

# CHILDREN'S MARS BOARD NEWS UPDATE



## Children's MARS Board—July 2023

Welcome to the 20th 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 July 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
- A briefing relating to the consultation on Working Together 2023 and the safeguarding partners proposed response
- An update on stakeholder engagement and communications including the voice of children and families
- Arrangements for the upcoming Children's MARS conference event taking place on 13 November 2023



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

- Childminder template safeguarding policy
- Private, voluntary and independent nurseries template safeguarding policy

#### Resources

- Updated link to the Community Partnership Intelligence (CPI) Form (previously the PIF)
- CSA Centre has published a new resource on sibling sexual abuse: A summary guide to responding to inappropriate, problematic and abusive behaviours

#### Early help

- 7 minute briefing on early help best practice

#### Communications

- Children's MARS team presentation from the voluntary, charity and social enterprise sector event

## Children's MARS Annual Report 2022/23

The Children's MARS Annual Report of Local Arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people 2022/23 has been published on the [Children's MARS website](#).

The report sets out how effective our arrangements are in practice 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 also refreshed our suite of key documents:

- 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
- Children's MARS Board Terms of Reference

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

## Voluntary, charity and social enterprise sector and partners safeguarding event

In collaboration with Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire (VANL), the Children's MARS Board supported the inaugural networking event for the voluntary, charity and social enterprise (VCSE) sector along with the Safeguarding Adult's Board and the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board.

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

The Children's MARS team provided a presentation about what the local Children's MARS Arrangements are, our current priorities, and the local offer to the VCSE, including access to support, training and resources. As part of the presentation we discussed the ways we can work together, highlighting the important role that we all play in keeping people safe.

There were also networking opportunities and a marketplace of stands where the VCSE sector could learn more about the work of the partnership and have the opportunity to ask questions.

The Children's MARS team's presentation from the event can be viewed on the [communications page of the Children's MARS website](#)



## 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:

- The offer of multi-agency support provided to the family was comprehensive and holistic. There was a strong understanding of the family dynamics across the multi-agency team
- There was evidence of positive relational practice from the social worker and health visitor
- The MARPF found that practitioners were tenacious and demonstrated perseverance where the family were resistant to working with professionals
- The MARPF reflected on how well professionals understood the family's cultural and diverse needs and whether there could have been additional opportunities to connect the family with an offer of support from the wider community/ voluntary, charity and social enterprise sector
- There was reflection around how professionals support mother and children in cases of domestic abuse where power and control is a feature post-separation

The learning from the MARPF was shared with the Safeguarding Practice Learning and Improvement Group for further consideration.

## 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:

- Child Protection: 7 December 2023, 9.30 to 4.30, Connect Church
- Managing allegations against adults who work with children (LADO): 8 November 2023, 1.00 to 2.00, MS Teams
- Graded Care Profile 2: 27 November 2023, 9.30 to 12.00, Church Square House

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

Other free training available includes:

- Economic abuse and the impact for victims/ survivors and their children, 24 November 2023, 9.30 to 12.45, MS Teams—[Book via Eventbrite](#)
- Fraud and Cybercrime Awareness— 3 November, Church Square House and 7 November 2023, MS Teams— [click to view for further information \(Safeguarding Adults Board\)](#)
- #LookCloser campaign webinar - Transitions to Adulthood, 24 October 2023, 15:00 - [Book via Eventbrite](#)
- #LookCloser campaign webinar - Safeguarding Care Experienced Young People from Exploitation, 16 November 2023, 10:00 - [Book via Eventbrite](#)

# Partnership Group Updates

## Children's MARS subgroup updates

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

- Upon reviewing the early help data set, it was recognised as a significant achievement that the new format for early help and the new recording system implemented during the year has had very little negative impact on the numbers of children receiving early help
- There has been a lot of work to develop a consistent approach to early help across teams and agencies. North Lincolnshire Council's family support team are now using the same early help assessment form as partners use. Work is underway to report on these assessments collectively which will start to much better reflect the extent of early help
- There had been an increase in populations coming to the front door. A number of partnership pieces of work have been undertaken to analyse the calls and think about what can be done differently to ensure children's needs are addressed earlier, before the need to make a call into the Single Point of Contact.
- As a result of the above work, a number of themes were identified including risk outside the home, unborn babies and pre-birth assessments. The meeting agreed that bi-monthly SPOC review meetings would be initiated with a view to developing neighbourhood meetings into the future. This would help us understand the nature and perspective of the referrals and put in place or re-position services to address specific issues. The meeting noted the importance of including school designated safeguarding leads in such reviews
- The EHSLG has led on the development of a 7 minute briefing relating to early help best practice which has been published on the Children's MARS website and disseminated across the partnership

### 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
- The offer to children and families in North Lincolnshire continues to ensure that needs are met at the lowest level through the fewest and best interventions aligned to Working Together, national legislation and local policy and procedure. The Single Point of Contact and the Integrated Multi-Agency Partnership continue to ensure a timely response to identifying and assessing children's needs and intervening swiftly to reduce risk and uncertainty
- It was highlighted that within the RDASH 0-19 Health and Wellbeing Service, they are reporting the early identification of children with special, educational needs and disabilities which has strengthened processes for recognising need earlier. It was noted that when information is shared, there is synergy between the children who have been identified by both health and children's social care which suggests the right children are receiving help
- A bespoke report was provided to the CHaPP in relation to Electively Home Educated children and persistent absence from education. It was highlighted that following the publication of Working Together to Improve School Attendance, attendance will become everyone's responsibility



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

- The group received updates from key partnership groups such as the Multi-agency Child Exploitation meeting and the Child Exploitation Lead Officer Group. A strong level of assurance was provided that key issues are being identified and addressed
- The increase in missing children numbers was highlighted at the meeting. Assurance was provided that additional mapping and tracking has been put in place to ensure that any potential link between missing episodes and exploitation is identified. The Multi-Agency Missing Children meeting continues to discuss the cohort of children who go missing to understand the collective risk across peer groups in addition to the individual risk for children
- The Board also heard updates on a specific police operation relating to child criminal exploitation and the plans in place relating to disruption activity. Two bespoke ROTH Strategic Group meetings were convened to consider the partnership response to this. Assurance was provided in relation to the robust plans for engagement, reducing risk and safeguarding were in place

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

- The Board heard that a SPLIG development session took place in 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 also had 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
- The SPLIG heard that through the regional Reducing Parental Conflict implementation group, work is ongoing to re-develop the Relationships Matter website. As part of this workstream, a Reducing Parental Conflict toolkit is in development and will include some of the tools and resources that are available to practitioners across the region
- Multiple key documents were approved for publication including the Teenage Relationship Abuse Spotlight and the emotionally reflective session guidance

### Key updates - Safeguarding children in education

- An overview of the Stay Safe Conference that took place in June 2023 was provided to the Board. Young people were provided with key information on topics including child exploitation, substance use and staying safe online
- An update in relation to Electively Home Educated (EHE) children was provided. It was highlighted that this cohort of young people are supported by North Lincolnshire Council's Education Inclusion team. Big Talk Education workshops were offered to EHE families with a number of children accessing these sessions in relation to safe touch and healthy relationships. Work has also been ongoing to ensure that children who were previously 'unseen' due to parental preference to liaise by report are now seen as they attend various activities including swimming lessons, coffee mornings and events such as the annual picnic
- The Board received updates on suspensions and exclusions from school and assurance was provided that key themes are identified and additional support is put in place to mitigate any increased risk

## 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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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, 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*

