



SCRUTINY AND ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK 2019/20

Published October 2018

Refreshed/republished June 2019

CONTENTS

- 1 Overview
- 2 Partnership Scrutiny and Assurance Functions
- 3 Individual Scrutiny and Assurance Functions
- 4 Independent Scrutiny
- 5 Learning and Improvement

1 Overview

The Children's MARS arrangements have been developed to create an environment that is conducive to robust scrutiny and constructive challenge. The arrangements include opportunities to proactively catch local agencies and organisations before they fall as well as a partnership approach to learning and improvement across the multi-agency children's safeguarding system.

Locally, there is a culture of challenge and holding partners to account. There are embedded systems and processes for professional challenge across the safeguarding system and there is evidence of scrutiny and assurance arrangements in place at all levels across our safeguarding partner organisations.

There is an ongoing drive and commitment to ensure continuous improvement leading to better outcomes and experiences for our children, young people and families and North Lincolnshire's early adopter status has provided opportunities to further test and develop innovative approaches to scrutiny and assurance. Through this Children's MARS Board Scrutiny and Assurance Framework (known hereafter as the Framework), a range of mechanisms are in place to ensure scrutiny and assurance including independent scrutiny, which are:

- Section 11 process
- Agency 'call ins'
- Agency specific assurance events
- Thematic assurance events
- Practice learning line of sight events
- Hub audits
- Young voice quality assurance processes

These mechanisms provide opportunities for quality assurance, case tracking and deep dives into specific agencies, themes, cohorts and areas of focus.

In the spirit of continuous learning and a responsive approach, we will adapt and review this Framework, which includes independent scrutiny arrangements. This reinforces the local ethos of being forward thinking and outward looking and the ongoing drive towards 'breaking the mould', while ensuring the approach to scrutiny and assurance continues to be transparent and inclusive.

This Framework, which is developed in a contemporary context taking innovative approaches, enables safeguarding partners to:

- have assurance of whether all agencies are fulfilling their responsibilities to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
- have assurance of whether all agencies are joined up and working together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children across the safeguarding system
- have a direct line of sight to frontline practice
- have live conversations with frontline practitioners
- talk with and receive direct feedback from children, young people and families
- test the interconnectedness between performance, practice and the voice of the child, young person and family
- take account of independent scrutiny which helps to determine the effectiveness of our arrangements including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases

- be confident about the authenticity of the report they will publish at least once a year

This Framework provides clarity regarding our arrangements and outlines who will conduct the assurance function, how arrangements will be reviewed and how any recommendations will be taken forward. This includes the process and timescales for ongoing review of the arrangements to ensure they remain fit for purpose. This Framework also outlines mechanisms for scrutinising our Children's MARS arrangements through individual safeguarding partners' organisational scrutiny functions, the outcomes of which can contribute to learning across the wider partnership as well as the individual organisations themselves.

Independent Scrutiny

The role of independent scrutiny is critical to provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of the Children's MARS arrangements, including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases.

Independent Scrutiny Officer(s) play a significant role in this Framework, as do safeguarding partners and representatives from selected relevant agencies, to engage in peer review processes and further opportunities for peer review processes at a regional and national level.

Safeguarding partners are jointly responsible for identifying Independent Scrutiny Officer(s) who should have suitable attributes, skills, knowledge and understanding of the children's safeguarding system. There will be a small pool of Independent Scrutiny Officer(s) from a range of backgrounds, which will ensure different perspectives and provide a degree of flexibility and capacity to contribute to the scrutiny and assurance arrangements as required.

Local arrangements for independent scrutiny are outlined in section 4.

Independent scrutiny can also assist in the event of a disagreement between the safeguarding partners and/or relevant agencies involved in the Children's MARS arrangements (more details in dispute resolution section within the **Children's MARS Board Memorandum of Understanding**).

The local arrangements for independent scrutiny are outlined in this Framework, including the role of the Independent Scrutiny Officer(s) (also referenced in the **Children's MARS Board Memorandum of Understanding**).

