
Annual report of Local Arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people

2023/24



North Lincolnshire

**CHILDREN'S
MULTI-AGENCY
RESILIENCE &
SAFEGUARDING
BOARD**

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Alongside our Children's MARS Local Arrangements and other key documents, all policies, procedures and resources referenced in this document are published on the Children's MARS website.

Welcome and Introduction

Welcome to our **Annual report of Local Arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people 2023/24**

In North Lincolnshire, our ambition is for children to **thrive in their families, achieve in their schools and flourish in their communities** and through our One Family Approach, we aim to create an integrated offer that works for all children, young people and families.

Set in the context of our One Family Approach and the underpinning practice model, our [Children's Multi-Agency Safeguarding and Resilience \(MARS\) Local Arrangements](#) place children, young people, families and communities at the heart of our early help and safeguarding system. There is strong evidence of how the One Family Approach is embedded across our local arrangements and across the partnership, we remain committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and families via the fewest best interventions, leading to whole family turnaround. As safeguarding partners, we are proud to acknowledge and celebrate the positive outcomes achieved and the strength of partnership working.

As a result of collaborative working and high support, high challenge at all levels across the early help and safeguarding pathway, we have continued to make progress in developing our local offer for vulnerable children, young people, families and communities. This has placed North Lincolnshire in a strong position to respond and we have continued to listen, learn, review and adapt to maintain and build on our creative, innovative and flexible practices. This has resulted in positive experiences and outcomes and contributes to achieving our ambition for children to **thrive in their families, achieve in their schools and flourish in their communities**.

In 2023/24, we have continued to:

- ✓ fulfil all functions across our Local Arrangements
- ✓ respond to the needs of individuals and diverse communities, prioritising the most in need, to help and protect children, young people and families
- ✓ support and develop our workforce
- ✓ build on our outstanding partnerships and practice to ensure that everyone can recognise and fulfil their responsibilities

Our Family Help Offer closely aligns with the ambitions and values of our One Family Approach and our Local Arrangements, has a focus on the importance of bringing services together around families to deliver whole family working and it emphasises the importance of early help in increasing the likelihood of good outcomes for children and families.

We would like to thank our Independent Scrutiny Officers for leading on a range of scrutiny and assurance activity and for their constructive challenge, evaluation and areas for consideration on how to drive continuous improvements, many of which are evidenced within this report.

This report also fulfils our statutory responsibility to publish a report at least once in every 12-month period and sets out what we have achieved as a result of our Local Arrangements, considering child safeguarding practice reviews, and how effective our arrangements have been in practice.

In addition, the report also includes:

- evidence of the impact of the work of the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies, including training, on outcomes for children and families from early help to looked-after children and care leavers
- an analysis of any areas where there has been little or no evidence of progress on agreed priorities
- a record of decisions and actions taken by the partners in the report's period (or planned to be taken) to implement the recommendations of any local and national child safeguarding practice reviews, including any resulting improvements
- ways in which the partners have sought and utilised feedback from children and families to inform their work and influence service provision

Looking forward, we continue to be in a strong position to respond positively to new policy directions and guidance, including the implementation of Working Together 2023. As we further develop our integrated children and families offer, we remain committed to a culture of listening, learning, reviewing and adapting, which is reinforced through our republished arrangements, our learning and improvement culture that is welcoming of improvements and innovations, and the multi-agency practice developments and transformation that continue to evolve.



Helen Davis

Place Nurse Director
North Lincolnshire Health
and Care Partnership
(Chair of Children's MARS
Board 2023/2024)



Rachel Smith

Director of Children and
Families
North Lincolnshire
Council



Paul French

Chief Superintendent and
South Bank Commander
Humberside Police

Governance and Partnerships

Over the last year, there have been changes at a strategic level across some statutory partner agencies though there has continued to be a collaborative leadership approach and shared commitment to ensuring an equal and robust partnership. In the Independent Scrutiny Officer's review of local arrangements, it was noted that *the Children's MARS Board had respect for each other and had developed professional respectful relationships over time. This enables the discussions to be purposeful and focussed enabling the Board to develop bespoke action points for future planning and supporting Children, Young People and their Families and Carers.*

The key roles and functions of the board, are detailed in the [Terms of Reference](#) and the responsibilities are detailed in the Local Arrangements and underpinning [Memorandum of Understanding](#). Further information about our partnership structures can be found in the Local Arrangements which have been updated to reflect the changes in our partnership arrangements.

As part of our commitment to listen, learn, review and adapt, we have continued to review and refine our subgroup arrangements and hold bespoke sessions where focussed conversations are required. Some examples include:

- The terms of reference of the Early Help Strategic Leads Group (EHSLG) has been reviewed to ensure that there is an enhanced focus on prevention and early intervention in addition to oversight of the formal early help offer. Leads responsible for associated workstreams including the development of Family Hubs and the shaping of the youth offer are now represented at the EHSLG to strengthen the local offer of help and support
- A bespoke Risk Outside the Home Strategic Group was held to discuss a number of young people subject to a police operation. The meeting focussed on seeking assurance that all efforts were being made to engage with the young people and to maximise the partnership approach to disruption. Strong assurance was provided that there were clear plans in place to reduce risk, there was a focus on disruption and tackling perpetrators and there was strong evidence of creativity in engagement and support for the families in line with the One Family Approach

We have also continued to collaborate and work closely with other local and regional Boards and partnerships to reduce duplication and to identify where additional resource and specialist skills can be shared across the wider partnership landscape. Some examples of this include:

- Continued close working with the Safeguarding Adults Board to review our bi-annual Joint Safeguarding Self Assessment
- Shared scrutiny and assurance events have taken place with the Safeguarding Adults Board and Domestic Abuse Partnership Board in relation to domestic abuse and the impact on children and with the Youth Justice Partnership Board in relation to child exploitation and transitions to adulthood
- We have continued to commission joint training regionally with other Local Safeguarding Children's Partnerships across the Yorkshire and Humber region via the Yorkshire and Humber Multi-Agency Safeguarding Trainers (YHMAST) Group and have worked closely with the Humber-wide Domestic Abuse Partnership Boards to raise awareness of their training offer across the partnership

Overall, the Local Arrangements continue to have a positive impact on outcomes for children and families. Efficient board arrangements with shared chairpersonship, core membership and active, engaged discussions and decision making continues.

Key Developments and Successes

Oversight of Children in Care and Care Leavers

We continue to have oversight of the outcomes for children in care and care leavers, from a safeguarding perspective, through regular reporting to the Children's Help and Protection Pathway Group (CHaPP) and Children's MARS Board. Some of our key developments and successes include:

Partnership response to the new supported accommodation quality standards and regulations

We recognise that a key part of achieving positive outcomes is living in safe, suitable and good quality homes. A key area of focus this year has been preparation for the implementation of quality standards and regulation for Supported Accommodation for Young People and registering North Lincolnshire Council's application to be a registered provider of supported accommodation.

This work has included:

- Ensuring that we are in a position to meet all of the quality standards required prior to registration
- Developing a young person's specific guide for supported accommodation
- Creating location risk assessments for all settings in partnership with Humberside Police and Humberside Fire and Rescue Service
- Compiling a bespoke workforce plan/policy and procedures that sits alongside the statement of purpose for the workforce delivering our supported accommodation
- Developing a 'Thinking Ahead' programme, which is a resource specifically aimed at helping young people develop key life skills and supporting them on their journey to independence
- Expanding the group based and 'drop in' support sessions available to young people and who will be regularly encouraged to be part of the sessions in order to support them to develop connections and friendships with other young people who could become part of their support network

The Children's MARS Board has received regular updates in relation to the progress made to date and will continue to ensure there is a collaborative approach to the provision of accommodation and support, and oversight of the quality of accommodation.

Key Developments and Successes

Oversight of Children in Care and Care Leavers - outcomes of inspection

An **Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) Focussed Visit** took place in January 2024, in which Ofsted undertook a range of inspection activity which provided them with the opportunity to look at our systems, processes and practice for care leavers aged 18 to 25, in particular, the quality and suitability of accommodation, support into adulthood and care leavers with specific needs.

The full report can be found [here](#), though examples of key strengths and impacts is as follows:

- Care leavers in North Lincolnshire receive comprehensive and timely support, which helps them to make progress in their lives. They benefit from suitable and stable accommodation and a range of creative interventions that meet their needs, reduce risks and help them to achieve
- The quality of young people's relationships with their personal advisers is a real strength in North Lincolnshire
- Senior leaders and personal advisers embrace their corporate parenting role and go the extra mile for care leavers, constantly developing services that enhance young people's experiences and result in positive outcomes
- Personal advisers demonstrated a clear understanding of the emotional needs of unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people and the traumatic impact that earlier life experiences may have had on them
- The partnership arrangements between children's social care and housing ensure that the most vulnerable young people receive additional targeted support aimed at addressing housing-related issues and reducing the risk of eviction
- Leaders use the effective audit system to monitor practice and learn from care leavers' experiences. The collaborative audit approach, involving practitioners and care leavers, means that their respective views are central to practice improvement and service design

Further areas for development were highlighted as below:

- The frequency and recording of personal advisers' supervision, particularly when they joint work young people's cases - This shortfall was brought to leaders' attention by inspectors during the visit, and leaders took immediate and effective action to address this
- The recording of management oversight and decision-making in young people's records - Overall, managers in the care leavers' service have a good grip on practice and understand the individual young people's circumstances. However, this is not consistently well evidenced in young people's written records and there has been work to address this

Care Leavers met with inspectors and their views as follows were included in the final report:

- The vast majority of care leavers told inspectors that personal advisers make a positive difference to their lives. One care leaver described their adviser as, 'On point. They get things done. They meet my needs and are good at recognising when I need help'
- Most young people told inspectors that they feel safe in their home, and when this is not the case, they are supported effectively by their personal adviser and other agencies to find another home
- Care leavers who are parents told inspectors that their personal advisers have faith in them, and this motivates them to make good decisions for their children and to be the best parents that they can be

Headlines and Summary of Performance and Populations

Headlines which indicate our system is working and making a difference to children, young people and families include:

