

# CHILDREN'S MARS BOARD NEWS UPDATE



## Children's MARS Board—April 2023

Welcome to the 19th 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 April 2023.

Key areas of discussion included:

- Progress relating to the safeguarding partners' portfolio areas and the Children's MARS delivery plan
- Updates from the Early Help Strategic Leads Group, Children's Help and Protection Pathway Group, the Safeguarding Practice Learning and Improvement Group and the Risk Outside the Home Strategic Group
- Outcomes of the annual safeguarding audit for schools and settings
- An update on stakeholder engagement and communications including the voice of children and families
- A presentation from RDaSH CAMHS relating to their mental health offer to children and families in North Lincolnshire



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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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](#)

- Guidance on bruising/injuries to children including non-mobile infants

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

- 7 minute briefing—Teenage relationship abuse
- 7 minute briefing—Child criminal and sexual exploitation

#### [Resources](#)

- Family Help toolkit—Chapter 1 Neglect

#### [Early Help](#)

- Online system help cards

# Changes to key national guidance

## Changes to key national guidance

### Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 - Consultation

The consultation on Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 has been published by the Department for Education. Safeguarding partners will consider the new guidance and will respond to the consultation which closes on 6 September.

A document setting out the key changes and consultation questions can be found here - [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 - consultation document](#)

The proposed draft guidance can be found here - [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023: draft for consultation](#)

A number of consultation events are taking place which partners from relevant agencies may wish to engage in to share their views:

- [Strengthening multi-agency arrangements, 2 August, 11.00 to 12.00](#)
- [Multi-agency child protection, 7 August, 11.00 to 12.30](#)
- [Health sector focussed event, 15 August, 3.00 to 4.30](#)
- [Local Authority focussed event, 17 August 2.00 to 3.30](#)
- [WT2023 - Open access consultation event, 4 September, 3.00 to 4.00](#) - This event is open to everyone with an interest in sharing their views on the proposed updates to Working Together

Further information relating to each event is included on each Eventbrite link.

### Information sharing advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers - Consultation

Alongside Working Together 2023, the Department for Education are also consulting on changes to the information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners document.

A document setting out the key changes and consultation questions can be found here - [Consultation - Information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners](#)

The proposed draft guidance can be found here - [DRAFT Information sharing advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers](#)

### Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023

The Department for Education has published the latest version of Keeping Children Safe In Education 2023. The new guidance will be implemented in September 2023. The new guidance can be found here - [Keeping children safe in education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

## 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 upon prior single agency audit and quality assurance. A summary of the strengths and learning highlighted at the MARPF this quarter includes:

- Evidence of positive approaches taken by professionals to work with the child. An example of this is a considered approach by the three trusted professionals in identifying who was the best person to address issues rather than three people visiting (thus preventing duplication and demonstrating fewest best interventions)
- The child was given autonomy in choosing who she wanted to speak
- The child's placement move was managed in a timely manner. Practitioners worked to ensure she stayed as local as possible to ensure she could continue family time and remain as close to her family and community as possible
- The MARPF reflected around the parent's own adverse childhood experiences and how this impacted on her parenting style. The importance of considering this and supporting parents to access support was crucial to move forward in a positive way
- The discussion identified that it is challenging for professionals to work with families who do not want to work with services before a crisis point is reached

## Children's MARS education and training

The Children's MARS Education and Training programme 2023/24 has been published. The programme contains information on our upcoming courses and is available on the [Children's MARS website](#).