2 Partnership Scrutiny and Assurance Functions

SCRUTINY AND ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK	
<p>Section 11 process</p>	<p>The Section 11 self-assessment is an annual paper exercise to ensure agencies and organisations with a duty under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 are compliant with their responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people within their organisation. Agencies and organisations with a duty under Section 11 are detailed in Children’s MARS Local Arrangements 2019/20: Appendices</p> <p>This exercise is underpinned by a self-assessment tool which enables individual agencies to articulate if and how they discharge their safeguarding responsibilities and to identify areas of best practice as well as areas of risk and further development including associated actions.</p> <p>The self-assessment process is co-ordinated by the Multi-Agency Innovation Hub and a summary of the outcomes and composite of the individual agency action plans is made available to the Children’s MARS Board. Progress against the identified actions is collated and presented to the Children’s MARS Board six months thereafter.</p> <p>There are opportunities to further develop the self-assessment tool, including bespoke specific areas of focus as identified.</p> <p>We will make use of Section 11 self assessments as part of the preparations for our agency specific assurance events.</p>
<p>Agency ‘Call Ins’</p>	<p>There are opportunities for safeguarding partners to call in agency representatives to assure the Board of the agencies’ section 11 responsibilities, their contribution to the local arrangements or in relation to a specific issue. This can be done through the Children’s MARS Board, any underpinning partnerships/groups or bespoke meetings or events.</p>
<p>Agency Specific Assurance Events</p>	<p>Over a two-year period, there is commitment to undertake an agency specific assurance event for agencies locally identified through Section 11 of the Children Act 2004.</p> <p>These events provide an opportunity for safeguarding partners, Independent Scrutiny Officer(s) and relevant agency representatives to visit specific agencies to ‘walk the floor’ and talk to practitioners. It will also provide an opportunity to meet with children and families. Young people, as scrutineers, are also encouraged and supported to contribute to these arrangements where appropriate. It is an opportunity for the agencies to showcase good practice, indicate how they listen to children and families and to talk about further developments. This gives partners (and young people) a sense of a specific agency contribution to the safeguarding system. We will make use of Section 11 self-assessments as part of the preparations for our agency specific assurance events, along with any other pertinent information i.e. inspection reports.</p>

The outcomes of these will help to shape the focus of the agency specific events, though the format for the events is flexible and exact arrangements will be agreed by the safeguarding partners, Independent Scrutiny Officer(s) and any relevant agencies that may contribute to the assurance event and the identified agency.

The proposed format for the Agency Specific Assurance event is as follows:

- The specific agency identified for scrutiny is endorsed by the three safeguarding partners.
- A proposed date is identified to ensure availability of safeguarding partners, Independent Scrutiny Officer(s), other contributing partners and young people (if the agency identified is one of the safeguarding partners, a representative from that agency will not be involved in the agency specific event).
- A letter will be distributed to the identified agency confirming they have been selected for an agency specific assurance event and the date will be proposed.
- If the Section 11 self-assessment needs to be updated, it will be distributed to the identified agency (this should be no later than six weeks prior to the proposed date).
- The completed Section 11 self-assessment be submitted to the Multi Agency Innovation Hub (this should be no later than three weeks prior to the proposed date).
- Taking account of the outcomes of the Section 11 self-assessment and any other relevant sources of information, preparatory work will be undertaken by the Multi Agency Innovation Hub to provide opportunities for reflective observations and lines of questioning.
- Programme for the agency specific assurance event will be agreed with the identified agency and safeguarding partners and then distributed to those involved.
- Agency specific event to take place.
- Led by the Independent Scrutiny Officer(s), key highlights, findings and immediate areas for consideration and action will be fed back to the specific agency representatives at the end of the event.
- Led by the Independent Scrutiny Officer(s), a letter will be collated to clarify the summary of findings including areas of positive practice and areas for improvement and further consideration. The content of this letter will take account the findings from the Independent Scrutiny Officer(s), safeguarding partners, any other relevant partners and young people scrutineers.
- The letter will be distributed to the safeguarding partner scrutiny and assurance portfolio lead for their agreement to distribute it after which it will be sent to the specific agency lead for their information and action.
- The letter will be presented to the next available Children's MARS Board.
- Any identified actions will be followed up by the Multi Agency Innovation Hub in collaboration with the lead safeguarding partner and progress will be reported into the Children's MARS Board thereafter.
- The agency will have a responsibility to incorporate the findings and any action taken into their next annual Section 11 self-assessment.