- ✓ The vast majority of performance and activity information relating to the early help and protection system continue to show sustained high performance and compliance with local practice standards and statutory timescales which demonstrate the success and effectiveness of our local practice
- ✓ Families benefit from an effective early help offer, delivered by agencies committed to intervening early, supporting the whole family, and preventing escalation of need through the fewest, best interventions
- ✓ Children in North Lincolnshire who are in need of help and protection are receiving timely, appropriate help and support, they make good progress, and are supported to live safely within their family network
- ✓ There are few children in external foster care and residential provision enabling them to remain connected to their local support networks and community

We have maintained and further developed our performance framework which provides assurance and oversight of performance activity, a summary of which is as follows:

- **The number of early help assessments recorded from partners has remained in-line with last year:** This reflects a partnership commitment to meeting need early and preventing escalation. Audit activity and management oversight at the front door also shows evidence of a significant amount of informal early help being provided where professionals intervene early in accordance with the Helping Children and Families In North Lincolnshire document
- **The number of contacts has decreased by 8% whilst the number of referrals has risen by 17%:** This was in the context of a decrease in enquiries to the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) of 20%. Overall front door activity has decreased by 15%. Through multi agency auditing there has been learning for agencies including them providing advice and guidance to families with whom they are already in contact with, instead of families contacting the SPOC. The re-referral rate at 15% remains below the latest national and statistical neighbour averages
- **There has been a decrease in Children's Services Assessments completed:** At around 1600 assessments, this has reduced by 20% compared to the previous year, with 99% completed and authorised within timescales.
- **The number of strategy discussions continued to decrease:** Dip sampling and audits within the Integrated Multi-Agency Partnership (IMAP) identify that strategy discussions are held appropriately, and outcomes are aligned to the child's needs and presenting risk

Headlines and Summary of Performance and Populations continued

Summary of performance activity continued

- **The numbers and rates of children in need and those subject to child protection plans have decreased and remain below the latest national and statistical neighbour averages:** Children who require a child protection plan benefit from timely conferences that prevents drift and have strong multi agency support that leads to the timely ending of child protection plans based on lasting change
- **The children in care population has risen but remains below the latest national comparators:** This reinforces our ambition for children to thrive in their families, achieve in their schools and flourish in their communities
- **Children in care experiencing placement stability has continued:** Children experiencing three or more placements in the year remains low and below the latest national and statistical averages demonstrating the commitment to stability for children in care. Those in care for 2.5 years and remaining in the same placement remains in a strong position
- **Care leavers who are in suitable accommodation and those in education, employment or training has remained higher than national and statistical neighbour averages:** This shows the impact of our ongoing commitment to better outcomes for young people leaving care. The number aged 19-21 in ETE decreased, although more care leavers are in higher education.
- **Absence rates show an improving trend for both primary and secondary schools:** Schools and the Local Authority continue to pro-actively work to increase attendance with an increased emphasis on those who are persistently and severely absent. A series of training and briefing events on the school attendance guidance have taken place and ongoing opportunities to attend governor meetings to discuss school attendance are ongoing
- **Suspension and exclusions have increased and are higher than the latest comparators year:** Challenge remains in place for suspensions and permanent exclusions and there has been significant progress in this area this remains a priority area
- **The number of Electively Home Educated children increased over the year:** In addition to a case management approach to each request, we continue to work to support better engagement from these families. This includes a termly newsletter, offer of swimming lessons, Bikeability and road safety, internet safety, Big Talk Education relationships and sex education and termly coffee mornings across localities, all of which have had a positive uptake

Headlines and Summary of Performance and Populations continued

Summary of performance activity continued

- **The number of children identified to be at risk of or who have experienced sexual or criminal exploitation has reduced compared to the previous year:** There is enhanced management oversight of this cohort through regular case audits, within case supervision, at the Multi Agency Children Exploitation meeting, through the newly established Child Exploitation Lead Officer Group and through the Risk Outside the Home Strategic Group. Partners are working to ensure that children receive help at the lowest level, are supported and protected, and that perpetrators are disrupted alongside harmful places and spaces being addressed
- **We have seen an increase in missing incidents for all children, although missing incidents for children in care has decreased:** The Multi-Agency Missing Children Meeting is embedded and robust in focussing on reducing missing incidents with action plans being devised to complement statutory or early help plans and to initiate early help assessments or provide support. All children were offered an independent return interview and 99% were taken up
- **The number of children entering the youth justice system as first-time entrants continues to be low:** A high proportion of cases are out of court disposals and prevention cases (this is diversion work to prevent children becoming first-time entrants), demonstrating the success and effectiveness of the preventative approach that is taken
- **The rate of proven reoffending was lower than comparators and there have been no children sentenced to custody during the period:** The latest published re-offending data is for the Oct 21 to Sept 22 cohort, with local monitoring for more recent periods also indicating that re-offending continues to reduce
- **There has been an increase in allegations against people who work with children:** The December 2020 update of Working Together saw the inclusion of a fourth criteria in respect of 'transferable risk'. We believe that this, along with further awareness raising of the managing allegations process through training, accounts for the increase in the number of allegations
- **The number of referrals with a presenting issue of domestic abuse is in-line with the previous year :** At the assessment point the number of assessments with a factor of domestic abuse are in-line with the previous year although proportions have increased. This is reflected in the number of child protection plans where domestic abuse is a factor for both the child and/or parents and Parent/Guardian which was at 93% for 2023/24
- **The number of cases heard at Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) has increased:** The number of children connected to MARAC victims has also increased with the repeat MARAC rate in-line with last year



Shine a Light Area of Focus

Child Exploitation

We said we would further develop the multi-agency approach to Child Criminal Exploitation and Child Sexual Exploitation, with a focus on transitions

Child Exploitation with a focus on transitions

The Risk Outside the Home Strategic Group continues to implement the Risk Outside the Home Strategy 2021/25 and the underpinning delivery plan which aims to strengthen the local approach to child exploitation and other types of risk outside the home. Some examples of development activity for 2023/24 is included below.

- The connectivity between the ROTH Strategic Group and wider groups and partnerships such as the Violence Prevention Partnership and the Channel Panel has been strengthened via lead representation at the group and by way of exceptions reporting
- A transition protocol between the Youth Justice Partnership (YJP) and the Probation Service has been updated to reflect new legislation and to provide an improved and more cohesive transition for young people. A Probation Officer has been seconded into the YJP to support young people with their transition to the adult service from 17 years and 6 months.
- A transitions worker from We Are With You (adult substance misuse service) is co-located with DELTA (young person's substance misuse service) to engage young people aged 18-25 and support them to access support from the adult service in a managed way
- A new protocol to provide an enhanced provision for care leavers transitioning to adult services has been written. This protocol formalises the way in which the Probation Service and children in care team work together to support young people in the criminal justice system
- A process is in place between Children's and Adult's social care whereby an adult social worker will undertake joint visits to the young person prior to 18 to build relationships and inform them of the offer of support from adult social care and to encourage them to make contact
- The child exploitation and risk outside the home training package has been refreshed and strengthened to include case studies and learning from serious case reviews and national reports. This will ensure practitioners have a wide range of knowledge about key practice issues
- Led via the Community Safety Partnership, there has been a Night Time Economy system review undertaken and a launch of North Lincolnshire Safer Nights Scheme. Work has been done to engage local pubs, bars, restaurants, entertainment venues, B&Bs and hotels to sign up to the Safety at Night Charter. As part of the charter, organisations must ensure that staff are confident and trained in safeguarding and must have policies and procedures in place to report and respond to incidents

Child Exploitation with a focus on transitions

Key success

As part of the annual review of the local arrangements, the Independent Scrutiny Officer highlighted a significant success in the partnership response to tackling child exploitation. His report said:

Humberside Police had significant success in March 2024 in disrupting six Organised Crime Groups involved in County Lines in partnership with Merseyside Police in Project Medusa. The Forces successfully disrupted county lines of drug dealing and safeguarded vulnerable people in a joint project with Humberside Police. The targeted operation saw more than sixty officers and specialist staff deploy to the Scunthorpe area, using covert and overt tactics to intercept weapons, drugs and illicit cash, and identify vulnerable individuals exploited by county lines gangs.

Local news outlets and the Police website highlighted the strategy and the public awareness campaign in the area including North Lincolnshire.

Further information about the operation can be found here: [50 arrested in Scunthorpe as major police 'Medusa' taskforce sweeps in - Grimsby Live \(grimsbytelegraph.co.uk\)](https://www.grimsbytelegraph.co.uk/news/50-arrested-in-scunthorpe-as-major-police-medusa-taskforce-sweeps-in-1.1000000)

Partnership disruption activity was closely monitored and coordinated via the Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Meeting and the operation evidenced strong partnership working to tackle perpetrators of child exploitation.

Child Exploitation with a focus on transitions

Outcomes and Impact:

- Through engagement with hotels and night-time economy premises, key staff within the community have an increased awareness of exploitation including understanding the signs to look out for and their responsibility in responding to concerns identified. The Safer Nights work has enhanced the community approach to safeguarding and creates safer spaces for young people
- There has continued to be strengthened practice in addition to workforce, leadership and systems development in relation to CSE and CCE which have supported improved outcomes for children
- The ROTH Strategic Group and the Children's MARS Board have strengthened oversight of the impact of local practice relating to prevention and early help through the connectivity with other key boards and partnerships.
- Children with multiple vulnerabilities have benefited from preventative work and early help plans
- As children at risk of exploitation transition into adulthood they continue to be offered support from a range of partners to reduce risk and improve their outcomes
- By strengthening the available resources and training materials on the Children's MARS website and the dissemination of briefings and reports through the communications list, staff have increased access to advice and recommended tools to use in practice
- Staff have access to a strengthened training offer which has been informed by national research and best practice

Next steps:

There is some outstanding work to do to further develop multi-agency transitional arrangements as children move into adulthood. When beginning the work to develop the practice standards and transitional policies and procedures, leads reflected that the work is much wider than exploitation. The Children's MARS Board therefore agreed that a wider piece of work shall be done in 2024/25 to develop the practice standards and procedures to include all areas of transitions.

