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# Children's MARS Local Arrangements



Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire and partners  
Safeguarding Event: 4 October 2023

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# Who are we?

The Children's MARS team is made up of:



**Nikki Alcock**

Head of Partnerships,  
Evaluation and Outcomes  
for Children



**Julie Poole**

Lead Officer for Children's  
Strategy, Evaluation and  
Assurance



**Olivia Laking**

Partnerships and  
Assurance Senior Officer

# What are the local arrangements and why do we have them?

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 introduced a requirement for new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements to replace Local Safeguarding Children Boards.

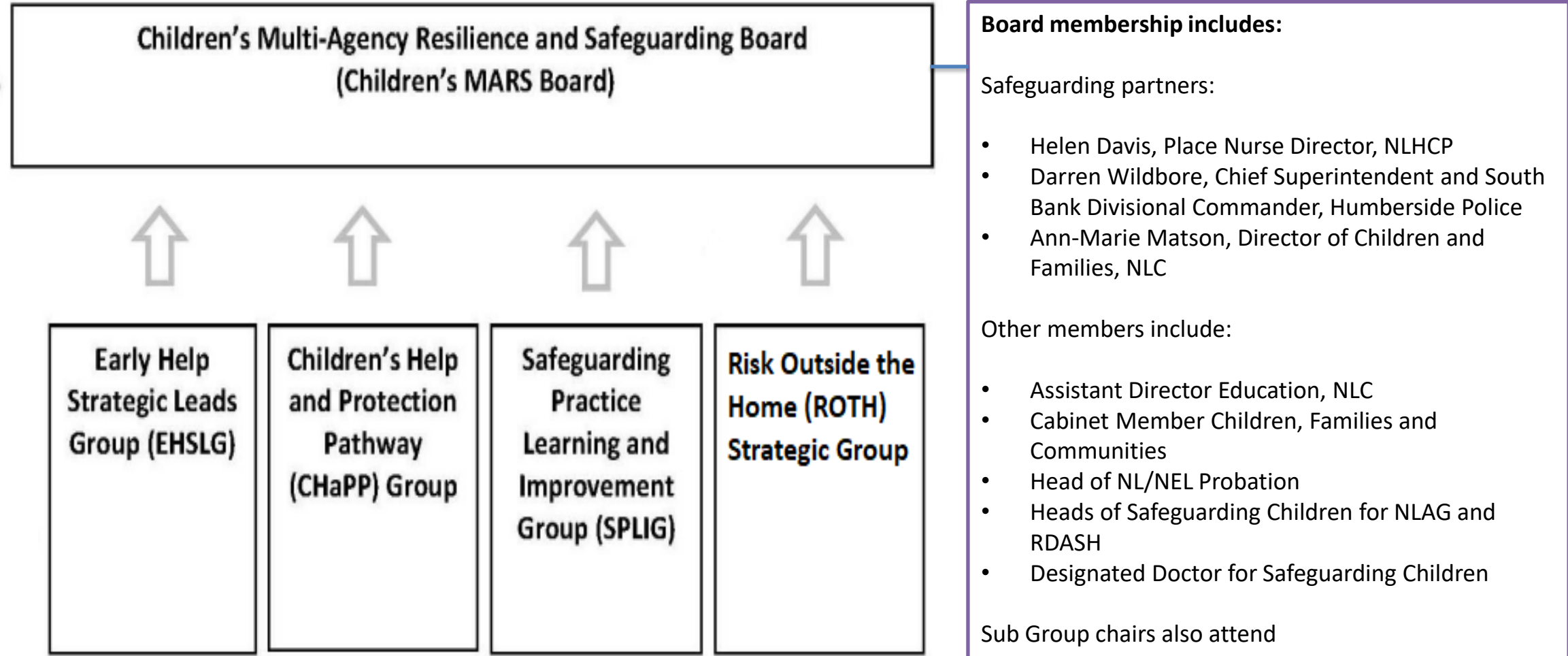
Safeguarding partners, representing the local authority, the police and the integrated care board, have a shared and equal duty to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area.

Safeguarding partners also work collaboratively with relevant agencies (including the VCSE) to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

North Lincolnshire's new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements are known as the Children's Multi-Agency Resilience and Safeguarding (MARS) Local Arrangements.

Safeguarding partners and other key leaders make up the Children's MARS Board which oversees the implementation of the Local Arrangements.

