

## WINTER NEWSLETTER 2018

### Welcome to the Winter edition of the LSCB newsletter.

In my introduction to the last edition of the newsletter, I flagged the LSCB's concern about two major issues: the potential impact of police reorganisation on effective joint working to protect children, and what I described as the lack of any significant progress to date in addressing what is now recognised as a crisis in local mental health services for children and adolescents. I subsequently raised these concerns at the Redbridge Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB), where members were extremely concerned. The Chair of the HWB, Cllr Mark Santos, wrote following the discussion to the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) seeking strong assurances about the action being taken to improve Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). I also emphasised the importance of both issues in an interview with the Ilford Recorder following publication of the LSCB Annual Report.

At its meeting in January, the LSCB received substantial updates on both of these issues. It is clear that all partners are working really hard to resolve issues and improve services, and there has been some encouraging progress. Effective Joint working with the police Child Abuse Investigation Team is now well embedded under the new structure. However, there are still significant problems with delays in securing multi-agency strategy discussions which need to involve officers from the domestic violence or CSE units within the police; and too often what are agreed as joint visits between social workers and police end up as two social workers visiting because of the unavailability of police officers.

The LSCB was extremely pleased to learn that the CCG have now committed substantial additional funding for the improvement of

CAMHS services in Redbridge. Recruitment of additional staff is underway, and the 'single point of access' Wellbeing Hub should finally be in place by April. We are very aware that schools in particular are supporting many young people who would benefit from more specialist services because, as one headteacher put it bluntly, "*we know there's no point in referring to CAMHS*". The promised training to equip schools and others working with young people to support young people with emerging mental health difficulties more effectively has also been delayed. Both health commissioners and providers have assured the Board that significant improvements in the service, including the roll out of the training referred to, can be expected in 2018/19.

We know that none of these issues are easy to resolve. Budget cuts and financial pressures are affecting the police and the NHS as they are affecting all public services. As Chair, I remain extremely concerned about the impact these pressures have on young people. What I can say, though, is that in the difficult and sometimes critical discussions that are taking place, there is a willingness on all sides to recognise the seriousness of the issues and a strong commitment to seek solutions. It is easy, when agencies feel they are under attack, for them to retreat into defensiveness. That is not what is happening in Redbridge, and that remains one of the great strengths of the local partnerships.

Towards the end of 2017, the Government published for consultation draft guidance on the new safeguarding arrangements to be introduced under the Children and [Social Work Act 2017](#). In 2019, the statutory requirement to establish a LSCB will be removed. Instead, the local authority, CCG and the police will be required to agree

between themselves arrangements for multi-agency working to protect children, involving other agencies as they think appropriate. Discussions about what this might look like in Redbridge are at a very early stage. As the Independent Chair presiding over what will be the last full year's existence of the LSCB in its current form, it is most certainly not for me to seek to prescribe what those arrangements should be. I do hope, though, that they will continue to include the strong scrutiny and challenge to all partners that I believe the LSCB has contributed. I also hope that, while there is undoubtedly scope for more collaboration and sharing of work between neighbouring boroughs, the arrangements will continue to have a strong Redbridge focus. Given that both the CCG and the police, as well of course as our major NHS providers, have structures that in different ways work across Redbridge, Barking and Dagenham, and Havering, I think it is even more important that safeguarding arrangements do not lose their focus on what works and what needs to improve on a more local basis.



### John

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# Board Report

## Feedback from the LSCB Meeting – 16 January 2018

### Summary of items discussed by the Board

Among other items, the Board:

