

'Out of This World' Conference



- ✓ *"The best conference I have attended"*
- ✓ *"Really thought provoking"*
- ✓ *"Already thinking about how my practice can change"*
- ✓ *"Inspiring and motivating"*
- ✓ *"All speakers were excellent and informative"*
- ✓ *"Really impressive"*
- ✓ *"Such brilliant organisation"*

The 'Out of this World' Conference to launch North Lincolnshire's new multi agency safeguarding arrangements took place on Friday 2 November 2018 at Forest Pines.

Over 150 people attended from the safeguarding partner organisations and other agencies and organisations including leaders at all levels and young people representatives, who will be responsible for contributing to shaping and influencing the strategic direction as we move to beyond outstanding.

There was a great atmosphere at the event. It was really lively and there was lots of discussion.

Pete Thorpe, Director of Learning, Skills and Culture, North Lincolnshire Council, formally opened the conference and introduced the audience to the place of North Lincolnshire



'Out of This World' Conference - Programme

8.30am	Arrival, refreshments and registration	11.00am	Feedback and sign up
9.00am	And so it begins....	11.20am	Transitional safeguarding
9.05am	Welcome and introductions	12.20am	Lunch and networking
9.15am	Young people's contributions film	1.15pm	Tabletop discussion and feedback
9.25am	Mission to MARS – taking children's services to outstanding and beyond	1.45pm	Safeguarding in focus – forced marriage and honour based abuse
10.15am	Break	2.45pm	Final questions and close
10.40am	Tabletop discussion		

Rosie Parkin, Youth Councillor, North Lincolnshire Youth Council reinforced the importance of young people being part of the solution and introduced a film which provided a great overview of some local examples of co-production.



Safeguarding partners, Mick Gibbs, Clare Linley and Darren Downs formally launched the Children's MARS arrangements by talking about our Mission to MARS and how we can take services to children, young people and families to outstanding and beyond. Their input focussed on what we want to achieve, how we will know when we get there and what it means practically. The session culminated in them 'signing up' to the new arrangements.



The conference was also an exciting opportunity to hear from nationally acclaimed speakers Dez Holmes and Jasvinder Sanghera.

Risk, rights, resilience and relationships: Redesigning our approach to safeguarding young people – Dez Holmes, Research in Practice



Dez was a headline speaker at our previous LSCB conference on Messages from Research in Practice – a focus on adolescents in March 2017, in which she challenged us to work differently with adolescents. We have made headway on this e.g. effective development and use of guidance, risk assessments and toolkits (not checklists) for child sexual and criminal exploitation, using the right language to change perceptions of adolescents and making agencies approaches personal to young people. This ethos remains at the heart of our new arrangements.

Dez's presentation kicked off by asking us 'what makes adolescents special?' - the range, nature and causes of adolescent risks are different than those faced by groups younger and older than them. It was significant that when referring to building resilience, that Dez indicated that 'North Lincolnshire gets it' and that it is not the case that resilience 'comes with birthdays'.

Crucially, Dez advocated that practitioners need to 'love' the young people and families they work with and that there needs to be a refocus on young people as individuals including their interests, strengths and their assets.

Significantly, adolescent safeguarding needs and the harms they face are often contextual and connected and extend beyond the family environment to the wider 'place'. Dez posed that there was a policy gap in the child protection system – it has been designed to protect children and young people in the family system, though does not necessarily address the wider 'place' or when children and young people become young adults with their own needs. When talking about transitional safeguarding, Dez posed that there is a need to redefine adolescence, transition and the system, which consider young people to become adults at 18, but that it needs to take account that adolescence more closely aligns with 10 to 24 years old.

There are opportunities to learn from adult safeguarding in relation to making safeguarding personal (person led, risk enablement, choice and control), which is underpinned by six principles: empowerment, prevention, proportionality, protection, partnership and accountability.

Dez highlighted the importance of relationships, particularly for the most vulnerable young people. Dez posed that we're all allowed to have 'dodgy mates' and that it isn't necessarily about eradicating all the negative influences in young people's lives, but about them developing self-esteem, building resilience and supporting them to understand the risks they face and how to keep themselves and their friends safe. Relationships are key to building resilience and self-efficacy is crucial to resilience, as is positive identity and aspirations.

'If you have participation but no protection – it's not participation'

'If you have protection, but no voice – you're not protecting'

'Resilient young people in resilient communities need resilient practitioners'.

Useful links:

- [Research in Practice – That Difficult Age: Developing a more effective response to risks in adolescence \(2015\)](#)
- [Contextual Safeguarding – Carlene Firmin at the University of Bedfordshire](#)
- [Research in Practice - Transitional safeguarding - adolescence to adulthood: Strategic Briefing \(2018\)](#)
- [Information on brain development is available on the Child Welfare Information Gateway](#)

A big thanks goes to Mike Adnitt, Principal at The St Lawrence's Academy for introducing and thanking Dez and for summarising her headline presentation about how schools are central to building resilience for children and young people in North Lincolnshire.

