



# CHILDREN'S MARS BOARD

## NEWS UPDATE

**Edition 2 – April 2019**

# What's in this News Update

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# Welcome

Welcome to the 2nd edition of the news update for the North Lincolnshire Children's Multi Agency Resilience and Safeguarding (MARS) arrangements.

This news update is one way of communicating information and messages relating to the Children’s MARS arrangements.

The main focus of this edition is to update on the Children's MARS Board, to confirm progress relating to the Multi Agency Innovation Hub, to raise awareness of Safeguarding Partners portfolio areas, to update on key partnerships and to highlight key communications and relevant contacts.

## Safeguarding Partners Multi Agency Innovation Hub

The Safeguarding Partners Multi-Agency Innovation Hub is one of the key mechanisms for change. It brings partners together at a strategic and operational level to deliver a focused, co-ordinated response, innovate system change, deliver efficiencies and drive up multi-agency practice. The Innovation Hub initially consists of core posts as follows:

## Core posts:



Nikki Alcock  
Children's MARS Lead Officer  
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Carly Sayles  
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Moving forward, there will be opportunities for other agencies to contribute to the hub (directly and indirectly).

# Children's MARS Board

Safeguarding partners met again at the Children's MARS Board on Monday 21 January 2019 and they continue to develop strong, collaborative relationships with a focus on being proactive and forward thinking.

Key areas of discussion were as follows:

- Majority of actions undertaken and/or decisions made to complete the transition of the LSCB to the new arrangements. Work is underway to reconfigure the child death review arrangements which are the responsibility of child death partners (health and the local authority) not safeguarding partners
- Delivery plan in place to focus partnership action to innovate and progress the new arrangements based around the agreed intents
- Progress relating to the portfolio areas and updates regarding key partnership functions including the Early Help Strategic Leads Group, Safeguarding Pathway Lead Officers Group and the Safeguarding Practice Learning and Improvement Group
- Children's MARS Business Report provided an overview of activity and impacts relating to the priority areas including domestic abuse, child exploitation and neglect
- Recruitment to Multi Agency Innovation Hub completed
- Next Children's MARS Board is scheduled for 24 April 2019

AGENDA						
Meeting:	Children's MARS Board					
Date:	Monday 21 January 2019					
Venue:	Civic Centre, T12 Conference Room 2					
Time:	8.00 to 11.00					
No.	Agenda Item	Time	Mins	Lead	Papers	For Decision For Info Other
<b>PART ONE</b>						
<b>1 Governance</b>						
1.1 Children's MARS Board news update	8.00	5	Chair	News update		✓
1.2 Children's MARS Board action and decisions log	8.05	5	Chair	Action and decisions log		✓
1.3 Review of transition arrangements from LSCB to Children's MARS	8.10	5	Chair	Report		For review
1.4 Children's MARS Board terms of reference	8.15	5	Chair	TOR		For review
<b>Portfolio Areas (delivery plan revised and available to reflect progress updates)</b>						
<b>2 Scrutiny and Assurance</b>						
2.1 Scrutiny and Assurance Framework (and annual planner)	8.20	10	CL	Framework and planner		✓
<b>3 Training</b>						
3.1 Update	8.30	10	CL			✓
<b>4 Performance</b>						
4.1 Performance Framework and reporting arrangements	8.40	10	DO	Performance report and draft framework		✓
<b>5 Funding</b>						
5.1 Funding 2018/19 and 2019/20	8.50	10	DO	Matrix		✓
<b>6 Stakeholder, Voice and Engagement</b>						
6.1 Update	9.00	10	MG			✓
<b>7 Children's Safeguarding Practice Reviews</b>						
7.1 Safeguarding Practice Reviews policies and procedures - next steps	9.10	10	MG			✓
<b>PART TWO</b>						
<b>8 Children's Early Help and Safeguarding Pathway and Thematic/Contextual</b>						
8.1 Early Help Strategic Leads Group	9.20	20	TH	Presentation and papers		✓
8.2 Safeguarding Pathway Lead Officers Group	9.40	20	AMB	Presentation and papers		✓
8.3 Safeguarding Practice Learning and Improvement Group	10.00	20	SG	Presentation and papers		✓
8.4 Children's MARS Business Report	10.20	20	JP	Report		✓
<b>9 Any Other Business</b>						
9.1 Child Death Review process implementation	10.40	10	ALL	Report		✓
<b>10 Next Meeting(s)</b>						
Wed 24 April 2019 – 9.30 to 12.00 – Scunthorpe Police Station, Conference Room						
Wed 17 July 2019 – 2 to 4.30 – Learning Development Centre						
Wed 23 October 2019 – 9.30 to 12.00 – Health Place, Board Room						
Wed 22 January 2020 – 2.00 to 4.30 – Scunthorpe Police Station, Conference Room						