Child Exploitation with a focus on transitions

Independent Scrutiny

Under the Children's MARS Scrutiny and Assurance Framework, there has been a thematic assurance event on the theme of **child exploitation including transitions to adulthood** led by Dave Basker, Independent Scrutiny Officer.

This thematic event comprised of

- Observation of the Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) meeting including triage
- A bespoke meeting with multi-agency managers and practitioners to discuss their roles, remit and responsibilities
- A meeting with multi-agency practitioners who presented their work through case discussions relating to 3 young people who had transitioned to adulthood within the past 3 years
- 14 cases in total were considered in detail across all meetings

There is evidence of strengths and good practice as follows:

- There is a good sense of leadership, learning culture and evidence of strong local partnerships
- There is a 'build the team around the relationship' mindset, that is strengths based and relationship driven
- Practice is young person centered with the appropriate use of professional language therefore avoiding any shaming or blaming language
- The meetings considered individual needs as well as location mapping and hotspots, focusing on locations, places and spaces where actual or suspected exploitation, took place. Good knowledge of local hotspots and robust targeted interventions was evident
- The case studies evidenced strong multi agency working and tenacity in developing relational approaches. The young people continued to be discussed in MACE beyond the age of 18 to ensure the targeted support achieved the desired outcomes of making the young person safer
- There was proactive planning for transition through adult services and purposeful working between children's social care, adult social care and the Youth Justice Partnership

A 7 minute briefing on the learning from the event has been circulated to practitioners and managers across the partnership and is available on the Children's MARS website.



Shine a Light Area of Focus

Voluntary, Charity and Social Enterprise Sector

We said we would further develop the interface and relationships between the Children's MARS Local Arrangements and the Voluntary, Charity and Social Enterprise sector

Voluntary, Charity and Social Enterprise Sector

What have we done?

- In collaboration with the Safeguarding Adults Board and Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, the Children's MARS team have been working with Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire (VANL) to develop a safeguarding children and adults awareness training package to roll out across the Voluntary, Charity and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector. This work began in 2022/23 but has been finalised 2023/24 and regular dates for delivering this training has been built into the training offer for the VCSE
- A reporting mechanism for monitoring training figures across the VCSE sector has been agreed with VANL to ensure that safeguarding training across the VCSE sector can be monitored on a quarterly basis. This information will be fed into the Safeguarding Pathway Learning and Improvement Group (SPLIG) and will give lead officers an enhanced oversight of which organisations and sectors have had safeguarding training so that they are able to identify any gaps
- A quarterly VCSE Safeguarding Forum has been established with the inaugural meeting taking place in November 2023. As part of the agenda, regular updates from the Children's MARS Board, Safeguarding Adults Board, Community Safety Partnership and Domestic Abuse Partnership Board were requested. This will be an opportunity for the SPLIG to feed key messages to the VCSE sector and provides future opportunities for us to shape and influence. Teams/partners also have the opportunity to attend the meeting to provide bespoke presentations where required
- VANL has established a newsletter and an email dissemination list which allows us to share regular updates and key messages from the across the partnership
- A VCSE Safeguarding Event took place in October 2023. 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. The presentation from the event is available on the [communications page of the Children's MARS website](#)
- A new Children's MARS information leaflet was designed and published which shares key information about the purpose of the Children's MARS Arrangements and our local offer to staff across the partnership. This leaflet was designed to be an easy read guide for staff and was shared at the VCSE event to aid conversation and act as a reference tool
- The Children's MARS team have created connections with leads responsible for the Voluntary Community Sector (VCS) Alliance and associated partnership which provides opportunities to interface and develop relationships between the local authority, the voluntary and community sector and the wider partnership

Voluntary, Charity and Social Enterprise Sector

Outcomes and impact

- We have strengthened the interface with VANL and built upon existing mechanisms to communicate and build relationships with the VCSE sector
- Staff and volunteers in the VCSE have increased access to advice, guidance, tools and resources which they can utilise when working with children and families
- In working collaboratively with the Safeguarding Adults Board and Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, we are preventing duplication and providing access to consistent safeguarding information, advice and guidance
- The bespoke training offer provides staff and volunteers in the VCSE sector with increased opportunities to enhance their knowledge and skills in addition to the current e-workbooks on safeguarding and other topics
- Staff and volunteers within the VCSE sector have increased opportunities to engage with and influence local strategy, policy and practice developments

Next steps:

As part of the implementation of Working Together 2023, the VCSE will be consulted with as part of the revision of the local arrangements. This will be undertaken through bespoke workshops with staff, an electronic survey and via discussions at the VCSE forum and the annual VCSE safeguarding event. This will ensure that the views of the VCSE sector will inform future developments.



Shine a Light Area of Focus

Early help

We said we would further develop the multi-agency approach to early help

Early help

What have we done?

- There has been a continued development offer to support professionals across the wider early help workforce, including strengthening on topics such as family voice, and a continued focus on whole family working. A Children's MARS 7 minute briefing on Early Help Best Practice was developed and published to promote key areas including child's voice and whole family working
- Following consultation with key staff leading early help including schools, bespoke Working with Resistance training was commissioned to help staff support families more effectively
- An early help quality checklist has been developed for practitioners/managers to help embed self-audit
- Key early help leads have worked with children's social care to align step down from child in need to early help.
- New performance reporting has been developed to underpin the Early Help Strategic Leads Group. The reports detail data from the partnership early help online system around early help assessments, reviews and closures
- A joint quality assurance day in February 2024 took place between 0-19 Health and Wellbeing and North Lincolnshire Council Children and Families, the session highlighted the wealth of good practice and early intervention offered prior to and during any formal or targeted support. Outcomes were shared with the EHSLG to further strengthen local arrangements
- Good practice is routinely shared with partners for dissemination following audit and assurance activity, and forums such as the Multi Agency Reflective Practice Forum (MARPF) are routinely held to hold space for curiosity and learning in practice as well as bespoke practice assurance activity across our partners
- The Early Help Strategic Leads Group has become a well-established group with a consistent focus on early help across the wider partnership and has supported good understanding of practice, key areas for development, and shared solutions to drive improvements to the wider system. Governance has been strengthened with key leads responsible for other partnership forums and workstreams in attendance including leads responsible for the Multi-Agency Pre-Birth Liaison and Consultation (MAPLAC) meeting and the Youth Offer Steering Group

Early help



NL Family

We have launched NL Family as our digital start for life and Family Hub offer to link families in with activities and support in their communities. This digital tool acts as a single point of multi-agency information, allowing families to tailor this according to their needs, their local area and the ages of the children in their family. NL Family includes links to online resources and evidence-based parenting programmes such as Solihull parenting support and the PEEP Learning Together Programme (known as PEEP) to provide a digital self-help offer for parents and carers.

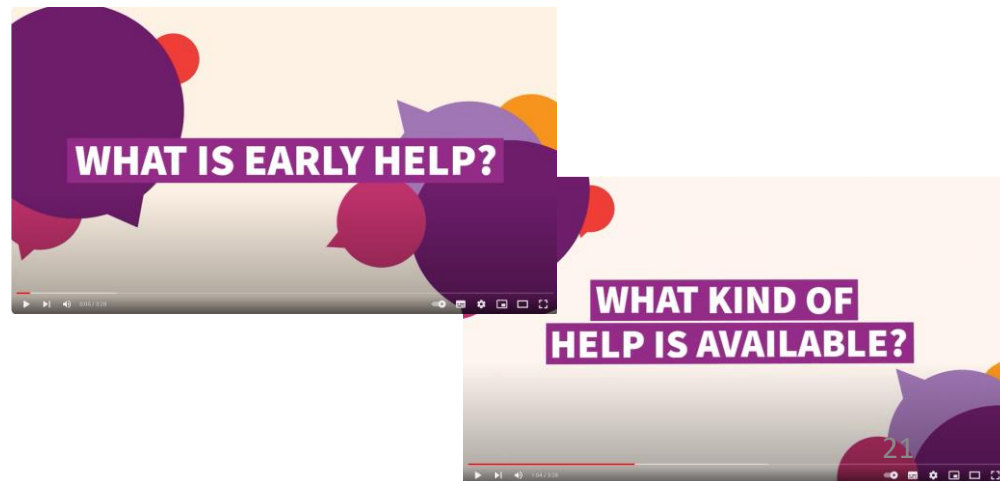
It also includes links to trusted content from partners such as the NHS, and enables families to access a range of information in addition to the SEND Local Offer, Live Well North Lincolnshire, Children's MARS website, social media platforms and individual agency websites which provide clear information about services and sources of help and support

Early help video for young people and families

A new video was launched to provide information to young people and families in North Lincolnshire about what early help is and how families can access support.

The video was co-produced by our Family Voice Representatives with young people and families.

The video is published on the Children's MARS website - [Early help video – YouTube](#)



Early help

Outcomes and Impact:

- Practitioners have increased access to advice, guidance, tools and resources which they can utilise in their practice
- Engagement with fathers and wider family and consideration of their voice and experiences are considered routinely as part of scrutiny and assurance activity
- Through feedback from children and families, dip sampling through partnership structures and strategic oversight, we can see evidence that almost all families open to early help and prevention work understand why agencies are working with them, and what is done by who to support them
- From our assurance activity and multi-agency case audits we know that there is evidence of plans that make sense to families, that reflect their needs, and include their voice. As part of cross agency assurance activity we have a strong steer on strengths and areas for development across the partnership including recommendations to strengthen the closure form and strengthen the Early Help Practitioner Forum
- Through the Children and Families Feedback Framework, there is evidence that children, young people and families open to early help support understand why agencies are involved, feel they have opportunity to share their views in an impactful way, and feel the support makes a difference to them.
- The Children's MARS Early Help: Practice and Process training feedback and completed audits indicate that a whole family approach to working is embedded in Early Help Assessments and plans across the partnership. Schools and education settings, including early years undertake the majority of partner led Early Help Assessments in North Lincolnshire, regularly contributed to by health partners
- Data demonstrates that generally children and families receive help at the earliest point to support need and risk. There is robust and frequent oversight of key populations to ensure that any emerging or increasing risk is identified quickly with support tailored around the family

Early help

Independent Scrutiny

Under the Children's MARS Scrutiny and Assurance Framework, there has been a thematic assurance event on the theme of **early help** led by Linda Williams and Dave Basker, Independent Scrutiny Officers.