# The Children's MARS partnership arrangements



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# Areas of Focus 2023/24

The 'shine a light' areas of focus for 2023/24 are:

Further develop the understanding of and the multi-agency response to the **impact of domestic abuse on children**

Further develop the interface and relationships with the **Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector**

Further develop the multi-agency approach to **early help**

Further develop the multi-agency approach to **child exploitation, specifically in relation to transitions to adulthood**

# Multi-agency education and training

## Training Courses

Virtual or face to face training courses are available for staff to attend. These can be facilitated by local practitioners or commissioned national experts

## E-Learning

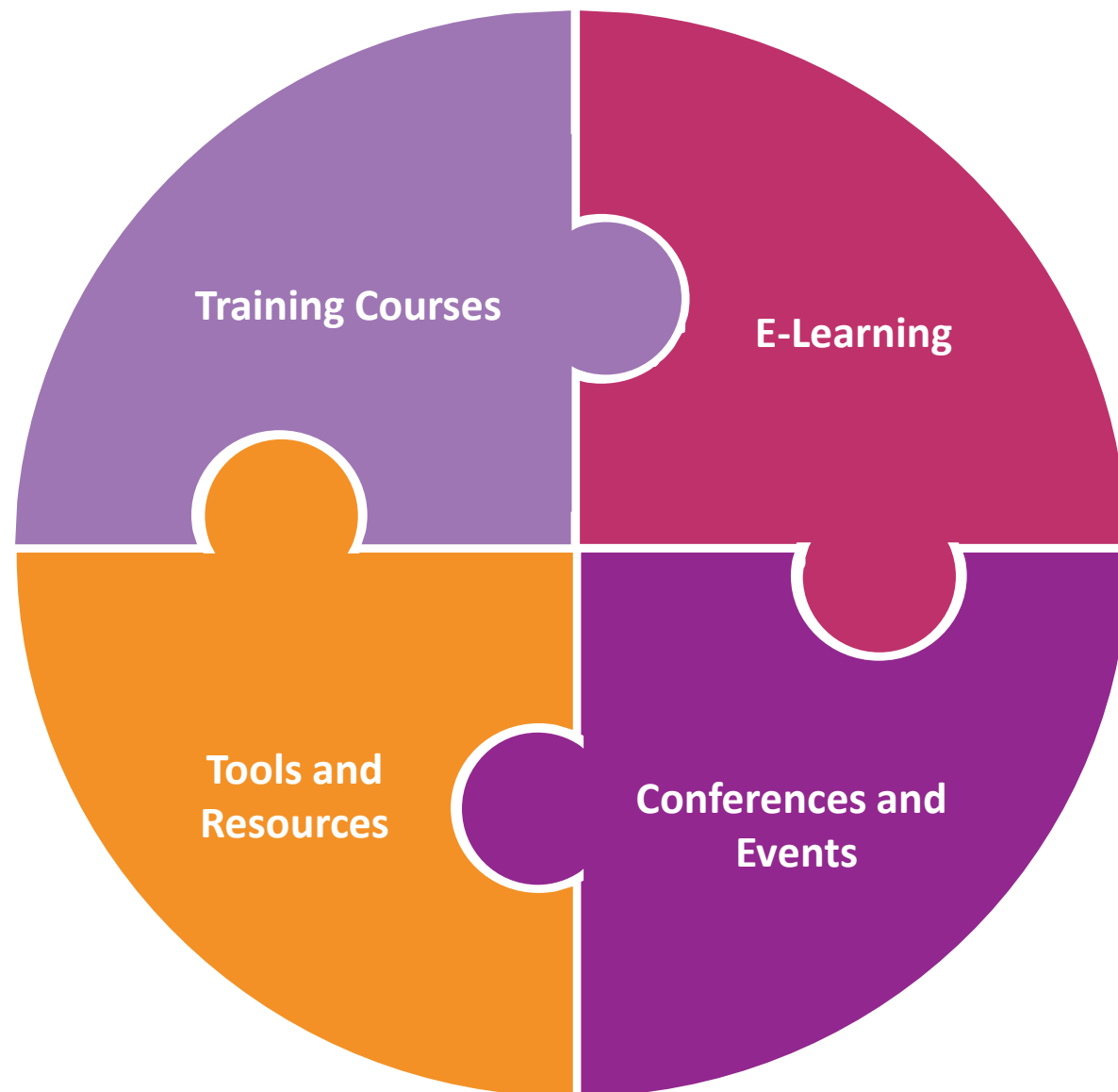
Local awareness level e-workbooks are available which are certified by the Children's MARS Board upon completion. Recommended national e-learning courses are also promoted

## Tools and Resources

A wide range of resources including subject specific toolkits, are available on the Children's MARS website

## Conferences and Events

Our Children's MARS conference and other events that held throughout the year provide a further opportunity for education, training, networking and developing relationships



# Communications and stakeholder engagement

## Email communications

- Quarterly news updates
- Children's MARS Spotlights
- Key updates and national information
- New training and events

## Established forums

- Schools designated safeguarding leads forum
- Early help forum
- VCSE safeguarding forum (once established)

## Conferences and events

- Children's MARS Conference
- Presence at wider partnership events
- Bespoke training and education events

## Social media

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 @SafeNorthLincs.