## Safeguarding Partners portfolio areas

Each of the safeguarding partners have a lead responsibility for specific portfolios, which underpin the Children's MARS local arrangements delivery plan, as follows:



Mick Gibbs  
Director of Children and  
Community Resilience  
North Lincolnshire Council

Lead for:  
Stakeholder engagement/voice  
Safeguarding Practice Review  
process



Clare Linley  
Director of Nursing and  
Quality  
Clinical Commissioning Group

Lead for:  
Scrutiny and assurance  
Training



Darren Downs  
Chief Superintendent  
Humberside Police and  
Chair of Children's MARS Board

Lead for:  
Performance  
Funding

# Safeguarding Partners portfolio areas - updates

## Scrutiny and Assurance

The [Children's MARS Scrutiny and Assurance Framework](#) has now been published. An annual planner has also been established and upcoming activity includes:

- Section 11 self-assessments – Jan to Mar 2019
- Agency specific assurance event (Children's Services front door) – Feb 2019
- Agency specific assurance event (NLAG) – March 2019
- Agency specific assurance event (RDASH) – April 2019
- Practice Learning Line of Sight event – May 2019

## Stakeholder engagement and voice

The Stakeholder Partnership has met on one occasion to consider the local arrangements for engaging with partners. A further meeting will be scheduled in the near future, in which key leads from different agencies will update on national, regional and local policies and practice developments.

A square table consultation event is scheduled for 28 March. The event is an opportunity to build upon the excellent work and the role that children and young people already have in North Lincolnshire. It will be an environment for key partners and young people to have an equal discussion to develop a deeper understanding of young people's issues and priorities, including relating to resilience and safeguarding, and how they would wish to be involved in local arrangements including opportunities for co-production.

## Training

Work is underway to develop the Children's MARS Training Programme 2019/20, which will be published on the [Children's MARS website](#).

There will be a greater focus on understanding the impacts from training, which will link into the performance framework. As part of this, members of the Innovation Hub will lead on quality checks to consider whether the learning outcomes are being implemented, whether practice is different following the training and whether we understand how this impacts on practice.

Following the success of the 'Out of this World' Conference, there will be a 'year on' conference in Spring 2020 to reflect on what we have achieved and where we are going.

## Safeguarding Practice Reviews

The [Improving Child Protection and Safeguarding Practice policies and procedures](#) have now been published. Safeguarding partners and representative decision makers are due to meet to confirm local arrangements and progress next steps.

## Funding

The proposed outturn for 2018/19 and 2019/20 reflects the agreed funding. There is a need to look at the income and start planning for 2020/21 and as such, safeguarding partners will review their commitment and other agencies contributions (including direct funding and in kind resources). Safeguarding partners will also consider opportunities for income generation.

## Performance

There is a plethora of performance information, data and intelligence available across the safeguarding pathway, which is reported through the Children's MARS Board and underpinning partnerships. As part of the new arrangements, work is underway to develop a more defined framework in which there will be more focus on further synthesis and evaluation, which will contribute to informed decision making. A draft framework has been considered by the Children's MARS Board and a further meeting has been scheduled in April 2019 with key leads.

