

CHILDREN'S MARS BOARD NEWS UPDATE



North Lincolnshire

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

CHILDREN'S MARS CONFERENCE 2022

Welcome to this Special Edition news update of the North Lincolnshire Children's Multi Agency Resilience and Safeguarding (MARS) Local Arrangements.

The Children's MARS Conference took place on 5 May 2022 at Forest Pines Hotel Conference Centre. Over 150 people attended from across the partnership including leaders at all levels and young people.

Positive feedback on the day included:

'There was great oversight of all of the fantastic multi-agency work we all strive to do, which is ultimately for the children of our area'

'The day was a real celebration of all that we do as a team of North Lincs'

'It was really interesting to learn about the different areas and how as a multiagency everyone strives to reach the same one family approach. It was clear what the outcomes of the day were, the interaction with other professionals was really helpful too'



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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Isobel Andrews, Chair of North Lincolnshire Youth Council and Deputy Member of Youth Parliament

Paula Salmons, Service Manager Children in Care, Courts and Permanence, North Lincolnshire Council

We would like to give special thanks to Isobel and Paula for being comperes for the event.

They did an excellent job keeping all professionals in the room engaged and focussed throughout the day.



Opening Remarks

Welcome

Councillor Julie Reed, Cabinet Member for Children and Families



Cllr Julie Reed opened the conference by introducing the place of North Lincolnshire. She set out our local ambition to engage with children, young people and families, to build on their strengths, find solutions, build resilience and enable independence.

Opening Remarks

Darren Wildbore, Chief Superintendent and South Bank Divisional Commander, Humberside Police

Ann-Marie Matson, Director of Children and Families, North Lincolnshire Council

Helen Davis, Interim Director of Nursing and Quality, North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group

We heard from our safeguarding partners who discussed their shared commitment to lead on key functions that underpin our local arrangements and the significant successes which demonstrate that the Children's MARS Arrangements have a positive impact on outcomes for children, young people and families. It was highlighted that through our local arrangements, the One Family Approach practice model creates the conditions to enable strong local practice which is key to a successful safeguarding system.



Listening, Learning, Reviewing and Adapting

Edwina Harrison and Dave Basker, Independent Scrutiny Officers



Two of our Independent Scrutiny Officers, Dave and Edwina shared an overview of the good practice that they have seen throughout their work in North Lincolnshire and the positive impact that it has had on children and families. They highlighted that the voice of the child was evident and engagement with children and young people influenced decisions made and actions taken.

Family Solutions and Family Empowerment

Julie Bettany, Service Manager Child in Need and Child Protection, North Lincolnshire Council

Queenie Carrie, Service Manager Targeted Family Support, North Lincolnshire Council

Julie and Queenie discussed how we use the One Family Approach to enable change and promote family empowerment. The North Lincolnshire Family Solutions Model was used as an example of good practice where professionals enable family members along with their support networks, to find their own solutions. The model is underpinned by the belief that children, parents and other family members are experts in their own lives.



Getting the best start through the 0-2 and Pre-Birth Pathway

Rebecca Pease, Service Manager 0-19 (25 SEND) Health and Wellbeing Service, Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust

Queenie Carrie, Service Manager Targeted Family Support, North Lincolnshire Council

Rebecca and Queenie provided an overview of the integration between the 0-19 Health and Wellbeing Service and Targeted Family Support to provide children with the best start at the earliest point in their lives. A number of case studies were shared which evidenced how the integration of services and implementing support at the earliest stage has led to successful outcomes for families. A number of key tools and resources were shared that can be used by practitioners when supporting families.



Partnership working to help children and families at the earliest point

Phil Booker, Detective Chief Inspector Protecting Vulnerable People Unit, Humberside Police

Sam Colley, Service Manager Single Point of Contact and Integrated Multi-Agency Partnership, North Lincolnshire Council

We next heard an overview of the new Partnership Integrated Triage (PIT)STOP meetings which aims to provide families with help by the most appropriate person at the lowest level and at the earliest stage. PITSTOP has evidenced a number of positive impacts on children and families in respect of early intervention and has been put forward as an example of national best practice to the Local Government Association and to What Works for Children's Social Care.



