

# Children's MARS Resilience and Safeguarding in Practice Event 2023



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# Welcome

Welcome to the Children's Multi Agency Resilience and Safeguarding (MARS) Board Resilience and Safeguarding in Practice event 2023.

Children, young people, families and communities are at the heart of what we do and we are proud to acknowledge and celebrate the positive outcomes achieved to date and the strength of partnership working.

The Children's MARS conference is an excellent opportunity to acknowledge the work across the partnership and to:

- provide an opportunity for people across the children and families partnership workforce to consider the impact of strengths based, relational practice and the impact on our children and families via the fewest best interventions
- reflect on the importance of the views and experiences of children, parents and carers who have experienced services and the impact on their outcomes
- take account of the emerging themes associated with national reports, and/or our shine a light areas of focus and consider implications for practice

- reflect on our transformation priorities across the early help and safeguarding pathway and how we can all contribute to family help and protection through our integrated children and families offer

Delegates will also hear from local agency representatives and two keynote speakers including Ruth Pearson who will be providing her keynote on the topic of professional curiosity and Professor Claudia Bernard who will discuss the topic of intersectionality and safeguarding practices.

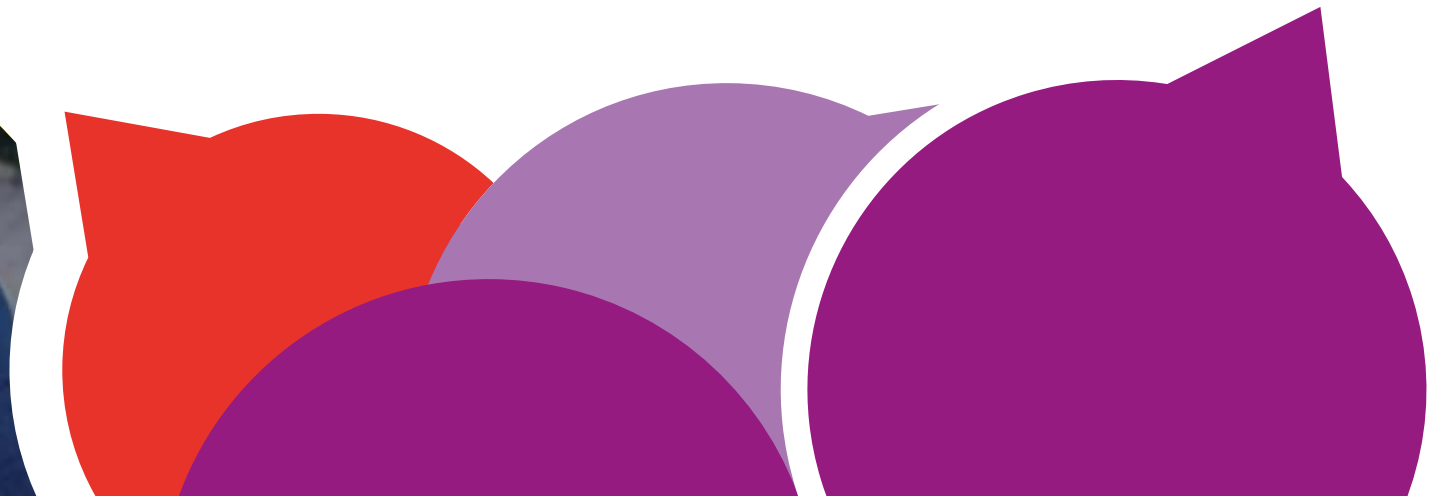
Across the partnership, we are aspirational and committed to improving outcomes for children, so they can achieve their potential and for children to thrive in their families, achieve in their schools and flourish in their communities.

We hope you enjoy the day.

# 2

## Schedule

10.00am	<b>Arrival and registration</b>
10.30am	<b>Welcome and opening remarks</b> Helen Davis, Place Nurse Director, North Lincolnshire Health and Care Partnership Ann-Marie Matson, Director of Children and Families, North Lincolnshire Council Darren Wildbore, Chief Superintendent and South Bank Divisional Commander, Humberside Police
10:45am	<b>Listening, learning, reviewing and adapting</b>  • Reflections on the Children’s MARS Annual Report 2022/23  Dave Basker, Independent Scrutiny Officer Edwina Harrison, Independent Scrutiny Officer
11:00am	<b>Real lives</b>  • Listening to and learning from children and families voice  People who have experienced services





