

CHILDREN'S MARS BOARD NEWS UPDATE



CHILDREN'S MARS BOARD—APRIL 2021

Welcome to the eleventh 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 30 April 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.

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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. The below documents have been updated and made available on the Children's MARS website:

Policies, procedures and guidance

- Policy and procedure for assessing need and providing help
- Policy and procedure for early help
- Information sharing guidance
- Managing allegations against adults who work with children policy and procedure
- Guidance and checklist for safeguarding policies - Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE), Faith-Based and Private Sector organisations
- Guidance for working with children, young people and adults who are vulnerable to radicalisation
- Policy and procedure for escalation and resolution

Key documents

- Children's MARS Memorandum of Understanding
- Children's MARS Information Sharing Agreement for learning through Scrutiny and Assurance activity
- Children's MARS Scrutiny and Assurance Framework
- Children's MARS Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy 2021-22

Learning From Practice

Case Specific Multi-Agency Case Audit Event - EB

A case specific multi-agency case audit event took place in May 2021.

Key themes include:

- The importance of professional curiosity and information sharing both internally and externally
- The values and principles of the One Family Approach were evident in this case and there were examples of successful joint working and communication between professionals
- Reflections were had around the complexities in decision making regarding medical investigations into non-accidental injuries

New 7-minute briefings

Two 7-minute briefings for practitioners have been published on the Children's MARS website. The briefings share the areas of good practice and learning from multi-agency case audits including the strategy discussion thematic event and a summary of three learning events held on babies and young children.

The briefings are available on the learning from practice page of the [Children's MARS website](#).

Children's MARS Training

The Children's MARS Education and Training programme 2021-22 is available on the [Children's MARS website](#). The programme contains further information on upcoming courses and learning aims.

Upcoming Courses:

- Working with young women and girls affected by gangs and county line - 9 September
- Missing Children - 15 September
- Intra-familial Child Sexual Abuse—Centre of Expertise for Child Sexual Abuse - 16 September
- Child Exploitation, County Lines and Risk outside the Home - 21 September
- Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage—Karma Nirvana—24 September
- Drug trends and local updates—30 September
- Child Protection 1 Day Masterclass - 6 October
- Female Genital Mutilation—20 October

Children's MARS subgroup updates

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

- Updates were provided from audit work relating to the provision of advice about safer sleeping in the 0-19 service, partnership working on the pre-birth pathway, repeat contacts and SPOCs. All highlighted extensive evidence of effective multi-agency working to improve outcomes, and reflected the extent of partnership development during the COVID-19 context in responding to hidden harm and working to provide early help
- The CHaPP heard the progress relating to the new partnership triage (PITSTOP) and recognised it's innovation in taking a One Family Approach to the challenge of how to consider needs earlier and without necessary escalation
- The bespoke CHaPP meeting in early April had a specific focus on emotional wellbeing and mental health. The meeting of lead officers agreed that the [Local Offer website](#) provided an excellent source of information and resources for professionals across the system. It was also highlighted that the partnership continues to identify new ways of engaging with vulnerable children and families, such as the extension of the RDaSH e-clinics, alongside more established virtual mechanisms such as Kooth and targeted groups for parents with babies who may be struggling with their mental health

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

- The SPLIG took updates on the scrutiny and assurance action plan and will consider opportunities to further embed learning
- 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
- Further work is ongoing to increase the training offer in relation to the Graded Care Profile 2 neglect assessment tool and establish a champions group to drive the local implementation

Key Updates - Risk Outside the Home (ROTH) Strategy Group

- Formally the Child Exploitation and Missing Strategy Group, the scope of the ROTH Strategy Group has been widened to address all extra familial contexts of harm in addition to child exploitation
- A key piece of work ongoing is identifying the overlap between children criminal exploitation (CCE) and child sexual exploitation (CSE). Where previously, children being exploited either via CCE or CSE were distinctly different, there have been indications that children who have been sexually exploited are being further exploited to become involved in criminal activity. Discussions are ongoing as part of the MACE process and threaded throughout other partnership work
- Updates were provided on the new Prevent and Channel duty guidance. Prevent training for practitioners has also been established as part of the Children's MARS education and training programme.

Partnership Communications

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.

Safe North Lincs supported Child Safety Week in June 2021. Key messages were shared around how to keep children safe in the home and in the community.

Due to a number of national incidents involving children and young people around water, we have strengthened our communications relating to water safety across beaches, local waterways and paddling pool safety.

Linking in to national volunteers week, we have taken the opportunity to re-raise the profile of our info-sheet for volunteers and voluntary, charity and social enterprise, faith-based and private section organisations. The info-sheet sets out the information, guidance and training available via the Children's MARS Board to support these organisations. The info-sheet is available on the [Children's MARS website](#).

The Home Office have recently relaunched their #YouAreNotAlone domestic abuse campaign. The updated partner pack which includes refreshed messages, posters and videos is available [here](#). Regular messaging relating to domestic abuse and parental conflict continue to be shared via our social media channels.

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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