

7 Minute Briefing

Learning from practice learning line of sight events – Child criminal exploitation and child sexual exploitation



1 Background

North Lincolnshire Children's MARS Board hold a range of scrutiny events across different themes as part of our [Scrutiny and Assurance Framework](#).

Between October and December 2022, two multi case practice learning line of sight events took place. After a process of single agency case audits, a panel of Children's MARS representatives and an Independent Scrutiny Officer meet with practitioners to discuss a small number of cases. We identify areas of best practice, learning and further improvement relating to multi agency practice then agree any actions.

2 Why it matters?

As a 'Shine a Light' area of focus for the Children's MARS Board, the events were an opportunity for Board representatives to seek assurance as to the quality and effectiveness of multi-agency practice and how partner agencies are working to fulfill their safeguarding responsibilities.

Partners were also able to explore whether there were any areas for further improvement in providing help and protection across multi agency working and to evidence the impact of local development work.

3 Good practice

- The whole partnership put an emphasis on the quality of relationships. Building and maintaining loving relationships was evident
- There was evidence of outcome focussed planning – all professionals were striving for the same outcome and were on the same page
- Acknowledging the complexities and challenges in cases of child exploitation, the practitioners in the room were caring, compassionate and empathetic
- Practitioners worked constructively and creatively with families - interventions were done 'with' and 'alongside' the family
- Practitioners demonstrated a passion for practice and helping children and discussion was not centred on processes
- There is strong evidence of inter-agency working. Practitioners worked collaboratively as a team and knew what each other were doing with the family
- There was a focus on promoting and supporting young people's talents, interests and aspirations

4 Key learning

- The importance of building relationships and involving parents/carers as safeguarding partners was drawn out as a theme of good practice for practitioners to continue to focus on
- The panel considered whether there are opportunities to work with parents to empower them to share their positive stories with professionals or other parents
- Sticking with the plan at times of high risk and crisis and intensively supporting the child and family for the child to remain in the family led to good outcomes

5 Next steps

- An overview of the event is presented to the Safeguarding Practice Learning and Improvement Group (SPLIG) for consideration. Actions from the event will be monitored and reviewed as part of the Children's MARS scrutiny and assurance action plan

Further information

- [Children's MARS Child Sexual Exploitation: definition and guide for practitioners, local leaders and decision makers working to protect children from child sexual exploitation](#)
- [Children's MARS Child Criminal Exploitation: definition and guide for practitioners, local leaders and decision makers working to protect children from child criminal exploitation](#)
- [North Lincolnshire Risk Outside the Home Approach document](#)
- [Children's MARS toolkits - Risk Outside the Home Toolkit and Mind Your Language – Using appropriate language when working with young people experiencing child exploitation](#)

6 Reflect on the learning

To inform your practice you can

- Discuss this area of work with your supervisor in the context of child exploitation
- Take a look at the Children's MARS Risk Outside the Home Toolkit and Mind Your Language – Using appropriate language when working with young people experiencing child exploitation toolkit

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