11:15am	<b>Keynote: Professional curiosity</b> Ruth Pearson, Independent Consultant
12:15am	<b>Lunch break and networking</b>
1:00pm	<b>Keynote: Intersectionality and safeguarding practices</b> Professor Claudia Bernard, Goldsmiths University
2:00am	<b>Integrated Children and Families Offer: Helping Children and Families in North Lincolnshire</b> Tom Hewis, Head of Children's Provision, North Lincolnshire Council Rebecca Pease, Head of Service Childrens Care Group (Physical Health), Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust
2:15am	<b>Closing remarks</b> Councillor Julie Reed, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Communities
2:30am	<b>Finish</b>

## Speaker biographies



**Helen Davis**  
Place Nurse Director

**North Lincolnshire Health  
and Care Partnership**

Helen Davis began her nursing career in 1998 when she attended Sheffield University to undertake a nursing degree. After qualifying in 2001, Helen took her first role in Accident and Emergency at St. James' Hospital in Leeds. It is in this first nursing position that Helen's passion for safeguarding children and young people started; working closely with health visiting and safeguarding liaison teams and Helen became the department champion for this.

Since then, Helen has had numerous clinical roles; including working as an advanced practitioner in an Ambulance Trust, and working across community services in North Lincolnshire. In 2009 Helen took on her first leadership role and has gained a vast amount of experience since then across both community and acute hospital services. Helen was appointed as the Interim Director of Nursing and Quality for North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group in July 2021 and more recently in July 2023 took on the role of Place Nurse

Director across North and North East Lincolnshire for the Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board. In this role Helen holds the delegated statutory responsibility for safeguarding adults and children across Northern Lincolnshire.

Helen is passionate about ensuring services delivered are safe and of the highest quality for the local population of Northern Lincolnshire. Listening and taking feedback from those with lived experiences is an essential part of achieving this and Helen is always seeking new and innovative ways of ensuring the needs of the population are met by adapting local services.

She said: "By building on what works well, listening to feedback and continually seeking to develop the teams around us, we can together achieve great outcomes for the children, young people and families across Northern Lincolnshire."



**Ann-Marie Matson**  
Director of Children  
and Families

**North Lincolnshire Council**

I have worked with, and on behalf of children and families over the last 25-years in both the education sector and across children's social care services in various roles. I have worked in North Lincolnshire for the past 19 years and in my current role I am the Director of Children and Families in North Lincolnshire.

I am a strong advocate for children and families and throughout my career have committed to ensure that children and young people are free from harm, experience equality of opportunity and have the help they need to achieve the best possible outcomes. I seek to listen, learn, and improve and value the feedback I receive from children and families as well as through independent scrutiny and constant evaluation of services. I place significant value on partnership working with key stakeholders in order to achieve our ambition for the children, families and communities of North Lincolnshire.





**Darren Wildbore**  
Chief Superintendent  
and South Bank Divisional  
Commander

**Humberside Police**

Darren began his career with Humberside Police in 1996 and holds the rank of Chief Superintendent. Darren has undertaken the role as Policing Commander for North and North East Lincolnshire (Southbank Division) since June 2019 and has geographical responsibility for all functional policing activity and operations within the two Local Authority areas.

Since beginning his policing career Darren has undertaken a varied number of operational and corporate roles including Head of Specialist Operations (Firearms/Roads Policing/Dog Unit/Marine Unit/Logistics), Head of Criminal Justice and Head of Corporate Services as well as leadership operational roles at all ranks within the Southbank Division. Darren is also a Strategic Firearms Commander and Public Order/Public Safety and Events Gold Commander.

Within his current role Darren also chairs the North Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership. Darren is committed to protecting and serving the public and has a very strong focus on reducing the number of victims of crime through proactive policing and partnership activity to prevent and respond to crime whilst also ensuring that victims receive the care and support they need.

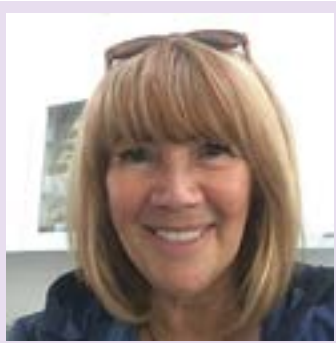


**Councillor Julie Reed**  
Cabinet Member for  
Children and Families and  
Communities

**North Lincolnshire Council**

I am currently the cabinet portfolio holder for Children, Families and Communities and it is my role to enhance the council's corporate parenting responsibility to protect and champion children's rights and promote opportunities for children and families in North Lincolnshire. It is my strong belief that targeted early intervention and prevention work with a 'one family approach' is the key to better outcomes for vulnerable children, children in care and children with disabilities. I lead on budget and policy formulation and implementation whilst working together with statutory partners to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children.





