

## **NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **CABINET**

#### **ANNUAL REPORT OF LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS TO SAFEGUARD AND PROMOTE THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE 2022/23**

##### **1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 Cabinet to note the publication of the Annual Report of Local Arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people 2022/23, and to consider the review in relation to planning, commissioning and budget setting.
- 1.2 The Annual Report demonstrates that the Children's Multi Agency Resilience and Safeguarding (MARS) Board:
  - effectively meets its statutory obligations
  - benefits from strong and consistent leadership
  - has made good progress against its 'shine a light' areas of focus
  - listens to and takes account of the voices of children, young people and families

##### **2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 North Lincolnshire is aspirational for children, young people and families in this area and there is a long history of working together to improve outcomes. As early adopters of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, the North Lincolnshire Children's MARS Local Arrangements, were originally published on 31 October 2018. We have continued to listen, learn, review and adapt, and our Local Arrangements have been reviewed on an annual basis thereafter.
- 2.2 As per Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, there is a statutory requirement to publish an annual report, which sets out what has been done as a result of the Local Arrangements and how effective these arrangements have been in practice. The Annual Report of Local Arrangements to safeguarding and promote the welfare of children and young people 2022/23 has been endorsed by the Children's MARS Board on behalf of the three safeguarding partners from North Lincolnshire Council, North Lincolnshire Health and Care Partnership and Humberside Police. The Annual Report 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.

- 2.3 In 2022/23, we have continued to fulfil all functions across our Local Arrangements, and we have responded to the needs of individuals and diverse communities, prioritising the most in need, to help and protect children, young people and families, while we support and develop our workforce. We have built on our outstanding partnerships and practice to ensure that everyone is able to recognise and fulfil their responsibilities. Through our One Family Approach, which aims to create a system that works for all children, young people and families, we have contributed to achieving our ambition for children to thrive in their families, achieve in their schools and flourish in their communities.
- 2.4 The Annual Report provides a review of activity and impacts in respect of the Children's MARS functions, including funding, performance, voice and stakeholder engagement, training, scrutiny and assurance (including independent scrutiny) and child safeguarding practice reviews.
- 2.5 The five 'shine a light' areas of focus for 2022/23 were to further:
- develop the multi-agency approach to risk outside the home with a focus on child sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation and teenage relationship abuse
  - develop the multi-agency approach to preventing and reducing the impact from online abuse
  - develop the interface and relationships between the Children's MARS Local Arrangements and the Voluntary, Charity and Social Enterprise Sector
  - develop the multi-agency approach to men including fathers, male carers and wider family members
  - raise awareness and develop our practice to prevent and reduce the harm from neglect

The Annual Report outlines the significant partnership action pertaining these 'shine a light' areas of focus which has impacted positively on children, young people and families. Key headlines in relation to performance and populations, and progress against key developments also indicate that our system is working and making a difference to children, young people and families.

- 2.6 Under the auspices of our scrutiny and assurance framework and our commitment to listen, learn, review and adapt, in addition to our independent scrutiny programme, as part of our annual review, one of our independent scrutiny officers also undertook some focussed scrutiny activity to seek assurance of the Children's MARS Local Arrangements. Overall, the findings demonstrate that the local arrangements are strong and that the Children's MARS Board sets the tone and culture across the partnership, where there is high support and high challenge which is intended to make a positive difference to the lives of children and families.

2.7 In 2023/24, safeguarding partners will continue to listen, learn, review and adapt in order 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 'shine a light' areas of focus identified in the Annual Report.

### **3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

3.1 To receive the Annual Report of Local Arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people 2022/23.

### **4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

4.1 None, for information only.

### **5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)**

5.1 None, for information only.

### **6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)**

6.1 None, specific – this report is for information only.

6.2 It is of note that the draft Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 was published for consultation in June 2023, and it is anticipated that the next iteration of Working Together to Safeguard Children will be published in December 2023 and annually thereafter. This is likely to have further implications for multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, and specifically annual reports, though these will be considered in due course and future iterations of the annual report will take account of the statutory guidance as required.

### **7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

7.1 Not applicable.

### **8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

8.1 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 Local Arrangements. There will be further engagement opportunities as we continue to listen, learn, adapt and review.

### **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 To receive the Annual Report of Local Arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people 2022/23 and consider this

where relevant in relation to planning, commissioning and budgets setting processes.

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**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:** [Children's MARS Annual Report of Local Arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people 2022/23](#)