

North West Probation – Children’s Safeguarding Lead

[keywords: *safeguarding, young people*]

Overview

The St Helen’s and Moseley Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH) bring together all the main organisations concerned with safeguarding children in the area, including substance misuse and housing services, the police vulnerable persons unit, social services, and probation. We have appointed a full-time probation officer, supported by an administrator, as a single point of contact (SPOC) for the PDU with both MASH hubs. This has enabled us to significantly enhance information sharing between probation and other agencies to help improve safeguarding: allowing us to identify more effectively and quickly any people on probation who are in contact with children about whom there are safeguarding concerns, and work more effectively with them to help address any risks they present; while also helping to inform the assessment of, and responses to, those risks by the other agencies. In a single month, our MASH SPOC conducted 76 safeguarding screenings in the St Helen’s area alone.

Its impact

Introducing the safeguarding lead has improved information sharing between agencies, helped us improve our management of the safeguarding risks posed by people on probation, and helped better inform the work of the other agencies involved.

What’s special about it

We are not aware of other areas with a similar role at the time of writing (October 2024), but Merseyside (among others) are considering the idea.

Wider applicability

While there are resource implications of a full time MASH SPOC, with administrative support, we believe it would be of benefit more widely.

Further information

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