

CHILDREN'S MARS BOARD

NEWS UPDATE



Edition 4 - October 2019

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Welcome

Welcome to the fourth edition of the news update for the North Lincolnshire Children's Multi Agency Resilience and Safeguarding (MARS) Local Arrangements. This news update is one way of communicating information and messages relating to the Children's MARS arrangements.

The focus of this edition is to update on the Children's MARS Board, raise awareness of progress in relation to the safeguarding partner's portfolio areas, highlight what is working well and summarise areas for development of key partnership groups. Other communications and relevant contacts are included.

Please share this information across your agency/organisation and use it as a means of prompting discussion, sharing learning and improving practice.

Children's MARS Board

Safeguarding partners met again at the Children's MARS Board on 17 July 2019. They continue to develop strong, collaborative relationships with a focus on being proactive and forward thinking.

Key areas of discussion included:

- The recent Assurance Event and Line of Sight Practice Learning Event
- Progress relating to the safeguarding partner's portfolio areas
- Updates from the Early Help Strategic Leads Group, Safeguarding Pathway Lead Officers Group and the Safeguarding Practice Learning and Improvement Group
- Thematic areas of focus - Domestic Abuse, Child Exploitation and Missing Children and Neglect
- The newly published Northern Lincolnshire Child Death Review Arrangements that set out the arrangements for the Child Death Review process – can be found [North Lincolnshire CCG website](#) and [North Lincolnshire Council website](#)

The Board meeting was observed by an Independent Scrutiny Officer as part of a programme of independent scrutiny of our Children's MARS Local Arrangements ahead of the publication of our annual review report.

Children's MARS arrangements – refreshed and republished!

We first published our arrangements in October 2018 as an early adopter of the new multi agency safeguarding arrangements and have now refreshed and republished them and our memorandum of understanding (in line with statutory timescales). These are available on the CMARS website. To access the new arrangements and associated documents, click [here](#).

Safeguarding Partners update

Darren Wildbore, Temporary Chief Superintendent, Humberside Police has joined the safeguarding partners and chaired the Children's MARS Board in July.

The safeguarding partners have a lead responsibility for specific portfolio areas, 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
North Lincolnshire Clinical
Commissioning Group

Lead for:

Scrutiny and assurance
Training and Education



Darren Wildbore
South Bank Divisional Commander
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 been endorsed and re-published. The framework describes our strategic approach and the range of mechanisms in place to ensure scrutiny and assurance including independent scrutiny.

Examples of recent scrutiny and assurance activity include:

- Agency specific assurance event (RDaSH NHS Foundation Trust) – April 2019
- Practice Learning Line of Sight event on children living with domestic abuse – June 2019
- Innovation Hub strategy discussion audit – June 2019
- Independent scrutiny of the Children's MARS Local Arrangements Annual Review – July 2019

The emerging themes, actions and learning have been assimilated, shared with partners and distributed to key partnerships where appropriate. They will also be summarised in the upcoming annual review report.

Funding

The funding for 2019/20 has been agreed across safeguarding partners and contributing agencies.

Consideration of the funding arrangements for 2020/21 will be discussed at the next Children's MARS Board meeting in October.

Independent Scrutiny of the Children's MARS Local Arrangements Annual Review – July 2019

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

Edwina Harrison was identified as the independent scrutineer and a programme of events was scheduled including:

- Observing the Children's MARS Board July meeting
- Leading discussion at a Multi-Agency Practitioner / Supervisor Forum
- Meeting with the Innovation Hub

As part of the process, the Independent Scrutiny Officer also undertook the scrutiny of documents and resources including the draft annual review, local arrangements, memorandum of understanding, scrutiny and assurance framework, assurance event reports, notes from key partnerships and roamed the new website.

Stakeholder Partnership

The latest Stakeholder Partnership took place in June 2019 that focussed on:

- Children's MARS updates
- Outcomes of Square Table Event - see News Update Edition 3 – August 2019 in [Communications](#)
- #nomoreknives campaign
- Domestic abuse update
- Policy watch – links to national guidance, research and information from a multi agency perspective

There was also an opportunity for partners to reflect on their involvement in the Children's MARS arrangements and the partnership structure.

Taking into account feedback received and following discussion at the Children's MARS Board, the Innovation Hub is to review the format, focus and membership of future meetings. More details will be available in due course.