This thematic event comprised of

- A meeting with the Local Authority One Family Approach Supporting Families Policy Manager and the Local Authority Safeguarding Education Officer
- Observation of the Early Help Forum
- A bespoke event for managers and practitioners to present their work relating to four families
- An additional two cases were chosen by the One Family Approach Supporting Families Policy Manager and sent to the scrutiny officers for examination and evaluation

There is evidence of strengths and good practice as follows:

- The Early Help Forum was well attended and shared information about strategic developments as well as available resources to support parenting and child development
- Practitioners reported good multi-agency working and gave examples of practitioners being tenacious in engaging with families
- Positive outcomes were evident in some of the cases presented in relation to working with children with health impairments
- Practitioners reported that they look to engage wider family where possible particularly grandparents
- There was evidence of clear outcomes and timescales. One case demonstrated effective multi-agency working between the school, health visiting team and children's centre. There was also evidence of effective working between schools and CAMHS
- The views and lived experience of children and families was sought consistently
- Positive feedback was received in relation to the recent early help training for practitioners which guided practice

A 7 minute briefing on the learning from the event has been circulated to practitioners and managers across the partnership and is available on the Children's MARS website.



Shine a Light Area of Focus

Domestic abuse and the impact on children

We said we would like to further develop our understanding of and our multi-agency response to domestic abuse and the impact on children

Domestic abuse and the impact on children

Through the SPLIG, lead officers have reflected on the learning from the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel shared as part of their briefing on Multi-Agency Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse. Through this report, the Panel highlighted that there is a need to improve consistency of understanding of domestic abuse and concerns for children were often categorised as emotional harm or neglect rather than direct abuse. Therefore, much of the work undertaken this year has been to facilitate training to strengthen the knowledge and skills of multi-agency practitioners. Some examples include:

- A bespoke webinar was commissioned on coercive control and its impacts on children which was facilitated by Dr Emma Katz, Associate Professor at the University of Durham. 144 staff from across the partnership attended the event and positive feedback was received in relation to how the knowledge gained, and the tools shared would have an impact on practice
- Training relating to The Homicide Timeline developed by Professor Jane Monckton-Smith has been commissioned and promoted across the partnership. The training will allow staff to track escalating patterns of risk within coercively controlling and stalking relationships
- Work has been done to ensure that staff have a robust understanding of what the domestic abuse support offer is in North Lincolnshire. Alongside this, available tools, resources and national training opportunities have been disseminated through Children's MARS communications channels

Some other domestic abuse focussed activity has included:

- Strengthening the oversight of young children via early years including childminders. Where Operation Encompass notifications are received and children are not accessing their funded childcare place, the North Lincolnshire Council Early Years Team are reaching out to those families to remind them of the provision and to encourage them to access it
- A pre-therapy support pilot for children and young people who are under the age of 18 (25 SEND) who are affected by domestic abuse and living in safe accommodation has been implemented in 2023/24. Interventions will consist of group and 1:1 pre-therapeutic and stabilisation sessions so that children and young people are supported to understand their experiences and build their resilience and confidence. The provider of the service will work closely with The Blue Door domestic abuse service to ensure eligible families receive support. The delivery will be quality assured and monitored by the North Lincolnshire Council in collaboration with the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board and the outcomes of the pilot will be fed into the Children's MARS Board

Domestic abuse and the impact on children

The national panel's report on multi-agency safeguarding and domestic abuse also recommended that safeguarding partners should connect closely with the community safety partnership or domestic abuse board to ensure priorities and work plans align, including commissioning and budget priorities, with clear accountability mechanisms.

In response to this, discussions have been held at the Children's MARS Board and other key partnership boards including the Safeguarding Adults Board, Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, Community Safety Partnership and the Youth Justice Partnership. It has been agreed by all 5 partnership boards to hold a cross-board development session to review cross-cutting priorities and enhance partnership collaboration to tackle domestic abuse. This session will be held 2024/25 and in addition to this will be ongoing meetings between the Board Managers to ensure robust connectivity across the boards.

Outcomes and impact

- Staff across the partnership have increased awareness of domestic abuse and the impact on children. Feedback from staff suggests that the training offer has been impactful, and they feel more confident in identifying and responding to domestic abuse. Partnership data suggests that there has been an increase in domestic abuse across early help and the safeguarding pathway. This may also suggest that there has been improvement in the identification of domestic abuse. This will remain an area of focus over 2024/25 to ensure that our interventions are based on us understanding the narrative behind performance and ensuring our offer is based on understanding the experiences of children and families across North Lincolnshire.

Next steps

Domestic abuse and the impact on children has been highlighted as a theme across a variety of Children's MARS workstreams and the wider partnership so there is a need to continue to 'shine a light' on this area of practice in 2024/25. This will allow us to progress the plans to hold a cross-board development session with the Safeguarding Adults Board, Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, Community Safety Partnership and the Youth Justice Partnership to agree bespoke work and to strengthen the local response to tackling domestic abuse whilst preventing duplication.

The Autumn 2024 Joint Targeted Area of Inspection focussing on the theme of domestic abuse will also provide opportunities for lead officers across the partnership to consider and implement any learning identified in other local areas and review the effectiveness of the partnership response to domestic abuse.

Domestic abuse and the impact on children

Independent Scrutiny

Under the Children's MARS Scrutiny and Assurance Framework, a Practice Learning Line of Sight event was held on the theme of **domestic abuse and the impact on children** led by Linda Williams, Independent Scrutiny Officer.

After a process of single agency case audits, a panel of Children's MARS representatives and an Independent Scrutiny Officer met with practitioners to discuss a small number of cases. We identified areas of best practice, learning and further improvement relating to multi agency practice and agreed actions.

There is evidence of strengths and good practice as follows:

- Both cases demonstrated trauma informed, relational, person centred practice
- The outcomes for both children were positive as a result of intervention
- The needs of the whole family was considered whilst ensuring that each child in the household was considered as an individual
- Children were supported to remain in their family, school and communities
- In one case, adult focused services considered the needs of the children when planning for mother
- Children and families were involved in their own plans and their views and voice was evident in the records
- Information sharing between partners was strong
- There was positive working between the police and ISVA
- Interventions were timely
- Management oversight and regular supervision was evident
- The Re:Form domestic abuse perpetrator programme was utilised positively in one case and led to improved outcomes for the family

A 7 minute briefing on the learning from the event has been circulated to practitioners and managers across the partnership and is available on the Children's MARS website.

The learning has also been fed into the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board and further consideration in relation to the learning will be discussed at the cross-board development session.



Learning and Improvement

Multi-Agency Education and Training

Children's MARS Education and Training has continued to be offered both virtually and face to face. Child Protection training has continued to be offered as a priority course throughout the year and is well attended and in high demand. A number of bespoke courses were commissioned from national experts in 2023/24 including coercive control and its impacts on children which had the highest attendance of all the commissioned courses. This course was key to raising awareness of domestic abuse and the impact on children across the partnership which was a 'Shine a Light' area of focus for the Children's MARS Board in 2023/24.

Key highlights include:

- 148 practitioners trained in Child Protection
- 144 practitioners attended the coercive control and its impacts on children training
- 499 e-workbooks were completed across a range of awareness topics including safeguarding, early help, child criminal and child sexual exploitation and female genital mutilation. Feedback continues to be positively received around the use of the workbooks as a refresher and as part of induction for new staff
- 351 Designated Safeguarding Leads and school pastoral staff have attended the quarterly Designated Safeguarding Leads briefings and have been trained in early help, child sexual abuse, managing allegations and has received bespoke information relating to the local offer for children and families
- 175 Designated Safeguarding Leads from early years settings and childminders have attended the quarterly forum and briefings have been provided on early help, best practice for preparing for child protection conference and how to access support from the Targeted Family Support Team
- 72 staff attended the early help forum which aims to support practitioners undertaking early help. Bespoke briefings have been provided on the development of the Family Hubs, support from The Blue Door domestic abuse service and the support offer from SENDIASS
- 7 minute briefings, special edition newsletters and briefings have been used to communicate learning to frontline practitioners
- Guidance on holding an emotionally reflective session was developed and published on the Children's MARS website. In keeping with the Children's MARS Board's commitment to supporting practitioners and promoting a culture of learning, the concept of a reflective wellbeing session was developed as an opportunity to provide a reflective space for the workforce and partnership to come together following a significant event to reflect on the impact that this has had, share thoughts, feelings and experiences to build resilience
- National and regional online webinars and training courses have been promoted through the Children's MARS communications channels on a range of subjects including drug and alcohol misuse, online harm, child exploitation and child abuse linked to faith and belief
- Through the Yorkshire and Humber Multi-Agency Safeguarding Trainer's Group, a series of webinars have taken place throughout the year including:
 - Technology assisted harmful sexual behaviour
 - Sexual abuse outside the home
 - Sexual abuse inside the home (intra-familial)
 - Sibling sexual abuse

Multi-Agency Education and Training

The quarterly training evaluation reports presented to the SPLIG have highlighted that there has been an overall improvement on practitioners' confidence in the subject matter after all Children's MARS training courses. Based on feedback and evaluation, training remained of a high quality, delivered by knowledgeable and engaging trainers with examples of positive impacts on practice such as enhanced knowledge and skills to engage, assess, plan and work directly with children, young people and families.

