

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2017

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the LSCB newsletter.

As you probably know, the LSCB is required to publish an Annual Report which should, in the words of the statutory guidance, "provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services". Fundamentally, it should seek to answer the question, how well are children in Redbridge protected?

The Redbridge LSCB Annual Report for 2016/17 has just been published and is on our [website](#). It contains a huge amount of information about the performance of the local safeguarding system, and the themes and concerns that the Board has been working on over the past year.

For the second year in a row, the number of referrals to children's social care fell quite significantly in 2016/17. However, even with fewer referrals, there were more Section 47 inquiries undertaken, more children made subject to child protection plans, and more children involved in care proceedings. At the same time, the number of early help assessments undertaken under the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) fell by 35%. So the picture seems to be one of less activity in the early help arena and many more families drawn into high intensity social care intervention. You have to wonder if the two trends are connected, and whether we should and can find ways of rebalancing them.

In my foreword to the report, I pay tribute to the passionate and skilled work by professionals and others across all partner agencies as a result of which children in Redbridge remain, overall, well protected. I do however also flag two issues which I think are a cause for concern – a concern which is strongly reflected in the priorities the LSCB has set for

itself in its [Business Plan for 2017/18](#).

One is the potential impact of the Metropolitan Police restructuring which was implemented in March this year. The police inspectorate, HMIC, published an extremely critical report in November 2016 on the Met's performance in child protection. This was not a finding that reflected the experience of the LSCB or of partner agencies in Redbridge. Indeed Ofsted in 2016 described the joint working they found in place here between social care and the police as the best they'd seen anywhere. However, when the police restructured into a single command across Redbridge, Barking and Dagenham, and Havering, there was a very disappointing lack of consultation or engagement with partners, in particular children's social care, on how the structure could work effectively at an operational level with three very different local authorities. I and others had significant concerns about a potential fragmentation and loss of specialisation within the new structure, and these concerns are by no means yet fully allayed. As I say in the report, it would be tragic if the end result of police reorganisation was that children were less well protected under the new arrangements than they were under the previous borough based ones. It will take a renewed commitment to effective partnership working to make sure that does not happen.

My other great concern is the lack of any significant progress to date in addressing what is I think recognised as the emerging crisis in mental health services for children and adolescents. To quote from the Foreword to the [Annual Report](#):

"In the body of the report we describe the impact on these services of a range of pressures in 2016/17 and the restrictions on access to these vital services that those pressures required. There is a radical plan on paper for the transformation of services and access

in this area, but progress towards its delivery seems to be agonisingly slow, and in the meantime there must be a risk that the outcome will be fewer young people getting the service that they desperately need and waiting longer for it. If young people in Redbridge are to be adequately safeguarded, we have to see dramatic and rapid improvements in a system that promotes resilience in all young people and provides appropriately intensive and timely help for those young people in most need."



I think this is now probably the greatest challenge facing safeguarding children's services in Redbridge.

I know that busy professionals are not likely to find time (or probably the inclination) to read a document like the [Annual Report](#) from cover to cover. But I hope you will find time to dip into it and that you will hopefully find things that will interest, stimulate and challenge you.

John

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Board Report

Feedback from the LSCB Meeting – 17 October 2017

Summary of items discussed by the Board

Among other items, the Board:

- Reviewed progress against the [2017/18 Business Plan](#). Generally, there is good progress on all the Board's priorities. There are however significant delays in the implementation of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) transformation plan. In particular, the Board emphasised the importance of clear and urgent communication with schools about the position, the current availability of services, and referral pathways. The effectiveness of consistent engagement between the LSCB and the Met Police tri-borough Safeguarding Command remained graded 'red', but the Board noted signs of recent progress with the reintroduction of the Detective Chief Inspector rank that had previously been taken out of the structure.
- Discussed a comprehensive presentation by the Council's Head of Housing Needs on the Council's new [Housing Strategy 2017 - 22](#) and the forthcoming consultation on a revised Allocations Policy and a new Tenancy Strategy, addressing the implications of recent legislation to end life time council tenancies, subject to a number of exemptions which have not yet been defined.
- Reviewed progress against the action plans arising from the recent 'Section 11' audits, through which statutory agencies are required to self-assess themselves for compliance with their core child protection responsibilities, and subject that self-assessment to peer challenge. Generally, progress against the action plans is good.
- Discussed a multi-agency audit report on the partnership's response to children and young people who go missing. Although the audit identified much committed and effective practice, there clearly is not yet a fully joined up response from all agencies. A briefing on this audit has been provided as part of the [LSCB Training Programme](#).
- Discussed an update from NELFT on progress against the Trust's action plan arising from an audit of safeguarding practice and recording in 2016
- Discussed a detailed report on the development of CAMHS services in Redbridge. The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), as the commissioner of the service, recognises that there is a need for a significant increase in funding for CAMHS in Redbridge if they are to achieve the national target of providing a service for at least 35% of the estimated number of children and young people in the Borough with diagnosable mental health conditions by 2020.



Priority 1

To improve services for young people experiencing mental ill-health

There have been delays with the roll out of some key aspects of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) transformation – particularly in relation to the launch of the 'hub'. Local training workshops on a range of issues pertaining to mental health have been commissioned by Public Health and a schedule of dates will be available shortly.

The LSCB Multi-Agency Audit on Mental Health and Social Issues has commenced. The 'round table' audit day is due to be held on 28 November.

An Introduction to [Child and Adolescent Mental Health Training Course](#) has been delivered as part of the [LSCB Training Programme](#), which was very well evaluated.



Priority 2

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

The dialogue with local schools has resulted in some clear support requests and responses to these have included the commissioning of a drama for schools in the New Year on peer-on-peer abuse and sexual exploitation. The Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) Panel has been reviewed following publication in the summer of new London Operating Protocol and will launch in its new format in January 2018.

A Task and Finish Group on Trafficking is taking forward the development of local referral pathways, training and promotion of Single Point of Contacts (SPOCs) across key agencies, including the community and voluntary sector. A briefing has already been developed to GPs and as part of the [LSCB Training Programme](#) to raise awareness of the key safeguarding risks around child trafficking and modern slavery. Information for professionals on the [LSCB website](#) has been further developed.

Priority 3

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

The Action Plan developed following last year's Ofsted Inspection included actions relating to this priority and is now drawing to a conclusion.

The Multi-Agency Audit on children subject to a child protection plan under the category of 'neglect' has taken place and a report presented to the Board. A number of recommendations were made to the Board which are now being taken forward by partner agencies. A briefing on the [Learning from the MA Audit on Neglect](#) is taking place on 14 December and there are places still available.

A related piece of work featured in the [Business Plan](#) is an audit of LAC review records which has commenced – focusing on Care Plans and LAC Review notes.

Priorities cont ...

Priority 4

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

The multi-agency communications plan has been implemented and the LSCB Team were out in the Foyer of Ilford Central Library on 25 October, with support from our partner Safer London (see photo below), raising awareness of private fostering. Leaflets and posters have also been sent out to a number of partner agencies for display in public and staff spaces.



Priority 5

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

The peer-on-peer abuse multi-agency audit concludes with a 'round table' event on 31 October. A report summarising findings and learning against each of the Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE) will be presented to the January Board meeting.

Members of the Youth Forum have undertaken work around eSafety with workshops during the summer. An initial draft of the material has been developed with the aim of this being finished by the New Year, ready for publication.

Priority 6

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

A multi-agency audit on cases of children who have gone missing concluded last month, with a summary report being presented to the Board this month.

A social media communication line for children and young people who go missing is in development.

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 LSCB continues to monitor the impact of the MPS re-structure into a Basic Command Unit – with particular emphasis on the Safeguarding Unit. Regular meetings take place with senior managers in statutory partner agencies.

The BCU will be submitting a new S11 Audit as part of the monitoring process later this month.

Priority 8

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

The [Multi-Agency Audit Programme 2017 – 2018](#) is running to schedule and the [LSCB Training Programme 2017 – 2018](#) is subject to ongoing evaluation.

