

## AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2018

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

The Board met on 9 October, and on the next page you will find a brief summary of the issues discussed and some of the outcomes.

I'd like to draw particular attention to the report we received detailing progress in the development of mental health services for children and young people – previously known as CAMHS, but now, confusingly for some of us until we get used to it, renamed the Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Service or EWMHS. I haven't yet worked out how to pronounce the acronym! More seriously though, it was really encouraging to learn of the progress that is being made, following an extended period in which everybody recognises the service has not been delivering what young people in difficulty in the borough have a right to expect. The new service was launched in June this year. Some of the key progress measures reported were:

- All referrals are now accepted and offered an initial assessment. This contrasts with the same time period last year, when Redbridge CAMHS was only able to accept 40% - 50% of referrals received into the service for treatment.
- All referrals receive an initial telephone assessment from a clinician, and the service is able to offer a telephone assessment within 24 – 36 hours of referral.
- A significant improvement has been achieved in managing follow up appointments with CAMHS clinicians for those young people who need further specialist support. Following initial assessment, young people

are offered a face to face comprehensive assessment within four weeks.

We also heard that, among other developments, the outreach work with schools is progressing apace. Support Time and Recovery (STAR) workers from the service have now visited all secondary schools in the borough, and are in the process of getting round primary, special and independent schools, and pupil referral units.

The other thing I would like to use this space for is to plug the forthcoming publication of the LSCB Annual Report for 2017/18, which will be on the LSCB website on 31 October. As ever, the report seeks to answer the question, 'How well are children in Redbridge safeguarded?', and it will contain a great deal of information on need, demand and performance in the effort to do so. While much of that information evidences continuing positive performance, the report also focuses on some of the key areas for improvement in practice that have emerged from an increasingly robust multi-agency audit programme in 2017/18. All the audits undertaken identified a need for greater and more consistent professional curiosity - 'respectful uncertainty', the ability to explore and understand what is happening within a family rather than making assumptions or accepting things at face value. You might want to look at the [Quick Learning Guide to Professional Curiosity](#) on the LSCB website.

The report also highlights the changing landscape of safeguarding as new issues emerge, demanding new and innovative responses. It has become clear, for example, that gang affiliation, the risks it poses to young people, the associated phenomenon of 'county lines' activity, and potential links with child sexual exploitation, are more

significant issues in Redbridge than had previously been recognised. It is also increasingly

recognised that these challenges demand new approaches to engaging with young people, and the development of, for example, the Families Intervention Team (FIT), which is described in the [Service Highlight](#) on page 4 of this newsletter, demonstrates the kind of creative response that is needed. One of the things that the Annual Report identifies is that, in some respects reversing the trend of previous years, both the number of children on child protection plans, and the number of children involved in care proceedings, fell last year. Perhaps these are early and encouraging signs of the potential impact of some new ways of working.

I know how busy you are all are, but I do hope you will find some time to look at the Annual Report. Perhaps some light reading over the festive break in December – and on that note, as the next newsletter won't be out till January, let me be the first to wish you all the best for the season and a Happy New Year!

John



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# Board Report

## Feedback from the LSCB Meeting –9 October 2018

### Summary of items discussed by the Board

Among other items, the Board:

- Reviewed progress against the [2018/19 Business Plan](#).
- Discussed the findings of the Success Review, undertaken as part of the multi-agency audit programme for 2018/19. This looked at a sample of cases where good multi-agency work had achieved great outcomes for children, and sought to identify some of the key ingredients of that positive practice. You can read about this in more detail on [page 6](#) of this newsletter
- Discussed a report on the timeliness of reports received for child protection case conferences. Reports should be submitted at least two days before an initial child protection case conference, and at least five days before a review conference. Late sight of reports is a recurring theme in parental complaints under the [LSCB Child Protection Conference Complaints Procedure](#). Although the data presented in the report needs more analysis, it was clear that reports are submitted late far too often. The Board asked for a further report on action planned to improve the timeliness of report submission.
- Received a progress report on the [Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Service](#). This is discussed in more detail in the [Chair's Foreword](#).
- Discussed the [Ofsted/CQC letter \(25 July 2018\)](#) summarising the outcome of their joint inspection of services for children with special educational needs and disabilities in June, and the outcome of the recent 'annual engagement meeting' between the Council and Ofsted on children's social care. A 'focused visit' by inspectors, looking at a particular area of the social care service with two days on site, is expected in the next few months. The focus may be on the experiences and outcomes of care leavers.
- Received the Child Death Overview Panel report for 2016/17. As in recent years, the main 'modifiable factor' identified in a number of deaths was parental consanguinity. The report also highlighted the potential significance of maternal diabetes in pregnancy as a source of risk for both mother and unborn child. It proposed an audit to enable better understanding of the impact of maternal diabetes on child deaths, given the high prevalence of diabetes in Redbridge compared to both London and England.
- Discussed a first draft of the Redbridge Multi-Agency Reducing Group Violence and Exploitation Plan
- Received an update on the development of services in North East London for children who have been sexually abused. The seven Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in the sub-region have agreed to fund an emotional support service, following paediatric assessment, for children and young people who have been sexually abused. The service was put out to tender, which closed this month.

# LSCB Business Plan 2018 -2019

## Priority 1

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

The Emotional Wellbeing & Mental Health Service (EWMHS) for children and young people, based at The Grove, Chadwell Heath, is now fully operational and features a single point of access (SPA), wellbeing hub for clinical triage, resource directory for sign posting and information provision, specialist mental health service and crisis management support. Staff are in the process of visiting all schools in the borough to promote the service and offer support in working with young people experiencing difficulties.

## Priority 3

### To raise awareness of and develop service responses to peer-on-peer abuse, harmful sexual behaviours and violence

The new promotional materials designed by young people will be launching by the end of October, along with a guide to social media apps developed with the Youth Council.



## Priority 5

### Development of the new local safeguarding children structure and Child Death Review Process in response to the Children and Social Work Act 2017, Regulations and Working Together 2018

Agreement has been reached on a single Child Death Review Process across BHR. eCDOP, which should hugely improve the administration, information collation, and learning from child deaths, will be launched in November. Substantive discussions with partners about the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements which will replace LSCBs by September 2019 are pending.

## Priority 2

### To strengthen the protection and support of children and young people exposed to any form of exploitation or at risk of going missing

A major multi-agency event took place in September to support the development of new relationship based ways of working with young people at risk of exploitation.

The Families Intervention Team (FIT) in the Local Authority is bringing together a range of specialist services (see Service Highlight on [page 4](#)).

## Priority 4

### To develop engagement with children, young people and families to raise awareness of and inform development of safeguarding

Watch out for some revamping of the information on our [website](#) for children and young people.



## Priority 6

### To strengthen the protection and support of children and young people exposed to dangerous cultural practices

The new FGM Strategy is now in development. A draft will be presented to the Board in January 2019.

Engagement with partners has been excellent and the Working Group is benefiting from the input from the [National FGM Centre](#), a partnership with Barnardo's and the LGA.



## Service Highlight – Families Intervention Team (FIT)

### Who are we?

The FIT is a multi-agency team that specialises in working with children aged 11-18 years who are assessed as high-risk or on the edge of care. Families working with the FIT may have had historical social care involvement and, in most cases, are subject to a statutory plan such as Child in Need or Child Protection. The Team also offers support to children already in Local Authority care to work around stabilising placements or supporting possible reunification with families. Families who are subject to statutory plans work with a FIT Social Worker who manages the plan and undertakes statutory interventions. The young person or family is concurrently supported by other specialists within the Team dependant on their needs, views and experiences. The FIT works with children who may go recurrently missing from home or be at risk of exploitation, e.g. from gang affiliation, County Lines or Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).