- Reviewed progress against its [Business Plan for 2017/18](#). There is good progress in most areas, but progress on improving mental health services for children and young people and on embedding really effective joint working with the police under their new tri-borough structure has been slower.
- Reviewed and discussed the most recent available performance data on the functioning of the local child protection system. In most areas performance remains high. There has been an encouraging fall in the number of repeat episodes of young people going missing. It is not yet clear, though, if this is a real change or a function of some difficulties in reporting.
- Discussed the Private Fostering Report for 2016/17. Albeit from a low base, the number of private fostering arrangements notified to the local authority was 100% higher at the end of March 2017 than it had been a year earlier – 13 compared to 6. The Board agreed to ask all partner agencies for information about what they were doing or planned to do to further raise awareness and identification of private fostering situations. Find out more about Private Fostering on our [website](#).
- Agreed a revised [CSE Prevention and Intervention Strategy](#), taking on board the revision of the [Pan London Operating Protocol](#) published in 2017.
- Discussed an evaluation of the impact of the first six months of police restructuring on child protection work, and an update on the CAMHS Transformation Plan. Discussion on both these items is reported in the Chair's introduction to this newsletter.
- Received the latest update on the Multi-Agency Section 11 Audit Action Plan, drawn up after all statutory partners completed a self-audit of their compliance with their safeguarding responsibilities and subjected it to peer challenge in early 2017. Good progress is being made against the great majority of agreed actions.
- Discussed the findings and recommendations from a multi-agency audit of work with young people on peer on peer abuse and e-safety. This was a very rich piece of work, heavily informed by input from young people themselves. Amongst other actions arising from the audit, the Board agreed to revisit the 'thresholds document' on levels of need and referral to early intervention or social care, to ensure that guidance on this massively important but complex topic is sufficiently clear and up to date. It also commended the value of the [Brook Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool](#) in helping in assessment and decision making. There is now a link on the LSCB website.
- Agreed a [joint protocol](#) with the [Redbridge Safeguarding Adults Board](#) on the responsibilities of staff working primarily with children when they encounter in their work vulnerable adults who may be in need of safeguarding. This is complementary to the '[See the Adult, See the Child](#)' protocol agreed last year on the responsibilities of staff working primarily with adults for the safeguarding of children.

## Priority 1

### To improve services for young people experiencing mental ill-health

There have been considerable delays in the implementation of the out of the CAHMS Transformation Plan in Redbridge and this has been a major focus for the LSCB through the year. The CCG have now agreed substantial additional funding for the service which it is hoped will deliver improvements and service developments from April 2018. Information on the current position and a reminder of the current referral process and criteria were shared with schools in Redbridge in early January.

The LSCB have been using [Instagram](#) – our social media channel for young people to share information on what specialist agencies are available to provide help with mental health concerns and also to disseminate positive messages.

A refreshed Redbridge Multi-Agency Suicide Prevention Strategy, which includes work with children and young people, is due to be published shortly.

Partner agencies, particularly schools, are being encouraged to contribute to the Government's consultation on [Transforming children and young people's mental health provision](#) which is open until 2 March.

## Priority 2

### To strengthen the protection and support of children and young people exposed to exploitation and harmful practices

As part of the LSCB multi-agency audit programme, an audit of practice in relation to suspected cases of FGM is currently underway. Learning from this audit will feed into a review of the partnership's FGM strategy in 2018/19. The LSCB welcomed the continued funding of the partnership between Barnardo's (who are represented on our Board) and the LGA to provide the [National FGM Centre](#), along with their revamped website and [Information Hub](#).

The new Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) Panel working arrangements have now been implemented which are in line with the [London CSE Operating Protocol](#).

A new drama – Playing with Fire- is available this term to Redbridge schools featuring internet abuse and encouraging children and young people to stay safe on-line. A preview for professionals, held on 18 January, was reviewed positively. Contact [Redbridge Drama Centre](#) for more information.



#### Stop Press

Free CSE Training Course for School Staff facilitated by SaferLondon on 13 March. E-mail [deniseallen@saferlondon](mailto:deniseallen@saferlondon).

## Priority 3

### To strengthen the quality and impact of the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO)/Child Protection (CP) Chair role, particularly with reference to cases of neglect

A good deal of work has been undertaken on this priority, with training on the Strengthening Families model for conferencing delivered, resources on working with neglect shared, and a multi agency audit of work to protect children suffering from neglect completed.

The [LSCB Multi-Agency Neglect Strategy](#) was refreshed and the [Neglect Toolkit](#) continues to be promoted across all agencies. A [workshop](#) on the use of the Toolkit was delivered as part of the [LSCB Training Programme](#) and will feature again in the new Programme running from April 2018.

# Priorities cont ...

## Priority 4

### To develop and implement a robust multi-agency action plan to substantially increase private fostering notifications

The Annual Report for 2016 – 2017 on Private Fostering was presented to the Board in January for monitoring and challenge. It included activities already undertaken and plans going forward for more activities to raise awareness during 2017 – 2018.

A **briefing** on Private Fostering will be taking place on 13 March as part of the LSCB Training Programme 2017 – 2018. Places are still available on this free event.

The LSCB Team will be promoting awareness of private fostering on their stand in the Foyer of Ilford (Central) Library on 13 February (10:30 to 15:00).



## Priority 5

### To strengthen and improve support to children and young people on e-safety and peer-on-peer sexual harassment

The group of young people who have been commissioned to develop materials on e-safety and sexual harassment have been busy with the Youth Election 2018 but will be continuing the work shortly.

Information and resources on this topic, including the recently published **DfE guidance on sexual violence and harassment in schools** are being routinely shared with schools who are preparing for the delivery of sex and relationship education (SRE) for implementation by September 2019.

