

## SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2019

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

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

One of the big news stories of the last few months was the publication of the [report](#) on 11 June of Ofsted's recent inspection of LB Redbridge children's social care services. Children's services in Redbridge were judged to be outstanding – one of only nine authorities in the country to have achieved that recognition. Over the past ten years the service has gone from strength to strength – judged to be good in 2012 and again in 2016, and now receiving the highest accolade. Virtually everywhere inspectors looked, they found the highest quality of practice. I would urge everybody to read the inspection report for themselves, but you can get a flavour from just some of the keywords used to describe different aspects of the service – 'relentless drive and ambition', 'exceptional leadership', 'exemplary management', 'a local authority that knows itself well and takes determined and proactive steps to improve outcomes for children', 'a model of efficiency and excellence', 'a service that is flexible, responsive and dynamic', 'exceptional analysis and professional challenge', and many more in a similar vein. Inspectors found 'a firmly established culture of creativity and innovation', and this was a theme that also came through strongly at the recent Board when we received and discussed reports on the development of Early Help and the Family Intervention Service in 2018/19, described by Ofsted as 'a flexible, multi-skilled service that is highly successful in providing a preventative service for children with the highest levels of need'.

Crucially, inspectors also found a service determined to avoid complacency and not to rest on its laurels: 'there is a clear focus on how things could be even better'. The quality of social care services provided to vulnerable children and their families in Redbridge is superlative, and I can only express my warmest congratulations and appreciation, and those of the entire (LSCB), to the staff who deliver them day in day out.

The other big news story, with long term implications for partnership working to safeguard children in Redbridge, is the publication in June of the new children's [multi-agency safeguarding arrangements](#) to be introduced under the Children and Social Work Act 2017. As previously reported in this newsletter, the Act defines three statutory safeguarding partners – the local authority, the police, and the Clinical Commissioning Group. The statutory partners in North East London (the boroughs of Barking & Dagenham, Havering, and Redbridge, the police through the East Area BCU, and the CCGs, have agreed a set of arrangements which will cover the BHR area rather than be based solely on individual local authorities. I am pleased that the published plan confirms that Redbridge will continue to co-ordinate, challenge and scrutinise multi-agency working through a strong partnership board, independently chaired, to ensure that local issues and accountability are not lost in a wider set of BHR arrangements. There clearly is, however, value to be added by addressing issues across a wider footprint. To give a couple of examples, the published plan makes a clear commitment to address the needs of vulnerable adolescents at risk of exploitation or being drawn into violence, and to develop a co-ordinated programme of quality

assurance, across the BHR area. The onus now is on the statutory partners to demonstrate



the leadership and capacity to deliver on those commitments. I do remain concerned that the published plan is too focused on the role and importance of the 'statutory partners', and has too little to say about the importance of a much wider group of what the Act defines as 'relevant agencies'. As I said in the last newsletter, it's essential that the new arrangements don't inadvertently end up defining safeguarding as "what the three statutory safeguarding partners do"; and that we don't lose sight of the principle, no less true for being something of a cliché, that 'safeguarding is everybody's business'. I am however confident that in Redbridge, with what Ofsted described as the strong, collaborative and outward looking culture of partnership working in the Borough and a continuing central role for a strong multi-agency partnership board, we will not allow that to happen.

Regards

John

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# Board Report

## Feedback from the LSCB Meeting – 9 July 2019

### Summary of items discussed by the Board

Among other items, the Board:

- Reviewed progress against the four priorities which it agreed for its work this year at its May meeting: safeguarding vulnerable adolescents; support to schools and other educational settings; learning from practice; and learning from children and young people. You can find more information on this on [page 3](#) of this newsletter.
- Considered the final set of safeguarding performance data for 2018/19. Generally, this showed continuing improvement on what was already strong performance. For example, the percentage of social care assessments completed within 45 days increased from 91% in 2017/18 to 99.3% in 2018/19; and the percentage of initial child protection case conferences held within 15 days from the initiating strategy discussion increased to 97.4% compared to 89% the previous year. The Board also noted that this level of performance had been achieved in a context of increasing demand, with a 9.1% increase in referrals to social care in 2018/19.
- Discussed the [report](#) of Ofsted's inspection of children services, published in June 2019. This is discussed further in the Chair's Introduction.
- Received and discussed reports on the development of Early Help services and the Family Intervention Service in 2018/19, referred to in the Chair's Introduction, and on work with children missing from home and care. The Board was concerned to note a significant increase in the number of 14 and 15-year-old girls going missing from home. The learning from these reports will be discussed in detail in the LSCB Annual Report for 2018/19, which will be published in October.
- Considered a 'review and impact' report on the LSCB Training Programme 2018/19. The number of practitioners engaging in LSCB training continues to increase, with a 6% rise in attendances in 2018/19 and a 26% fall in non-attendances. Participation in LSCB training by staff from schools and other educational providers was up by 54% in the year. Overall evaluations of the quality and impact of training were very positive.
- Noted the publication, in line with the requirements of [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#), of the planned multi-agency safeguarding arrangements across the BHR Safeguarding Partnership. This is discussed further in the Chair's Introduction.
- Discussed a report from the Learning and Improvement Sub Group on learning from complaints considered through the [LSCB Child Protection Case Conference Complaints Procedure](#). The Board recognised that overall feedback from parents of their experience of child protection case conferences is positive. 30% of parents completed a feedback form after a child protection case conference in 2018/19, and 89% of those responding said they felt able to participate fully. The number of complaints received and considered under the LSCB procedure is very small. Nevertheless, the analysis highlighted some important themes about what goes wrong for parents when things go wrong: late notice of conferences, late receipt of reports, review conferences going ahead without key professional participants, lack of progress by professionals on the actions assigned to them leading to children remaining on plans when parents feel they have done everything they have been asked to do. The report will be further discussed within the LSCB Training Sub Group, the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Team in the Local Authority's Children's Services, and in partner agencies. The Board agreed to ask its Lay Members to review the information available to parents about the LSCB Complaints Procedure to see if its clarity and accessibility can be improved.

