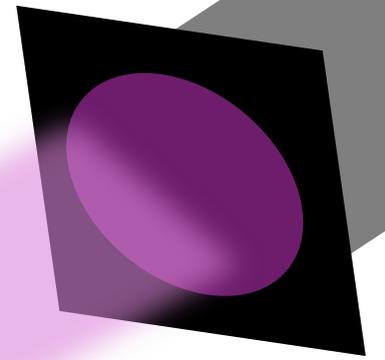


North Lincolnshire  
**CHILDREN'S  
MULTI-AGENCY  
RESILIENCE &  
SAFEGUARDING  
BOARD**



# In the Spotlight...

**Child Sexual Abuse in  
the family environment**

# In this Spotlight...

The focus of this edition of the Children's MARS Spotlight is Child Sexual Abuse in the Family Environment.

*Child sexual abuse in the family environment is defined as sexual abuse perpetrated or facilitated in or out of the home, against a child under the age of 18, by a family member, or someone otherwise linked to the family context or environment, whether or not they are a family member.*

*Within this definition, perpetrators may be close to the victim (for example, father, uncle, stepfather, sibling) or less familiar (family friend, neighbour, babysitter). Less commonly, perpetrators can also be female, such as mother, aunt, cousin or stepmother, which is often overlooked.*

[Protecting children from harm: a critical assessment of child sexual abuse in the family network in England and priorities for action, Children's Commissioner 2015](#)

In this edition of the Spotlight you can, find information about...

- Key messages for practice
- Education and Training
- Key tools and resources
- Contacts

# Key messages for practice

Sibling sexual abuse is thought to be the most common form of intra-familial child sexual abuse – three times more common than abuse by a parent

[CSA Centre](#)

Children need help to communicate what is happening when it comes to verbally disclosing sexual abuse. It is important that we recognise that we are as integral to the disclosure process as the child themselves, and we can support children even without a verbal disclosure. The knowledge required to do this is not 'expert' or 'specialist', and all professionals need access to it

[CSA Centre](#)

BAME and LGBT+ children and young people, those with disabilities and boys all face additional barriers to their abuse coming to light

[CSA Centre](#)

Interventions that focus on the whole family as well as the individual child are important. Children and young people often feel responsible for the distress of their family in the aftermath of sexual abuse, and this can be reduced through providing support to non-abusing family members

[CSA Centre](#)

# Education and Training

## Brook Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool

This training supports professionals working with children and young people by helping them to identify and respond appropriately to sexual behaviours

Upcoming dates:

- 10 May 2022, 1pm to 4.30pm - MS Teams
- 5 July 2022, 1pm to 4.30pm - MS Teams
- 6 October 2022, 9.30am to 1pm - MS Teams
- 8 November 2022, 9.30am to 1pm - MS Teams

To book, email [mars@northlincs.gov.uk](mailto:mars@northlincs.gov.uk)

## Webinar: Disclosure of Child Sexual Abuse - Dr Michelle Cutland (CSA Centre)

This session provides an overview of the evidence and research around disclosures of CSA by children and young people as well as providing viewers with practice advice on how to respond and receive disclosures in a range of settings.

This webinar is available to view on YouTube [KBSP Webinar - Disclosure of Child Sexual Abuse - YouTube](#)

## Practice in Action session

This session will be an opportunity for staff to hear about and share good practice in relation to child sexual abuse in the family environment.

It will also raise awareness of the Children's MARS Child Sexual Abuse in the Family Environment toolkit including key messages for practice and available tools and resources.

Date/Time to be confirmed

# Key tools and resources

1. [Children's MARS Child Sexual Abuse in the Family Environment toolkit](#) contains information for all agencies to identify and respond to child sexual abuse in the family environment. It also contains various resources for professionals and children, young people and families
2. [The CSA Centre's signs and indicators template](#) helps professionals to gather the wider signs and indicators of child sexual abuse and build a picture of their concerns. The template is designed to provide a common language amongst professionals to discuss, record and share concerns about sexual abuse
3. [The CSA Centre's communication with children: a guide for those working with children who have or may have been sexually abused](#) brings together research, professional guidance and expert input from professionals and victims/survivors of abuse to guide conversations and safeguarding of children
4. [The Children's Society guide for responding to children telling you they have experienced sexual abuse, sexual violence and sexual harassment](#) provides advice to practitioners around how to respond to a child telling them about their experience of sexual abuse
5. [Sibling sexual abuse: A knowledge and practice overview](#) report focuses on supporting practice, providing an accessible resource to help professionals understand the issues and challenges raised by sibling sexual abuse.
6. [Lucy Faithfull Foundation's Stop It Now programme](#) provides help and support to both professionals and families through their helpline, live chat and secure email. There are also a number of articles and resources available on their website
7. [The multi-agency response to child sexual abuse in the family environment \(2020\) Ofsted](#)
8. [Key messages from research on intra-familial child sexual abuse \(2018\) Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse](#)

# Contacts

The Children's MARS Board produces quarterly news updates which provide information on the work of the Board and includes updates on local and national guidance. We also promote new education and training opportunities, resources for professionals and volunteers, support for children and families and information relating to events and conferences through our communications email list.

If you wish to subscribe for Children's MARS communications emails, please complete the [communications sign up form](#).

A collection of our previous news updates can also be found on the [communications page](#).

The Children's MARS Board regularly post updates via the partnership social media pages Safe North Lincs. Support and advice for children and families can be found on our Facebook and Twitter pages.

Follow us on Facebook [Safe North Lincs](#) or Twitter [@SafeNorthLincs](#)



[@safeNorthLincs](#)



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