

Locality & Community Support Service

A Guide for Professionals Working with Children and Families



Introduction

The Locality and Community Support Service (LCSS) has been created as part of Oxfordshire County Council's, Children's Services Integration Programme to support partner agencies across Oxfordshire. It is a professional facing service (including community/voluntary sector).



Contact details

LCSS North	Tel: 0345 2412703	Samuelson House, Tramway Rd, Banbury OX16 5AU	LCSS.North@oxfordshire.gov.uk
LCSS Central	Tel: 0345 2412705	Knights Court, Between Towns Road, Cowley, Oxford, OX4 3LX	LCSS.Central@oxfordshire.gov.uk
LCSS South	Tel: 0345 2412608	Abbey House, Abbey Close, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 3JD	LCSS.South@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Opening Hours: 8.30 – 5pm (Mon – Thurs) 8.30am – 4pm (Fri)

When to contact LCSS

You should contact the Locality Community Support Service if you:

- ✚ Have emerging concerns for a child that does not require an immediate safeguarding response
- ✚ Need support or guidance with an Early Help Assessment or TAF
- ✚ Wish to complete a No Names Consultation

Professionals should:

- ✚ Discuss their concerns with the family
- ✚ Gain advice from LCSS with family's knowledge
- ✚ If you wish to discuss a concern without a family's consent you can gain advice via a No Names Consultation only
- ✚ Refer to the Threshold of Need Matrix

If LCSS are supporting you with a family and immediate safeguarding concerns arise, you must call the MASH immediately

The Role of the LCSS

The Locality and Community Support Service (LCSS) has been created as part of Oxfordshire County Council's, Children's Services Integration Programme.

LCSS will work with professionals (including community and voluntary partners) and provide the following services:

🔗 Advice and guidance to all community professionals who have concerns about a child or family, which is not an immediate safeguarding concern (these should be referred straight to the MASH)
🔗 A named link worker to specific organisations for example schools and GP
🔗 A No Names Consultation service which enables professionals to talk through concerns for children where there is no consent from the family
🔗 Support professionals when a MASH enquiry does not lead to a Statutory Children’s Services referral , to ensure that Early Help Assessment (EHA) (previously CAF)/Team Around the Family (TAF) processes are in place within the community
🔗 Support professionals to access targeted support within Children's Services to ensure children get the right support at the right time
🔗 Review all Early Help Assessments and support professionals to complete them where appropriate, and offer feedback to support on-going professional development
🔗 Provide support to Lead Professionals, including the provision of advice and attendance at Team Around the Family meetings where appropriate
🔗 Deliver Early Help Assessment & Team Around the Family training to ensure plans are child centred and family focussed. In addition the team will facilitate local network and training events in response to your area's need
🔗 Share information of the services/resources available to partners which can be used to support children and families within their locality
🔗 If the family has an EHA/TAF and non-immediate safeguarding concerns arise that require a referral to Children's Social Care (CSC) the LCSS worker, if in support, will initiate this referral into CSC

LCSS No Names Consultations

A No Names Consultation enables professionals to talk through concerns they have for children when there is not an immediate safeguarding concern and where there is no consent from the family.

LCSS operate across the North, Central and South of Oxfordshire – the contact numbers are for all partner agencies in Oxfordshire (including our voluntary/community agencies) not for members of the public use.

LCSS North	Tel: 0345 2412703
LCSS Central	Tel: 0345 2412705
LCSS South	Tel: 0345 2412608

LCSS Advice and Support

The LCSS Teams will provide advice and support to professionals on Early Help Assessments (EHA-formerly CAF's) and Team around the Family (TAFs). They will also be responsible for the storage, reviewing and feedback to professionals on EHAs and TAFs completed.

All EHA's and TAF minutes will need to be sent to your local LCSS team. Their details are:

LCSS North	Samuelson House, Tramway Rd, Banbury OX16 5AU	LCSS.North@oxfordshire.gov.uk
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LCSS South	Abbey House, Abbey Close, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 3JD	LCSS.South@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Early Help Referral Route

LCSS will be the route into Early Help. LCSS will work with partners to identify those families who require additional support from the Early Help Team in the Family Solutions Service, and will facilitate a service from the team.

What to do if you are concerned about a child: Helping you understand the front door to Children's Services

Immediate Concerns about a Child

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) will remain the front door to Children's Social Care for all child protection and immediate safeguarding concerns. If there is an immediate safeguarding concern, for example:

- ✚ Allegations/concerns that the child has been sexually/physically abused
- ✚ Concerns that the child is suffering from severe neglect or other severe health risks
- ✚ Concern that a child is living in or will be returned to a situation that may place him/her at immediate risk
- ✚ The child is frightened to return home
- ✚ The child has been abandoned or parent is absent

You should call the MASH immediately

Tel: 0345 050 7666

(This number will take you through to Customer Services who will ask a series of questions and triage into MASH where safeguarding concerns are raised).

A No Names Consultation should not be used for the above scenarios.

Non-Immediate Concerns about a Child

If you have a concern about a child/family but it is not an immediate safeguarding concern, as described above, then you should look at the Threshold of Needs matrix tool which can be found on Oxfordshire County Council Website. This tool is designed to support professionals to make decisions as to whether contact needs to be made with Childrens Services and if so which team.

The LCSS service can be contacted to discuss emerging concerns for children to support partner agencies to gain the right support at the right time.