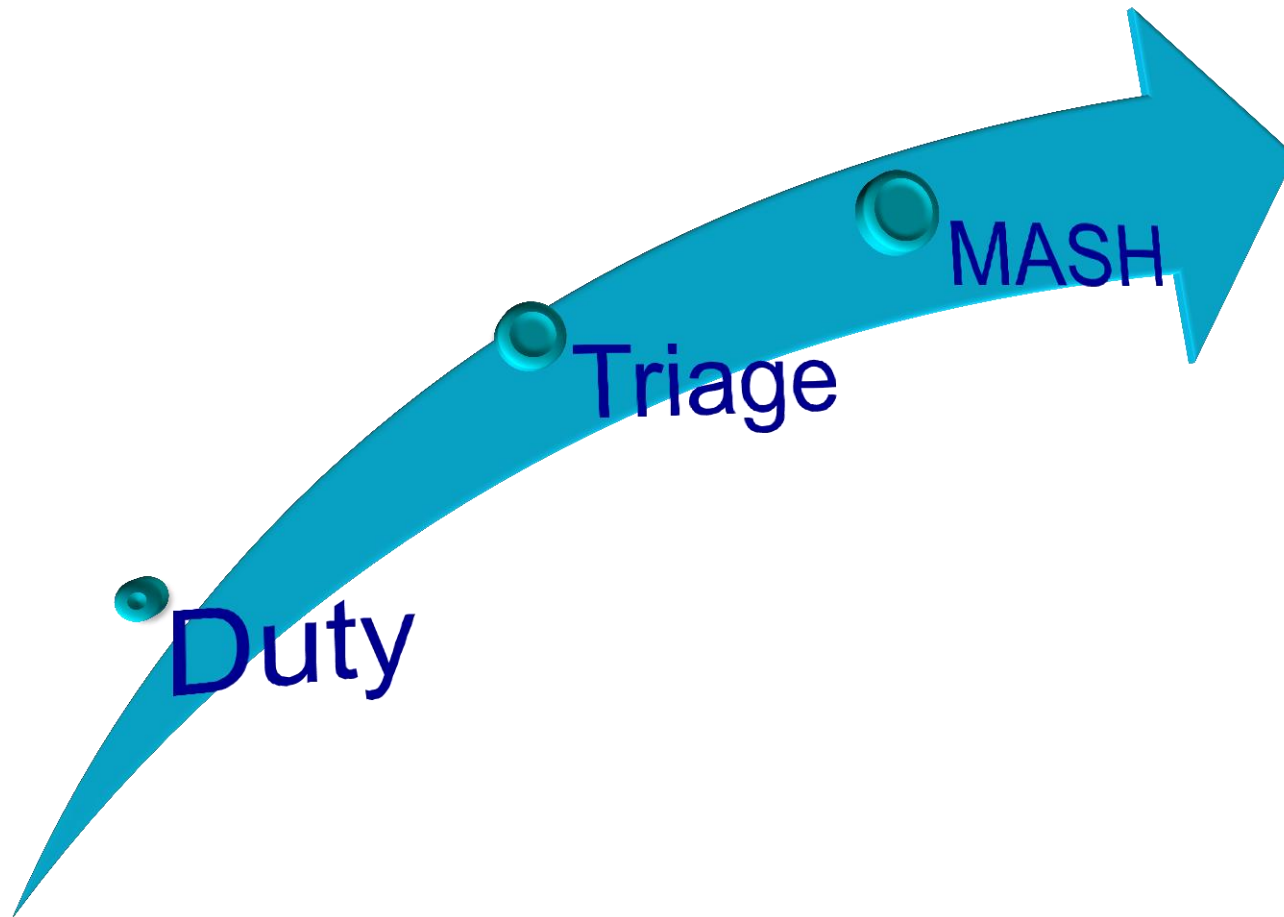


# MASH

Penny Davies



# Evolution

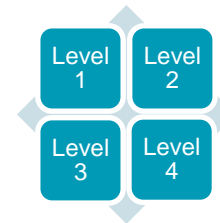


# Bexley MASH

- Why develop the MASH
- Why do we need a MASH
- Purpose of the MASH
- Benefits of the MASH
- What will the MASH do?

