

BRENT CHILDREN'S FAMILY FRONT DOOR MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING HUB

13/01/2014

BFFD/GF



INCORPORATING
MASH

AIMS OF BRENT FAMILY FRONT DOOR

- ❖ **Develop - a multi-agency front door team, incorporating a multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH)**
- ❖ **Family Support - meeting different levels of need, from early help, working with families meeting the Troubled Families criteria, through to work with families with children or adolescents on the edge of care.**
- ❖ **Development - of an 'aligned services' strategy - Identification of wider service provision in order to improve and strengthen a wider range of 'aligned family support services' across services and partners.**



AIMS OF BRENT FAMILY FRONT DOOR

- **To fundamentally improve the way that Brent Council and its partners identify and deliver services to the borough's most vulnerable families.**
- **Build upon existing provision to ensure a more robust and coordinated range of early help services across the borough that are easier to navigate for both practitioners and families.**

THE FIVE CORE ELEMENTS

- **All notifications relating to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children to go through the hub.**
- **A process to identify victims and emerging harm through research and analysis**
- **An agreed process for analysing and assessing risk, based on the fullest information picture and dissemination of a suitable information product to the most appropriate agency for necessary action.**



THE FIVE CORE ELEMENTS

- **A co-located team of professionals from core agencies delivering an integrated service with the aim to research, interpret and determine what is proportionate and relevant to share**
- **The hub is fire walled, keeping MASH activity confidential and separate from operational activity and providing a confidential record system of activity to support this**



PARTNERS IN BRENT FAMILY FRONT DOOR

➤ Co-located:

- Children's Social Work Team
- Metropolitan Police Public Protection Officers
- Health professionals
- Family Solutions
- Family Information Service
- Probation (1day a week)

➤ Working closely alongside:

- Adult Safeguarding Team (Safeguarding Adults Manager and Safeguarding Liaison Officer on duty)

➤ Liaising/providing information:

- Housing
- Education Welfare Services
- Youth Offending and Integrated Youth Services



SUMMARY OF ELIGIBLE REFERRALS BY BOROUGH INCLUDED IN THE AUDIT ANALYSES

	Pre MASH referrals	Post MASH referrals
Brent	103	97
Tower Hamlets	104	N/A
Tri-borough	69	45

- **There was a significant increase in Brent and Westminster in children referred for possible neglect or abuse from pre to post MASH implementation.**

PERFORMANCE & COMPARATIVE DATA ANALYSIS

Turnaround time of referrals to the Tower Hamlets IPST and Brent and Westminster pre and post MASH implementation in working days (Mean (Standard deviation)) 3

Safeguarding approach

	Tower Hamlets IPST (n=104)	Brent and Westminster pre MASH (n=172)	Brent and Westminster post MASH (n=142)
Turn-around time in working days	1.12 (2.38)	1.92 (2.58)	1.66 (3.54)

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- The turnaround time for cases referred to the IPST in Tower Hamlets was significant lower than the turnaround time in Brent and Westminster before the implementation of MASH, but there was no significant difference to the post MASH implementation time in Brent and Westminster.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BRENT FAMILY FRONT DOOR

- **Efficiency.**
- **A MAFD will filter out 'noise in the system'. Risk assessment of police notifications of an incident involving a child, carried out by the police undertaking the MASH themselves**



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BRENT FAMILY FRONT DOOR

➤ Smoother Pathways.

- A MAFD (BFFD) offers simplification to current pathways to accessing services, and offers the potential of a coordinated multi-agency response to achieve better impact. Previously services were offered in isolation, or risked duplication of effort.

➤ Early identification

Some of the families who did not meet the social care threshold would benefit from some preventative support, and could be directed or signposted to early help services via the Multi-Agency Front Door.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BRENT FAMILY FRONT DOOR

➤ Better identification –

- **Of categories of children and young people at risk. The information-gathering process will greatly assist the work in tracking missing children, including children missing from education. It will also benefit work on identifying children or young people at risk of sexual exploitation, involved in gang activity**

➤ Integrated Working.

- **It will also help overcome some of the concerns which are continually highlighted in serious case reviews and other investigations – through improved communication and information-sharing between agencies and services**



CHALLENGES & INITIATIVES

- ❖ **BENEFITS WELFARE REFORM**
- ❖ **INFORMATION GOVERNANCE SHARING AGREEMENT SIGN OFF**
- ❖ **SECURE LOCATION – BFFD**
- ❖ **CONSISTENT STAFFING LEVELS**

➤ SHORT TERM PLANS

- ❖ **Adult Safeguarding**
- ❖ **Family Solutions**
- ❖ **Family Information Services**
- ❖ **Service Review June 2014**

➤ LONG TERM PLANS

- ❖ **Sourcing On-going Funding**

