

Chief Executive

Cc Directors of Children Services

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Your ref:  
Our ref:

**Re: Inclusion of Vulnerable Adult information on MERLIN reports.**

Colleagues,

I am writing to you to explain recent changes that the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) has made to the way it records and assesses information it receives from operational activity in relation to vulnerable adults.

These changes are not intended to alter the existing agreements and arrangements for Multi Agency safeguarding Hubs (MASH).

Police officers encounter adults who may be considered vulnerable by means of mental health, age, illness or disability and where a safeguarding concern is raised. As of the 2nd April 2013 these 'vulnerable adults' together with those subject to Section 135 & 136 Mental Health Act 1983 will be recorded on the MPS MERLIN information system in the category of Adult Come to Notice (ACN). The primary reason for this development is to assist improvements in the MPS response to vulnerability supported with better information arising from previous incidents.

We have decided, following a review that the best place for the MPS to manage ACN reports is through the existing Public Protection Desks (PPDs). These teams have the most appropriate skill sets to effectively risk assess these reports based upon their previous experience in dealing with children who come to notice. This arrangement supports a consistent process, informed risk assessment and allows us to ensure that only the agreed local referral routes are used for the ACN.

The MPS currently makes referrals to multi-agency partners in respect of vulnerable adults and this development is not intended to replace existing pathways or arrangements. The MPS does not intend by this development to impose adult referrals into the MASH.

The MPS has strongly committed to supporting the multi-agency partnership in London to deliver improvements to services to vulnerable children through the MASH Project. We are investing and transforming our 32 PPDs into co-located MASH teams. The MPS strongly supports this principle that at this stage MASH is focused upon concerns relating to children. MPS MASH Project Team will monitor the numbers of ACN reports submitted so that there is sufficient capability in place to manage

these. We recognise that this is particularly important where PPDs have transformed into co-located MASH teams that will continue to focus in the main on child notifications.

The MPS recognises the Local Authority lead in relation to MASH and will work alongside and at the agreed pace of each local safeguarding partnership in respect of the development of MASH and any future extension of the current MASH agreements to include vulnerable adults. We are aware that in London there are significant differences in the structures and arrangements of our partner agencies and fully respect this situation.

This year we will see the majority of London Boroughs commencing full MASH activity and we in the MPS recognise the importance of working with our partners to progress and improve service delivery to all vulnerable people within the scope of local arrangements. We already know that some partnerships wish to include vulnerable adults within the MASH from the initial stages and that others are not currently prioritising this arrangement. By aligning the ACN reports to our PPD/MASH teams the MPS will be able to serve the needs of all its partners and ensure the most efficient and effective transfer of information within local agreements.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Basu', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Neil Basu**  
Commander TP