Feedback from practitioners

An electronic feedback survey is distributed after each training course delivered as part of the Children's MARS Education and Training Programme. Practitioners have provided the examples below of how training has improved their knowledge and will impact on their practice:

- *The child protection training was 'spot on' for supporting the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Deputy DSL role in school and enabled me to have more confidence when making referrals or attending conferences*
- *As a result of the early help training, decisions around families will be more informed, plans will be more relevant and family focused and outcomes will be more achievable*
- *The reducing parental conflict training was so good that I am now more aware of how conflict is experienced differently according to individuals' perspectives and that will help me have a better understanding when supporting my families*
- *As a result of the coercive control training, I will be more mindful of the extent that coercive and controlling behaviour has or is having on not only the adult but the child too*
- *As a result of the working with resistance training, I will be more able to rationalise what is going on in interactions. I will be more mindful of setting realistic expectations. I have already been able to share this with colleagues and they have adapted their practice*
- *As a result of the managing allegations training, I now understand what happens and the possible outcomes of an investigation. I am also aware that I can make a direct referral in regard to any concerns I may have about a professional's practice*
- *The child protection training has helped me to develop my skills and ensure that children cared for are all safe. I would be confident in attending a conference meeting with children, parents, and other professionals since having the training*
- *The child exploitation training gave a full in-depth understanding of the risk young people face and further strengthened knowledge on referrals, support and how to reach our most vulnerable*

Communications

There is a commitment to communicating across the safeguarding partner organisations and other agencies. The Children's MARS website is central to our communications strategy and is regularly refreshed to include a variety of resources, tools and learning from local and national reviews for professionals to access.

Children's MARS news updates continue to be used to communicate information and messages relating to the Local Arrangements to key stakeholders. Messages also continued to be shared through our social media channels, @SafeNorthLincs.

Regular email communications via the Children's MARS communications list alert practitioners to what is new and available both locally and nationally. This has been an important mechanism to increase the reach of key messages across the partnership and there continues to be high levels of engagement with the information circulated. There are further opportunities to target communications i.e., with the voluntary charity and social enterprise sector to raise awareness of and engagement in our Local Arrangements.

Some examples of communication activity include:

- Promotion of and dissemination of messages from reports published by the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel
- Publication and dissemination of a bespoke briefing relating to the drug 'Pregabalin'. This was published due to an increase in reports and intelligence relating to the use of the drug amongst young people and intended to provide advice to practitioners about the effects of the drug and when to seek medical advice
- Dissemination of key messages and resources from national campaigns including the White Ribbon campaign, #DogSafety campaign and the Children's Society #LookCloser campaign
- Dissemination of key information about the new 'Separating Better' app which aims to support parents with separation and co-parenting and reduce parental conflict
- The Children's MARS team have been working with key colleagues within the Family Hubs team to develop and populate information on the new NL Family app to ensure alignment with local information including the Children's MARS website
- Launch and dissemination of a new local Early Help video which shares messages with young people and families around what early help is and how support can be accessed

Impact

- There is a greater awareness across the partnership of the work of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and the learning from their reports and reviews
- The multi-agency workforce are better equipped to identify and respond to emerging need
- Children, young people and families have access to information in a jargon-free easy read format which will help them understand where to go when they need help

Voice and Stakeholder Engagement – Children's MARS Conference 2023

The Children's MARS Resilience and Safeguarding in Practice event took place on 13 November 2023 at The Baths Hall. Over 130 people attended from across the partnership including leaders at all levels and young people. The conference was an opportunity to bring together practitioners and local leaders who have responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. As well as having a focus on our local arrangements, there was input from 2 national speakers who helped us to reflect upon local practice.

Positive feedback on the day included:

- *The lived experience and hearing Claire's story really brought to life the impact professionals can have and the importance of working together to support families and individuals*
- *It was really positive to hear feedback about the One Family Approach and how multi-agency working is helping all children and families*
- *The conference was a good reminder about strengths-based practice*



Keynote – Intersectionality and safeguarding practice

We welcomed Professor Claudia Bernard to the stage to provide the second keynote of the day on the topic of intersectionality and safeguarding practices.

A key point for reflection from Professor Bernard's keynote was around how practitioners and senior leaders embrace discomfort to have the difficult conversations around anti-racist practice. She shared that bold conversations about race and culture are often avoided as it gives rise to strong feelings and difficult emotions but a culturally responsive workforce is required to better serve children who are disproportionately impacted by social conditions and systematic racism.

Keynote – Professional curiosity

We also welcomed Ruth Pearson to the stage who provided a presentation on professional curiosity. Ruth discussed how practitioners can approach working with resistant families who may be cooperating on a low level to minimise agency engagement and intervention.

A key message from Ruth's presentation was around being clear and specific when working with families about the change that you need to see for the child brought about by change from the parent rather than relying on parents' self-reported change. Practitioners were also advised to practice having difficult and challenging conversations to increase their confidence in asking questions.



Our final presentation of the day shared an overview of the work that has taken place to move towards an integrated offer for children and families. The One Family Approach provides the ideal framework for integrated working ensuring that getting help for families is easier, it is embedded in the community and it involves conversations rather than referrals.

The presentation emphasised the importance of integration, shared the ambition for the future and asked that practitioners and senior leaders support the journey to provide families with the right help and support, in the right place and at the right time.

Voice and Stakeholder Engagement

Voice activity

A variety of voice and engagement events have taken place throughout the year to inform our work, some of which include:

- The **Staying Safe Conference** took place in July 2023. The event was an opportunity to share key information with young people around how to stay safe in their homes, in their schools and in their communities. Workshops included internet safety, healthy eating and community safety. The Children's MARS team attended to raise awareness of the local arrangements (via a market place) and to consult with young people

36 young people from schools and settings across North Lincolnshire shared their views on child exploitation. Overall, the young people shared a good understanding of child exploitation and how to keep themselves safe. Their feedback also indicated that they would speak to an identified trusted adult if they were worried about themselves or a friend. The feedback was shared with the Children's MARS Board and the ROTH Strategic Group

- The **Schools Designated Safeguarding Leads Conference** took place in July 2023 on the theme of online safety. The Children's MARS team attended to raise awareness of the local arrangements and to consult with DSLs around the impact of Children's MARS education and training.

27 staff members shared their views on our training and education offer including positive feedback on our child protection masterclass and early help training. This correlates with the feedback that is collated immediately after the training courses took place which provides further assurance that staff find Children's MARS education and training helpful as part of their professional development. This feedback was shared with the Safeguarding Practice Learning and Improvement Group (SPLIG)

- Led by the Humber Violence Prevention Partnership, the **Hope Hack event** held in February 2024 brought together groups of local young people with the aim of finding out what a fairer society looks like in their eyes.

Around 80 young people aged 15 to 24 years attended, along with support staff where appropriate. Young people were asked about their thoughts and experiences of seven key areas ahead of the event one of which included feeling safe in their community and preparation for adulthood.

The feedback from young people was shared across Children's MARS governance arrangements including the ROTH Strategic Group who considered it from a child exploitation and transitions perspective. The feedback from young people will inform the refresh of the ROTH Strategy and will influence the partnership response to preparing young people for adulthood.

Voice and Stakeholder Engagement

Family Voice Conversations

Family Voice Representatives are central to delivery of voice and engagement activity in North Lincolnshire. They bring their lived experiences and expertise to their roles, better enabling families to have a voice and making sure that our information, support and offer for children, young people and families are co-produced, leading to better outcomes. Their role is to listen, support and represent parents and carers' voices to improve outcomes for children and their families.

A review of the role of the Family Voice Representatives took place in 2024 and a new project is taking place to strengthen the voice of children and young people who have received support through our integrated children and families offer. The project will invite families to take part in a facilitated discussion with a Family Voice Representative to explore their opinions and experiences of the support and intervention that they have received.

The discussions will ask core questions that support families to share their story with a focus on:

1. What was important
2. What worked for them and what made it possible
3. What could the best experience look/feel like and how can we get there

The approach is designed to gain a deeper insight into lived experiences of families, supporting systematic evaluation of quality and informing future delivery. The methodology is built around the One Family Approach Practice Model and other recognised engagement mechanisms, taking a strengths based / solution focused approach to learning, planning and improvement activity

The Family Voice Conversations project methodology has been endorsed by the Children's MARS Board and will be rolled out across the partnership in 2024/25.

Funding

Safeguarding partners have a shared ownership of funding responsibilities to ensure the implementation of the Local Arrangements. These consist of actual funding and in-kind resources, for example representatives from safeguarding partner organisations contribute to the development and delivery of the education and training programme. In addition, each of the safeguarding partners have agreed that key subject matter experts from their organisations will lead specific pieces of work to progress the areas of focus, strategies and delivery plans. In the event of a child safeguarding practice review, it has been agreed that funding will be met by the three safeguarding partners and where necessary, each partner will contribute equitable and proportionate funding over and above the normal allocation in order to fulfil the costs of any review.

A breakdown of costs in delivering the arrangements for 2023/24, including financial contributions is indicated in the adjacent table.

Contributions	2023/24 (£)
North Lincolnshire Council	50,000
Humber and North Yorkshire ICB	38,241
Humberside Police	13,000
Probation Service	2,184
John Leggott College	1,140
North Lindsey College	1,140
Education (including 13,000 DSG)	31,000
Total contributions	136,705
Children's Social Care Reform Grant funding	47,300
Total available funding	184,005
Expenditure	2023/24 (£)
Contribution towards staffing costs	-127,282
Training and events	-7,660
Publications, printing, equipment	-2447
Subscriptions and memberships	-1004
Total	-138,395

Part of the education contribution to the Children's MARS Board comes from the DfE Designated Schools Grant (DSG). The DfE said that they would be reducing the facility to allocate this money for combined services budgets including the Children's MARS Board over future years until it stops completely. The income reduced by £7,000 in 2023/24 and it is anticipated that this funding will continue to reduce before ceasing completely over the next 2 years meaning a further reduction of £13,000 in future income.

In January 2024, the Children's MARS Board also received £47,300 grant funding from the DfE to support the implementation of Working Together and the Children's Social Care National Framework. This funding has been utilised for additional staffing expenses which were dedicated to strengthening multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

As part of the implementation of Working Together 2023 and the refresh of the local arrangements, the Children's MARS Board agreed to undertake a gaps analysis to determine whether any further resource is required to further develop and strengthen the local arrangements. Any additional funding required will be discussed and agreed by the Lead Safeguarding Partners. The gaps analysis will also include an assessment of the impact and value for money of funding received.

Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

The Children's MARS Board / safeguarding partners were not notified of any potential serious child safeguarding incidents in 2023/24. In line with the new requirements set out in Working Together 2023, the local authority made a notification to Ofsted in relation to the death of a care leaver in February 2024. Safeguarding partners were informed of the incident, but a formal notification was not made for consideration of a Rapid Review and/or subsequent Child Safeguarding Practice Review as the young person was aged over 18 at the time of their death. However, a multi-agency learning event utilising the Children's MARS reflective wellbeing session guidance will be held in 2024/25 to identify learning which may inform our local approach to transitions to adulthood.

Independent scrutiny

Safeguarding partners have agreed that the identification and notification process will be subject to annual independent scrutiny. This includes scrutiny of cases considered by North Lincolnshire Children's Services and key partner agencies as potentially meeting the criteria for serious child safeguarding incidents.

The 2023 Independent Scrutiny report highlights: *I believe the decision-making was thorough. It is also important to highlight good practice in the cases in this report, social work supervision and support by children's social care managers and the Children's MARS Team through all three cases was excellent with regular supervision and advice in high profile and emotionally distressing cases. Throughout children's services records supervision is supportive, very well focussed, and decision making set out with guidance from the manager, with time for reflection built into these sessions.*

We have also continued to annually seek assurance through the SPLIG that partner agencies and key relevant agencies:

- have internal processes in place for identifying potential serious child safeguarding cases
- are aware of the criteria for a serious child safeguarding case and how to notify the safeguarding partners for them to consider whether the criteria are met and whether a rapid review is undertaken to determine if a child safeguarding practice review is required
- have internal processes in place and are aware of/know how to request that the safeguarding partners or their representatives consider undertaking a child safeguarding practice review if the criteria are not met, yet the case may raise issues of importance to the local area and there has been the identification of good practice, poor practice or 'near miss' events
- have or have not discussed and considered one or more potential serious child safeguarding cases yet concluded that they do not meet the criteria for notification

This was completed to assure ourselves that there had been no serious cases that were not notified to the safeguarding partners. Key staff were knowledgeable about the process and Children's MARS policies and procedures. The Children's MARS Board were subsequently assured that agencies know how to identify and notify the safeguarding partners of a serious child safeguarding case.

Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel: National Reviews

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel published their report *Safeguarding children with disabilities and complex health needs in residential settings: Phase 1* in October 2022. Subsequently, their Phase 2 report was published in April 2023. Significant work that has been undertaken to strengthen how we commission, monitor and review the quality of all external fostering, residential children's homes and/or schools, supported accommodation and education day placements.

We have:

- Revised the scope of the policy and procedures for **Commissioning External Fostering, Residential Children's Homes, Supported Accommodation and Education Provision Policy and Procedures (Contract Management)** to set out the processes in relation to sourcing, monitoring and reviewing the quality of all commissioned external provision for children and young people
- Supplemented the above with a linked standalone **Monitoring and Reviewing External Provision Procedure**
- Revised and/or created forms including a **Provider Self Evaluation Template** to be requested annually, an **External Provision Monitoring Form and Provider Action Plan** to be used for all types of external provision outlined above
- Provided all children with disabilities and complex health needs in residential settings with **Children's Advocates** who visit them in their provision as a minimum 6 monthly. This has been in place since the end of 2022, in addition to children in care who already receive advocacy meetings as a minimum 6 monthly.
- Established a Schedule of Visits to all external provision linking to the children in the provision
- **Training programme implemented** during Autumn 2023 for staff that will be undertaking monitoring visits. Further training will be held as required for new staff or as a refresher
- As part of the recommissioning process, the North Lincolnshire commissioning, monitoring and reviewing expectations and requirements will be captured in all relevant external providers contracts moving forward
- Enhanced the North Lincolnshire Children's Social Care Case Audit Meeting **practice standards** to ensure that monitoring visits to children in external provision are held within timescale
- Met with a range of alternative and independent providers in October through the network meeting that is chaired by a North Lincolnshire provider to share the new policy and processes, including detail of what will be included in visits
- In addition, implemented an **Assurance Framework to monitor and review processes for internal children's homes** from Summer 2023. This will continue to ensure that local provision remains compliant and is of high quality

Impact

- There is enhanced oversight of commissioned providers from a multi-agency lens which ensures that providers are meeting the needs of children and young people
- Commissioned providers have access to strengthened advice and guidance from key leads where needed

Scrutiny and Assurance

The Children's MARS Scrutiny and Assurance Framework was published alongside the Local Arrangements. In addition to scrutiny and assurance activity already referenced in relation to multi-agency case audit practice learning line of sight events, there has been additional activity, including independent scrutiny, leading to local learning, partnership action, changes in practice and outcomes.

Thematic audit – Neglect

A thematic audit on neglect was undertaken to seek assurance as to the timeliness and quality of practice and the effectiveness of decision making. The independent scrutiny officer also considered identification of and decision making in relation to neglect is timely, whether plans are outcome focussed and whether there is consistent and effective use of the Graded Care Profile 2. The audit found many positives including that decision making is timely and child focused with children's safety and wellbeing the priority and that children and family assessments are timely and comprehensive, particularly in terms of child's identified needs ,parenting capacity and wider factors.

Thematic assurance event – Quality of Children's MARS education and training

A group of lead officers and heads of service undertook a review of the presentations and training materials of all courses facilitated by the Children's MARS Board against the agreed Yorkshire and Humber Multi-Agency Safeguarding Trainers (YHMAST) Standards. As part of the exercise some additional local standards were also agreed. The group reviewed the subject matter, format and the connectivity to the Children's MARS Arrangements and also took the opportunity to cross reference the presentations to ensure synergy with messaging from a partnership perspective and to prevent duplication.

The review was a desk top exercise designed to provide assurance and add value, in the spirit of our ongoing commitment to listen, learn, review and adapt. As part of the review, the group acknowledged that there may be lots more information verbally delivered to trainees during the training that is not evident on the PowerPoint slides. However, as the slides are provided to attendees after the training, lead officers thought that there were opportunities to further enhance the information on the slides (including notes pages where appropriate) to ensure that the information is understandable as a standalone resource and point of reference, and in the event that another trainer needs to step in to deliver the training package.

Overall, a high level of assurance was provided that the majority of training courses facilitated by the Children's MARS Board meet the YHMAST training standards and the agreed additional local standards. Where standards were not met, feedback was provided to the training facilitator and a response was requested to ensure that the recommendations were implemented in the next iteration of the course. In summary, the vast majority of training standards that were partially or not met related to formatting, connectivity to Children's MARS guidance and resources and updating of language.

Scrutiny and Assurance

Thematic audit - Strategy discussions and assessments

A thematic audit of practice relating to strategy discussions and assessments was subject to independent scrutiny. This was an opportunity to seek assurance as to the timeliness and quality of practice and the effectiveness of decision making. The independent scrutiny officer was also asked to determine whether section 47 enquiries or assessments under section 17 are being undertaken appropriately and to analyse how many section 47 enquiries led to initial child protection conferences, how many did not, and whether these were appropriate. The audit found many positives including that decision making is robust and there is a clear rationale for undertaking/not progressing to section 47 enquiries; relevant history is always considered when making judgements and decisions; and there is evidence of challenge in assessments where actions have not been completed.

Thematic audit – ‘Front door’ - Single Point of Contact enquiries, contacts and referrals

A thematic audit of practice relating to Single Point of Contact (SPOC) enquiries, contacts and referrals was subject to independent scrutiny. This was an opportunity to seek assurance as to the timeliness of information sharing, early identification of need, quality of practice including management oversight and the effectiveness of decision making. The independent scrutiny officer was asked to take a view on the timeliness of information sharing, early identification of need, quality of practice including management oversight and the effectiveness of decision making. The audit findings included that SPOC gain consent from parents/carers before sharing information with partner agencies; the effectiveness of past interventions is considered and discussions with previous workers are noted, to help with judgements and decisions; manager oversight is a strong feature of work at the front door. It consistently offers direction for practice and good rationale for decisions and next steps.

Multi-Agency Reflective Practice Forum

The Multi-Agency Reflective Practice Forum (MARPF) meets on a bi-monthly basis and provides a reflective practice forum for managers and practitioners working with families to review the quality of practice and intervention across the partnership. There have been six MARPF meetings held throughout the year on themes such as children missing in education, honour-based abuse and forced marriage, early help and domestic abuse and the impact on children. The good practice, key learning and recommendations for strategic action are fed into the SPLIG on a quarterly basis and a summary of learning for frontline practitioners is included in the Children's MARS news update.

Scrutiny and assurance events continue to generate an evidence base of effective local practice and learning which the Children's MARS Board has utilised strategically to further develop and improve multi-agency practice. A summary of learning and key themes are provided to those involved and disseminated widely through the Children's MARS news updates and 7 minute briefings that are available on the Children's MARS website.

Scrutiny and Assurance

Section 11 (Joint Safeguarding Self-Assessment)

The Section 11 process places a duty on specific organisations and agencies to ensure they fulfil their responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Together with the Safeguarding Adults Board, a joint safeguarding self-assessment audit was disseminated to agencies for them to complete in December 2022 and submit in early 2023. Overall, the self-assessments provided assurance that the agencies subject to Section 11 are fulfilling their responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. In December 2023, partners were requested to provide an update on their joint safeguarding self-assessment audits to ensure any outstanding areas for development have been actioned. Assurance was provided that agencies continue to fulfil their responsibilities, and further actions have been identified to strengthen arrangements, rather than address required areas for improvement.

Annual safeguarding audits

Under Section 175 of the Children Act 2004, the 2022 safeguarding audit for schools and colleges overseen by governors measured compliance with the statutory guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' and enabled the Children's MARS Board to receive assurance about essential safeguarding practice across all schools, colleges and settings. Since 2021, audits are requested from all schools (including special and independent) in North Lincolnshire, colleges in North Lincolnshire, alternative provision utilised by North Lincolnshire and all out of area provision that North Lincolnshire children attend. In 2023, there was a 100% return from schools, colleges and alternative provision. The outcomes of the audit highlighted consistently good practice in relation to safeguarding and strong partnership working.

