

CHILDREN'S MARS BOARD NEWS UPDATE



CHILDREN'S MARS BOARD—JANUARY 2021

Welcome to the tenth edition of the news update for the North Lincolnshire Children's Multi Agency Resilience and Safeguarding (MARS) Local Arrangements. Safeguarding partners met again at the Children's MARS Board on 27 January 2021.

Key areas of discussion included:

- Progress relating to the safeguarding partners' portfolio areas
- Updates from the Children's Help and Protection Pathway Group and the Safeguarding Practice Learning and Improvement Group
- Shine a Light areas of focus - Risk Outside The Home and Responding to COVID-19 and emerging harm
- Outcomes of recent independent scrutiny and assurance activity



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 Website Updates

We have been working to keep our key documents, local resources, policies and procedures up to date and available on our website. Recently updated pages include:

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- [Resources](#)—information and referral forms relating to the Re:Form and Who's in Charge domestic abuse programmes are now available
- A collection of tools and resources have been produced and published as a Hidden Harm info-sheet. Resources are available relating to adult substance misuse, adult mental health, children's mental health, child exploitation, coping with crying and safer sleeping and domestic abuse. The info-sheet is available on the [Resources page](#)
- [Early Help](#)—the information on the Early Help page of the Children's MARS website has been refreshed and updated to make it easier for agencies to find information and guidance and to record that an early help assessment is in progress
- [Policies, procedures and guidance](#)— the Improving Child Protection and Safeguarding Practice policy and procedure, Managing allegations against adults who work with children procedure, the protocol for the assessment of injuries to non-mobile babies and the safeguarding policy templates for voluntary and community organisations, childminders and early years providers have been refreshed and republished

Learning From Practice

Learning Event - Baby C

A case specific learning event took place in February 2021.

Key themes include:

- The importance of professional curiosity and understanding the holistic needs of a family
- Professionals demonstrated creative thinking and made steps to ensure that the people who knew the family best were involved in planning
- Reflections were had around how professionals reach out to families who are invisible to services and whether a child not being registered with a GP increases their level of vulnerability

Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel - Supporting Vulnerable Children and Families during COVID-19: Practice Briefing

In December 2020, the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel issued a practice briefing document which sets out key findings and recommendations from a thematic analysis of Rapid Reviews. This related to serious child safeguarding incidents reported to the Panel during the initial COVID-19 outbreak between March and September 2020.

The practice briefing is available to view [here](#)

Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel - Annual Report 2020/2021

In April 2021, the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel issued their annual report for 2020/21. The recommendations will be considered through the Children's MARS subgroups.

The report is available on the [government website](#).

Children's MARS Training

The Children's MARS training programme 2021-22 has been published and is available on the [Children's MARS website](#). The programme contains information on course dates and learning aims.

Upcoming Courses:

- Child Protection 1 Day Masterclass - 19 May 2021, 2 June 2021 & 14 July 2021
- Child Exploitation, County Lines and Risk outside the Home - 23 April 2021 & 25 June 2021

e-workbooks are available to raise practitioners' awareness of a number of safeguarding issues. These are available for download from the [training page](#). New workbooks available include Child Sexual Exploitation, Child

Children's MARS subgroup updates

Key Updates - Children's Help and Protection Pathway (CHaPP) Group

- The vast majority of indicators relating to the early help and protection system continue to show sustained high performance and compliance with local practice standards and statutory timescales
- The response to Covid-19 has demonstrated the strength of our help and protection partnership, evidenced by examples of even closer multi-agency working and commitment
- There is shared concern about hidden harm, and significant development work underway in relation to the offer to, and oversight of, pre-birth to 2 year-olds. Two bespoke CHaPP meetings have been held to seek additional assurance in relation to multi-agency work around Hidden Harm across both services to children and services to adults
- There is an increasing focus on emotional wellbeing and mental health and many online sources of information and support are being shared across the system and used to enable self-help

Key Updates - Safeguarding Practice Learning and Improvement Group (SPLIG)

- A joint safeguarding self assessment has been developed in collaboration with the Safeguarding Adults Board. This has been distributed to agencies who are subject to the Section 11 process for completion
- Feedback around Children's MARS training remains overwhelmingly positive in terms of increased confidence in the subject matter and around the training content and mechanisms for delivery
- Work has been ongoing to develop the training offer in relation to Child Exploitation and Risk Outside the Home

Key Updates - Child Exploitation and Missing Strategy Group

- Work has been completed on improving, and making safer, hotspots in the local community through a place based multi-agency group. This work has been an excellent example of multi-agency working and there has been a positive contribution from a wide number of agencies
- Prevent meetings have moved onto a virtual platform and the Channel Panel is well attended. Cases discussed evidence that there is positive professional curiosity and challenge. The new Channel guidance has been published and national training will be available around the new Channel duty
- The Department for Education and Home Office are running a project on Serious Violence and County Lines Deep Dives to consider the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in responding to those at risk of serious violence and county lines exploitation. The outcomes from this project will contribute to the continued development of our local partnership's tenacious work in this area that is a 'shine a light' area of focus for the Children's MARS Board.

Partnership Communications

Through the multi-agency children and families communications group we are continuing to share messages in response to the national concerns around hidden harm as a result of COVID-19 and the increase in harm to infants and babies.

National Child Exploitation Awareness day took place on 18 March 2021 which aims to highlight the issues surrounding Child Exploitation. We supported the campaign by sharing key messages around how to spot the signs of child exploitation. A number of posters are available on the [communications page of the Children's MARS](#) website which can be used to raise awareness of child exploitation and how to report concerns.

North Lincolnshire Council have launched an e-newsletter for children and families which shares details about what's on in the community and where to get information, advice and help when needed.

We ask that partners share the newsletter as appropriate to ensure families are up to date with the latest news and how to access help and support.

To sign up, follow the below link, enter your email address and select Families Direct—[North Lincolnshire Council Email Update subscription](#)

Further information

For further information visit our website or follow us on Facebook or Twitter [@SafeNorthLincs](#)

If you wish to subscribe for Children's MARS communications emails, including updates on training, events and new resources for professionals, please complete the [communications sign up form](#).

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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