

Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

Referrals to MASH

We have developed a single front door into early help and children's social care.

In order to ensure that families receive the right help at the right time, a request for help and support or protection has been launched:

1. If as a professional – for example, school teacher, health visitor, midwife, general practitioner, housing officer, nursery staff, children centre staff you believe a child and their family may need some additional support, please discuss this with them first to agree who is best placed to provide that support. It is good practice to try to get a full picture of what is going on with a family and an early help assessment is the tool to help with this. However, sometimes it may be that a family needs some support more quickly and there are a number of support services available within Early Help that can assist before, during and after an early help assessment has been completed. The help and support part of the request form can be used for this.
2. a child has suffered or is likely to suffer significant harm or have any other child protection concerns, please contact the [Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub team](#) to discuss your concerns, and follow in writing on the Protection part of the single multi agency request form;
3. if a child is at immediate risk of harm please use the emergency number 999 or contact your local police on 101;
4. Waltham Forest Early Help and Threshold Criteria for Intervention is the multi-agency threshold tool to use as a point of reference when assessing level of support needed/risks present. Professionals should refer to the threshold document before making a referral to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub

Please visit the [Waltham Forest Council website](#) to find out more about the MASH in Waltham Forest, with information covering the following:

- Documents to assist professionals in making a good referral
- How to contact MASH
- The feedback process
- Parental consent
- Dispute resolution

A Guide to thresholds and practice for working with children and families in Waltham Forest

The Waltham Forest Safeguarding Children Board has produced a guide to thresholds and practice for working with children and families in Waltham Forest. The guide is the multi-agency document that sets out our vision and values, and the role and responsibilities of all agencies to work together so that every child in the borough has the best possible outcomes. Professionals should refer to the guide before making a referral to the Mash team.

The Guide itself has been developed to help practitioners understand and apply our approach to working with children, families and communities in Waltham Forest.

To access the resource guide along with the bite size video to disseminate throughout your organisation visit link below

- [A guide to thresholds and practice for working with children and families in Waltham Forest](#)

(650KB PDF)

- [bitesize guide video for front line practitioners](#)

Training slides are available from the Strategic Partnerships Unit to use alongside your own agencies safeguarding training. Please contact Zahra.Jones@walthamforest.gov.uk

Main page**link:**

<https://directory.walthamforest.gov.uk/kb5/walthamforest/directory/advice.page?id=HztREMmHJlg>

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