Forced Marriage and Honour Based Abuse – Jasvinder Sanghera, Karma Nirvana

Jasvinder gripped the audience from start to finish with her own compelling story, other people's stories of forced marriage and honour based abuse as well as explaining her founding of Karma Nirvana and their unique work relating to forced marriage and honour based abuse.

Some of the statistics confirmed that many people have been disowned by their family due to forced marriage or honour based abuse, that a high proportion of South Asian born women, age 18 to 24, commit suicide and that many men who contact Karma Nirvana are gay. Other communities affected are Kurdish, Iranian and the new communities that are from Somali.

It is significant that for some, honour will come before abuse and that where we see a victim, the family see a perpetrator.



Jasvinder cogently talked about the key aspects of honour being considered as 'broken', 'gained' and risk indicators also the power of her presentation came through as she talked about deeply affecting victim's experiences, linking these to indicators and the 'Do's' and 'Do Not's' of best practice.

Some 'Do's' are that:

- ✓ Missing Person policies should include indicators of forced marriage and honour based abuse
- ✓ Remove dual passports and any other travel documents
- ✓ If a child is likely to be travelling abroad, get the names of villages, landmarks as there are no postcodes in India
- ✓ In terms of ABE interviews and needing translators, use them from out of area
- ✓ Remind the victim that they are not going against their religion or culture

Victims of forced marriage or honour based abuse do not tend to own being a victim yet there are ways to help them to do it. Survivor engagement is key to addressing the issues and Karma Nirvana have 'survivor ambassadors' to help with this.

'You are creating a new legacy when you get forced marriage or honour based abuse right'.

Useful links:

- [Karma Nirvana](#)
- [Government's Female Genital Mutilation Unit](#)
- [Home Office consultation to put in a place a duty to report forced marriage like female genital mutilation – ends on 23 January 2019](#)

Copies of the presentations are available under [key documents](#) on the Children's MARS website.

Reflections and Feedback

Without exception, all feedback about the speakers was extremely positive.

Attendees at the conference fed back specific comments regarding Dez, including:

- ✓ *"Fab speaker, wealth of knowledge, inspirational, WOW"*
- ✓ *"Reframing adolescence"*
- ✓ *"Brilliant"*
- ✓ *"Challenging the system – minding the gap!"*
- ✓ *"The system needs to change"*
- ✓ *"Need to rethink risk in adolescence"*

Feedback about Jasvinder and other reflections included:

"Just wanted to thank you for inviting me to the presentation on Friday – it was amazing. The speakers were fantastic really motivational and inspirational. I came away and re-read my copy of 'Shame'".

Rachael C Taylor, Senior Probation Officer

"Whilst it was, at first, a little daunting walking into a room full of professionals to deliver a speech, I soon realised that everyone was there for the same reason: to help the children, young people and families of North Lincs. The atmosphere was really positive and it felt like a really productive day. I particularly enjoyed the speech by Jasvinder. I remember reading her story in the news a few years ago so it was nice to hear about the work she is doing first hand. It was very emotional but I came away feeling better informed on the subject. On the back of her talk, I have invited Jasvinder to talk to us at youth council in a few months time. It is the first time I have attended an event of that scale and I was impressed with how all the agencies interacted with each other. There were lots of positive conversations about where we go from here and making plans for the future. But my absolute highlight of the day were the pens... The pulley out banner inside was really cool!"

Rosie Parkin, Youth Councillor, North Lincolnshire Youth Council

"Many thanks for the excellent conference today: stimulating and thought provoking speakers, just the right amount of time for sharing ideas and high quality facilities provided by the hotel..... I look forward to continuing my support for safeguarding in NLC in the new arrangements".

Ewart Gibbs, Head Teacher, Leys Farm Junior School

"I just wanted to say thank you for putting on such a fantastic event on Friday. Such a lot of hard work must have gone into this and it clearly paid off. The speakers were fantastic and from the conversations around the room, they got everyone's thoughts going about how to develop practice further. It was a really well planned, inspirational day so thank you to you all for the time and effort that went into putting this on."

Charlene Sykes, Service Manager, North Lincolnshire Council

"Thank you for inviting me to the launch of your Multi Agency Safeguarding and Resilience Safeguarding Arrangements on Friday. It was very useful to our thinking in how we begin to shape the arrangements in Hull."

Alison Murphy, Director for Children's Services, Hull City Council

If you have any queries or comments regarding this information, please contact mars@northlincs.gov.uk