

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

**Annual Review of Local Arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of
children and young people 2018/19**

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

1.1 Cabinet to note the publication of the Annual Review of Local Arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people 2018/19, and to consider the review in relation to planning, commissioning and budget setting. The review demonstrates that the Children's Multi Agency Resilience and Safeguarding (MARS) Board (formerly the LSCB):

- Proactively planned for and implemented legislative changes (transitioning from the LSCB to Children's MARS arrangements)
- Effectively meets its statutory obligations
- Benefits from strong and consistent leadership
- Has made good progress against its areas of focus
- Listens and responds to the voices of children and young people

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 North Lincolnshire is aspirational for children, young people and families in this area and under the auspices of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB), there was a long history of working together to improve outcomes. This continued throughout the transition from the LSCB to the new Children's MARS arrangements, and as early adopters, we published our local arrangements on 31 October 2018.

2.2 As part of being an early adopter, there were opportunities to build on our already robust arrangements, to further test and develop the local approach and lead the way in developing and implementing new innovations. We have developed approaches to scrutiny and assurance resulting in an even more transparent and inclusive approach and we have also strengthened our relationship with schools and colleges building on good levels of engagement through a range of mechanisms. We have continued to listen, learn, review and adapt and the Children's MARS arrangements were reviewed and republished in June 2019.

2.3 As per Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, there is a statutory requirement to publish an annual review, which sets out what has been done as a result of the local multi agency safeguarding arrangements. The review has been endorsed by the Children's MARS Board on behalf of the three

safeguarding partners from North Lincolnshire Council, North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Humberside Police. The review is then required to be distributed through relevant governance routes across the three safeguarding partner organisations and relevant partnership arrangements, to be considered in relation to planning, commissioning and budget setting.

- 2.4 The annual review provides a review of activity and impacts in respect of Children's MARS functions, including funding, performance, voice and stakeholder engagement, training, scrutiny and assurance and child safeguarding practice reviews.
- 2.5 The annual review outlines developments and progress relating to the five intents:
- Co-produce with children, young people and families using their strengths and assets to develop services to meet individual needs
 - Make children's safeguarding personal and swift so they remain in families, in school
 - Build children, young people and families resilience
 - Drive an even stronger partnership with schools, colleges and local agencies
 - Provide robust scrutiny and assurance to the partnership in relation to safeguarding and the welfare of children and young people in North Lincolnshire
- 2.6 The annual review also clarifies the three areas of focus and outlines activities and impacts made in order to reduce the harm from child exploitation, domestic abuse and neglect.
- 2.7 Significant achievements highlighted in the annual review covering April 2018 to June 2019 include:
- The LSCB continuing to have strong leadership through the Independent Chair and a good line of sight to front line multi agency practice and the quality of services that support children, young people and families
 - Successful transition from the LSCB to the Children's MARS Local Arrangements in line with the transitional guidance that accompanied Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018
 - Rebalancing of leadership responsibility and collaborative working between the three safeguarding partners to develop the local arrangements
 - Local arrangements launched at our 'Out of this World' conference in November 2018
 - Shared vision, culture and commitment to delivering the local arrangements underpinned by a delivery plan
 - Specific areas of focus allocated to individual safeguarding partners to drive implementation
 - Shared ownership of funding responsibilities including contributions to a new Multi Agency Innovation Hub to help innovate and deliver improved outcomes

- Efficient board arrangements with shared chairpersonship, core membership and active, engaged discussions and decision making
- Ongoing development and implementation of a more robust scrutiny and assurance framework, including independent scrutiny, through thematic and agency specific assurance events and practice learning line of sight events leading to changes in practice
- Strategic thinking and developmental discussions across key boards and partnerships including the Community Safety Partnership Board and Safeguarding Adults Board with more opportunities identified for shared priorities and collaborative working
- Ongoing and renewed focus on engaging with and listening to children, young people and families including young people's involvement in the launch conference and a square table consultation event
- Strengthened relationships with schools through involvement in the designated safeguarding leads forum and relationships with early help locality forums
- Enhanced relationships with early years providers and increasing representation across partnership arrangements
- Developed a new Children's MARS website as a means of sharing information and communication and publicising key documents and resources

3. **PROGRESS AGAINST PRIORITIES**

There has been significant partnership action pertaining the three areas of focus which has impacted on children, young people and families. Examples of impacts include:

3.1. **Reduce the harm from child exploitation**

- Multi agency procedures and training has led to increased recognition and identification of child criminal exploitation (CCE), County Lines and Organised Crime Groups
- Multi Agency Child Exploitation meetings evidence impact on reducing levels of risk to children and young people through risk management plans that supplement statutory child in need or protection plans
- Significant partnership disruption activity has been undertaken with suspected perpetrators and specific locations targeted which has contributed to the reduction in risk to children and young people. There is evidence of perpetrators being arrested, prosecuted and convicted
- There has been a reduction in the number of missing children incidents by 12% during 2018/19 compared to the previous year with robust multi agency working to prevent repeat missing
- Pathways of support for children who go missing include local therapeutic support from Changing Lives through Changing Minds who work closely with the partnership
- Work with secondary schools has seen a reduction in exclusions for children and young people
- Young people's stories and views have been utilised within the Not In Our Community social media campaign aimed at preventing children and young people from being groomed and exploited

