

7 Minute Briefing

Learning from multi agency case audit events

Babies and young children



1 Background

North Lincolnshire Children's MARS Board hold a range of scrutiny events across different themes as part of our [Scrutiny and Assurance Framework](#).

Between November 2020 and May 2021, three multi case audit learning events took place. After a process of single agency case audits, a line of sight panel meets with practitioners to discuss the case. We identify areas of good practice, learning and further development relating to multi-agency practice then agree action to further improve practice.

7 Further information

- [One Family Approach - Helping Children and Families in North Lincolnshire Document](#)
- [Children's MARS policy and procedure for assessing need and providing help](#)
- [Children's MARS briefing – Helping and Protecting Babies and Young Children](#)

6 Reflect on the learning

To inform your practice you can

- Discuss this area of work with your supervisor in the context of helping and protecting babies and young children
- Take a look at the Children's MARS briefing – Helping and Protecting Babies and Young Children

5 Next steps

- The multi agency case audit learning event records are presented to the Safeguarding Practice Learning and Improvement Group (SPLIG) for consideration. Actions from the events will be monitored and reviewed as part of the Children's MARS scrutiny and assurance action plan.

2 Why it matters?

During the COVID-19 pandemic, nationally it has been highlighted that there are concerns over increasing incidents involving babies and young children and that pressures on families with new babies have increased and risks have amplified.

These events were an opportunity for Children's MARS Board representatives to seek assurance as to the quality and effectiveness of multi-agency practice and how partner agencies are working to fulfill their safeguarding responsibilities.

In looking at specific cases, partners were also able to explore whether there were any areas for further improvement in providing help and protection across multi agency working.



3 Good practice

- Strategy discussions were undertaken in a timely manner and professionals were proactive in ensuring the safety of the child
- Strong evidence of child-centred and relational practice across the partnership
- Many examples of effective joint working and communication between professionals across the partnership during COVID-19
- Professionals demonstrated creative thinking and made steps to ensure that the people who knew the family best were involved in planning
- The values and principals of the One Family Approach are being demonstrated within practice
- There were positive examples of professional debate and challenge when dealing with complex cases

4 Key learning

- Professional curiosity and exploring the holistic picture around the family are important
- Continue to strengthen pre-birth – two year old integrated working across the partnership
- Continue to promote access to help and support across diverse local communities through communications and frontline practice
- When information is shared, the case records need to reflect the 'who', 'what', 'when' and 'how'
- Raise practitioner's awareness of the Children's MARS escalation and resolution policy