



## **Final preparations underway for MASH to go live**

**Final preparations are underway for the Dudley Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) to go live this month.**

IT equipment will start to be installed next week in readiness for partners moving into the Corbyn Road base in mid May.

The MASH will bring together key professionals from organisations across the borough, including the council, education, police, probation, NHS and the voluntary sector and follows on from the council introducing a Single Point of Access (SPA) in December last year.

When referrals come into the SPA it separates enquiries from assessment activity as well as providing one single point through which all enquiries are managed. It has been well received, timeliness of threshold decision making has already improved and recent OFSTED inspection gave a positive account of the service. From May the MASH will deal with all referrals that meet threshold.

Working together, under one roof, agencies can securely share relevant information they have on the child and respond to safeguarding concerns more quickly and effectively.

The MASH will ensure joint discussions and decisions, so the most appropriate course of action is taken to keep children and young people safe.

It is key to early and effective identification of risk, improved information sharing, joint decision making and co-ordinated action, leading to improved outcomes.

**Tony Oakman, strategic director for people**, said: "We're in the final stage of preparations ahead of the MASH going live in mid May.

"I'd like to thank all staff and everyone from across all partner agencies who have worked so hard to ensure everything is in place for the launch.

“Multi agency working is key to keeping our children and young people safe and preventing harm and will make a real difference to the way we work together”

More than 550 people from all partner organisations attended briefing sessions last month to learn more about the changes that have taken place across children’s services, including the role of the MASH, how it will improve the way we protect our children as well the implications for practitioners.

An extra session for anyone who still wishes to attend is being held on June 1 from 2-4pm at Saltwells. Places can be booked via the [Dudley Children’s Safeguarding Board](#).

In addition, training sessions have taken place for those who will be working in the MASH, with additional IT training taking place next week (May 9, 10 and 12).

For more information, please visit <http://idudley/idudley/communications-matters/dudley-multi-agency-safeguarding-hub-mash/>