The LSCB will again be taking part in **Safer Internet Day #SID2018** which this year is on 6 February. Check our social media channels and website for more information.

## Priority 6

### Further develop and improve safeguarding arrangements for children and young people that go missing from home or care

The **Safeguarding Children who go Missing Training Course** on our current Programme has been very popular. It is due to run again on 6 February.

The LSCB **Instagram** feed is used to share messages with young people about staying safe and who to contact if missing.

## Priority 7

### Monitoring and ensuring the effectiveness of the arrangements for safeguarding children and young people in Redbridge in the new Metropolitan Police structure

The East Area Basic Command Unit (BCU) repeated the S11 self-assessment process and attended a Challenge Panel in December. A review of the impact on the new Basic Command Unit (BCU) on Redbridge Children's Social Care was presented to the Board this month.

The LSCB Manager has joined the MPS Multi-Agency Audit Scrutiny Panel, set up following the **HMIC Report** published in 2016.

## Priority 8

### To further strengthen the LSCB's monitoring and oversight of practice

The Multi-Agency S11 Action Plan continues to be monitored by the Board and now includes actions from the latest S11 self-audit completed by the BCU. The **Multi-Agency Audit Programme 2017 – 2018** is drawing to a close with the final audit which is on FGM. A report on key learning from the Programme will be available in April 2018.

A free briefing on the learning from the recent Peer-on-Peer Abuse Audit is taking place on 1 February and places are still **available**.

# Service Highlight: LBR Fostering Service

## What is fostering?

Fostering is the caring and support of children and young people who cannot live with their own birth family. It is derived from the term 'foster' which means to encourage the development of. Fostering can last for a few days, for example respite or emergency foster care, to several months or years. Some children do return to their birth families but others may go on to remain in foster care until they can be supported into independent living as a care leaver. Some will be adopted.

## Who needs fostering?

Children and young people need to be fostered for a variety of reasons – often because their birth parents cannot care for them adequately and provide the necessary safeguarding. In Redbridge we do work with families to try and resolve issues and if possible help children to return home.



We have children and young people across a wide age range from birth upwards, that need to be looked after within foster care. These can be single children, sibling groups, children with disabilities or those with particularly challenging behaviour. In Redbridge we are particularly looking for Foster Carers for older children and young people aged 11 years and over plus sibling groups.

## Who can be a foster carer?

Foster Carers come from a range of ethnic backgrounds, ages and different sexual orientation. You can be single or one of a couple. There is no formal qualification to become a foster carer, although you will be required to complete a [Disclosure and Barring Service \(DBS\)](#) check. Most importantly, you need to have an interest in caring for children and young people, enjoy spending time with them and have sufficient emotional capacity to provide the support, care and affection that they need in a stable home environment. You will, however, need to live locally in Redbridge and have a spare room available.

## How long does it take to be approved and what support is there?

The time taken to go through the approval process (detailed in our [fostering booklet](#)) can vary but it usually takes six months to go through the assessment process, training and Panel.

Foster carers don't work in isolation. They are part of a network of professionals around a child or young person living in care so you would not be working on your own. Foster carers are supported by a Supervising Social Worker, provided with training and receive a financial package. Our fostering allowances currently are up to £457 per week.

## How can I find out more?

There is lots of information available to enable you to find out about fostering in Redbridge. Firstly, take a look at our [Information Booklet](#) and the other information available on [Redbridgei](#).

There are opportunities to hear from the Redbridge Fostering Team and an existing Foster Carer at one of our Information Sessions. These are taking place in the York Room, at [Ilford Central Library](#) on 12 February, 13 March and 9 April, from 18:00 to 20:00.

If you want answers to specific questions, contact the Fostering Duty Team on 020 8708 7528 or e-mail [fostering@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:fostering@redbridge.gov.uk).

Finally, watch our short film – [Fostering with Redbridge Council](#) on YouTube and hear from some of our dedicated Redbridge Foster Carers.



# LSCB Events Calendar

To keep fully informed about LSCB events, do follow us on



## Training

Below are details of the wide range of **upcoming learning events** available via the **LSCB Training Programme 2017 – 2018**. You can view the content of each event and sign up via our on-line **Nomination Form**.

- Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage – 30 January (PM)
- Learning from Child Deaths – 1 February
- Safeguarding Children Who Go Missing – 6 February
- See the Adult, See the Child – 7 February
- Common Assessment Framework Introduction – 15 February
- Safeguarding Level 2 – 20 February & 15 March
- Understanding Loss, Grief and Bereavement – 22 February
- Child Trafficking Across Borders – 22 February
- Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent – 6 March
- Learning from Multi-Agency Audits on Mental Health – 12 March
- Private Fostering – 13 March
- Modern Slavery Awareness – 16 March
- Common Assessment Framework – Assessment & Planning for Practitioners – 22 March

Are we missing something? If you are looking for training on a safeguarding children issue that we haven't covered – do let us know via [LSCB.Training@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:LSCB.Training@redbridge.gov.uk). We can't guarantee that we will be able to commission a course, as funding is limited, but we will be able to signpost you to other providers and on-line resources. Our new Training Programme for 2018 – 2019 will be published at the end of March.



## LSCB Stand Ilford Central Library

We are back in the **Library Foyer** on **Tuesday 13 February** from 10:30 to 15:00 giving out information, resources and guidance on all thing safeguarding. Do come along to meet the LSCB Team and have a chat!

## Feedback from LSCB Learning Event – Working with Families with Children with Disabilities (CWD)

The LSCB held an externally facilitated Learning Event for an audience of multi-agency managers across children's social care, health, education and the voluntary sector on 28 September looking at working with the families of children with disabilities. Some of the key themes and learning that arose from the day include:

- An understanding of the very real social isolation, loss and difficulty in understanding or coming to terms with a child's condition or prognosis by parents.
- An understanding of the very difficult situations of some families in terms of caring for a child with very complex needs and limited 'resources' e.g. physical, financial, emotional.
- The additional need to seek the 'voice of the child' creatively in what can be adult-dominated discussions, to ensure being child-centred.
- The need to ensure professional curiosity is robust and guard against professional dangerousness and potential collusion with parents, whilst maintaining much needed support.
- The value of using multi-agency ecomaps, genograms and chronologies in difficult to manage cases and see the historical context – particularly in cases of neglect.
- The potential for disguised compliance by parents or manipulation of practitioners and agencies to work against rather than with each other.
- The importance of provision of reflective and analytical supervision to support practitioners.

For more information on the event, contact [LSCB@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:LSCB@redbridge.gov.uk) or talk to Lesley Perry, LSCB Business Manager or Andrea Barrell, LSCB Quality Assurance Manager.

## Meet a Lay Member

The Redbridge LSCB has volunteer Lay Members who are there to provide local insight and challenge. One is Nahim, who shares her involvement below.

*My name is Nahim Hanif and I have lived in Redbridge for 30 years. I have worked in education for over 35 years and as a teacher, safeguarding children has always been a priority for me. When the opportunity arose for me to become a Lay Member for the Redbridge LSCB I applied for the post straight away and this is now my fifth year in the role! The other Lay Member and myself work well as a team. We have been given opportunities to attend training courses which has widened our knowledge of safeguarding further. We were also asked by a neighbouring borough to talk to their Lay Members about our role to help their understanding of the commitment it involves. As a Lay Member I feel privileged that I can actively take part in the quarterly LSCB board meetings and contribute to the Business Plan. We are also invited to take part annually in the section 11 audit challenge panels. As local residents we are given a voice for local concerns. We have been involved in working on a number of safeguarding topics which concern Redbridge and surrounding areas, including consanguinity, FGM and most recently private tutoring. One of the highlights of my time has been working alongside other professionals in producing leaflets for the local residents on genetic risks to children's health and parents related by birth and ensuring safe guarding when enrolling children in private tutoring centres, growing numbers of which are opening in Redbridge. Recently I took my granddaughter to the local library and I saw some parents reading the [private tutoring leaflet](#) which was very rewarding.*

If you are a Redbridge resident and would like to find out about becoming a Lay Member, please e-mail [LSCB@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:LSCB@redbridge.gov.uk).

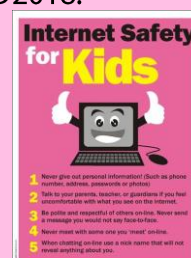
## Our Independent Chair speaks to the Ilford Recorder

Did you see the Ilford Recorder featured an interview with our Chair, John Goldup, back in November? If not, you can still read it [on-line](#).

The article features John's reflections on the good safeguarding practice in Redbridge and the need to work through changes within mental health services for children and the implementation of the local police Basic Command Unit (BCU) to ensure that these standards are maintained across the partnership of agencies working with children, young people and families. The LSCB continues to challenge and monitor progress in these two important areas as part of its current [Business Plan](#) (see [page 3](#)). The interview was a follow-up to our [Annual Report 2016 – 2017](#).

