

CHILDREN'S MARS BOARD NEWS UPDATE



Welcome

Welcome to the sixth 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.

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CHILDREN'S MARS BOARD — JANUARY 2020 UPDATE

Safeguarding partners met again at the Children's MARS Board on 30 January 2020. 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 RDaSH Great Oaks
- Summaries of the Practice Learning Line of Sight Events in respect of children living with mental ill health and the case specific event
- Further opportunities for independent scrutiny activity
- 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

Recent Update

In light of government advice and guidance regarding COVID-19, the Children's MARS Board has suspended all training until further notice. This measure has been taken to reduce social interaction and avoid transmission of the virus. The training and education framework for 2020/21 is under review and any new and/or alternative methods of training will be publicised. In the interim, if you wish to make use of our safeguarding workbooks they can be accessed via the [training page](#).

Practice Learning Line of Sight Event – Children Living with Mental Ill Health

A Practice Learning Line of Sight event took place on 18 November 2019.

Sarah Glossop, Designated Nurse and Head of Safeguarding for North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group, was the 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 key themes identified were:

- Good partnership working across the safeguarding pathway including Early Help, Targeted and Specialist Support services
- The voice of the child was evident in all cases, they were active participants and their views were shaping their plans
- Effective communication between services including swift responses in crisis
- Practitioners were impressive in discussing their direct work and support for the child and their family
- Knowledgeable and skilled practitioners – positive feedback about mental health first aid training, training and support to foster carers and practitioners extending their learning about mental ill health also accessing training appropriate to their role

A good practice learning snapshot of this event and further 7 minute briefings of all our previous events are available on the [Children's MARS website](#).

Children's MARS Training Event – 14 January 2020

A training event in relation to Honour Based Abuse, Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation took place on 14 January 2020 at the Baths Hall. Keynote speakers included representatives from Karma Nirvana and the National FGM Centre.

181 professionals and volunteers attended the event from 28 different agencies across the partnership.



Our local policies and procedures in respect of Honour Based Abuse, Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation are available to view [here](#).

Feedback from practitioners:

'The training was absolutely excellent with extremely knowledgeable trainers giving many case practice examples'

'This is one of the best training events I have attended, it was so powerful, thank you'

'This is not something that is taught as part of basic training and it is important to have a wide knowledge base and resources to turn to should this be required'

'The FGM trainer was very knowledgeable and inspiring. I felt the documentary on forced marriage and honour based abuse was very effective and really captured the issue from the perspective of a victim'



NSPCC Elephant Practitioner Awards

Two members of our Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) steering group have been awarded an NSPCC Elephant Practitioners Award in recognition of their work to promote and increase the use of the GCP2 toolkit.

Since November 2017, approximately 250 multi-agency staff from across North Lincolnshire have been trained in the use of the GCP2. This is a significant proportion of the children's workforce and has included staff from social work services, family support, children centres, health professionals, education staff, Humberside Police and the voluntary sector.

For further information about the GCP2 please visit our [Neglect and the Graded Care Profile 2](#) page, which provides guidance on the principals of the tool, use of the GCP2 in North Lincolnshire and frequently asked questions.



Congratulations to Sally Bainbridge, Specialist Safeguarding Nurse from North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Sharon Sturdy, Intensive Family Support Worker from North Lincolnshire Council for receiving their awards.

Multi-Agency Practice in North Lincolnshire

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

- Audit and oversight of early help practice has been strengthened in quarter 2, as the Multi Agency Audit Group (MAAG) strengthened its focus upon early help and the broader experiences of families within the help and protection system.
- Reflecting findings from other learning opportunities, such as line of sight events, the MAAG consistently finds evidence of committed, focused, and effective help from a range of teams and services.
- Audit work sees evidence that children's needs are identified early, that attempts are made to speak to parents and family members, and that support is offered in a variety of ways. Importantly, thresholds are generally well understood.
- The Reducing Parental Conflict implementation plan has further developed, as the training programme rolls out. Intended outcomes are to divert families from private law arena, reduce emotional harm from conflict, and de-escalate from service 'interventions'.

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

- There has been a sharpened focus on partnership contributions to strategy discussions which has included thematic reviews, partnership development sessions, strengthened interface meetings and bespoke discussions. Quarter three data so far highlights that partners contributions to strategy discussions is increasingly positive.
- A strengthened pathway for children reaching adulthood is required to mirror the support they receive as children to prevent exploitation, prevent them entering the realms of perpetration and to support their changing developing needs. A bespoke meeting to consider the offer to them was undertaken in January 2020 alongside adult services. This also included RDASH to consider the therapeutic needs, Probation, Addaction and Making Every Adult Matter.

- The Care Leaver's Christmas lunch, the creation of the Immersive Skills and Aspirations Project, Teenage Kicks Group and Little Mix group, the Awesome Factor Awards have all enabled the children's confidence, self-esteem, aspirations and social skills to develop and also given them life long memories

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

- A single case Line of Sight Practice event was held in late September which was facilitated by an Independent Scrutiny Officer. This reviewed multi-agency responses to a young person experiencing significant emotional distress.
- A Practice Learning Line of Sight event held in November 2019 in respect of children living with mental health issues. Strategic themes and areas for development have been identified, and the SPLIG will develop a plan of action to address the areas for development from both the single case and the November Practice Learning Line of Sight
- Targeted sessions are being offered to individual organisations to brief practitioners and managers on the changes in the case review processes. A session was held with the Humberside Police Protecting Vulnerable People Unit in North Lincolnshire on 04 February 2020
- North Lincolnshire have had no recent child safeguarding practice reviews, though the SPLIG have proactively sought opportunities to learn from cases in other areas. A briefing was prepared by the Clinical Commissioning Group Children's MARS hub practitioner on case reviews completed in other localities and there have been discussed at SPLIG to consider relevant learning for North Lincolnshire.
- Partners and relevant agencies were asked to share their safeguarding children training offer and to complete a survey of gaps in training availability. Three organisations responded to the initial request/ survey. With a similar piece of work required in respect of safeguarding adult training, the Children's MARS and Safeguarding Adults Board have prepared a joint tool, which is being circulated to all relevant services.

Partnership Group Updates

Further Information

For further information visit our website www.northlincscmars.co.uk or contact us by email at mars@northlincs.gov.uk

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SafeNorthLincs

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Safe North Lincs is a partnership between the Children's MARS Board and the Community Safety Partnership. Our vision is to promote the safeguarding and resilience for children, families and communities to enable people to feel safe and be safe in North Lincolnshire.

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Children, Young People and Families are Resilient and Safeguarded