	<p>This is an organic process and specific arrangements for these events will be flexible to take account of learning and local need to ensure quality outcomes for children and families.</p>
<p>Thematic Assurance Events</p>	<p>Thematic assurance events provide an opportunity for the Children’s MARS Board to gain a sense of the safeguarding system pertaining to a specific child protection or safeguarding issue across all safeguarding partners and other relevant agencies.</p> <p>The proposed format for the Thematic Assurance event is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The specific theme is identified for scrutiny by one or more of the safeguarding partners and is endorsed by the three safeguarding partners. • A format for the event will be proposed by the Multi Agency Innovation Hub and endorsed by the three safeguarding partners. This should best reflect opportunities for scrutinising the specific theme. • Dates to be identified to ensure availability of the Independent Scrutiny Officer(s), key contributing partners and members of the Agency Innovation Hub to ensure access to relevant multi-agencies and functions as identified in the proposed format. • Taking account of the specific theme and the proposed areas for consideration, preparatory work will be undertaken by the Multi Agency Innovation Hub to provide opportunities for reflective observations and lines of questioning. • Programme for the thematic assurance event will be agreed with the identified agency representatives and safeguarding partners and then distributed to those involved. • Thematic event to take place. • Led by the Independent Scrutiny Officer(s), key highlights, findings and immediate areas for consideration and action will be fed back to the specific agency representatives at the end of the event. • Led by the Independent Scrutiny Officer(s), a letter will be collated to clarify the summary of findings including areas of positive practice and areas for improvement and further consideration. The content of this letter will take account the findings from the Independent Scrutiny Officer(s), safeguarding partners, any other relevant partners and young people scrutineers. • The letter will be distributed to the safeguarding partner scrutiny and assurance portfolio lead for their agreement to distribute it after which it will be sent to the specific agency lead and presented to the next Children’s MARS Board. • The outcomes of the assurance event will be considered at the next available Safeguarding Practice Learning and Improvement Group. • The letter and/or key highlights and emerging themes will be published on the Children’s MARS website and distributed across partnership arrangements and communication channels as appropriate. • Any identified actions will be followed up by the Multi Agency Innovation Hub in collaboration with the safeguarding partnership scrutiny and assurance portfolio lead and will be reported into the Children’s MARS Board thereafter.

	<p>This is an organic process and specific arrangements for these events will be flexible to take account of learning and local need to ensure quality outcomes for children and families.</p>
<p>Practice Learning Line of Sight Event</p>	<p>A practice learning process will be undertaken three times a year that culminates in a line of sight event. Each event will consider a number of children’s cases in relation to a specific theme, previously agreed by the safeguarding partners.</p> <p>The Multi Agency Innovation Hub works with partners to identify the cases and following a process of single agency case audits, line of sight panels meet with practitioners to discuss the cases.</p> <p>The event is led by an Independent Scrutiny Officer and panel members who will include safeguarding partners, their representatives and senior representatives from other relevant agencies.</p> <p>The event enables partners to engage in active challenge and ensure they have interface with multi-agency practitioners from across the safeguarding system.</p> <p>The expected outcomes of the line of sight events is that it will identify areas of best practice, further improvement relating to multi agency practice and agree strategic action across the partnership pertaining specific themes.</p> <p>Following the line of sight event, the overview and action plan will be formalised by the Independent Scrutiny Officer in collaboration with the Multi Agency Innovation Hub. The outcomes will be considered at the next available Safeguarding Practice Learning and Improvement Group and the action plan will be monitored until completion. Outcomes and progress against the action plan will be fed into the Children’s MARS Board via the Safeguarding Practice Learning and Improvement Group chair as appropriate and the completion action plan will be endorsed by the Children’s MARS Board.</p> <p>Key highlights and emerging themes will be published on the Children’s MARS website and distributed across the partnership.</p> <p>CASE SPECIFIC PRACTICE LEARNING LINE OF SIGHT EVENT</p> <p>Delegated safeguarding partner representatives from any of the three safeguarding partner organisations can request a practice learning case specific line of sight event as a means of identifying learning and areas for development across the partnership. Delegated safeguarding partner representatives are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated Nurse (North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group) • Head of Safeguarding Children (North Lincolnshire Council) and • Detective Superintendent, Protecting Vulnerable People Unit (Humberside Police)