In addition to this all Private, Voluntary and Independent Childcare Providers complete the safeguarding audit. Nurseries and pre-schools complete it on an annual basis and childminders on a bi-annual basis. There was a 100% return rate for the audit (66 childminders and 67 settings) in 2023. Responses have been individually reviewed to ensure compliance, provide assurance and to determine levels of support and challenge for settings. Themes emerging from the analysis inform termly Designated Safeguarding Lead's updates, childminder networks, bespoke safeguarding training for settings and safeguarding updates for the sector as a whole.

In his annual review, the Independent Scrutiny Officer highlighted that the report had a 100% response rate. This Independent Scrutineer has worked within safeguarding for 30 years and commented *'this is the first occasion I have seen such a result in this sector. This again demonstrated the long-standing positive relationship with the Children's MARS Board. The responses replicated the findings from the dip sampling that was done last year in that settings are going above and beyond to ensure that children are visible and attending where required'*

Findings from the audits are analysed and shared with the Children's MARS Board and action plans are put in place to monitor further improvements.

Independent Scrutiny of the Children's MARS Local Arrangements

As part of our commitment to listen, learn, review and adapt and to ensure that we are fulfilling our responsibilities under Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023, our Local Arrangements for 2023/24 have been independently scrutinised. The Independent Scrutiny Officer indicated that the recommendations from last year have all been fully considered and implemented where appropriate.

This year's independent scrutiny of our Local Arrangements included:

- desktop research/prior reading of Children's MARS Board, subgroups and other records
- facilitation of multi-agency strategic leader's and practitioner's forums
- meeting with key officers who manage and support the Children's MARS Board
- observation of the Children's MARS Board (April 2024)
- meeting with children, young people, parents and carers

A full report outlining the findings has been shared with the Children's MARS Board.

Additional feedback from **Robin Harper-Coulson, Independent Scrutiny Officer** is highlighted in the following slides:

The Independent Scrutiny Officer summarised that:

The Children's MARS Board sets the tone and culture across the partnership. Respectful challenge is accepted as normal and constructive and is intended to make a positive difference in the lives of children and families. The difference between the levels, from the Children's MARS Board to the multi-agency front line is understood, and creative approaches are used to communicate across agencies and levels. The move to locate teams within communities offers an increased opportunity to understand the lived experience of children and families and to make a positive impact on their safety and well-being.

Independent Scrutiny of the Children's MARS Local Arrangements

Examples of Strengths identified within the Annual Scrutiny Report of Local Arrangements;

- The Children's MARS website is an extensive resource and is well used by partners, managers, members of the public and members of the children's and adult workforce
- It was clear the members of the Children's MARS Board had respect for each other and had developed professional respectful relationships over time. This enables the discussions to be purposeful and focussed enabling the Board to develop bespoke action points for future planning and supporting Children, Young People and their Families and Carers
- The quality of papers presented to the Children's MARS Board is impressive and provides confidence in the work which underpins the board. There was not just a focus on compliance at the Children's MARS Board but also exploration of the significant questions "So What?" and "What more can we do to improve this issue for children and young people?" in order to understand the difference this would make for the Children, Young People and their Families and Carers in North Lincolnshire
- When undertaking the sessions with the Children in Care Council (CICC) and meeting the young people at the neighbourhood Youth Club it was clear young people knew what to do and who to seek support from if they had any concerns
- From my direct observation of the rural Youth Provision, the youth club was very busy with children aged approximately seven years old to sixteen. To questions about PHSE lesson topics and any sessions they had received about safeguarding, they all were aware of the need to share information with a trusted adult if they felt at risk or someone had hurt them, and they spoke openly about sessions in exploitation and online safety. The Voice development session also confirmed youth clubs follow the national curriculum. They utilise resources around themes and focus discussion on hot spots. Including talking about consent and safety
- During the development session with professionals and front-line workers, the Police spoke about their response to young people involved with exploitation and how they focused on them as victims rather than the perpetrator of a crime. Using the Child First values, linked with the work of the Youth Justice Board, many officers continue to work with the same young person to develop an ongoing relationship to support the young person alongside the social worker
- At the practitioner's development session, all workers commented on the One Family Approach and it is very well embedded in practice. This is allied with the threshold document these are used constantly and consistently in assessments to review the level of need and support for families.

Independent Scrutiny of the Children's MARS Local Arrangements

Examples of Strengths identified within the Annual Scrutiny Report of Local Arrangements;

- There is excellent attendance at the Early Help Forum by practitioners with a focus on resources available for supporting parenting and child development. Good multi-agency working was identified including evidence of active involvement by housing, and other cases demonstrating effective partnerships between schools and CAMHS
- The recently developed Early Help Video and NL Family app are a significant move forward. The video was developed by the Family Voice Representative and uses people with personal knowledge and experience of services
- The Children's MARS communications provided many resources and disseminated these widely
- It is clear that on many of the Children's MARS subgroup minutes that Education attends as a fourth partner. They can contribute to discussions and report this back to schools and involve them in safeguarding children
- Commissioned services and special education are also excellently engaged with Children's MARS processes and as well as responding to the S175/S157 audit they seek support and guidance from a multi-agency group, including Children's MARS Board, Local Authority Education Services, Health and Children Social care
- The Education lead shared with the Children's MARS Board that the position identified by the S175/S157 is overwhelmingly positive. It is clear as an observer that the audits are proof of the work done over the years by the Children's MARS Board in building such strong relationships with all education settings, this has ensured that there was such an excellent response rate that Children's MARS Board can be more sophisticated in terms of the questions asked
- The outcomes from the PVI nurseries and childminder safeguarding audit report was also shared with the Children's MARS Board and had a 100% response rate.
- From the Practitioners and Managers development sessions, it was clear that the Voice of Families, Children and Young people were the heart of their practice and guided in many cases their work.

Independent Scrutiny of the Children's MARS Local Arrangements

Examples of Strengths identified within the Annual Scrutiny Report of Local Arrangements;

- The Children's MARS Board sets the tone and culture across the partnership. Respectful challenge is accepted as normal and constructive and is intended to make a positive difference in the lives of children and families. The difference between the levels, from the Children's MARS Board to the multi-agency front line is understood, and creative approaches are used to communicate across agencies and levels
- It was clear throughout scrutiny that many changes required for the new Working Together 2023 protocol had already been embedded in practice, however, the key officers and members of the Children's MARS Board were not complacent and highly aware that there was further work and actions required to fully implement Working Together 2023 by December 2024
- Throughout this review, it was clear that what was recorded in the minutes and reports was evidenced in the discussions in all the development sessions. It was also observed in the Children's MARS Board meeting, which continues to provide clear leadership to promote a learning culture across the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements
- This culture of the Children's MARS Board in North Lincolnshire is centred on collaborative, proactive, and child-focused practices. The board prioritises safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children through a comprehensive and integrated approach involving multiple agencies. This involves continuous professional development, shared learning experiences, and a commitment to evidence-based practices
- One interesting observation is that workers believe they are part of the Children's MARS Board and the partnership. The Children's MARS Board culture does not stop at the membership of the Board but, within all the development sessions, all workers were very proud of working in North Lincolnshire with the Children's MARS Board. They discussed scanning the horizon for developments, taking forward effective practice and reflecting on success and what could be undertaken differently
- The Children's MARS Board arrangements in North Lincolnshire are designed to be inclusive and comprehensive, ensuring that they are owned by the wider workforce and not confined within the partnership

Independent Scrutiny of the Children's MARS Local Arrangements

The Independent Scrutineer highlighted the following areas for consideration;

1. To review the functionality of the Children's MARS website
2. The Children's MARS Board may wish to review the provision of data to the Board and subgroups that provide insights into trends, patterns, and performance metrics, enabling the Children's MARS Board members to make informed decisions based on evidence that relate to changes to data over a specific percentage increase or decrease
3. The S175 and S157 audit may be strengthened by adding questions that relate to the Shine a Light areas of focus
4. Given the changes in Working Together 2023 about the role of the Education Sector the Children's MARS Board to consider strengthening the presence of the education sector
5. In line with the changes to Working Together 2023 and the Shine a Light ambition to improve the interface and relationships with the voluntary, charity, social enterprise (VCSE). The Children's MARS Board should consider that they have a member and deputy of the voluntary, charity, social enterprise (VCSE) also represented at Children's MARS strategic discussions
6. The Children's MARS Board should consider completing the young person-led initiative to provide a visual safety sticker that a service, shop or public house is a safe place to seek support from in the community



Children's MARS Local Arrangements

What Next?

Shine a Light Areas of Focus for 2024/25

In order to define our **Shine a Light** areas of focus for 2024/25, we have taken account of emerging national themes, outcomes of research, local learning, performance data and analysis, practice wisdom, voice and experiences. Key areas of influence include:

- An ongoing need to focus on developing our partnership approach to transitions to adulthood in its widest sense
- A need to continue to enhance our interface with and contributions to the Domestic Abuse Strategy and governance arrangements, through a specific focus on domestic abuse and the impact on children

As such, our **Shine a Light** areas of focus for 2024/25 are as follows:

'Shine a Light' Areas of Focus	Lead Partnership	Governance	Anticipated Partnership Action and System Change
Further develop the multi-agency approach to transitions to adulthood and ensure relevant assessments carried out in childhood assist professionals understanding in adulthood	CHaPP	Children's MARS Board Safeguarding Adults Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold a reflective wellbeing session in relation to the death of a care leaver to identify any potential learning in relation to transitions • Develop a transition to adulthood policy pre and post 18 (to include early planning before 18 for transition, joined up expectations, high ambitions for young people/adults) • Develop transition to adulthood practice standards
Further develop our understanding of and our multi agency response to domestic abuse and the impact on children including what our offer looks like for children who have experienced domestic abuse	SPLIG Domestic Abuse Strategy Group	Children's MARS Board Domestic Abuse Partnership Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold a practice learning line of sight event, led by an Independent Scrutiny Officer, pertaining domestic abuse and the impact on children • Progress the plans to hold a cross-board development session with the Safeguarding Adults Board, Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, Community Safety Partnership and the Youth Justice Partnership to agree bespoke work and to strengthen the local response to tackling domestic abuse • Undertake audit work related to domestic abuse and the impact on children as part of the partnership preparation for the autumn Joint Targeted Area of Inspection

