

# CHILDREN'S MARS BOARD NEWS UPDATE



## Children's MARS Board—July 2022

Welcome to the 16th 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 21 July 2022.

Key areas of discussion included:

- Progress relating to the safeguarding partners' portfolio areas
- Updates from the Early Help Strategic Leads Group, Children's Help and Protection Pathway Group and the Safeguarding Practice Learning and Improvement Group
- Updates on recent voice and stakeholder engagement activity
- An update on safeguarding children in education
- The Yorkshire and Humber Department for Education Female Genital Mutilation research project



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](#)

- Childminder template safeguarding policy
- Private, voluntary and independent nurseries and early years provision template safeguarding policy
- Child protection conference agenda and reporting template
- Quality standards for child protection conference
- Best practice guidelines for preparing for and attending child protection conference for partner agencies and social workers

#### [Learning from practice](#)

- Workforce briefing presentation: Child Protection in England report

#### [Training](#)

- Children's MARS Education and Training Programme 2022/23

## Key national reports and local implications

In May 2022, the [Child Protection in England: National review into the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson](#) report was published by the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel.

A series of partnership workforce briefing sessions took place to disseminate the learning and key messages from the report. The presentation from the briefing is now available on the learning from practice page: [Workforce briefing presentation—Child Protection in England](#).

As part of our response to the recommendations contained within the report, we have developed and published a [7 minute briefing on Information Sharing](#). The briefing can be found on the learning from practice page of our website.

In September 2022, the below reports were also published by the Panel:

- [Briefing - Multi-agency safeguarding and domestic abuse](#) - This paper sets out key findings from a thematic analysis of rapid reviews and local child safeguarding practice reviews where domestic abuse featured. It summarises the most common themes that emerged in relation to multi-agency safeguarding for children who are victims of domestic abuse and includes examples of practice and recommendations
- [Briefing - Bruising in non-mobile infants](#) - This paper explores the current guidance on the management of bruising in non-mobile infants in the light of published evidence and variations in practice. The aim of this briefing is to support safeguarding partners in reviewing their current policies on bruising in non-mobile infants and to make recommendations on how the evidence base and national guidelines can be further developed
- [Letter - Joint ministerial response to the Myth of Invisible Men](#) - This letter sets out the cross-Government programme of work focusing on strengthening whole family approaches and improving evidence in response to the Panel's recommendations made in their national review 'The Myth of Invisible Men: Safeguarding children under 1 from non-accidental injury caused by male carers'

## Learning from practice

### Key themes from the Multi-Agency Reflective Practice Forum (MARPF)

The MARPF is held on a monthly basis to reflect on practice based on prior single agency audit and quality assurance. A summary of the key strengths highlighted at the MARPF this quarter includes:

- Multi-agency working to ensure the children remained in their homes, in their schools and in their communities was strong
- Professionals stepped out of their normal roles where required and were flexible to meet the needs of the family
- Management oversight was in tune with the family's changing situation and there were opportunities for supervision and support across the professionals working with the family
- Building and maintaining relationships with the both the family and between professionals was strong

## Voice and stakeholder engagement

### Democracy day: 6 July 2022

The Children's MARS team attended the Democracy Day event led by the North Lincolnshire Youth Council to consult with a number of young people around healthy relationships and teenage relationship abuse.

We consulted 25 young people who demonstrated a good understanding of the difference between healthy relationships and abusive relationships.

Young people also told us that they would like to see more awareness raising, particularly at an earlier stage and in a quick and informative way. In response to this, we have increased our communications on social media and have refreshed the resources on our website for children and families.

We will be taking further opportunities to engage with young people at events throughout the year and the emerging themes will feed into local work being undertaken as part of our 'Shine a Light' area of focus on teenage relationship abuse.

## Children's MARS training

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

Upcoming Courses:

- Strategy Discussions—3 November
- Brook Traffic Light Tool—8 November
- Graded Care Profile 2—14 November
- Early Help: Practice and Process—5 December
- Child Protection—8 December
- Early Help: Practice and Process—11 January
- Strategy Discussions—18 January

## Families Direct newsletter

The Families Direct newsletter provides families with details about what's on in the community, and where to get information, advice and help when they need it.