# What will the MASH do?

Provide a multi-agency team to screen what threshold level the referral meets



Assess the threshold level the referral meets using the continuum of need



Allocate for investigation to the most suitable agency

Allocate for investigation

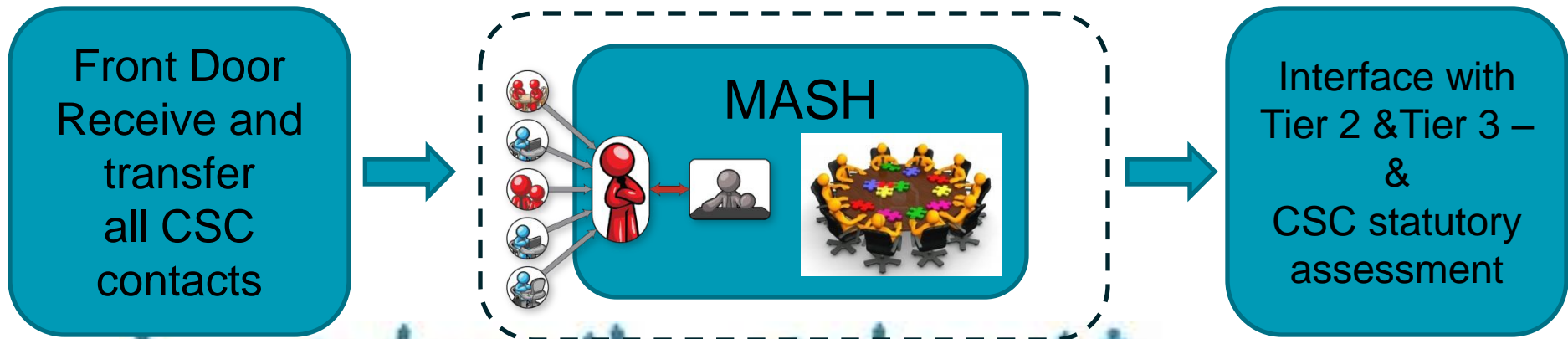


Information gathering and risk assessment

# Information Sharing in MASH



# Information Sharing in the MASH



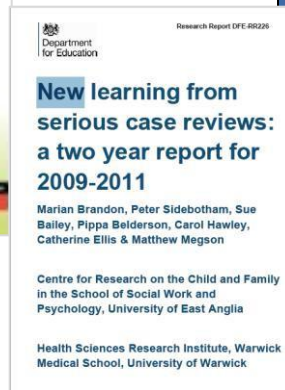
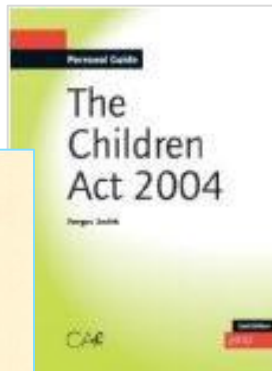
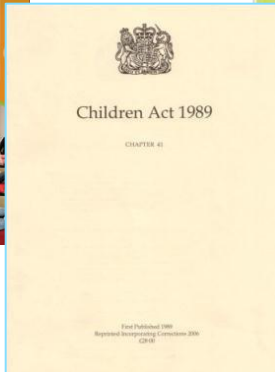
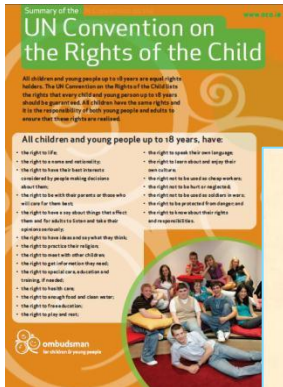
# Information Sharing in MASH is not... a single one-off decision



It is a process of a number of carefully calibrated decisions made at different times, by different people based upon professional judgement about risk and relevance.



# Evidence and Policy - 1989 to 2012



**Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH)**

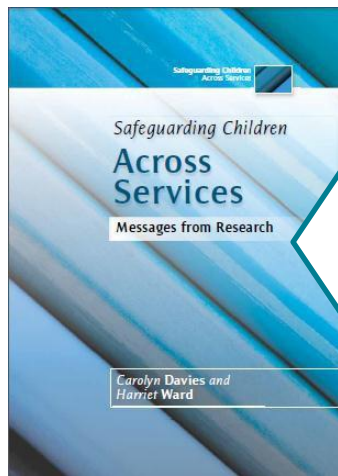
In 2008, Devon and Cornwall police and Devon County Council worked with other safeguarding partners to establish a more robust and secure system for sharing information across different agencies and partners. This coincided with Devon Safeguarding Children Board commissioning a multi-agency audit of safeguarding cases which had provided evidence that key pieces of information were not being shared between agencies and as a result outcomes for children and young people were being jeopardised.