'Shine a Light' Areas of Focus	Lead Partnership	Governance	Anticipated Partnership Action and System Change
To review and strengthen the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in response to Working Together 2023 and the Children's Social Care National Framework	All subgroups	Children's MARS Board	<p>An implementation plan has been developed to respond to Working Together and the Children's Social Care National Framework. The plan will be led by a bespoke task and finish group with progress overseen directly by the Children's MARS Board. Some of the key actions included in the implementation plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and revise the Children's MARS Arrangements and underpinning key documents including information sharing agreement(s) and the scrutiny and assurance framework • Engage with and consult with stakeholders in relation to the proposed new arrangements - including children, young people and families and relevant agencies • Contribute to the refresh of the One Family Approach Practice Model and Helping Children and Families in North Lincolnshire (threshold document) • Consider the role of key partners, including education and the VCSE sector, within the partnership structure and strengthen this where necessary • Develop a Risk Outside the Home Strategy for 2025-2028 and refresh key documentation such as the ROTH approach • Develop a 2024-25 communication plan to include dissemination of key messages to senior leaders, managers and practitioners so that they incrementally understand the changes to Working Together 2023 and the principles included in the national framework • Develop practice standards to support effective practice as set out in the multi-agency expectations, principles for working with parents and carers and the multi-agency child protection standards • Review and refresh all partnership documentation including training packages, policies, procedures and guidance, toolkits and information held on the Children's MARS website

As well as our specific 'shine a light' areas of focus, the Children's MARS Board adopts a 'right to roam' approach and as such, will maintain a **line of sight** across the early help and safeguarding pathway in order to seek assurance, challenge, shape and influence partnership action and system change, some of which are the responsibility of other partnership and planning frameworks. As part of this, to orientate 'line of sight' activity, the Children's MARS Board will take account of local learning, performance, practice wisdom and voice and experiences on wider emerging need and harm.

Development Plan

As safeguarding partners and relevant agencies, we will continue to listen, learn, review and adapt in order to ensure our Local Arrangements best meet the needs of the children, young people and families in North Lincolnshire, so they are resilient and safeguarded to enable them to thrive in their families, achieve in their schools and flourish in their communities.

As well as the actions associated with the ‘shine a light’ areas of focus, our Local Arrangements are underpinned by a strategic development plan, which is built around the following areas:

- Actions carried forward from the previous development plan, where progress has been made, but where a further focus is required
- Key actions pertaining the safeguarding partner’s portfolio areas
- Recommendations from the Independent Scrutiny Review of the Children’s MARS Local Arrangements

Portfolio Areas	Development Plan Action	Safeguarding Partner lead
Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the annual independent scrutiny of the identification and notification process for serious child safeguarding cases to seek assurance of our local decision making and partnership processes 	Director of Children and Families
Stakeholder Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress the implementation of the Family Voice Conversations project to enhance the voice and influence of those with lived experiences 	Director of Children and Families
Data Intelligence and Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further develop the performance framework to ensure that we capture how data is used to encourage learning and evidence how information sharing has improved practice and outcomes 	Chief Superintendent and South Bank Divisional Commander
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a gaps analysis and review funding contributions to determine whether there is sufficient capacity within the business unit to continue to support and deliver our Local Arrangements 	Chief Superintendent and South Bank Divisional Commander
Education and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope, develop and implement arrangements for the Children’s MARS Conference 2024 • Undertake a review of Children’s MARS training courses and education resources to include reference to the multi-agency child protection standards as set out in Working Together 2023 	Place Nurse Director
Scrutiny and Assurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further explore and develop a proposal to employ young scrutineers for the Children’s MARS Board to enhance co-production and challenge 	Place Nurse Director

Development Plan continued

Area	Development Plan Action	Safeguarding Partner lead
<p>Scrutiny and Assurance</p> <p>(actions from Independent Review of Children's MARS Local Arrangements)</p>	<p>Recommendations from independent scrutiny report</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Given the size and reputation status of the Children's MARS website the validity and functionality of links to other websites, documents, tools and URLs is a significant matter. To do this task manually is a huge task. A software broken link checker would support the Children's MARS team to find and fix broken links on the website and provide an automatic scan on a set timescale. This would lower potential dissatisfaction, and potentially decreased traffic, and if the broken links are significant could lead to a poor user experience. The Children's MARS Board may wish to review the provision of data to the Board and subgroups that provide insights into trends, patterns, and performance metrics, enabling the Children's MARS Board members to make informed decisions based on evidence that relate to changes to data over a specific percentage increase or decrease. The section 175 and section 157 audit may be strengthened by adding questions that relate to the Shine a Light areas of focus which include Domestic Violence, A question about Operation Encompass may provide valid information and evidence about changes within Educational Service following the sharing of information. Given the changes in Working Together 2023 about the role of the Education Sector. The Children's MARS Board to consider strengthening the presence of the education sector. In line with the changes to Working Together 2023 and the Shine a Light ambition to improve the interface and relationships with the voluntary, charity, social enterprise (VCSE). The Children's MARS Board should consider that they have a member and deputy of the voluntary, charity, social enterprise (VCSE) also represented at Children's MARS strategic discussions. The Children's MARS Board should consider completing the young person-led initiative to provide a visual safety sticker that a service, shop or public house is a safe place to seek support from in the community. 	<p>Place Nurse Director</p> <p>Chief Superintendent and South Bank Commander</p> <p>Director of Children and Families</p> <p>All safeguarding partners</p> <p>Director of Children and Families</p> <p>Place Nurse Director</p>

Glossary

C	<p>Child criminal exploitation (CCE) involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where a child (or a third person or persons) receive ‘something’ (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them completing a task on behalf of another individual or group of individuals; this is often of a criminal nature</p> <p>Child Safeguarding Practice Review may be undertaken following identification and agreement that a case meets the criteria of a serious child safeguarding case. It is for the safeguarding partners to determine whether the criteria are met and whether a local child safeguarding practice review is appropriate taking into account that the overall purpose of a review is to identify improvements to practice. In some cases where the definition of a serious child safeguarding case is not met yet there may be issues of importance to the local area, the safeguarding partners may choose to undertake a local child safeguarding practice review</p> <p>Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator</p> <p>A new purpose-built Complex Care Campus which is in development will include bespoke overnight short breaks, residential and transitional provision for children with complex needs and disabilities</p>
I	<p>Integrated Multi-Agency Partnership (IMAP) is a partnership of co-located social work, police, health and education practitioners and supervisors who take contacts and referrals on children where there are safeguarding or protection concerns. They share and analyse information to inform decisions regarding whether a child is in need or in need of protection</p>
M	<p>Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) Meeting is a partnership group who work together to improve outcomes for children and young people who are experiencing and/or at risk of child sexual or criminal exploitation</p> <p>Multi-Agency Pre-Birth Liaison and Consultation (MAPLAC) Meeting is a partnership group who have oversight of cases of pregnancy where there may be identified additional vulnerabilities and the family would be likely to benefit from targeted early help at the earliest stage possible</p>
N	<p>Northern Lincolnshire and Goole (NLaG) NHS Foundation Trust is the provider of NHS services through Scunthorpe General Hospital and community services in North Lincolnshire and two other neighbouring local areas</p> <p>Not In Our Community (NIOC) is a campaign developed across the Humberside Police force area that helps young people protect themselves and their friends against grooming and child exploitation</p>
O	<p>The One Family Approach (OFA) aims to create a system that works for all children, young people and families in North Lincolnshire</p>
P	<p>Partnership Integrated Triage (PITSTOP) Meeting is a multi-agency daily triage which considers police information and identifies potential levels of need at the earliest level including any action required</p>

Glossary

P	<p>Parent Involvement and Participation (PIP) Parent Forum is a forum for parents / carers of children with SEND</p>
R	<p>A Rapid Review Is undertaken when the safeguarding partners have agreed that the criteria for a serious child safeguarding case have been met. The Rapid Review enables facts to be gathered, any immediate action to ensure children’s safety to be taken and considers the potential for identifying improvements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The Rapid Review assists the safeguarding partners to decide what steps they should take next, including whether or not to undertake a local child safeguarding practice review</p> <p>Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust (RDaSH) is the provider of NHS services and community services in North Lincolnshire</p> <p>Risk Outside the Home (ROTH) As well as risks to the welfare of children from within their families, children may be vulnerable to abuse or exploitation from outside their families. These extra-familial risks might arise at school and other educational establishments, from within peer groups, or more widely from within the wider community and/or online. These risks can take a variety of different forms and children can be vulnerable to multiple risks, including exploitation by criminal gangs and organised crime groups such as county lines; trafficking, online abuse; sexual exploitation and the influences of extremism leading to radicalisation. Extremist groups make use of the internet to radicalise and recruit and to promote extremist materials. Any potential harmful effects to individuals identified as vulnerable to extremist ideologies or being drawn into terrorism should also be considered</p> <p>Re:Form is a domestic abuse perpetrator programme which aims to manage risk to victims and families, increase safety and reduce incidents thereby improving outcomes around perpetrators being able to sustain non-abusive behaviour</p>
S	<p>@SafeNorthLincs is a partnership social media presence joint between the Children’s MARS Board, Local Safeguarding Adults Board and the Community Safety Partnership</p> <p>Section 11 (Children’s Act 2004) places duties on a range of organisations, agencies and individuals to ensure their functions, and any services that they contract out to others, are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children</p> <p>Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) is used to describe a child or young person who has a learning difficulty and/or a disability that means they need special health and education support</p> <p>Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information and Advice Support Service (SENDIASS) offers information, advice and support for parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities</p> <p>Single Point of Contact (SPOC) is the ‘front door’ of children’s social care in North Lincolnshire where help, advice and guidance is provided to families and professionals</p>
Y	<p>The Youth Justice Partnership is North Lincolnshire’s Youth Offending Team</p> <p>Yorkshire and Humber Multi-Agency Safeguarding Trainers (YHMAST) group provides opportunities for learning and development professionals from across the region to come together to ensure the delivery of appropriate and effective safeguarding children training and learning opportunities. The aim of the group is to help improve the quality, consistency and continuity of safeguarding training across the region</p>

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