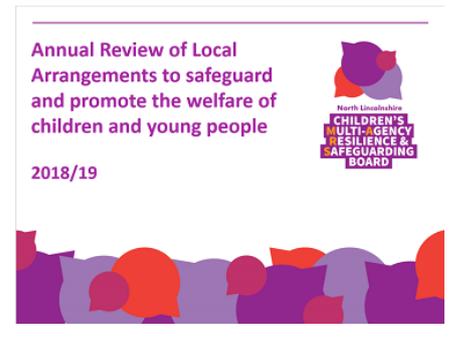
CHILDREN'S MULTI-AGENCY RESILIENCE & SAFEGUARDING BOARD



Children's MARS Annual Review Published!

Take a look at our annual review [here](#).

We are proud of our local practice and working together.



Training

Children's MARS Training Programme 2019/20 is available [here](#). Upcoming courses include:

- Reducing Parental Conflict – **28-29 October**
- Child Exploitation, County Lines & Organised Crime Groups – **30 October**
- Early Help Assessments – **5 November**
- Neglect and Graded Care Profile 2 – **11 November**
- Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Local Learning Review Workshops – **15 November**
- MARAC/DASH Awareness Training – **04 December**
- Child Protection – **04-05 December**
- Honour Based Abuse, Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation Training Event – **14 January AM & PM sessions**

To book your place or find out further details, please visit the CMARS website.

Practice Learning Line of Sight Event – Children Living with Domestic Abuse

A Line of Sight event on Children Living with Domestic Abuse took place on 11 June 2019.

Clare Linley, Director of Nursing & Quality, NLCCG, was the independent chair of the event, which looked at five cases involving a wide range of agencies.

The event highlighted good practice applied by front line staff who often went above and beyond their remit to achieve the best outcomes for children and their families. The recurrent themes identified were:

- The importance of relationships - evidenced through strong relationships between practitioners with children and families also good multi agency working relationships and collaborative working across agencies
- Children, young people and families are at the centre – enables a personalised approach, where work is structured around the needs of the child and the needs of their family
- The impact of individuals - tenacious approach is making a difference
- Good use of evidence based practice and expertise

Learning identified below is being taken forward through the Safeguarding Practice Learning and Improvement Group (SPLIG) and Domestic Abuse Strategy Group:

- further developing prevention work including a focus on helping children living with domestic abuse understand healthy relationships to break the cycle of inter-generational abuse
- development of a flexible non convicted perpetrator programme that will be implemented over the next year
- education and training relating to recognising the signs of coercive control and honour based abuse

Performance

Our performance framework is strong and well developed. We continue to keep a focus on the early help and safeguarding pathway and on any emerging issues through a reporting system to the Board that includes:

- **up to date performance information with analysis**
- **quality of practice ‘deep dive’ analysis of identified areas across the safeguarding pathway**

Deep dives will be undertaken by the Innovation Hub alongside relevant partners and will be agreed by the Board.

The Children’s MARS sub-groups will further develop their own more detailed data sets in respect of their areas of focus as required.



Partnership groups - 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 and Head of Safeguarding, NLCCG

The Children's MARS new arrangements have provided an opportunity for the groups to reflect on their role and remit, recent progress, what is working well including how this contributes to the Children's MARS five intents and areas for development.

Early Help Strategic Leads Group

Role and Remit

The Early Help Strategic Leads Group (EHSLG) leads, champions, implements and oversees the Early Help offer under the auspices of the North Lincolnshire Organisational Model and Helping Children and Families (Threshold Document 2016/20).

What is working well

Key Intent	Strengths
Co-production	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evidence coming through that early help plans are co-produced• Growing use of family solutions meetings in FaSST (Family Support)• Family voice provides key evidence in Early Help Impact Assessment
Independent scrutiny and assurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Multi Agency Early Help Audit meeting held• Developing data and impact framework
Make safeguarding personal, to maintain children in families, in schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reducing front door numbers (referrals and contacts)• Very low numbers of 'escalations' from children's centres and FaSST• Oversight of school exclusion and attendance data. Strong education impact data
Build Resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Graded Care Profile 2 use increasing, driven by practitioner champions• Parental Conflict – plan for roll out of training developed• Permissions to act early and the organisational model are well understood
Partnerships with schools and colleges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good examples of effective early help led by schools• Education representation at EHSLG has influenced Early Help forms and process development