**Edwina Harrison**  
Independent Scrutiny  
Officer

Edwina has worked in North Lincolnshire for many years, notably in her role as Independent Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board. She was then very pleased to be appointed as an Independent Scrutineer following the changes to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. More recently Edwina took on the role of Independent Chair of the Youth Justice Strategic Partnership where there are many connections with the Children's MARS Arrangements. Her career includes many years of direct work with children as well as posts at strategic level. This career spanned a range of organisations including the voluntary and community sector and local authorities. Edwina enjoys working as an Independent Chair/Scrutineer as she remains committed to partnership working and to the positive impact that it can have on the lives of children and families.



**Dave Basker**  
Independent Scrutiny  
Officer

I have nearly 40 years experience as a qualified social worker and have managed a broad range of social work services. I worked as a Head of service and principal social worker in North Lincolnshire for nearly 20 years and most recently as Head of service for quality and practice improvement at Leeds City Council. As well as working as an independent scrutiniser in North Lincolnshire I also work as a safeguarding practice lead for Leeds City Council, as part of the national DfE funded strengthening families programme, advising on improvement work with seven local authorities across the country. My particular interests are management oversight and reflective supervision, risk analysis and extra familial harm.







**Tom Hewis**

Head of Children's  
Provision

**North Lincolnshire Council**

I am a qualified social worker in the role of Head of Provision for Children, with responsibility for fostering, adoption, and the Youth Justice Partnership. As a member of the senior management team across Children and Families, I also act as Agency Decision Maker (ADM), chair Channel Panel, and act as Caldicott Guardian. I am also the strategic lead for the Start for Life Family Hubs programme.



**Rebecca Pease**

Head of Service,  
Children's Care Group  
(Physical Health)

**Rotherham, Doncaster  
and South Humber NHS  
Foundation Trust**

I am a qualified nurse, Health Visitor and Community Practice Educator, with 29 years NHS experience. I am the Head of Service for Physical Health in RDaSH and have previously been the Service Manager of the 0-19 service and Transformation and Integration Lead for the Children's Care Group within RDaSH. I have a varied clinical background including teaching and commissioning. I am passionate about early intervention, prevention and the reduction of health inequalities.





**Isobel Andrews**

Chair of North Lincolnshire Youth Council and Elected Deputy Member of Youth Parliament

Isobel has been a member of the youth council for over 8 years as well as currently being deputy member of youth parliament, and she consistently strives to champion the voice of young people at both local and regional levels. Isobel's particular area of focus looks at how young people use greenspaces and have access to safe spaces and positive activities. Working with Public Health Officers in 2019 Isobel was an integral part of a young people's Healthy Environments Team which researched barriers and influences that prevented young people from adopting and living healthy lifestyles. The team presented their findings to professionals in a conference.

Changes to leisure centre cafes were made as a direct result of Isobel's research. Isobel has worked with local authority directors and councillors on behalf of young people, representing their views and being the voice of NLYC at cabinet and partnership meetings. Isobel is not afraid to challenge decision makers and has a straight talking 'no nonsense approach' when striving to bring about changes in services and improvement within our communities.



**Gemma Bryan**

Family Voice Representative

I work for North Lincolnshire council as a Family Voice Representative, dedicated to support and challenge the council and its wider partnership through the integrated children's trust and Childrens MARS arrangements to make sure our information, support and services for children, young people and families are coproduced, leading to better outcomes.

Outside of work I am a busy mum of two, and a parent carer - my daughter Isla is autistic with learning disabilities. I am an award-winning blogger and advocate, sharing our life on our Facebook blog 'Islas voice'. Being a parent carer has given me the opportunity to

become a public speaker, helping professionals learn about the life of parent carers and how they can shape their practice and helping families who are on a similar journey to myself. For four years I have been a school governor in our area and have been running support groups for disabled people and their families in our region since my daughter's diagnosis nine years ago.

I am passionate about supporting families however I can and using my own lived experience and the lived experience of others to help shape the future of our region.

## Keynote speakers



Ruth Pearson

Ruth Pearson has over 30 years' experience in the field of child protection and safeguarding, originally as a practicing family social worker and subsequently as a Senior Practitioner in Child Protection. She then became involved in the area of multi-agency child protection training and development and managed safeguarding training services for two ACPCs /LSCBs. She has developed and delivered training for many statutory and voluntary sector organisations.

