

Paper 3 - for information and discussion

MAST

Key Messages

Forum members are asked to:

- Review and discuss the 'Early Help offer for schools' leaflet produced by MAST on behalf of MAST, parenting, schools advice teams, early years and SEND.
- Consider the process and criteria for referrals to early help services in Sheffield.
- Comment on the imminent re-branding of the Multi-Agency Support Teams.

1. Introduction/background

- 1.1. Further to the funding paper at the February Schools Forum and additional discussion at the Forum Chairs' briefing. It was suggested that an update be provided by the Multi-agency Support Team (MAST) regarding the £3.03m support for the Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy which is provided through the Central Services Schools Block (CSSB) historic funding.
- 1.2. A leaflet has been designed to outline the key developments in how Sheffield City Council's early help services provide support across the education partnership.
- 1.3. There is a need for education providers to know what support is available to them from early help services to help them promote their students' welfare and wellbeing whilst within their provision and within their wider social and familial networks.
- 1.4. It is important for schools to know where to access support for a range of issues that may not meet the remit of MAST.
- 1.5. Where children and families are receiving a service from MAST, it is important to recognise the Team Around the Family (TAF) meeting approach as being the primary driver of change and progress.





2. The current offer

- 2.1. From the early help review, we know that families and partner agencies are not clear about the interventions on offer from Early Help Services. MAST is often seen to represent the wider early help offer however MAST is one of a number of services that sit within a network of early help service providers. MAST, the

Schools Advice teams and the Parenting teams are the general early help offer from the Children and Families portfolio of Sheffield City Council.

- 2.2. There are also early help services in the Communities Directorate (Family Centres and Community Youth Services) and in the Education & Skills Directorate (Access & Inclusion and Early Years Quality Improvement). We know that for schools it is sometimes difficult to know which early help service will best meet the needs of families which is why both the school link worker and the Early Help Screening team support, advise and onward refer to other Early Help services as needed to ensure that families get the right service as quickly as possible.
- 2.3. Based upon the current threshold of need (currently undergoing review), MAST is a Tier 4 service that provides intensive 'whole family' support to address at least 3 headline problems as set within the Building Successful Families programme:
 - Families diverted from crime
 - Good early years development
 - Good mental health
 - Good school attendance and behaviour
 - No/managed substance misuse
 - Good family relationships
 - Safe from domestic abuse
 - Children safe from abuse/exploitation
 - Secure housing
 - Financial stability
- 2.4. MAST can be accessed through an early help part 1 referral or the Family Common Assessment Framework (FCAF) referral to earlyhelpswpi@sheffield.gov.uk
- 2.5. The schools' advice team provides a dedicated link worker to your provision (Appendix 1) who will meet with yourselves and the family within school to provide a short intervention focused on a particular difficulty a family may be facing. Whilst the team sit under the MAST structure, the family are not at this point open to MAST. Should the school link worker identify a role for MAST intervention, they will support you to make a referral to the front door of MAST as above.
- 2.6. Your school link worker will be able to signpost you to other services within the wider early help partnership to help you understand the full range of early support for families within the City. Details can also be found at [Children and Families Advice and Information|Sheffield Directory](#)
- 2.7. The Parenting team offers and delivers a whole population approach model evidenced based parenting programmes including seminars, discussion groups and programmes delivered through groupwork. To provide individual parenting support to families, the parenting team trains MAST professionals in the use of

parenting approaches. They also offer a range of self-help resources that can be accessed by families and professionals.