## Safer Internet Day (SID) 2018

SID 2018 is taking place on Tuesday 6 February – with the slogan '**Create, Connect and Share Respect: a better internet starts with you**'. Coordinated in the UK by the [UK Safer Internet Centre](#), the celebration will see hundreds of organisations, including our LSCB partners, getting involved to help promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology for children and young people. Last year over a thousand organisations supported the day, and 3 million children were reached! View the dedicated [website](#) to find out more and get involved with #SID2018.



### Contextual Safeguarding

Contextual safeguarding is based on the concept that young people's behaviours, level of vulnerability and resilience are all informed by the social, public and private contexts in which they spend their time. It looks holistically at the child or young person's lived experience rather than just focusing on individual risk factors in the home. As children grow into adolescence, they spend increasing amounts of time socialising with peers, at school and in public environments independent of parent or carer supervision. Their peer group becomes more influential than their family. Schools can be an important protective factor but research does identify that children and young people are vulnerable to sexual harassment and abuse from their peers in educational settings. This topic was explored in the recent BBC Panorama programme – When Kids Abuse Kids (available on [BBC iPlayer](#) until September 2018). More information for professionals on Harmful Sexual Behaviours can be found on the [LSCB website](#).

Exposure to violence on the streets can involve exploitation relating to gang affiliation, sexual exploitation, going missing and trafficking. When spending time in these extra-familial contexts young people may be exposed to healthy norms which promote positive social relationships but they may also encounter harmful norms that are conducive to abusive and exploitative relationships. As a result, the local safeguarding system needs to identify, assess and intervene in all the social environments where the abuse and exploitation of young people occurs taking a 'contextual' approach to safeguarding.

If you are a practitioner with responsibilities for safeguarding children and young people and want to find out more about contextual safeguarding, you may wish to view the short film on Vimeo - "[What is Contextual Safeguarding?](#)" or [join](#) the [Contextual Safeguarding Network](#), which is free of charge and will enable you to download resources, access peer learning and view their 'blog'.

### DfE – Together, we can tackle child abuse

LB Redbridge joined the LSCB in support of the DfE's public awareness raising campaign aimed at encouraging people to report child abuse if they see it. The results from the evaluation are encouraging.

- Over a quarter of adults in targeted LAs in England were aware of the DfE Together campaign adverts.
- A third agreed that the adverts told them something new.
- 53% of people who were aware of the adverts knew who to report to if they thought a child was being abused and/or neglected (versus 30% of respondents who had not seen the advert).
- 70% of people felt confident or very confident about reporting a suspicion of a child experiencing abuse and/or neglect having seen the advert.
- Half of adults in England were confident they could identify signs of child abuse and/or neglect, rising to two thirds having seen the adverts.

Given the success of the campaign to date, a third phase is planned to run from February 2018 which will include a national awareness week and new materials, resources that we can use across Redbridge. More information will be available via our [website](#) shortly.

### Report from the Association of Independent LSCB Chairs (AILCs) Annual Conference

The Board was presented by our Board Manager at the AILCs Annual Conference held on 21 – 22 November. The theme of the Conference was Safeguarding Outcomes – Ambitious for Children and included presentations from the National Confidential Inquiry into Child Abuse, the Howard League for Penal Reform, NHS England, Ofsted, DfE, the Football Association amongst others. If you are interested in viewing any particular presentation, do contact the LSCB via [LSCB@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:LSCB@redbridge.gov.uk)




# Contact Information


## Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)

[LSCB@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:LSCB@redbridge.gov.uk)

Tel: 020 8708 5282

Website: [www.redbridgelscb.org.uk](http://www.redbridgelscb.org.uk)

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LSCB Training

[LSCB.Training@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:LSCB.Training@redbridge.gov.uk)

Requests, enquiries and feedback can be made using the on-line [Contact Form](#).

## Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

[LADO@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:LADO@redbridge.gov.uk)

Tel: 020 8708 5350

Mobile: 07584 127461

## Child Protection Referrals

Tel: 020 8708 3885 (Office Hours)

Tel: 020 8708 5897 (Evenings and weekends)

[CPAT.Referrals@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:CPAT.Referrals@redbridge.gov.uk)

## Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) Notifications

[Nem-tr.CDOP@nhs.net](mailto:Nem-tr.CDOP@nhs.net)

Tel: 020 8708 5961

Mobile: 07966599555



## Your views count!

We want your views on safeguarding issues that are important to YOU. Articles should be 200 – 300 words in length. We also welcome feedback, comments and suggestions for future content. Please contact Lesley Perry, LSCB Business Manager, via [LSCB@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:LSCB@redbridge.gov.uk) or on 020 8708 5282 or 07814 883194. Our next edition – Spring 2018 – will be published at the end of April 2018.