### What do we do?

The FIT's purpose is to undertake intensive and person-centred interventions to deflect young people from involvement in harmful or risk-taking behaviours, protect young people from exploitation, provide advice and support to parents/carers and, ultimately, induce real change for Redbridge young people and families. Based at the Station Road Centre in Barkingside, the Team sits within the Local Authority's Community Social Service.

Referrals can be made to the FIT by Redbridge Social Workers. Referrals are often made at the time a Child & Family Assessment is completed and where it has been decided that on-going statutory intervention is required, whether this be in the form of Child Protection, Child in Need or Looked After Child. Cases are eligible for management by the FIT where there is evidence of recurrent missing episodes and exploitation. All referrals are heard at a weekly allocations meeting which shares information, and considers what services and support would be most appropriate for referred cases. This may result in cases being allocated to a FIT social worker alongside other professionals from agencies within the FIT for joint-work to provide intensive intervention to young people. Not all referrals that are made to the FIT are accepted and in the instance a case is turned down, feedback is provided to the referrer. Children who are in Local Authority Care are eligible for

support from the FIT but retain their own social worker within the LAC Service.

A recent development has been the allocation of FIT cases to specialist Social Workers who sit within the Team. This change will enable these social workers to be embedded within the FIT, enabling better communication between them and the specialists involved. They will operate on a reduced caseload, delivering the intensive work necessary with this cohort of children with their often complex needs.

### Who are we working with?

The Missing Team work alongside the FIT with young people who are reported missing to the police. Every child in Redbridge who is reported missing is entitled to a Return Home Interview. This is an opportunity for them to meet with a social worker or family support worker at a time and place they feel comfortable to explore the missing episode and identify any issues the young person might be experiencing and receive support.

Within the FIT, there are three gang exit workers from St Giles, a charity that provides specialist help for young people affected by gang-related violence and exploitation. These workers help young people to identify and realise alternative aspirations and goals, with a view of reducing risk to young people and within the wider community.

Also within the FIT are workers from Barnardo's TIGER, a trauma based CSE project, Taith, a service offering support to young people who have exhibited harmful sexual behaviours against other young people, and Safer London, all providing unique services. The FIT also work with the Borough's Youth Service who can provide one-to-one support through positive activities and mentoring.

To support this area of work, an Exploited Children Researcher collates intelligence within Redbridge regarding County Lines, gang activity and CSE. The purpose of this research is to map activity to provide further insight around the risks posed to young people to achieve better contextual safeguarding and identify young people at risk at an earlier stage.

### David Westlund, FIT Manager

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# LSCB Events Calendar

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



## Training

Below are details of some of the wide range of [upcoming learning events](#) available via the [LSCB Training Programme 2018 – 2019](#).

You can view the content of each event and sign up via our on-line [Nomination Form](#). Courses taking place over the next few months include:

- [Working Together to Safeguard Children – a Shared Responsibility, 1 November](#)
- [CAF Assessment and Planning for practitioners, 5 November](#)
- [Understanding the Roma Community in the Context of Professional Curiosity, 6 November](#)
- [LSCB Designated Safeguarding Lead – Safeguarding Level 3, 14 November](#)
- [Introduction to Child and Adolescent Mental Health, 20 November](#)
- [CSE Training for Practitioners, 21 November](#)
- [Understanding Peer on Peer Abuse, 27 November](#)
- [Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent, 4 December](#)
- [Understanding Thresholds, 12 December](#)
- [R U Ready?, 13 December](#)
- [Working with Young People in Relation to Gangs/Knife Crime, 8 January 2019](#)
- [Domestic Abuse and the Effects on Children, 15 January 2019](#)
- [Common Assessment Framework \(CAF\) – An Introduction, 17 January 2019](#)
- [Safer Recruitment, 17 January 2019](#)
- [Private Fostering Awareness, 22 January 2019](#)
- [Awareness of CSE, 22 January 2019](#)
- [Safeguarding Refugee and Vulnerable Migrant Children, 24 January 2019](#)

Your feedback on our Programme or any of the courses is welcome and should be sent to [LSCB.Training@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:LSCB.Training@redbridge.gov.uk). We are also planning a Focus Group looking at how we learn, transfer of learning into practice and evaluating impact. Watch this space!