	<p>Following agreement between the three delegated representatives to undertake a case specific line of sight event, a request should be made to the Multi Agency Innovation Hub to convene the event. The Multi Agency Innovation Hub will notify the three safeguarding partners that an event is being held.</p> <p>To reflect the agencies involved in the case, safeguarding partner representatives will be invited to attend by the Multi Agency Innovation Hub, along with representatives from other relevant agencies.</p> <p>The case specific line of sight event will be led by an Independent Scrutiny Officer, if available, or one of the safeguarding partners/their delegated representative if required.</p> <p>Agencies involved will be required to undertake a case audit, the outcomes of which will be submitted to the Multi Agency Innovation Hub and made available to the Independent Scrutiny Officer (or safeguarding partner/their delegated representative) ahead of the meeting so they can familiarise themselves with the case information and prepare lines of enquiry.</p> <p>Member(s) of the Multi Agency Innovation Hub will also be in attendance at the meeting and will work with the Independent Scrutiny Officer (or safeguarding partner/their delegated representative) to write up learning and actions.</p> <p>The outcomes of the case specific line of sight meeting will be reported into the Children’s MARS Board and the Safeguarding Practice Learning and Improvement Group (SPLIG) as appropriate and the learning will be distributed across the partnership as required.</p>
<p>Hub Audits</p>	<p>The Children’s MARS partnership groups may identify the need for specific audits relating to emerging themes or multi agency practice, which will be undertaken by members of the Multi Agency Innovation Hub. This does not replace or duplicate audits undertaken through the Multi Agency Audit Group which are case specific.</p> <p>The indicative process for these Hub Audits is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership group chair to make a request to the Multi Agency Innovation Hub outlining the rationale and scope of the audit • Multi Agency Innovation Hub to allocate a lead to undertake the audit • Preparatory work to be undertaken which may include confirming the scope of the audit, initial research, identifying cases and initial meetings • Audit process to be undertaken which may include further meetings with relevant leads, visits to teams, engagement with children and families and desk top research • Findings from audit to be prepared by lead and shared with the relevant partnership group chair for consideration and action • Findings from audit and agreed actions may be considered by the relevant partnership group, SPLIG and shared with the Children’s MARS Board as appropriate

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SPLIG or relevant partnership group will monitor any actions and Multi Agency Innovation Hub may undertake follow up audit if required
Young voice quality assurance processes	There are opportunities to utilise the skills and assets of individual young people and young people’s groups and forums to give them the opportunity to scrutinise, challenge and influence the services they access. The process also enables agencies to reflect on and improve their provision to better meet the needs of children and young people. This will also enable young people to reflect on their observations and experiences when accessing local services and will contribute to the Children’s MARS Board’s oversight.

3 Individual Scrutiny and Assurance Functions

There are other mechanisms for scrutinising our Children’s MARS arrangements through individual safeguarding partners’ organisational scrutiny functions as follows:

Council Democratic Scrutiny and Internal Audit Functions	<p>Scrutiny panels support the work of the executive and the council as a whole. They allow citizens to have a greater say by holding public enquiries into matters of local concern. The scope of scrutiny panels is wide reaching and covers the work of the council, local health services in accordance with the Health and Social Care Act legislation and crime and disorder in accordance with the Police and Justice Act 2006.</p> <p>The role of scrutiny panels is to scrutinise the effectiveness of council policies, strategies and performance, along with executive recommendations and decisions within their scope. They are also required to scrutinise the effectiveness of partnership working with organisations and the impact of policies adopted by organisations where the council has a legitimate interest.</p> <p>All statutory safeguarding partners, selected relevant agencies and other named organisations and agencies would fall within this scope.</p> <p>The Annual Report of the Local Arrangements is presented to and discussed at Cabinet and Children and Education Scrutiny Panel.</p>
Clinical Commissioning Group Governing Body	<p>North Lincolnshire CCG has comprehensive arrangements in place for children’s safeguarding scrutiny and assurance within the CCG and for commissioned services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A comprehensive quarterly performance and assurance report and an annual report is provided to the Quality, Performance and Finance Committee, a sub-committee of the CCG Governing Body. The Governing Body also receives the annual report. The Annual Report of the Local Arrangements is presented to and discussed at the CCG Governing Body. Requirements for assurance regarding safeguarding in commissioned services are required to be set out in the individual contracts for commissioned services.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major NHS providers are required to provide an annual self-assessment of safeguarding compliance to the CCG, and quarterly safeguarding performance information. Non-NHS providers have been required to provide evidence of compliance on request. From 2019/20, all CCG commissioned providers will be required to provide an annual self-assessment of their safeguarding compliance to the CCG. • The CCG undertakes a planned programme of visits to clinical services during which safeguarding arrangements are scrutinised as part of the wider quality agenda
Humberside Police	<p>Humberside Police has comprehensive arrangements in place for children’s safeguarding scrutiny and assurance within the force and its partnership activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A comprehensive monthly performance and assurance report and monthly crime audits examine the quality, quantity and performance position, which is then overviewed at a Force level. • The Annual Report of the Local Arrangements is presented to and discussed at the local and force management meetings. • Daily scrutiny is applied through the local and force level pacesetter meetings to individual safeguarding and crime incidences that have concerns for safety. • The force also conducts force wide scrutiny to its crime recording practices and safeguarding processes through local and independent scrutiny teams, and peer reviews are common practice.