Both families and professionals can sign up to receive the newsletter twice-monthly using the below link:

<http://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKNOLC/subscriber/new>

An example of the newsletter can be viewed using this link - [Families Direct \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

## Children's MARS subgroup updates

### Key Updates - Early Help Strategic Leads Group (EHSLG)

- Following consultation with schools, colleges and settings, the early help assessment and plan has been re-designed. The development of the new format has been done in close collaboration with a range of council services and partners, including school staff, and different drafts have been tested along the way in real-life scenarios with families views being obtained to help shape the design process
- The DASH online early help registration system is being developed to provide early help practitioners the ability to open and close periods of formal early help, to receive reminders about review dates, and to show where their help has made things better
- Whilst the lead for vulnerability relating to risk outside the home sits with the Risk Outside the Home Strategic Group, the EHSLG has given significant focus to the application of early help with adolescents. The ROTH approach has been shared widely including with schools, and there is growing evidence of awareness and identification of exploitation and online harms

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

- The vast majority of performance and activity indicators relating to the early help and protection system continue to show sustained high performance and compliance with local practice standards and statutory timescales
- Analysis of child protection conference attendance provided good assurance that the vast majority have had strong contribution and attendance. There has been improvements in the sharing of agency reports with parents beforehand. It was shared that as part of the quality assurance process, there is challenge and oversight of how and when reports are shared with parents. Best practice standards are also in place which indicates that reports should be shared
- It was highlighted in the CHaPP that nationally and locally there has been an increase in concerning behaviours in relation to sexual offending between children of a similar age. This may be due to lockdown and unhealthy attitudes towards consent that have been developed through online use. Humberside Police Child Sexual Exploitation Team have been visiting schools to deliver work around consent to address this

### Key updates - Safeguarding Practice Learning and Improvement Group (SPLIG)

- The SPLIG received updates on a recent practice learning line of sight event on child sexual abuse in the family environment. The learning event notes and a 7-minute briefing was presented and endorsed for inclusion on the Children's MARS website
- The SPLIG received an overview of the Independent Scrutiny Officers' findings as part of their review of the Children's MARS arrangements
- The SPLIG discussed the outcomes from a multi-agency reflection and wellbeing forum which was held with staff to reflect on the impact of vicarious trauma from their work, and offered a safe space for staff to share their views and maintain their resilience. The meeting was positive and feedback indicated that all staff appreciated the opportunities for reflection. The SPLIG agreed to consider the model for use in the future where appropriate

## Children's MARS Annual Report 2021/22

The Children's MARS Annual Report of Local Arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people 2021/22 has been published on the [Children's MARS website](#). The report sets out the effectiveness of our arrangements along with evidence of the impact of the work of the safeguarding partners on outcomes for children.

As part of our commitment to listen, learn, review and adapt, we have refreshed our suite of key documents, as follows:

- Children's MARS local arrangements
- Children's MARS local arrangements appendices
- 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

Our annual report and the above documents are available on the [key documents](#) page of our website.

### Children's MARS 'Shine a Light' Areas of Focus 2022/23

There are specific areas of focus in which the Children's MARS Board wish to 'shine a light' on and maintain oversight of to ensure there is focused partnership action, system change and robust practice to contribute to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and families.

The 'shine a light' areas of focus for 2022/23 are:

- Further develop the multi-agency approach to Risk Outside the Home, specifically in relation to **Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation**
- Further develop the multi-agency approach to Risk Outside the Home, specifically in relation to **Teenage Relationship Abuse**
- Further develop our approach to preventing and reducing the impact from **online abuse**
- Further develop the interface and relationships between the Children's MARS Local Arrangements and the **Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector**
- Further develop the multi-agency approach to **men including fathers, male carers and wider family members**
- Further raise awareness and develop our practice to prevent and reduce the harm from **neglect**

As well as the actions associated with the 'shine a light' areas of focus, our Local Arrangements are underpinned by a strategic development plan, which is built around the following areas:

- Key actions pertaining the safeguarding partner's portfolio areas
- Recommendations from the Independent Scrutiny Review of the Children's MARS Local Arrangements
- Actions associated with key policy drivers

Specific action detail is included in our strategic development plan which can be found in our annual report.

## Communications and stakeholder engagement

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 Children's MARS Spotlight is a 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 Joint Targeted Area Inspections. 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](http://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*