The MASH comprises a multi-agency team of people who continue to be employed by their individual agencies (local authority, police and health services) but who are co-located in one office. It operates on the basis of a 'sealed' intelligence hub where protocols govern how and what information can be released in support of helping and protecting children and young people. Co-location was considered essential in order for the process to work, being the most effective means of building relationships, trust and understanding between agencies in order to enhance confidence in sharing information.

Notifications to the MASH are triaged by a social work manager who categorises them by making an initial judgment as to the level of risk to the child. The category determines the timescale for a decision to be made, ranging from a few hours (four hours in urgent cases) to a few days. Information is shared securely 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 has been gathered together, a social work manager makes a decision as to what further action is required.

An evaluative study commissioned by Devon County Council is showing early indications of improvements in decision making and outcomes for children and young people as a result of agencies being co-located. Better information is also leading to better responses to referrals. This has however also meant that workloads for the early help teams have increased and there is now a clear acknowledgement across statutory partners, that a better range of services is needed at this preventative tier if many of the children are to be helped early.

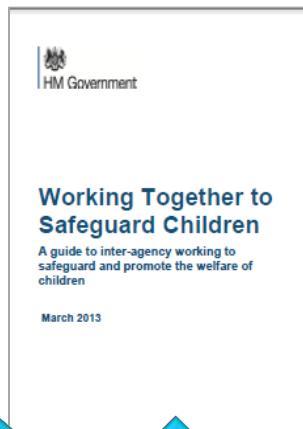
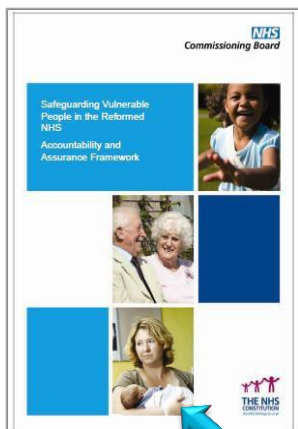
Developing multi-disciplinary teams and embedding practitioners in other services is a valuable way of improving inter-agency working



*Listening to you, working for you*



# Full Participation

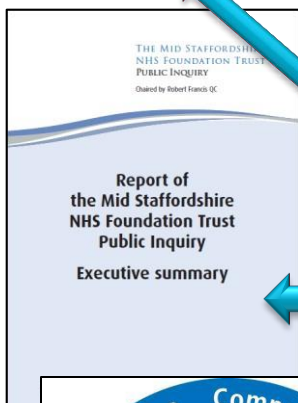


The Review Panel concludes that the good practice in sharing around safeguarding children is improving. There are concerns about inconsistent practice relating to identifying young people at serious risk. In addition, serious consideration should be given to reporting safeguarding concerns involving adults and whether patient consent should be sought or whether safeguarding concerns should be raised utilising a statutory gateway particularly about adults being cared for away from home.

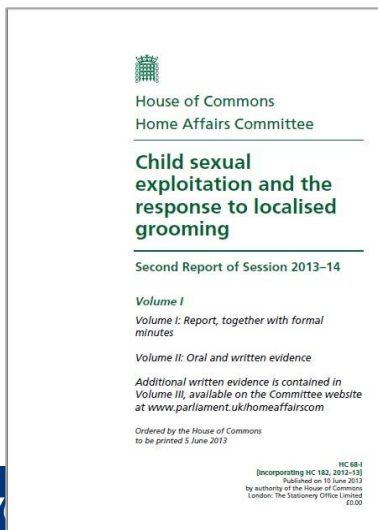
Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH) address a problem that has been brought up in almost every serious case review – lack of information sharing. The first MASH was the developed by Nigel Boulton, area commander of the Devon police. Professionals from children's care, police, education and health sitting alongside one another, with their respective IT systems, using shared information to inform an appropriate safeguarding response to a vulnerable person.

**Example**

A police report on a drugs warrant noted a young woman present who was in possession of a high quantity of valium pills. On processing it through the MASH, it was discovered that the woman was seven months pregnant, living in temporary accommodation, had exhibited anti-social behaviour, poor engagement with antenatal services and had a history of involvement with social services. The case was immediately passed to an assessment team and a child protection plan was drawn up due to fears of neglect<sup>127</sup>.



**Professional Responsibility & accountability is clearly articulated**



126. Witnesses have suggested that one way to ensure consistent data collection and recording across the country is to require that each LCSB set up a MASH. This would also require LSCBs which have not analysed the extent of child sexual exploitation within their local area to do so.

The benefits of a MASH are clear – as CEOP noted in their 2011 report, child sexual exploitation requires a multi-agency response.

... working for y

# Bexley Launch and Go Live of MASH

Go live & launch

**1<sup>st</sup> July 2014**

# Any Questions

