

**Independent Chair: John Goldup**

**FAO: Agencies working with children, young people and families/carers in Redbridge**

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Dear Colleague

**REDBRIDGE LSCB PRIVATE FOSTERING INFORMATION PACK**

I am writing to share with you the newly published [Redbridge Local Safeguarding Children Board \(LSCB\) Private Fostering Information Pack](#).

The LSCB is concerned about the low numbers of private fostering arrangements that are notified, under statutory requirements, to the local authority. One of the priorities in our 2017/18 Business Plan is to develop and implement a robust multi-agency action plan to substantially increase private fostering notifications. While there is no reason to suppose that the majority of children and young people in private fostering arrangements are not well cared for and safeguarded, all children being brought up under these arrangements are entitled to the protection and oversight that the private fostering legislation is intended to provide. We must never forget that Victoria Climbié was a privately fostered child.

At the point of writing, only 10 cases of private fostering were known to the London Borough of Redbridge. We are aware that this is far from being the true picture of the number actually in place in the Borough. As we identified in the last [Annual Report](#), nationally, regionally and locally, the number of arrangements notified to local authorities is low, compared to other evidence of the widespread scale of private fostering arrangements. In London as a whole on 31 March 2016 there were 340 children living in private fostering arrangements that had been notified to local authorities. It is possible that there are individual boroughs where the true figure is higher than that. Whilst

The aim of the new Private Fostering Information Pack is to provide staff and volunteers in partner agencies delivering services to children, young people and families with the information and guidance that they need in order to identify any private fostering arrangements that come to their attention. It includes information on the legal responsibilities relating to these arrangements and how to make a notification to the Borough's Children and Families Service, all with a view to ensuring that any child placed into a private fostering arrangement receives appropriate care that ensures their safeguarding.

The Information Pack includes:

- a short standalone [PowerPoint presentation](#) which can be presented to small groups of staff, for example in Team Meetings, which covers the key elements of Private Fostering;

- a [quick guide for professionals \(handout\)](#); and
- leaflets and a poster to enable awareness raising with both professionals and members of the public.

The LSCB does have a limited supply of hard copies of the above. If you would like to request these, please complete the on-line [Contact Form](#).

I would really like to encourage you to consider the contents of the [Information Pack](#) and ensure that your organisation fulfils its legal obligation to notify private fostering arrangements. Also, do join in with a range of local and national awareness raising activities during Private Fostering Week 2017, which runs from 3 – 7 July. The LSCB will be leading a local activity and keeping everyone informed via our social media links.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Goldup', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**John Goldup**  
**Independent Chair**  
**Redbridge LSCB**