4 Independent Scrutiny

The role of independent scrutiny is critical to provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of the Children’s MARS arrangements.

Local arrangements for independent scrutiny will:

- provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in North Lincolnshire
- provide assurance that there is effective identification and review of serious child safeguarding cases
- act as part of a wider system which includes the independent inspectorates’ single assessment of the individual safeguarding partners and the Joint Targeted Area Inspections
- consider how effectively the arrangements are working for children and families as well as for practitioners, and how well the safeguarding partners are providing strong leadership
- provide objectivity, act as a constructive critical friend and promote reflection to promote continuous improvement
- report to the safeguarding partners any recommendations from their scrutiny and assurance activities
- scrutinise the Children’s MARS arrangements and annual report

This will also help us to ascertain how our Children’s MARS arrangements impact on the outcomes and experiences of children, young people and families.

Arrangements for independent scrutiny are summarised as follows:

INDEPENDENT SCRUTINY	
Independent Scrutiny Officer(s)	<p>Independent Scrutiny Officer(s) - ISO(s) - play a significant role in the Children’s MARS Board Scrutiny and Assurance Framework.</p> <p>Safeguarding partners are jointly responsible for identifying ISO(s) who should have suitable attributes, skills, knowledge and understanding of the children’s safeguarding system. There will be a small pool of ISO(s) from a range of backgrounds, which will ensure different perspectives and provide a degree of flexibility and capacity to contribute to the scrutiny and assurance arrangements as required.</p> <p>Through leading and contributing to the following elements of this Framework, this provides the ISO(s) with an opportunity to scrutinise the children’s safeguarding system at all levels, including front line practice and with a direct interface with children, young people and families.</p> <p>The ISO(s) will conduct work requiring independent scrutiny up to 15 days per year, as outlined in this Framework. There may be other opportunities to engage in other functions and specific activities which will be negotiated via mutual agreement, e.g. chairing a rapid review meeting to consider whether a case meets the criteria for a child safeguarding practice review.</p>

The ISO(s) main responsibilities are to:

- Provide independent scrutiny and evaluation pertaining to agency specific and thematic assurance events
- Provide independent scrutiny and evaluation pertaining to practice learning line of sight events
- Scrutinise the arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases
- Scrutinise how well the safeguarding partners are providing strong leadership
- Have a direct interface and engage with children, young people and families to determine the impact of the local arrangements
- Have a direct interface with front line practitioners in order to have an informed perspective on practitioners skills, knowledge and practice which enables them to fulfil their responsibilities within the local arrangements
- Prepare written reports in relation to scrutiny and assurance activity
- Attend and contribute to the Children's MARS Board and other partnerships, events and meetings to present findings
- Contribute to reciprocal peer review arrangements where arranged
- Attend to represent an independent scrutiny perspective within individual safeguarding partners' scrutiny arrangements, if required
- Attend and contribute to inspection activity as appropriate
- Scrutinise the Children's MARS arrangements and annual report prior to publication
- In the event of any dispute between the safeguarding partners and/or relevant agencies or any local disputes relating to multi-agency practice, the Independent Scrutiny Officer may also assist with the dispute resolution process. See Section 9 - Dispute Resolution in the [Children's MARS Board Memorandum of Understanding](#).

In all meetings and representations, ISO(s) will communicate ownership of their independent and objective perspective.

