

Case Study 2

A MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) enquiry was received from the senior designated officer at a school. The school was concerned that a child had been present when his stepfather had been stopped for driving dangerously in a car without MOT or insurance. The school had also heard a rumour that the child's stepfather and mother had been involved in a violent incident that the police had responded to. CYPs (Children and Young People's Service) had no previous contact with the family and the MASH enquiry was initially risk assessed as green. Police research discovered evidence of serious violence in which both the mother and stepfather had been involved in a robbery where a man had been stabbed in the arm. There had also been numerous police attendances to incidents that indicated that both parents were heavy drug users. Health research identified an extensive history of attendances by the child and a history of bereavements. The education information revealed that the child had learning and emotional difficulties and was a low achiever for his age. The school was concerned about his lack of academic and social progress. A referral was sent through to the local assessment team to undertake an initial assessment, in order to ascertain whether child protection procedures should be implemented. The local office completed its assessment and convened a child protection strategy discussion. Given the lack of information at the point of the initial MASH enquiry, it is highly likely that, prior to the MASH, no further action would have been taken. The MASH process ensured that there was a timely and appropriate response.