Upcoming Courses:

- Strategy Discussions—2 August, 9.30 to 4.30, The Wortley House Hotel
- Child Protection—14 September, 9.30 to 4.30, MS Teams
- Drug trends and substance misuse —21 September, 10.00 to 11.00, MS Teams
- Child exploitation—21 September, 1.00 to 5.00, MS Teams
- Graded Care Profile 2—22 September, 9.30 to 12.00, Church Square House
- Working with resistant families—25 September, 9.00 to 12.00, Connect Church
- Working with resistant families—25 September, 1.00 to 4.00, Connect Church
- Early help: Practice and process—27 September, 9.30 to 12.30, Venue TBC
- AIM2: Initial assessments of young people who sexually harm—28 and 29 September, 9.30 to 4.30, Connect Church
- Intervention and planning using the Good Lives Model with young people who sexually harm, 5 and 6 October, 9.30 to 4.30, Connect Church
- Strategy Discussions—11 October, 9.30 to 4.30, The Wortley House Hotel
- Reducing Parental Conflict—12 and 13 October, 9.30 to 12.30, MS Teams

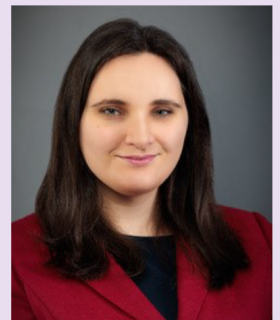
Future dates for the above courses and information relating to course content can be found in the education and training programme.

## Dr Emma Katz - Understanding coercive control and its impacts on children

Join us in welcoming Dr Emma Katz for this webinar on coercive control and its impacts on children, which is taking place on 10 October, 10.00 to 11.00, MS Teams.

Dr Emma Katz is Associate Professor at Durham University. She is an award-winning expert in domestic abuse and coercive control, whose work has influenced policy and professional practice in the UK and globally.

Dr Katz's book, *Coercive Control in Children's and Mothers' Lives* (published in 2022 by Oxford University Press) is described by Professor Evan Stark as a 'pioneering work that will change how we understand and respond to children's experience of domestic abuse'.



**Dr Emma Katz**  
Associate Professor  
Durham University

Learning outcomes:

- Delegates will be able to identify 10 tactics of coercive control used by perpetrators
- Delegates will be able to identify how children's lives are affected by perpetrators' regimes of coercive control while children and their victim-survivor parent are still living with the perpetrator
- Delegates will be able to identify how children's lives are affected by perpetrators' ongoing coercive control of them and their victim-survivor parent in the post-separation period

**Book here - [Understanding coercive control and its impacts on children - Dr Emma Katz Tickets, Tue 10 Oct 2023 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)**

## Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector Networking Event

In collaboration with Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire (VANL), the Children's MARS Board are supporting the inaugural networking event for the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector.

The event is for the VCSE sector, including faith organisations, to learn more about the multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding children and adults in North Lincolnshire.

Presentations will provide information about what the local partnerships do, their current priorities, and the local offer to the VCSE, including access to support, training and resources; as well as discussions on ways we can work together, highlighting the important role that we all play in keeping people safe.

There will also be networking opportunities and a marketplace of stands relating to keeping people safe. If you would like to have a stand for your organisation, please contact [detty.tyler@vanl.org.uk](mailto:detty.tyler@vanl.org.uk)

To book onto the event, please use the Eventbrite link below:

**[Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire and Partners Safeguarding Event Tickets, Wed 4 Oct 2023 at 12:00 | Eventbrite](#)**

# Partnership Group Updates

## Children's MARS subgroup updates

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

- Following the discussion and resulting actions from the last Children's MARS Board about early help and the need for a more focused response from the lead officer group, the Early Help Strategic Leads Group dedicated the February meeting to exploring front door data and developing a work plan for the year ahead
- A specific multi-agency forum for reviewing the inappropriate calls to the Single Point of Contact was established. This aims to help develop a more sophisticated understanding of early help practice and the drivers for the increase in calls over the last year. The meeting was well attended by lead officers representing education, social care, CAMHS, adult services, and the 0-19 health and wellbeing service. The group explored a number of calls from a range of sources and key themes were reported into the Children's MARS Board
- This year has seen the implementation of a new assessment model, plan, and recording mechanism in October 2022. Secondly, there has been a change in practice meaning that single-issue early help assessments aimed at building evidence for an EHCP process has ceased. Thirdly, the new system registers early help closures, as well as those being started, meaning that the new data is far more accurate than in previous years. Overall, the level of confidence we can have that early help plans are whole-family and actively being reviewed has risen over this year
- The EHSLG has led on the development of an early help work plan for 2023/24, which is in the process of being populated with lead names and timescales for approval at the next meeting

