

## Area of focus and our journey so far:

In response to Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, the responsibilities of the safeguarding partners in North Lincolnshire are fulfilled by the Director of Children and Community Resilience, NLC; the Director of Nursing and Quality, CCG; and the Chief Superintendent, Humberside Police.

North Lincolnshire was selected to be an early adopter of the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, which replaced LSCB's.

Building on our outstanding LSCB, the Children's Multi Agency Resilience and Safeguarding (MARS) arrangements were published on 31 October 2018 and launched at the 'Out of this World' conference on 2 November.

These local arrangements convey our responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children though they also highlight our commitment to promoting children's resilience.

The intent of the Children's MARS arrangements is to:

- Co-produce with children, young people and families using their strengths and assets
- Make children's safeguarding personal and swift
- Build children, young people and families resilience
- Drive an even stronger partnership with schools, colleges and local agencies
- Provide robust independent scrutiny and assurance

Following the publication of our arrangements, we continue to listen, learn, review and adapt.

## What have we done to improve outcomes?

Headline examples of our activity and successes include:

- Rebalancing of leadership responsibility and collaborative working between the three safeguarding partners to develop the local arrangements
- Local arrangements launched at the 'Out of this World' conference in November 2018 at which there were also two renowned national speakers
- Shared vision, culture and commitment to delivering local arrangements underpinned by delivery plan
- Specific areas of focus allocated to individual safeguarding partners to drive implementation
- Shared ownership of funding responsibilities including contributions to Multi-Agency Innovation Hub to help innovate and deliver improved outcomes
- Efficient board arrangements with shared chairmanship, core membership and active, engaged discussions and decision making
- Ongoing development and implementation of more robust scrutiny and assurance framework, including independent scrutiny, through thematic and agency specific assurance events and practice learning line of sight events leading to changes in practice
- Strategic thinking and developmental discussions across key boards and partnerships including Community Safety Partnership Board and Safeguarding Adults Board and more opportunities identified for shared priorities and collaborative working
- Ongoing and renewed focus on engaging with and listening to children, young people and families including young people's involvement in the conference and square table consultation event
- Strengthened relationships with schools through involvement in designated safeguarding leads forum and relationships with early help locality forums
- Strengthening relationships with early years providers and enhancing representation across partnership arrangements
- Successfully transitioned LSCB to the Children's MARS arrangements in line with Working Together transitional guidance
- Developed new Children's MARS website as a means of sharing information and communication and publicising key documents and resources

## What difference has it made?

Headline examples of impacts and outcomes include:

- Children, young people and families voice is developing in strength and influence e.g. outcomes of square table event distributed across key partnerships and decision makers
- Consistent evidence of engagement with children, young people and families throughout the safeguarding pathway and examples of positive feedback
- Strong partnership commitment to creative and dynamic practice and doing the right thing for children, young people and families
- Developing emphasis on profiling to better understand local need
- Partnership has a strengthened understanding on populations, performance and practice
- Developed a better understanding of early help activity in its broadest sense
- Taking account of practitioners feedback, implemented system improvements for reporting early help assessments
- Oversight of Graded Care Profile 2 - numbers of assessments increasing
- Oversight of The Families Initiative - claims increasing
- Development and implementation of domestic abuse strategy and action plan
- Development and implementation of child exploitation strategy and action plan
- Awarded DWP funding to implement the Reducing Parental Conflict Programme in North Lincolnshire
- Good performance in relation to areas of practice such as multi agency contribution to strategy meetings/discussions and attendance at child protection conferences
- Multi agency audits have enabled shared learning leading to specific areas of focus and practice development e.g. pre-birth pathways, exploitation and You Say Who model
- Reviewed and completed local learning review action plan and shared learning from scrutiny and assurance activity for information and action as appropriate e.g. child sexual abuse line of sight event and agency specific assurance events
- Ofsted Focussed Visit in March 2019 found that 'thresholds are well understood' and that there is a 'purposeful strategy of engaging partners in changing the narrative so that families are supported at an early stage'

## Next steps/areas for development:

- Refresh and republish the local arrangements and memorandum of understanding in June 2019, along with accompanying scrutiny and assurance framework
- Review and refresh the underpinning delivery plan - which is framed around the intents and will identify actions pertaining the six portfolio areas, for example:
  - Funding – confirm future funding arrangements for 2020 and beyond
  - Performance – further develop performance, data and intelligence framework across the safeguarding pathway focussing on analysis
  - Scrutiny and Assurance – progress recruitment of independent scrutineers and revise section 11 arrangements
  - Training – undertake training needs analysis and take account of outcomes of evaluation and learning to inform a refresh of training programme
  - Stakeholder partnership and voice – develop and implement communication and engagement plan
  - Safeguarding practice review process – roll out revised guidance
- Further develop Innovation Hub and review future arrangements
- Organise sharing learning event (2019) and safeguarding conference (2020)
- Further develop relationships with other key boards including CSP Board and SAB and progress opportunities for collaborative working

## Supporting documents and resources:

- [Children's MARS Local Arrangements](#)
- [Children's MARS Memorandum of Understanding](#)
- [Children's MARS Scrutiny and Assurance Framework](#)
- [Children's MARS Board news updates](#)
- [Children's MARS Board Terms of Reference](#)
- [Children's MARS website](#)