

CHILDREN'S MARS BOARD

NEWS UPDATE



Edition 5 – February 2020

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Welcome

Welcome to the fifth 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 23 October 2019. They continue to develop strong, collaborative relationships with a focus on being proactive and forward thinking.

Key areas of discussion included:

- Feedback from two Agency Specific Assurance events with Scunthorpe General Hospital and the 0 – 19 Service (Health Visitors and School Nursing service)
- 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

Children's MARS Website Updates

We have been working to keep our local policies and procedures up to date and available on our website.

Policies and procedures recently updated include:

- Children who runaway or go missing from home & care protocol
- Protocol on perplexing presentations and fabricated induced illness
- Neglect guidance

A new page has been created for [Neglect and the Graded Care Profile 2](#) (GCP2), which provides guidance on the principals of the tool, the use of the GCP2 in North Lincolnshire and frequently asked questions.

Safeguarding Partners Portfolio Areas - Updates

Scrutiny and Assurance

The [Children's MARS Scrutiny and Assurance 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 held with staff at Great Oaks Mental Health Hospital – October 2019
- A Case Specific Practice Learning Line of Sight event– September 2019

Work is ongoing to develop the scrutiny and assurance activity for 2020/21.

Stakeholder Engagement

As part of our ongoing engagement with stakeholders, the Children's MARS Board are holding an annual conference in June 2020. The conference will communicate key messages and themes across the local area and give stakeholders the opportunity to learn about the ongoing work of the Children's MARS Board. More details will be available soon.

We have taken further opportunities to involve our stakeholders including:

- Forming links with the Diocese of Lincoln Safeguarding Advisory Panel
- Ongoing stakeholder participation within the Children's MARS subgroups
- Further training and support has been developed as part of the Early Help Locality meetings
- Inclusion of all agencies within Children's MARS learning and education events
- Training and updates continue to be provided through the Designated Safeguarding Lead meetings for schools, colleges and other education providers.

Case Specific Practice Learning Line of Sight Event

A Case Specific Line of Sight event took place on 30 September 2019.

Dave Basker, Independent Scrutiny Officer for the Children's MARS Board, was the chair of the event, which looked at one case 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 the children and her family. The key areas identified were:

- Practitioners work flexibly within their roles and maintained key relationships that were important to the child.
- There was evidence of professionals assessing, analysing and managing risk as well as giving the child autonomy where appropriate and discussions remained child focussed at all times.
- The multi-agency workforce think creatively. When exceptional challenges arose professionals came together quickly to determine what needed to be done and agreed who was the right person to do it.
- The immediacy of responses from agencies were invaluable, not only to provide support to the child but to support each other as professionals.
- Professionals worked well with ambiguity, uncertainty and risk and they felt supported by managers across the partnership.

Voice

Co-production with children, young people and families is an area of strength in North Lincolnshire and safeguarding partners remain committed to engaging with them at an individual, service and strategic level.

In November 2019, members of the Children's MARS innovation hub attended the Elected Home Education event to gather the views of children, young people and families who are home educated. This was an opportunity for the hub to engage with those whose views may not be easily accessible through traditional forums.



Training

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

- Reducing Parental Conflict – **Various dates in February and March**
- Managing Allegations against adults who work with children – **31 January**
- Safeguarding Children – **6 February**
- Safeguarding Disabled Children – **24 February**
- Trauma Awareness – **25 February**
- Neglect and Graded Care Profile 2 – **13 March**

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

Multi-Agency Practice in North Lincolnshire

Immersive Skills & Aspirations Project

The Immersive Skills and Aspirations project brought together partners to create a pioneering new approach to reducing offending, reducing anti-social behaviour and preventing custody. It focused on building esteem and aspirations, preparing for education, employment and training, managing risk and improving outcomes, building social, emotional skills, developing independence, strengthening family relationships and developing life skills and opportunities.

Some of the key outcomes were:

- anti-social behaviour, missing episodes and crimes reported reduced overall by 37% and missing episodes significantly reduced
- all participants in the Umitas Summer Arts achieved a GCSE in Art from Trinity College London
- a young person moved back to his family and another young person has been supported to engage in an apprenticeship following the project
- feedback from the children, parents and partner agencies has been very positive in terms of the outcomes achieved for the children and the improvement in parents' relationship with their children
- emotional welfare, self-confidence and aspirations of all children has improved



Practitioners accepting the Community Champion Award for Community Contribution to Crime Reduction – presented by Chief Superintendant Darren Wildbore.

For further details regarding the Immersive Skills and Aspirations Project please visit the [Children's MARS website](#).

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 Practice Learning and Improvement Group – Sarah Glossop, Designated Nurse and Head of Safeguarding, NLCCG
- Safeguarding Pathway Lead Officers Group – Ann-Marie Brierley, Head of Safeguarding Children, NLC

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).

Key Updates

- The EHSLG has strengthened the early help reporting framework with greater emphasis upon impact and Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2).
- Reducing Parental Conflict implementation plan further developed, training programme due for roll-out.
- Strengthened Early Help Locality meetings including Single Access Point and children's centre engagement with operational staff
- The online early help notification system has been developed to include the outcome of the assessment.
- The EHSLG has an ambition to identify parent representatives to sit on the group. This is an action currently underway.

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

Key Updates

- Audit activity supports that the thresholds for holding strategy discussions are consistently applied. There has been a sharpened focus on partnership contributions to strategy discussions which has included thematic reviews, partnership development sessions and strengthened interface meetings.
- Child In Need/Core Group Meetings – A thematic review has been undertaken regarding partner contributions to these meetings and practice has been strengthened to ensure all core agencies share information fully and are part of the future planning for the child and family.
- There is an increased identification of children at risk of child exploitation as a result of widening the scope of the Multi Agency Child Exploitation meetings to include child criminal exploitation, human trafficking, cuckooing, serious violence and Modern Day Slavery to reflect the national picture. There is a strong partnership commitment to prevention, intervention, disruption and prosecution, which has ensured that risk is reduced.
- Robust scrutiny and assurance is in place across the partnership to review cases within the Multi Agency Audit Group to drive practice forward and make the experiences of families even better.

Safeguarding Practice Learning and Improvement Group

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

Key Updates

- SPLIG Task and Finish group established to undertake a self-evaluation in respect of children's emotional health and wellbeing and to focus the partnership on children living with mental ill health.
- Practice workshop with circa 70 Designated Safeguarding Leads about the processes for Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Local Learning Reviews.
- Action Plan developed from the Practice Learning Line of Sight event on Domestic Abuse with progress being overseen via the SPLIG and Domestic Abuse Strategy and Operational Groups.
- Analysis of the impact and effectiveness of multi-agency training is underway. A training needs analysis is in progress across the partnership, which will inform future multi-agency training provision.

Contacts

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