

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

Referrals and Thresholds Working Group

Introduction

This document provides the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Redbridge Referrals and Thresholds Working Group.

Background

The quality of referrals and implementation of the thresholds for intervention are key to ensuring that a child protection response and resources are provided to those children most in need. Where referrals are incomplete, inappropriate or delayed, this results in inefficiency both for the agency making the referral and for the Screening Team within the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and potentially increased risk for children.

Purpose

The purpose of the Working Group is to provide a multi-agency forum for discussion, information sharing, learning and promotion of good practice in relation to child protection referrals and thresholds for intervention. The aim is that through working together and providing mutual professional challenge referrals will reach a high standard in terms of quality, appropriateness and timeliness and that those requiring Level 2 interventions will not be delayed but referred directly to the Families Together Hub.

Chair and Secretariat

The meetings will be chaired by the Service Manager for MASH/Emergency Duty Team in the London Borough of Redbridge (LBR). The Deputy Chair is the MASH Team Manager, LBR. The Working Group is supported by the Redbridge Safeguarding Children Partnership (RSCP) Manager or a member of the RSCP Team.

Meetings

Meetings will be of an hour duration and take place fortnightly, with a review after the first three months.

Membership, Attendance and Quoracy

A wide range of professionals – both managers and practitioners - have been invited to join the Working Group from across agencies working with children, young people and families, including health, education, social care, police and the community and voluntary sector.

It is appreciated that smaller agencies may not be able to be represented at every meeting but they will be encouraged and supported to attend as often as possible.

A meeting will be considered quorate if there are representatives from at least the statutory safeguarding partners i.e. CCG, Police and the Local Authority.

Date: October 2020