Service Highlight: NSPCC Schools Service

The NSPCC, as the UK's leading child protection charity, are committed to supporting schools across the country in keeping their pupils safe, through their Schools Service.

Amongst the different programmes, resources and training available through the Service, the following have already proved popular with schools in Redbridge.

Assemblies, delivered by trained volunteers, based on their **'Speak Out, Stay Safe' Programme**, aimed at children aged 4 – 11. These enable essential safeguarding information to be provided in a fun, interactive and memorable way through a 30 minute assembly featuring the NSPCC mascot – Buddy. Content includes talking about neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and bullying. The assemblies have two different formats – one for **Reception, Years 1 & 2** and the other for **Years 3 – 6**.



Workshops, lasting an hour, for 9 – 11 year olds, which provide an opportunity to cover staying safe and different forms of abuse in more detail.

In addition, there are **free resources** and **guides** for teachers to download using the **'Talk PANTS'** – learn the underwear rule concept.



These include a **lesson plan, teaching guidance** and a **PANTS PowerPoint presentation**.



The Schools Services are also working in partnership with O2 to deliver **Share Aware** teaching materials to enable teachers to help keep their class safe on-line featuring Alex and Lucy who need to learn about the risks of sharing on-line and chatting to strangers.



If you work in a school, why not speak to your Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) about how the **NSPCC Schools Service** could work with you. The content of the assemblies and workshops can be adapted for special schools. The NSPCC resources are accredited and have been awarded the **PSHE Association Quality Mark**.

The Schools Service can be contacted through completion of an **on-line form** or by calling 0808 800 500. Alternatively contact our local representative for Redbridge - **Caroline Roughley**.

All children have the right to:

- ✓ speak out and be heard
- ✓ be safe
- ✓ get help when they need it

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**.

- An introduction to the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) – 8 December
- CAF Assessment and Planning for Practitioners - 13 November
- Safeguarding Level 2 – 23 November
- Introduction to Child and Adolescent Mental Health – 7 November
- Child Neglect – 9 November
- Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) – 13 November
- Abuse in Teenage Relationships – 14 November
- Safeguarding Children & Families from the Practice of FGM – 16 November
- Understanding Thresholds – 28 November
- Safeguarding Children in a Digital Age and On-line Bullying – 30 November
- Cousin Marriage Awareness – 5 December
- Working with Race, Culture and Belief in context with professional curiosity – 11 December
- Voice of the Child – 12 December
- CSE Briefing – 10 January
- Working with Young People in relation to Gangs/Crime – 18 January
- Learning from Child Deaths – 1 February
- Modern Slavery Awareness – 16 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. 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.



Redbridge Community Day 2017



This summer, for the second year running, the LSCB took part in the Redbridge Community Day. The Team were joined at the event on 3 August by one of our Lay Members, one of our former apprentices plus professionals from a number of our partner agencies publicising staying safe to children, young people and families. We took the opportunity of introducing the public and other stall holders from local voluntary groups to our Instagram. Even the Redbridge Mayor, Councillor Linda Huggett, had a demo from the Team (*see below*).



Working Together to Safeguard Children

The Department for Education (DfE) have launched a **consultation** on the new draft statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children. The consultation runs until 31 December and all working with children, young people and families are encouraged to take part. The DfE are also inviting professionals to attend one of a series of **seminars** based on the consultation. Further information can be found on the LSCB website [news page](#).

Safety Warning – Baby Sleep Positioners

Parents of young babies in the US are being advised not to use sleep positioners following warnings about the risk of possible suffocation. Key UK retailers have now withdrawn them from sale. [The Lullaby Trust](#), a charity which raises awareness of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and advises the NHS on safe sleeping, does **not** recommend the use of wedges or sleep positioners and advises use of a firm, flat, waterproof mattress in a clear cot, free of pillows, toys and bumpers. For more information on reducing the risk of SIDS see the guidance on Trust's [website](#) or view the [Safer Sleep Product Checklist](#) ✓

Spread the word!