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

- The strong data report provided assurance that the vast majority of performance and activity indicators relating to the early help and protection system continues to show sustained high performance and compliance with local practice standards and statutory timescales for Q3
- Lead officers welcomed the addition of the community midwife to the CHaPP and heard the positive developments in relation to interagency working and contribution within the help and protection system as this had been area for consideration in quarter 2. Specifically, it was highlighted as good practice that communications have been strengthened with the NLaG Safeguarding Team and NICU Ward Managers around discharge planning arrangements for babies
- We Are With You updated the CHaPP in respect of their staff whom work specifically with families within the child in need and child protection arena. The ambition is to expand into prevention and be able to support families within early help. Good practice examples of improving engagement by building relationships, being out and visible in the community and being able to support parents to attend appointments were shared

### Key updates - Risk Outside the Home Strategic Group

- The group has refocused to ensure there is appropriate assurance around key issues. A new reporting process has also been implemented with reports from area leads being required prior to the meeting to allow for discussion and challenge
- Work is being undertaken by the Child Exploitation Lead Officer Group (CELOG) to analyse vulnerabilities for children and link these to the available intelligence on them, therefore ensuring we are maximising all opportunities for disruption and support
- Missing children numbers are higher than the previous year but still significantly lower than in the years prior to the pandemic. A thematic analysis of missing incidents was undertaken in February, and it was identified that the increase in figures was due to a natural progression and removal of COVID restrictions. Assurance had been provided from the Children in Care Teams that all missing episodes are regularly reviewed and return interviews are taking place as required
- The ROTH Strategic Group meeting in March also received a comprehensive update on PHSE with a focus on Sex and Relationship Education and healthy relationships. Safeguarding Leads from two local schools attended to give an overview of their PHSE offer
- The ROTH delivery plan for 2023-24 is in development and will focus on key areas of added value and identified areas for further development some of which include transitions to adulthood, working with hotels, bars and taxi companies and the development of safe spaces
- The Board also heard updates on a specific police operation relating to child criminal exploitation and the plans in place relating to disruption activity. A bespoke ROTH Strategic Group is to be convened to consider the partnership response to this

### Key updates - Safeguarding Practice Learning and Improvement Group

- The Board heard that a SPLIG development session was scheduled for May 2023 to consider the implications from the reports issued by the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel including their briefings on bruising in non-mobile infants and multi-agency safeguarding and domestic abuse
- The above session will also have a focus on previous reports issued by the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel to provide lead officers with an opportunity to reflect on whether the learning has been embedded

### Key updates - Safeguarding children in education

- The outcomes of the annual schools safeguarding audit was presented to the Board. Audits were returned from schools (including special and independent) in North Lincolnshire, colleges in North Lincolnshire, alternative provision utilised by North Lincolnshire Council and out of area provision that North Lincolnshire children attend.
- The audit provides a high level of assurance that schools and settings in North Lincolnshire are meeting their statutory duties. It is also an opportunity for schools to evidence their good practice and identify any areas for development
- The outcomes of the annual safeguarding audit for the private, voluntary and independent childcare sector was presented to the Board. The audit was returned by childminders, nurseries, pre-schools and before and after school care. The analysis of the responses provided assurance to the Board that in all cases children are being effectively safeguarding in early years settings

## Partnership Group Updates



## 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 teenage relationship abuse. 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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[www.northlincscmars.co.uk](http://www.northlincscmars.co.uk)

If you wish to subscribe for Children's MARS communications

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, Safeguarding Adults 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*