Areas for development

Key Intent	Development
Co-production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of Helping Children and Families (Threshold Document 2016/20) is an opportunity to focus on views of families Audit has highlighted examples of families experiencing multiple assessments over time
Independent scrutiny and assurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning to connect with Safeguarding Practice Learning and Improvement Group (SPLIG)
Make safeguarding personal, to maintain children in families, in schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EHSLG attendance and focus to be developed further around adolescents and contextual safeguarding Partner outcome data to help evaluate effectiveness, tracking of whether needs are escalated or stepped down
Build Resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing professional anxiety – access to supervision and ‘specialist’ consultation Strengthened online and digital help for families
Partnerships with schools and colleges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scope to further develop Early Help Locality Network meetings to help manage demand and support Need to consider consistency of Early Help capacity and practice across school/education sector – what works best

Safeguarding Pathway Lead Officers Group

Role and Remit

The Safeguarding Pathway Lead Officer Group (SPLOG) oversees and quality assures multi agency working specifically within the ‘safeguarding pathway’ for children. Specific areas are:

- 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 is working well

Key Intent	Strengths
Co-production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent evidence of child engagement, consultation and co-production of training packages and interventions at each stage of the pathway for children and young people
Independent scrutiny and assurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of Multi Agency Audit Group arrangements and revised terms of reference
Make safeguarding personal, to maintain children in families, in schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthened understanding of populations, performance and practice. Increased and shared understanding of thresholds Strong partnership commitment to creative and dynamic practice and doing the right thing for children to prevent them entering care, offending, being exploited or being involved in serious violence involving a weapon Practice developments have included the work in relation to pre-birth pathways, exploitation, the Graded Care Profile 2 and the You say Who model
Build Resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership commitment to the Summer Immersive Aspirations and Skills Project to reduce risk of offending, reoffending, anti-social behaviour and exploitation
Partnerships with schools and colleges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi agency contribution to strategy discussions and attendance at child protection conferences

Children, Young People and Families that are RESILIENT AND SAFEGUARDED

Areas for development

Key Intent	Development
Co-production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully embed the use of the Graded Care Profile 2 within practice
Independent scrutiny and assurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take account of learning from scrutiny and assurance activity to further develop practice
Make safeguarding personal, to maintain children in families, in schools Build Resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding the changing profile of exploitation; increased identification of children at risk of criminal and/or sexual exploitation becoming more organised in nature Partnership response to turning the curve on children reoffending and preventing custody Fully embed the partnership strategy to serious violence involving weapons Strengthened partnership approach to supporting children on the edge of care and those reunited with family Enhance partnership reporting including performance and populations to enhance the opportunities for further practice development
Partnerships with schools and colleges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharpened partnership commitment to ensuring that the most vulnerable children have appropriate education, employment and training packages and are creatively supported to fully engage Continued focus of the multi agency contribution to strategy meetings and other partnership planning processes

Safeguarding Practice Learning and Improvement Group (SPLIG)

Role and Remit

The Safeguarding Practice Learning and Improvement Group (SPLIG) has responsibilities for:

- Co-ordinating the outcomes from local multi agency scrutiny and assurance activity, reviewing monitoring and implementing areas for development to ensure the Children's MARS arrangements positively impact on the shared commitment towards continuous improvements to front line practice
- Disseminating the learning from local scrutiny and assurance activity, local and national child safeguarding practice reviews, other national reports and research

What is working well

Key Intent	Strengths
Co-production	Involvement and engagement of children and families features strongly across local scrutiny and assurance activity.
Independent scrutiny and assurance	The SPLIG is a core function group for the Children's MARS Board in supporting the coordination of the outcomes of independent scrutiny and assurance activity.
Make safeguarding personal, to maintain children in families, in schools Build Resilience	The SPLIG has considered the importance of continuity of care for children, promoting individual resilience, and the inclusion of education settings in the understanding of further developing practice and required improvements.
Partnerships with schools and colleges	The group recognises that further work is required for this new group in fine tune and demonstrate contribution to these intents.

Safeguarding Practice Learning and Improvement Group (SPLIG) continued

Areas for development

Key Intent	Development
Co-production	The SPLIG will consider all opportunities for a collaborative and creative approach with children, young people and families using their strengths and assets.
Independent scrutiny and assurance	Formalising arrangements between and identification of cross cutting learning themes with SPLOG and EHSLG.
Make safeguarding personal, to maintain children in families, in schools	The SPLIG will further develop and promote the best of what already exists in North Lincolnshire and think innovatively about multi agency practice to improve outcomes relating to children's resilience and safeguarding and ensure that there is a collective responsibility for building children's resilience and safeguarding
Build Resilience	
Partnerships with schools and colleges	The SPLIG will contribute to system change and work across the wider policy and partnerships landscape to help develop and implement new ways of working that reduces duplication, improves practice and outcomes for children across the safeguarding pathway

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