

CHILDREN'S MARS BOARD NEWS UPDATE



CHILDREN'S MARS BOARD—JAN 2022

Welcome to the 14th 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 28 January 2022.

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
- Updates relating to the research findings from the Department for Education relating to partnership working following the multi-agency reforms
- Updates relating to the Joint Safeguarding Self Assessment (Section 11 process)



Please share this information across your agency/organisation and use it as a means of prompting discussion, sharing learning and improving practice.

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><u>Policies, procedures and guidance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Escalation and Resolution policy and procedure • Policy and procedure for identifying and responding to concerns about Female Genital Mutilation • Risk Outside the Home Approach
<i>Children's MARS conference 2022</i>	3	<p><u>Communications</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's MARS Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy 2022/23 • Children's MARS Spotlight—Child Sexual Abuse in the family environment
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Learning From Practice

Thematic assurance event - Harmful Sexual Behaviour

An Independent Scrutiny Officer led a thematic assurance event in November and December 2021 which consisted of:

- A presentation from leads of the North Lincolnshire Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) panel which set out the context, including how the pathway works and how it is monitored
- A discussion with frontline practitioners to discuss the local approach to HSB, gather their views and share areas of good practice
- A multi-agency case audit practice learning line of sight event discussing two children who are receiving HSB intervention

Good practice included:

- The HSB panel are flexible in their approach - cases which do not meet the criteria are considered where required; the panel considers preventative work; and there is good multi-agency representation at the panel
- A learning culture was evident in that both practitioners and supervisors demonstrated that they utilise national guidance and seek further support from wider national experts as appropriate
- Practitioners were aware of the nuances in HSB assessment where children have additional needs such as Special Educational Needs/Disabilities or where children have witnessed domestic abuse
- There was evidence of positive work being done in schools to strengthen the approach to HSB including a specific example of a young person being safely managed in school without being excluded from 'normal' school life

Key learning included:

- Further consider whether child friendly resources are required to empower young people to share their concerns and inform them what actions professionals will take when disclosures are made
- Re-establish the HSB practitioner development sessions as a mechanism for practitioners to share good practice and develop relationships
- Further raise the profile of the HSB panel across the partnership including with key health staff such as GPs and practice nurses
- Practitioners to continue to focus on the strengths of young people i.e. emphasising their talents and interests and building it into their plan

Further information can be found in the 7-minute briefing on this event which is available on the learning from practice page of the Children's MARS website.

A 7-minute briefing is also available on the work of the HSB Panel.

Children's MARS Training

The Children's MARS Education and Training programme 2022/23 is now available on the [Children's MARS website](#). The programme contains further information on upcoming courses and learning aims.

Upcoming Courses:

- Brook Traffic Light Tool - 10 May
- Child Protection Masterclass - 7 June
- Child to parent violence and abuse - 21 June
- Child to parent violence and abuse - 28 June
- Drug trends and local updates - 30 June

Children's MARS Conference 2022

The Children's MARS Conference for 2022 is scheduled to take place on Thursday 5 May 2022, 10am to 3.30pm at Forest Pines Hotel.

The conference is an opportunity to bring together practitioners and local leaders at all levels who have responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. As well as having a focus on our local arrangements, there will be input from a national speaker who will help us to reflect upon local practice.

The Children's MARS Conference is an excellent opportunity to acknowledge the work across the partnership and to:

- understand and reflect on how we have embedded and refined our Local Arrangements and explore areas of good practice and opportunities to listen, learn, review and adapt
- consider the impact of partnership working on children and families and fewest best interventions leading to whole family turnaround
- to hear from and understand the lived experiences of children and families and the importance of voice and engagement
- network and further develop our relational approach
- understand local innovations and initiatives
- ask questions and share your views on partnership working in North Lincolnshire to help shape and influence our future areas of focus

Limited spaces are remaining! To attend the event, please register using the below link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/north-lincolnshire-childrens-mars-annual-conference-2022-tickets-169129261173>

Partnership Group Updates

Children's MARS subgroup updates

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

- The new 'request for service' process is integrated, ensuring a menu of targeted interventions for families reflecting the level and types of needs. The offer is 'referral-less' from children's social work teams, aimed at promoting seamless step-down in line with the One Family Approach. The family support service works with partners in a range of interface forums to contribute towards the early identification of need and coordination of help
- The Partnership Integrated Triage (PIT) Stop is working well and reflects strong partnership commitment to effective data sharing to promote earliest help
- The CHaPP received progress updates in relation to partnership groups/ initiatives including reducing parental conflict, graded care profile 2, emotional wellbeing and mental health, and risks outside the home
- In addition to the scheduled CHaPP, an additional 'bespoke' meeting was convened in January to focus on 'deliberate and unintentional injuries' to children. The purpose of the meeting was to bring together lead officers to consider and reflect upon public health data, some of which may relate to and require a response from the safeguarding partnership
- The CHaPP acknowledged the contribution of schools and settings to early help and safeguarding. The Early Help Strategic Leads group is leading on developing work around the support provided to schools and settings

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

- An update report was presented to the SPLIG detailing the learning from the Multi-Agency Reflective Practice Forum (MARPF). Strengths were identified as good multi agency intervention with families including fathers, the child's wishes and feelings have been taken into account and schools provided good support to the family
- The SPLIG reflected on the key messages from the recent high profile children's cases in the media relating to child deaths. Subsequent to the SPLIG, a letter and briefing was distributed to key partnership leads across the Children's MARS Local Arrangements, Safeguarding Adults Board and Community Safety Partnership for dissemination
- The SPLIG received updates on recent scrutiny and assurance activity including the thematic assurance events on the 'front door' and harmful sexual behaviour and the multi agency case audit practice learning line of sight event on babies and young children
- 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

Children's MARS Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and Children's MARS Spotlight

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.

The refreshed Children's MARS Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy 2022/23 is now available on the communications page of the [Children's MARS website](#).

The Children's MARS Spotlight is a new mechanism for coordinating key communications messages, tools and resources and upcoming training associated with the Children's MARS 'Shine a Light' areas of focus.

The theme of the latest Spotlight is Child Sexual Abuse in the Family Environment. You can view it on the [communications page](#) of the Children's MARS website.

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