

7 Minute Briefing

Learning from multi agency case audit practice learning line of sight event – Domestic abuse and the impact on children



In collaboration with



North
Lincolnshire
Domestic Abuse
Partnership
Board

1 Background

North Lincolnshire Children's MARS Board hold a range of scrutiny events across different themes as part of our [Scrutiny and Assurance Framework](#).

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

2 Why it matters?

Domestic abuse and the impact on children is a Children's MARS 'Shine a Light' area of focus for 2023/24.

This event was an opportunity for Children's MARS Board representatives to seek assurance as to the quality and effectiveness of multi-agency practice and how partner agencies are working to fulfill their safeguarding responsibilities. Partners were also able to explore whether there were any areas for further improvement in providing help and protection across multi agency working.

3 Good practice

- 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 were 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 case 1, adult focussed 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 case 2 and led to improved outcomes for the family

4 Key learning

- There is further work to do to promote available guidance, resources and domestic abuse services across the children's workforce to ensure that there is collective knowledge of the offer
- There was discussion about the ceasing of the Re:Form Programme for non-convicted perpetrators of domestic abuse. The Children's MARS Board should seek further assurance that plans are in place to address this via the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board
- The group reflected on the gap in provision of services for children who are victims of domestic abuse. Whilst this is a national challenge, the Children's MARS Board should work with the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board to consider opportunities to strengthen this locally

5 Next steps

- An overview of the event is presented to the Safeguarding Practice Learning and Improvement Group (SPLIG) for consideration. Actions from the event will be monitored and reviewed as part of the Children's MARS scrutiny and assurance action plan

6 Reflect on the learning

To inform your practice you can

- Discuss this area of work with your supervisor in the context of domestic abuse
- Take a look at the domestic abuse toolkit on the [Children's MARS website](#)
- Access information on domestic abuse training via the [Safeguarding Adult's Board website](#)

7 Further information

- [Safe Lives – Supporting young people in abusive relationships](#)
- [The Blue Door – North Lincolnshire Specialist Domestic Abuse Service](#)
- [Safe Lives – Resources for professionals](#)
- [Women's Aid – Resources for professionals](#)
- [Multi-Agency Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse Practice Briefing – Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel](#)

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