- Young people's views have enhanced the understanding of the local picture of CCE and shaped interventions and services to prevent, support and protect children
- Varied approaches including group work and immersive positive activities with young people vulnerable to, at risk from or who have experienced child sexual exploitation and CCE has seen an increase in engagement, self-esteem and safety

3.2. Reduce the harm from domestic abuse

- Operation Encompass has continued to enable schools and colleges to be aware of Domestic Abuse (DA) incidents and proactively consider the impact on children and young people and the need for early help
- The DA Triage meeting has ensured that the right level of help and support is in place for children and young people including early help
- The Children's Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) is co-located with the Council's Children's Services and provides help and support to young people across the early help and safeguarding pathway to enable recovery from the impact of DA
- Awareness raising and preventative approaches for children and young people including through schools, colleges and the locally developed Life Central app impact by helping them learn about healthy relationships, including through self help
- The Harmful Sexual Behaviour panel has continued to provide an holistic change programme for young people
- Good practice and learning was highlighted during the Practice Learning Line of Sight event on children living with DA
- The Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) partnership arrangements have been reconfigured to further develop effectiveness and reduce duplication of meetings
- Multi Agency Tactical and Co-ordination (MATAC) meetings have increased the potential for reducing the risk of harm and/or recidivism and promote the safety of adults, children and young people at risk or suffering abuse from DA in a way that is also responding to perpetrators to minimise such risks
- Secured funding to implement a flexible approach to non-convicted perpetrators of DA that will include work with families who want to stay together to get safe and stay safe and move on to reach their full potential
- Adopting a partnership approach to the White Ribbon campaign enabled more creativity, additional capacity, wider engagement, consistent messages and access to a range of resources for a large wide audience of local people
- Helping to prepare schools and colleges for the forthcoming Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education has provided opportunities for them to remain apprised of the changes and plan ahead of the statutory implementation date

3.3. Reduce the harm from neglect

- Almost 200 practitioners have been trained and accredited in the use of the Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) assessment tool

- Training by national speaker Jan Horwath was evaluated by practitioners as focusing on establishing the strengths of families and drawing on the daily lived experiences of family members. It also provided approaches to support practice that can be used alongside the GCP2
- Co-working on GCP2 assessments has built practitioner confidence and increased the use of the tool
- Outcomes of the GCP2 and areas of intervention are being integrated into children's plans
- Feedback from practitioners indicates that the GCP2 neglect assessment model has begun to support and develop consistency in language and the approach to neglect across early help and the safeguarding pathway
- Practitioners have said that the GCP2:
 - enhances understanding of the lived experience of the child
 - has promoted parents engagement
 - helped families to be clearer, at an earlier point, when there are concerns about neglect
 - was easy and relatively quick up to write up
- Family feedback about their experiences when the GCP2 has been used in assessment practice has included:
 - easy to understand
 - it's not like an assessment is being completed
 - clear and the colour coding helps to understand the strengths and areas of concern

4. AREAS OF FOCUS FOR 2019/20

4.1 Safeguarding partners and relevant agencies will continue to listen, learn, review and adapt in order to ensure the local Children's MARS arrangements best meet the needs of the children, young people and families in North Lincolnshire, so they are resilient and safeguarded.

4.2 Safeguarding partners will continue to deliver the core functions, ensure that effective safeguarding arrangements are in place and continue to seek assurance that further work is progressing in relation to the areas of focus identified in the review, as follows:

- Reduce the harm from child exploitation
- Reduce the harm to children from domestic abuse
- Reduce the harm from neglect

In addition, taking account of children and young people's views there will also be a focus on raising awareness of the risks outside the family environment.

5. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

5.1 To receive the Annual Review of Local Arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people 2018/19.

6. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

6.1 None, for information only.

7. **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)**

7.1 None, for information only.

8. **OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

8.1 Not applicable.

9. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

9.1 There has been a range of consultation with safeguarding partners, relevant agencies and children, young people and families as part of the development and implementation of the Children's MARS arrangements. There will be further engagement opportunities as we continue to listen, learn, adapt and review.

10. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

10.1 To receive the Annual Review of Local Arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people 2018/19 and consider this where relevant in relation to planning, commissioning and budgets setting processes.

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Civic Centre
Ashby Road
Scunthorpe
North Lincolnshire
DN16 1AB

Author: Rob Murray, Head of Safeguarding Organisation, North Lincolnshire Council

Date: November 2019

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

[Annual Review of Local Arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people 2018/19](#)

[Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#)

[Children's MARS Local Arrangements June 2019](#)