## Partnership updates

The chairs of the key partnership groups are as follows:

- Early Help Strategic Leads Group – Tom Hewis, Head of Early Help and Independent Review, NLC
- Safeguarding Pathway Lead Officers Group – Ann-Marie Brierley, Head of Safeguarding Children, NLC
- Safeguarding Practice Learning and Improvement Group – Sarah Glossop, Designated Nurse, CCG

The new arrangements provide an opportunity for the groups to reflect on their purpose, what's working well and areas for improvement where relevant.

## Early Help Strategic Leads Group (EHSLG)

### Purpose

The EHSLG leads, champions, implements and oversees the Early Help offer in line with the North Lincolnshire Organisational Model and threshold document for children and young people pre-birth to 19 years (to 25 years for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) in line with the all agency role and statutory function to deliver early help. The group brings together senior leaders to perform a variety of functions including:

- to develop multi-agency practice and quality standards for assessment and oversight
- to agree core competencies and develop shared workforce development
- to performance manage Early Help activity
- to consider models of best practice and local implementation through horizon scanning and evidence of successful interventions
- to embed The Families Initiative (TFI)

### What's working well

- Established an Early Help Impact Assessment to capture and drive developments
- Developed an understanding of early help activity in its broadest sense
- Joint audits have created shared learning, which has led to specific areas of focus and development such as parental conflict
- Partnership attendance and contribution
- System improvements – reporting template and online form
- Oversight of Graded Care Profile 2 – numbers increasing
- Oversight of TFI – claims increasing
- Child and parent voice developing in strength
- Developing emphasis upon profiling to better understand local need

### Areas for development

- Develop and embed Single Access Point (SAP) surgery appointments to support early help
- Strengthen how we seek assurance and develop early help quality and impact
- Develop data to better understand children and family's journey through services
- Work to reduce 'referring-on' and promote continuity for families
- Broadening our use of partnership data to support profiling and targeting of services
- Embrace TFI as our model for working with the whole family and evidencing change
- Consideration of targeted cohort management via integration

# Safeguarding Pathway Lead Officers Group (SPLOG)

## Role and Remit

This group oversees and quality assures multi-agency working specifically within the 'Safeguarding Pathway' for children, specifically:

- the interface between Early Help and the Integrated Multi-Agency Partnership (IMAP)
- multi-agency working and decision-making within IMAP
- the quality of multi-agency assessments
- the effectiveness and timeliness of multi-agency help and protection

## What's working well

There will be a focus upon the experience, progress, and views of children, young people, and their families throughout.

- Partnership contribution on the safeguarding pathway for children and good performance in relation to areas of practice such as multi agency contribution to strategy meetings/discussions and attendance at child protection conferences
- Partnership has a strengthened understanding on populations, performance and practice. Increased and shared understanding of thresholds
- Provides a structure and connectivity to the Multi Agency Audit Group (MAAG) - which then feeds back into the SPLOG - supporting practice development. The MAAG has focused on reviewing cases that has supported practice development such as child exploitation, contribution to strategy meetings and child protection conferences
- Practice developments have included the work in relation to pre-birth pathways, exploitation and the Graded Care Profile
- Consistent evidence of child engagement and consultation at each stage of the pathway for children and young people

## Areas for development

- Services that work with adults contribution may benefit outcomes particularly when considering the 18-25 year old cohort
- Partnership reporting including performance and populations to enhance the opportunities for further practice development
- Ensuring right level of delegation on a consistent basis
- Ensure that SPLOG attendees continue to implement areas of practice development and learning from audit as identified

# Safeguarding Practice Learning and Improvement Group (SPLIG)

## Role and Remit

### New Group

- 2 meetings to date (December 2018 and February 2019)

### Focus on:

- Planning improvement and development work following local practice learning line of sight meetings/audits
- Learning from:
  - other local and national child safeguarding practice reviews
  - other reports and research
- Communication of learning to and development of professionals and the wider public
- Training on new arrangements/policies & procedures

## First impressions

- Appetite across the partnership for focus on learning
- SPLIG v Stakeholder Partnership
  - Engine Room
- Maintaining focus
- Frequency - bimonthly

## What next?

- How do we reflect learning from and with education?
- Future meetings scheduled
- Finding the balance



## Contacts



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