Ruth has a Masters in Child Protection and Child Welfare and has lectured in Social work at both Sheffield Hallam University and the University of Sheffield. She is the author of *Working with Hostile or Uncooperative Families in Good Practice in Safeguarding Children* (Hughes & Owen, 2009). She has also written guidance on 'Disguised Compliance' for *Community Care Inform* (2013).

Ruth has been the independent author for a number of Serious Case Reviews, and has undertaken audits of practice for Local Safeguarding Children Boards, covering many issues including long term neglect, inter-agency decision making, working with resistant or evasive parents and effective planning.

She is a freelance trainer and facilitator delivering a variety of courses, specialising in areas of:

- neglect
- working with 'Hidden/Invisible/ Unseen Men
- working with Resistant, Hostile or Uncooperative Families
- understanding situations identified as Disguised Compliance, focusing on Professional Curiosity, Respectful Uncertainty and Assertive Challenge

All Ruth's courses encourage multi-agency working and sound decision making.



Professor Claudia Bernard

Claudia Bernard is Professor of Social Work at Goldsmiths, University of London. Her research interests lie in the areas of social work with children and families, gender-based violence, critical race theory, equalities, and social justice. She has written widely on these topics, including a book entitled *Constructing Lived Experiences: Representations of Black Mothers in Child Sexual Abuse Discourses* (2nd Edition, Routledge, 2017), and an edited collection with Perlita Harris, entitled *Safeguarding Black Children: Good Practice in Child Protection* (Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2016). Her most recent book *Intersectionality for Social Workers: Theory and Practice* was published by Routledge in 2022. She was featured in the 2020 Photography Exhibit *Phenomenal Women: Portraits of UK Black Female Professors*.

# Housekeeping

## Entry and registration

The conference will take place in the main auditorium on the ground floor of The Baths Hall. Upon entry to the building, please sign in at the registration desk where a name badge will be provided.

Please be advised that there is no on-site parking at The Baths Hall but are a number of council owned car parks close by. There is limited blue badge / accessible parking spaces on the public highway at the side of building. Further information on parking and public transport can be found on the Scunthorpe Theatres website - [www.scunthorpetheatres.co.uk/your-visit/find-the-venues/](http://www.scunthorpetheatres.co.uk/your-visit/find-the-venues/)

Refreshments and lunch will be provided at the times indicated on the programme. Toilet facilities are available to access within the building.

## Emergency

In the event of fire, there will be an audible alarm and you will be directed to the nearest fire escape and evacuation point by The Baths Hall staff.

A first aider will be on site in the event of a medical emergency. Please inform the Children's MARS team or a member of The Baths Hall staff if first aid is required.

## Electronic devices

Please ensure that all phones, laptops and other electronic devices are silenced where possible.

There will be opportunities during the breaks to access WiFi where required. The Baths Hall uses the North Lincolnshire Council network therefore North Lincolnshire Council issued devices will automatically connect. For staff external to North Lincolnshire Council, WiFi can be accessed via the NLC-Guest network.

## Photography and social media

The Children's MARS team will be taking photos and will be active on Safe North Lincs social media channels throughout the event. We encourage colleagues in attendance to tweet and post during the day as appropriate.

## Feedback

As part of our continuing commitment to provide quality stakeholder engagement opportunities, an electronic feedback survey will be circulated after the conference. It would be helpful if you could spend a few minutes completing our evaluation in response to this event. The information will be collated and the findings used in the design of future events and activity.



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## Contact us – Children’s MARS team



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## Further reading

A wide range of information can be found on the Children's MARS website including:

- Policies, procedures and guidance
- Helping Children and Families in North Lincolnshire document 2020/24
- One Family Approach Practice Model

Key documents:

- Children's MARS Local Arrangements
- Annual Report of Local Arrangements to Safeguarding and Promote the Welfare of Children and Young People 2022/23

Other key pages include:

- Resources – This page is regularly updated with the latest resources which can be used to provide support to children and families. This page also contains details on a number of services to which families can self-refer and seek support from
- Education and training - upcoming courses and booking information is available on the training page. A selection of e-workbooks and presentations are also available to download
- Early Help - advice and guidance is available for organisations who provide early help to families. You can find guidance around how to complete early help assessments as well as information about when to request further support from NLC Children and Families during early help
- Learning from practice - a range of 7-minute briefings are available which outline the learning from Children's MARS scrutiny and assurance activity along with other briefings for practitioners outlining the key points from national reports
- Children's MARS website - [www.northlincsmars.co.uk](http://www.northlincsmars.co.uk)







**North  
Lincolnshire  
Council**