

Freedom of Information – Response – 26833

Subject: Freedom of Information Request – MASH Screening Decisions (Children's Services, 2024 2025)

Please treat this as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for aggregated, non personal statistical data. No case narratives or identifiers required.

Time period: 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2025

Scope: Suffolk Children's Social Services MASH only

PART A: Structured Data (if held)

Please confirm whether MASH case systems record the following in reportable fields (not free text):

Service user gender (male/female parent/carer)

Referral outcome (screened out vs progressed)

Direct contact made with referred/disclosing parent

Risk assessment field completed

Decision rationale/manager sign off recorded

Suffolk County Council (SCC) do not record any of the above, apart from referral outcome, in a reportable format.

If yes, provide counts separately for male vs female parents/carers:

Total MASH referrals

Screened out (no progression to assessment/Early Help/statutory intervention)

Screened out without recorded risk assessment

Direct contact made with referred/disclosing parent during screening

Screened out without recorded decision rationale

Screened out cases that were re-referred within 12 months

N/A

If no (manual review needed), confirm this and provide:

Any available aggregate statistics (e.g., total screened out; % with risk assessments)

Suffolk County Council have interpreted this question as Contacts received in MASH and have provided you with data for the outcome statistics, this is the only statistics that we are able to provide without manual reviews of the information held.

Counting MASH outcomes that were decided in 2024-25, there were:

<i>Outcomes in 2024 and 2025</i>	<i>Number of Contacts</i>
<i>Information, Advice and Guidance</i>	<i>35165</i>
<i>Transfer to Childrens Social Care</i>	<i>5860</i>
<i>New Early Help</i>	<i>1050</i>
<i>Existing Early Help</i>	<i>808</i>
<i>No Further Action</i>	<i>426</i>
<i>Redirect to other LA</i>	<i>160</i>
<i>Other</i>	<i>75</i>
<i>Transfer to Adults Social Care</i>	<i>2</i>

Total referrals by gender (if recorded)

SCC do record gender however, this is not in a reportable format for parents/carers in the context of MASH contacts and would require us to go into each individual referral to identify the requested information.

PART B: Key Documents (titles + full text where feasible)

Please provide or confirm existence of:

MASH screening/thresholds guidance (version(s) applicable at within scope)

Yes.

Documents stating screening out should be exceptional/rare or defining when screening out is appropriate

Recording standards for screening decisions and documentation requirements

Protocol governing when to contact disclosing/referred parents during screening

Protocol/risk assessment framework for decisions NOT to contact a disclosing/referred parent

SCC do not hold the information you have requested as this is not terminology that is used. If you are able to provide us with a further explanation as to what each question means, then we would be happy to revisit the questions.

We can confirm however, that MASH checks to partner agencies are based on professional judgment and assessed on a case-by-case basis.

QA/audit reports on MASH screening decisions or documentation standards (2024 2025)

Yes.

Training materials on equality, unconscious bias, or working with fathers/male carers in MASH

Yes.

Any complaints, concerns, or internal reviews addressing screening documentation or gender disparities (2024 2025)

Suffolk County Council do not hold this information as we do not record these themes.