Please help raise the profile of safeguarding children and young people in the Borough by displaying the LSCB [poster](#) and [leaflets](#) where you have the facilities to do so. They are available to download from the [website](#) or limited hard copies can be requested by completing the on-line [Contact Form](#). If social media is more your thing ... do 'like' us on [Twitter](#) or 'follow us' on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).



Apprentice News

The LSCB Team are really thrilled to welcome Anisha Ferdus as our new Business Admin Apprentice. Anisha will be leading on the administration of the LSCB Training Programme whilst she studies for a Level 4 qualification.

Welcome to the new Redbridge Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

The new Redbridge LADO, Helen Curtis, commenced in post on 2 October. Helen completed her Social Work training in the United States, qualifying in June 2009.



She has joined Redbridge from Kent County Council, where she worked for over seven and ½ years, firstly as a Newly Qualified Social Worker (NQSW) before progressing on finally to the role of Senior Practitioner.

While working as a Social Worker, Helen gained experience working with families via completing assessments and Section 47 Enquiries, undertaking direct work with children and their families, and also initiating court proceedings.

She also gained experience in supporting and supervising less experienced colleagues by providing case supervision and advice. Helen is based at Lynton House and can be reached via 020 8708 5350 or 07584 127461 or by e-mail LADO@redbridge.gov.uk.

To find out more about managing allegations against staff, or to download a referral form, view the [LSCB website](#).

Modern Slavery: A Safeguarding Issue of our Time

Evidence from the [National Crime Agency](#) indicates that the scale of modern slavery in the UK is much larger than previously thought.

Modern slavery, or trafficking, is the exploitation of individuals for gain and the number of suspected victims has more than doubled in the last three years. In 2016, 3805 people were reported as potential victims, 30% of which were children. Modern slavery is a crime under the [Modern Slavery Act 2015](#), examples of which include children and young people being recruited, transported or harboured for use in sexual exploitation, forced labour, domestic servitude and criminal activities. The impact on children who become victims is extreme affecting their emotional, psychological, physical and mental well-being.

The [National Referral Mechanism \(NRM\)](#), a mechanism used by the [Modern Slavery Human Trafficking Unit](#), entitles victims of slavery and trafficking to help and protection from the UK government and other agencies.

If we are going to make any impact on safeguarding children and young people from this form of abuse, everyone working with children and young people or their families need to be aware of the indicators, what increases vulnerability and what action to take. Sign up now for one of our free, half day, [Modern Slavery Awareness Briefings](#).

Any concerns about a child or young person being trafficked should be referred to the Child Protection and Assessment Team (CPAT) in Redbridge using a [Multi-Agency Referral Form \(MARF\)](#), calling 020 8708 3885 or by e-mailing CPAT.Referrals@redbridge.gov.uk. As a 'first responder' the Local Authority will complete the NRM as appropriate.

For more information on modern slavery, see the [LSCB website](#). If you need advice, call the [Modern Slavery Helpline](#) on 08000 121700.



LSCB Briefing Series: Learning from Multi-Agency Audits

The LSCB is continuing with its series of [Briefings](#) on Learning from MA Audits as part of its drive to improve practice and multi-agency working. These free events, which last for 2 ½ hours, take place in central Ilford.

- Child Neglect – 14 December (PM)
- Peer-on-Peer Abuse - 1 February (PM)
- Child Mental Health - 12 March (PM)

Find out more from the [flyer](#) and sign up on line [here](#).

LSCB Team has moved!

The LSCB Team are now in their new permanent location on the 5th Floor (Front) of Lynton House.

The full address is:

LSCB Team

5th Floor (Front) Lynton House

255 – 259 High Road

ILFORD

Essex

IG1 1NN

All other contact information remains the same.

Contact Information


Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)

LSCB@redbridge.gov.uk

Tel: 020 8708 5282

Website: www.redbridgelscb.org.uk

 @RedbridgeLSCB

 @RedbridgeLSCB

LSCB Training

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

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

Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) Notifications

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 or on 020 8708 5282 or 07814 883194. Our next edition – Winter 2018 – will be published in January 2018.