- 2.8. Families can keep up to date with parenting news, information and events on our social media channels    
- 2.9. For group work programmes, an Early Help Part 1 form should be completed. For full information about all of the programmes we deliver you can access a copy of the What's on Guide on our [webpage](#).
- 2.10. Book directly for seminars and discussion groups through [Sheffield Parent Hub Events | Eventbrite](#)
- 2.11. School staff are also able to access the range of Early Help Training free of charge which has a wide range of topics covered that will be of interest and support the continual professional development of school pastoral staff. See separate document for next term's offer. (Appendix 2).
- 2.12. We are currently in the process of updating our web presence to ensure our current offer is reflected accurately to our partners. The name 'Multi Agency Support Teams' is outdated as it refers to the original service configuration and scope that has changed significantly over the last decade. There is confusion among referrers about what the current service offer is compared to what the Multi-Agency Support Teams originally were able to provide. The amount of early help provision in the city has increased however it is no longer all within the service still called "MAST". We are therefore recommending a MAST 're-brand and re-name' to clarify our offer and would invite our partners for any comments or recommendations.
- 2.13. Whilst MAST may work with families who face a number of headline problems, they do not offer primary support for the following areas – there are other Early Help services who offer support in these areas. If you are unsure of where to access support for these areas, your school's link worker will be able to direct you to the most appropriate form of support:
- Attendance and Inclusion
 - Emotional Health and Wellbeing
 - Housing
 - Financial support
 - Community Youth Services
- 2.14. We know that for those children and families receiving an intervention service from MAST co-ordinated by Team around the Family plan (TAF), education input to the TAF meetings is absolutely essential to building successful outcomes and strong partnership working. We are keen to understand your experiences of the TAF process and would wish to consult with education providers to this effect.

2.15. We will actively listen and deal with any issues you would wish to raise or escalate with us and where this relates to an individual TAF, we would encourage you to speak to the allocated MAST worker who is leading the TAF or their team manager in the first instance as we believe in the benefit of having restorative conversations as a sound foundation of practice.

2.16. Through the Team Around the School model, we are refocusing the TAF plan as being the right place for plans for the relevant professional network to come together and discuss/agree the plan of support with the family, as otherwise there is the potential for vulnerable children and families to be discussed at multiple forums where the parent voice may not be heard.

3. MAST Financial Investment 2021/22 (need to discuss as doesn't tie in with any other information)

3.1. The MAST workforce to provide and support the current offer is primarily constructed in the following way:

- 12 Qualified Early Help Social Worker (Screening SWIPI's) £602,016
- 108 Intervention workers including School and Communities £3,621,024
- 18 Practice Leads including SEND £707,076
- 22 Team Managers £964,854
- 5 Assistant Service Managers £377,766
- 1 Service Manager £70,573

4. Data

Financial Year 2021/22

4.1. MAST schools and communities teams held 1,734 advice sessions across 181 school settings.

4.2. The Early Help Hub (screening) received 2,206 contacts from schools.

4.3. The number of school age children allocated a MAST worker supported by a plan of intervention or provided with a parenting specialist in 2021/22 was 5,799.

Academic Year

4.4. We held 1,786 for advice sessions with 181 schools academic year 2020/21 and have held 1,839 advice sessions with 177 schools across Sheffield 2021/22 to date. This identifies an increase in demand with six weeks left in this academic year.

4.5. From the advice sessions from 2021/22 academic year the main outcomes recorded were 412 resulting in an FCAF, 259 were directed to the parenting team, 158 brief interventions were provided (6-week intervention) and advice

given for 1,520 children. 22 advice sessions resulted in a school TAF being completed.

- 4.6. The Early Help Hub (screening) academic year 2021/22 has received 1,516 contacts from schools to date.
- 4.7. 5,249 school-aged children have been allocated a MAST intervention worker and supported by a plan of intervention or provided with a parenting specialist.
- 4.8. In addition, this academic year the Sheffield Safeguarding Hub has screened 4,260 children after contact from schools. 1,055 children discussed by the Safeguarding Hub received an Early Help service when it was identified the threshold for a statutory social care intervention was not met.

5. Recommendations

Forum members are asked to:

- Note and consider the information provided.
- Endorse the distribution of the early help leaflet.
- Consult with MAST in respect to the quality of TAFs within the City.
- Escalate any concerns through the appropriate management structure

Appendices

1. Schools link workers
2. Early Help Training offer
3. The Early Help Offer for schools Leaflet