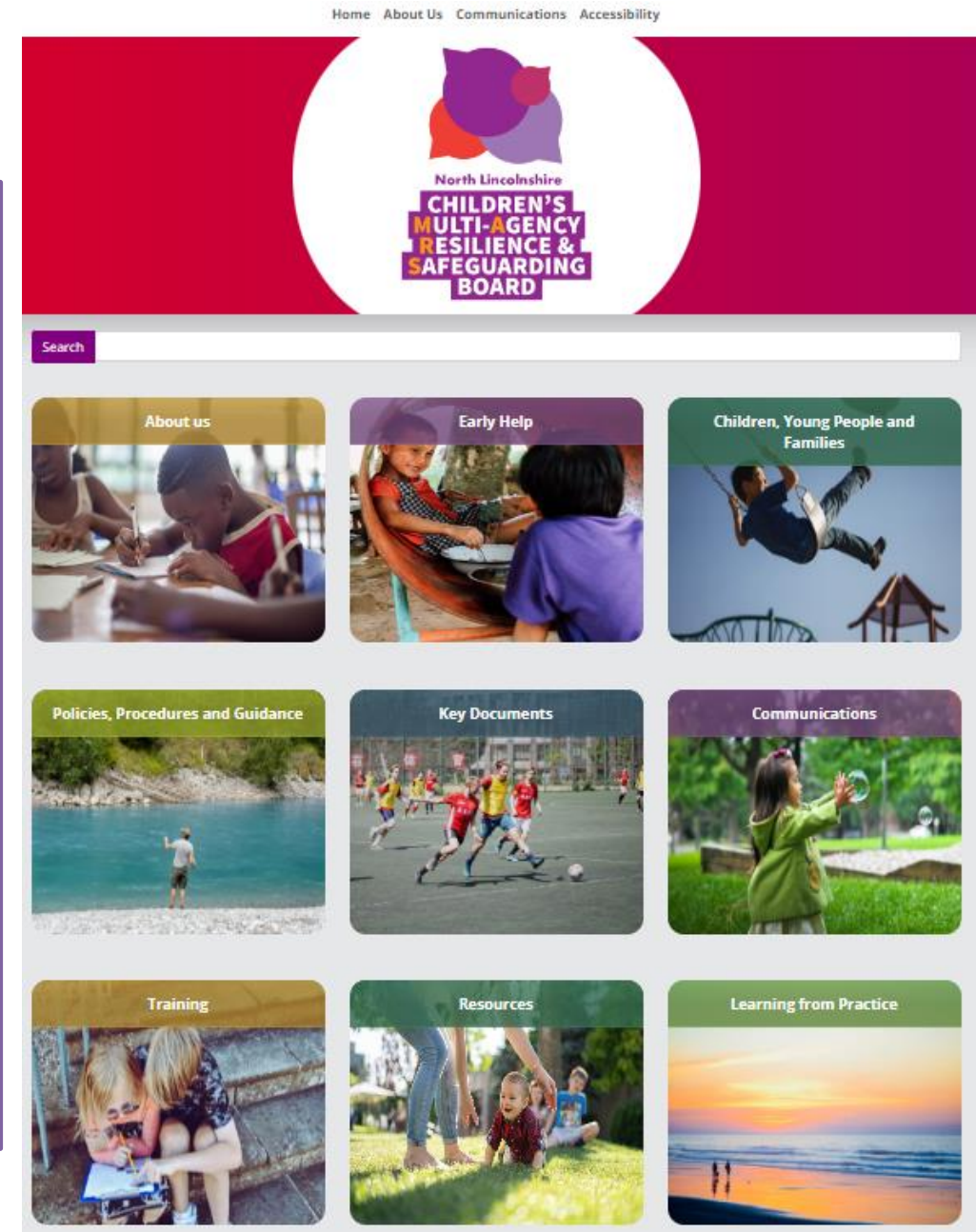
**SAFE**  
NORTH  
LINCS



# Children's MARS website

The Children's MARS website contains a wealth of information some of which includes:

- Policies, procedures and guidance
- Information relating to early help
- Resources specifically aimed at children, young people and families
- Resources for staff and volunteers working with children, young people and families
- Key documents including the Children's MARS Annual Report
- Information relating to upcoming events and forums
- Available training and education courses
- Briefings relating to recent scrutiny and assurance activity and national reports





# Scrutiny and assurance and learning from practice

## Children's MARS Board Scrutiny and Assurance Framework

There a range of mechanisms are in place to ensure scrutiny and assurance including independent scrutiny some of which include:

- Multi-agency case audit practice learning line of sight events
- Thematic case audits
- Agency 'call-ins'
- Joint safeguarding self assessment (Section 11)

On the learning from practice page of our website, there are a number of 7-minute briefings which outline the learning from Children's MARS scrutiny and assurance activity. Other briefings for practitioners are available outlining the key points from national reports

## Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

There a duty to undertake a local review when the criteria is met.

## Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel

The National Panel undertakes national reviews and produces reports to identify strengths in practice and opportunities for learning



**For more info, please contact:**

 @SafeNorthLincs

 mars@northlincs.gov.uk

 [www.northlincscmars.co.uk](http://www.northlincscmars.co.uk)



**Scan the QR code to sign up to  
our email communications**

## Further information for VCSE organisations

- Subscribe for Children's MARS communications emails via the [online sign up form](#) where we promote training opportunities, new resources and key documents
- Take a look at the info-sheet for VCSE organisations