## Learning from Audit: Multi-Agency Briefing on 8 November (PM)

Our current multi-agency audit is a first for us – instead of looking at a particular theme or safeguarding topic, we have identified cases where there have been particularly good outcomes or practice identified and are undertaking a Success Review. We shall be looking at what went well and how this can be shared across our services to inform practice. Want to know more? Do attend our free **Learning from Audit Briefing** on **8 November** in the afternoon.

To reserve your free place, please e-mail your contact details, including agency and role to [LSCB@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:LSCB@redbridge.gov.uk) or call 020 8708 5282.

## Ilford Community Day



This year the Community Day, organised by RedbridgeCVS, took place outside on 30 August, a beautiful sunny day. The LSCB Team, with support from partners, were again in the Town Centre with their stand talking to children, young people and families about staying safe – particularly whilst on-line. We also learnt a lot about what concerns parents and young people most. It was great to see a number of partner agencies taking part as well.

Checkout the photos from the day on [Flicker](#).



## LSCB Multi-Agency CSE Seminar

### 27 September

Thank you to all 44 professionals from across our partner agencies that attended the half day event looking at a new relational approach and response to child sexual exploitation, facilitated by our guest and former senior police officer, Gary Ridgway. We are currently collating feedback and planning how to take the conversation forward with partners.





## Welcome to our Graduate Trainee!

We are really excited to welcome **Paree Bhanu** into the LSCB Team. Paree is part of the [Local Government Association \(LGA\) National Graduate Development Programme \(NGDP\)](#) and this will be her third placement in Redbridge, lasting around six to ninth months. Paree has a varied work programme which includes developing our consultation with children, young people and community, ensuring that our website offers young people both accessible and relevant support information on safeguarding, and planning a Focus Group on safeguarding training. To enrich her experience, Paree will be looking to visit partner agencies across Redbridge to understand the services they offer to children, young people and families and the role they play in keeping children safe. Welcome Paree – it is great to have you join us!

## What happened when we undertook a Success Review

The most recent audit completed by our Multi-Agency Audit Working Group was a 'Success Review'. The purpose of the success review was to understand how the work completed by a range of services was effective in achieving fantastic outcomes for Redbridge young people.

NELFT, Redbridge Social Care, BHRUT, Youth Offending Services, Early Intervention Services and education provisions, including the 'Virtual School' for Looked after Children (LAC) all participated in the Success Review.

The impact of the multi-agency work completed with all the children who were audited had clearly made a difference, the outcomes were improved and the children's life trajectories have improved.

### Success Review Highlights:

- In the work completed by the services working with the families, the 'voice of the child' was heard, listened to and acted upon, which resulted in child-focused decision making.
- There was evidence of strong links to educational support for all the children, this includes Special Schools, Primary, Secondary, and the Virtual School.
- All of the children benefited from multi-agency intervention - no one agency can implement change alone.
- There were strong working relationships between the children, their parents or carers and at least one safeguarding practitioner, this could be a Social Worker or a professional from a partner agency.
- Professional Challenge was purposeful and effective when needed.
- There was evidence of all services exercising [Professional Curiosity](#).

*"You can learn more from what went well."*

Mariana G., Service Manager, Children's Social Care

The LSCB Quality Assurance Manager met with all the children included in the audit to gain their thoughts on the support they had received. One young person talked about the impact of foster carers who have supported her, *"I was bunking school, being horrible to the teachers. My mentality has changed so much from the person I was 12 months ago. I don't want to imagine my life without [my foster carers]."* She went on to explain that her worker from the Virtual School had helped her to get a laptop before she started college. *"I felt like she put in some real effort."*

Significant learning was identified from the success review which will be shared across partner agencies and, at the LSCB Audit Briefing taking place on Thursday 8 November 2018 (see [page 5](#)). The presentation also be made available on [our website](#).

# 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 – Winter 2019 – will be published at the end of January 2019.