

CHILDREN'S MARS BOARD NEWS UPDATE



CHILDREN'S MARS BOARD—Nov 2021

Welcome to the 13th 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 3 November 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 area of focus in relation to Risk Outside The Home
- Line of Sight areas of focus in relation to emotional wellbeing and mental health; and deliberate and unintentional injuries
- Updates relating to the Children's MARS Annual Report, the Child Exploitation and Missing Children Annual Profile and the Independent Scrutiny of the Children's MARS Local Arrangements
- Updates relating to the local response to Ofsted's report on sexual abuse and harassment in schools and colleges



Please share this information across your agency/organisation and use it as a means of prompting discussion,

Inside this issue: **Children's MARS Website Updates**

<i>Learning from practice</i>	2	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:
<i>Children's MARS training</i>	3	<p>Policies, procedures and guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping Children and Families in North Lincolnshire document 2020/24 • Complex and Organised Child Abuse policy and procedure • Yorkshire and Humber Working Principles for Safeguarding Reviews
<i>Children's MARS conference 2022</i>	3	<p>Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk Outside the Home toolkit • Signs and Indicators template for recognising and responding to Child Sexual Abuse—CSA Centre • Harmful Sexual Behaviour Support Service—SWGfL and The Marie Collins Foundation
<i>Subgroup Updates</i>	4	<p>Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk Outside the Home awareness training presentation
<i>Partnership Communications</i>	5	<p>Designated Safeguarding Leads</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 minute briefings on a range of subjects including CSE, CCE, County Lines and Online Safety

Learning From Practice

Thematic assurance event - 'front door'

A thematic assurance event took place in November 2021 in which a panel of Children's MARS representatives and an Independent Scrutiny Officer dip sampled a series of contacts, referrals and strategy discussion records.

Good practice and key learning include:

- The multi agency approach and partnership working in North Lincolnshire is strong
- Partnership contributions to strategy discussions have remained at a high level and the quality of information shared and its use has been enhanced
- The views of children and families are clear within the records
- Relational practice is evidenced across the records
- Where a contact/referral concludes that the child's case is to remain at early help, in a few cases it was not clear that this had been negotiated with the family. Their agreement to remain in early help should be acknowledged within the records
- Staff across the partnership are to be reminded of the reasons for holding a strategy discussion and the sequence of strategy discussion, subsequent section 47 enquiry (if agreed) and outcomes, i.e. if concerns are substantiated that an initial child protection conference is held

Practice Learning Line of Sight event - Babies and young children

A multi-agency case audit practice learning line of sight event took place in November 2021.

Good practice and key learning include:

- The values and principles of the One Family Approach are being demonstrated within practice and practitioners were able to confidently articulate how they approached their practice within this context
- Practice is of a high quality and the panel were assured that babies and young children are receiving the right support and care at the right time and level
- Examples of practitioners using research and evidence-based tools to inform assessments and planning
- It is important that new police officers understand how to recognise risk to unborn babies and make appropriate referrals to Children's Services
- Communication is key to ensuring professionals feel their voices are heard within planning, and to ensure a shared understanding of risk
- Senior leaders should check the support provided to under 16's attending antenatal appointments alone within the context of COVID-19

New 7-minute briefings

7-minute briefings for practitioners on recent scrutiny activity 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 front door thematic event and a summary of the event held on babies and young children.

A 7-minute briefing has also been published focussing on the North Lincolnshire Harmful Sexual Behaviour Panel. The briefing helps practitioners to learn what the role of the Panel is, the impact and successes and how to make a referral for a Harmful Sexual Behaviour assessment.

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:

- Child Protection 1 Day Masterclass - 2 March
- Brook Traffic Light Tool - 8 March
- Drug trends and local updates - 23 March

The Children's MARS Education and Training programme for 2022-23 is in development and will be communicated shortly.

Children's MARS Conference 2022

The Children's MARS Conference for 2022 has been rescheduled to take place on Thursday 5 May 2022.

Formal invitations and details relating to the programme will be circulated over the coming months.

Please reserve this date in diaries and disseminate to colleagues as appropriate.

Children's MARS subgroup updates

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

- The interface between statutory social work services and targeted services has been further strengthened over the last quarter, with family support managers being present at a range of decision-making points to maximise opportunities for the provision of family help. The new 'request for service' process is integrated, ensuring a menu of targeted interventions for families reflecting the level and types of needs
- A new Early Help Strategic Leads Group has been established under the auspices of the One Family Approach Supporting Families programme. This group will lead on early help practice and system developments that contribute to the help and protection pathway agenda
- The CHaPP continues to give strong focus to emotional wellbeing and mental health, with high challenge and support offered in the September 2021 meeting in relation to the need to strengthen our understanding and oversight of the serious self-harm cohort
- The CHaPP heard about the recently revised Humberside Police Early Intervention offer, with commitments being made to explore more joined up mechanisms for identifying appropriate families, taking a One Family Approach alongside targeted services
- The 0-2 offer and pathway is now well-embedded, with the Multi-Agency Pre-Birth Liaison and Consultation meeting (MAPLAC) proving successful as a forum for identifying families needing help and coordinating the offer at the earliest point

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

- An update report was presented to the SPLIG around the restructuring of the Multi-Agency Audit Group (MAAG). A revised terms of reference was discussed and the name change to Multi-Agency Reflective Practice Forum (MARPF). Most recently, learning themes from this forum has included the Graded Care Profile 2, mental health and creative engagement with families
- A development session was held in August 2021 around the local response to Child Sexual Abuse in the Family Environment. It was agreed that a further development session would be held and the prevalence of data across agencies would be collated
- The Yorkshire and Humber Multi-Agency Safeguarding Trainers (YHMAST) standards were presented to the SPLIG for partners to adopt which will provide a level of assurance as to the quality of safeguarding training that takes place across the partnership
- To strengthen the partnership contribution to the ongoing communications work, the Children's MARS Communication and Stakeholder Engagement planner were presented to the SPLIG to drive communications work and agree key messages

Partnership Communications

We are continuing to share messages via Safe North Lincs and through our email communications in response to key documents, emerging themes and further opportunities for education and training.

Over the festive period, we have focused our communications around key themes such as domestic abuse, emotional wellbeing and what to do if you are worried about a child.

The Children's MARS team have also supported the White Ribbon campaign and the 16 days of action which took place in November 2021.

Due to a number of national incidents involving young children, we have strengthened our communications relating to relevant local policies and procedures and learning from multi-agency case audits. A range of briefings can be found on the learning from practice page of the [Children's MARS website](#).

Upcoming communications

Safe North Lincs will be supporting Safer Internet Day on 8 February 2022 where we will be sharing a range of resources and information which can be used when working with children and families.

Further information

For further information visit our website or follow us on Facebook or Twitter @SafeNorthLincs

 [@safeNorthLincs](#)

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If you wish to subscribe for Children's MARS communications

 www.northlincscmars.co.uk

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.



Scan our QR Code to be taken directly to the Safe North Lincs Facebook page