ISO(s) should have the following knowledge, skills and experience:

- Worked at a senior level in an organisation which has safeguarding responsibilities (e.g. health, social care, education, police)
- Experience of safeguarding at a strategic board level
- High level knowledge and experience of working across the children's multi agency safeguarding system
- Understand the complex circumstances in which practitioners work together to safeguard children including the impact of management, supervision, resources, skills and training
- Experience of communicating and engaging with practitioners, partners, children, young people and families
- Ability to communicate at all levels using various mechanisms, including written and presentation skills

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High level understanding of relevant legislation, guidance and policy frameworks within which multi agency services operate and the critical levers for change • High level understanding of relevant inspection frameworks • Awareness of political environment • Reflective, analytical and evaluation skills • Ability to distil information and findings from a range of sources in order to inform their report on the scrutiny and assurance activity • Be able to handle information securely and take account of information governance processes • Be able to communicate ownership of their independent and objective perspective in all meetings and representations <p>ISO(s) will use their creativity and innovation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilise and identify opportunities to develop innovative ways of communicating and engaging with children, young people families, safeguarding partners organisations and other agencies • Formulate evidence based recommendations and opportunities to enhance the local safeguarding system • Work flexibly and meet deadlines in a changing environment
Peer Review	<p>There is a commitment to exploring a reciprocal peer review model sub regionally, regionally or nationally. If the reciprocal model is implemented, it is envisaged that this independent scrutiny function will be undertaken on an annual basis.</p> <p>This could involve an ISO(s), safeguarding partners or utilise senior representatives from relevant agencies to provide peer challenge to other local areas multi agency safeguarding arrangements and vice versa. In considering a reciprocal approach, we anticipate learning from peers who scrutinise our children’s safeguarding system, but also learn through scrutinising others.</p> <p>In the event of a peer review, the scope would need to be clarified and a terms of reference agreed to ensure the best outcomes for all parties concerned.</p>

5 Learning and Improvement

The key element of our scrutiny and assurance process is on learning and improvement.

Each of the safeguarding partners have allocated portfolio areas which reinforces their commitment to innovation, driving change, sharing learning and delivering on agreed actions leading to better outcomes. The lead for scrutiny and assurance is the Director of Nursing and Quality, Clinical Commissioning Group.

The Safeguarding Practice Learning and Improvement Group (SPLIG) will have representation across the three safeguarding partner organisations and other selected relevant agencies. The group will be responsible for co-ordinating the outcomes of multi agency scrutiny and assurance activity as appropriate.

The outcomes of single agency scrutiny and assurance activity (e.g. Section 11 self-assessments and agency specific assurance events) will be the responsibility of the Children's MARS Board and individual safeguarding partners, where appropriate.

The SPLIG will devise action plans, monitor, implement and review areas for development to ensure we positively impact on our commitment towards continuous improvements across frontline practice. The SPLIG will continue to give oversight to any action plans until completion and completed action plans will be presented to the next available Children's MARS Board for endorsement and sign off.

As part of this, the SPLIG, supported by the Multi Agency Innovation Hub, will contribute to developing communications and disseminating messages across the partnership arrangements and via the Children's MARS website and social media as appropriate.

In addition, where deemed appropriate by the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Group/Local Learning Review Group, the SPLIG will also monitor action plans relating to non-statutory multi agency local learning reviews where a case does not meet a criteria of a Safeguarding Practice Reviews. The SPLIG will lead on developing and disseminating learning from these and local and national child safeguarding practice reviews, inspection reports, other national reports and research.

There are also learning and improvement opportunities through the Multi Agency Audit Group (MAAG) which feeds into the Safeguarding Practice Lead Officers Group. The MAAG meets on a monthly basis to provide multi agency audit and quality assurance of practice at key points along the safeguarding pathway.

There will be other opportunities to share learning across the partnership through learning and development events in order to improve practice. Learning regarding practice and process will also be shared both regionally and nationally as appropriate i.e. through the early adopters programme.

Overall, the learning will contribute to further strengthening the safeguarding system, multi-agency practice and the nuanced approaches that services can develop.

We will listen, learn, review and adapt as we implement our Local Arrangements, supported by this Scrutiny and Assurance Framework. As such, the specific details of the scrutiny and assurance functions are subject to change in year and will feature in the review of Local Arrangements, which will be republished in June 2020.

**North
Lincolnshire
Council**

NHS
*North Lincolnshire
Clinical Commissioning Group*