One Family Approach - Safeguarding in Families

One Family Approach - Safeguarding in Schools and Keynote Speaker

Keeping children safe in education

Jemima Flintoff, Head of Standards and Effectiveness, North Lincolnshire Council



Jemima shared an overview of the many positive examples of good practice that have taken place in schools and settings to safeguard children. An emotive video from Scunthorpe Church of England Primary School was played which shares the views of children who have moved to the UK and how they have been supported in school. An overview of key achievements and the impact they have had on children's lives was shared, including the work done to reduce the impact of food poverty, the Fuelled activities programme and the focus on supporting children's emotional health and wellbeing.

Keynote - Hope and Opportunity

Gavin McKenna, Reach Every Generation



We welcomed Gavin McKenna, founder of Reach Every Generation, who discussed his personal journey from childhood. He explored witnessing extreme violence from a young age and how he fell into a life of crime and violence. Gavin discussed the emotional impact of his childhood experiences and how he became a product of his social environment.

A key aspect of Gavin's presentation was around **changing the narrative**. He shared his experiences of being perceived as an adult and not a child as a result of the way he spoke, dressed and his involvement with criminal gangs. The negative use of language and being treated differently to peers removes hope from a young person's life and damages their self esteem.

He spoke about the importance of creating the right conditions for children and young people by '**flooding communities with positive role models**'. Those who seek to exploit children become the role models of young people where there is no alternative. His work with Reach Every Generation aims to help young people build upon their interests and develop practical skills which supports their aspirations.

Using the analogy of escaping a burning building, Gavin advocates that those supporting young people **create 'fire exits'** by creating hope and opportunity. Instead of putting tall ladders at windows which a fearful young person may struggle to climb down alone, professionals holding open a fire exit enables young people to make a positive choice whilst being supported. By upskilling young people, building on their aspirations and supporting them, we are equipping young people to become the best adults they can be.

Finally, Gavin discussed the importance of oversight and that **young people value having a trusted adult who has oversight of them**. He stressed that this can be oversight from anyone, not just professionals or those with lived experience, but anyone who takes the time to develop a trusting relationship with the young person and enables them to feel safe.

Working in partnership to identify and respond to harm from risk outside the home

Charlene Sykes, Service Lead for Identification, Assessment and Safeguarding Children, North Lincolnshire Council

Tom Hewis, Head of Early Help and Protection, North Lincolnshire Council

Stuart Minto, Principal Officer Safer Neighbourhoods, North Lincolnshire Council

Following on from our keynote speaker, we heard about our local approach to Risk Outside the Home which was launched at the conference. Tom explained how plans to reduce risk are based around the strengths of families and support coordinated through the child's trusted relationships. Stuart talked about good practice in relation to place-based partnership working and disruption was highlighted. Charlene shared the views of a local young person who spoke positively about his experience of services and the impact practitioners had made to his life.



Round table discussion

Attendees were given the opportunity to reflect on the day and discuss key messages between tables before being asked to feedback. Comments included:

There is further work to do to develop our community offer post COVID and consider how to make services visible within the community

We must continue to change the narrative and ensure that the child is seen and treated as a child

We reflected on how far we have come as a partnership since the launch conference in 2018

Gavin's message around creating 'fire exits' for children and that 'it's okay to care' made an impact

Safeguarding in Communities

Reflections and Feedback

Final Remarks and Close

Darren Wildbore, Chief Superintendent and South Bank Divisional Commander, Humberside Police



As current Chair of the Children's MARS Board, Chief Superintendent Darren Wildbore closed the conference reinforcing the commitment from the Board and other senior leaders to work in partnership and remove barriers. He summarised that practitioners in North Lincolnshire have a common understanding of the One Family Approach and care about children and communities. The conference has evidenced a strong partnership and a positive attitude amongst professionals who consider the voice of children and families.

Reflections and Feedback

After the event, attendees were asked what their top takeaways were from the conference. A selection of responses are below:



Further Information and Resources

A copy of the conference presentation is available to view on the [communications page](#) of the Children's MARS website.

Other key documents and resources referred to during the conference are available below:

- [ICON Programme video](#)
- [Scunthorpe Church of England School—Children's experiences of moving to the UK](#)
- [North Lincolnshire Risk Outside the Home Approach](#)
- [North Lincolnshire Risk Outside the Home Strategy 2022/25](#)
- [Children's MARS Risk Outside the Home Toolkit](#)
- [Children's MARS Annual Report 2020/21](#)

You can also find further information on the work of Gavin McKenna and his team at www.reacheverygeneration.co.uk

Children's MARS Communications

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



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mars@northlincs.gov.uk



www.northlincscmars.co.uk

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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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