## Priority 1

### Safeguarding adolescents

This work will focus on strengthening a partnership response both within Redbridge and across the three local boroughs, to safeguarding young people at risk of going missing, being sexually or criminally exploited, trafficked, and affiliated into a gang or involvement in County Lines and knife crime. One of the points of increased vulnerability is at the point of transition from a service, particularly those moving on from Children's Social Care, so one key part of the work is reviewing transitional safeguarding and a scoping meeting is taking place at the beginning of September between senior managers in both Adults and Children's Social Care within the Council. A wider Sub Group will be established under their direction in due course. A strategic CSE Group is being established led by the MPS.

On 19 May, the Redbridge Community Safety Partnership hosted a multi-agency conference on Serious Group Violence as part of their action plan. The event was attended by over 200 professionals from across Redbridge, Barking and Dagenham and Havering. One key work stream is the implementation of trauma informed practice and training is being rolled out.

## Priority 2

### Supporting schools and other education providers

The Board is currently consulting with schools in relation to what support they would find most useful in fulfilling their safeguarding role with children and young people. One area that is going to be a challenge will be the roll out of sex and relationship education by September 2020.

The [LSCB Multi-Agency Training Programme](#) includes some courses commissioned particularly for education providers – although open to all – e.g. [Safer Recruitment](#), [Designated Safeguarding Lead \(Level 3\)](#) and [Safeguarding Through Relationship and Sex Education](#).

The [LSCB Job Shadowing Scheme](#) will be promoted again with schools in September, as it is a great way for school staff to understand different roles across the partnership in safeguarding and develop closer working relationships.

## Priority 3

### Learning from Practice

The LSCB Learning & Improvement Sub Group will be scrutinising partner agency safeguarding audits.

There is also a plan to review the recommendations from the Multi-Agency Audit Programme 2018 – 2019 to see how these have been implemented and to what effect.

Further development will be undertaken via Learning Reviews, where we look at specific cases, involving practitioners across all agencies.

A proposal for a Barking, Havering and Redbridge (BHR) Practitioner Forum is being developed, which will provide a richer scope for sharing learning, inviting expert speakers and developing good work across borough boundaries.

## Priority 4

### Learning from children, young people & families

Practice should be informed by evidence of what works from children, young people and their families. The Chair has instigated quarterly meetings with the Redbridge Youth Council to provide a route for young people to contribute to the development of safeguarding arrangements. An initial meeting took place with some of the reps on 10 July. The Board will also be supporting the roll-out of the Youth Council's priorities around serious youth crime, period poverty and body image, which all link to safeguarding. It is hoped that a couple of young people will attend the Board meeting in October to provide an update on how those work streams are developing.

The Board has looked at potential lessons to be learnt from the complaints made by parents under its [Child Protection Case Conference Complaints Policy](#) over the last year or so and the Board agreed a number of recommendations from that analysis.

## Focus on ... Redbridge Safeguarding Adults Board



### Redbridge Safeguarding Adults

#### What is it?

The Redbridge Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB) is a strategic body. Its main role is to seek assurance that local safeguarding adults arrangements are in place, as defined in the [Care Act 2014](#) and statutory guidance, that safeguarding practice is person-centred and outcome-focused and agencies are working collectively together to prevent abuse and neglect where possible. Core duties are developing and publishing a strategic plan; publishing an annual report; and commissioning Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) for cases that meet particular criteria. The RSAB concluded two SARs last year and has one in progress currently.

#### Who is involved?

A wide range of agencies delivering services to adults across Redbridge are represented on the Board from both the statutory sector and the voluntary and community sector. These include Redbridge CCG, Met Police Service, London Fire Brigade, health providers, and various services within the Council – including the HASS, Housing and Community Safety. From the voluntary sector are the 'umbrella' organisation Redbridge CVS, and a number of individual organisations.

The Board is independently chaired by John Goldup, who is also the chair of the LSCB and managed by Lesley Perry who also covers this role for the LSCB.

#### What are its priorities?

The priorities for 2019 – 2020 for the Board are strengthening prevention, supporting the voluntary sector, working with providers, transitional safeguarding (in conjunction with the LSCB), workforce development, implementation of the Liberty Protection Safeguards (replacement for DoLs), hearing the voice of the service user, strengthening mutual challenge and accountability. These priorities will be driven forward within the context of the [six principles of adult safeguarding](#) which are empowerment, prevention, proportionality, protection, partnership and accountability – all within the framework of [Making Safeguarding Personal \(MSP\)](#).

#### How does it link with safeguarding children?

Children live in families and issues that impact on their safeguarding may relate to those that parents are tackling, such as domestic violence, substance misuse and mental health. In Redbridge, we have a 'think family' approach and this is supported by the joint working protocols between the [children and adults boards](#) and the Service Manager for the Council's Families Together Hub sits on the RSAB.

Additionally, there are some safeguarding issues that are real for both children and adults such as modern slavery, radicalisation, FGM and forced marriage. And of course, children grow up to be adults and those with disabilities or mental health concerns may go on to require the services of adult health and social care. There is an equivalent to the London Child Protection Procedures for adults – the [London Multi-Agency Adult Safeguarding Policy & Procedures](#) – which Redbridge is signed up to.

One key link that is a feature of the priorities for the RSAB this year is transitional safeguarding – bridging the gap for young people receiving support from children's social care into adulthood. This exciting initiative is still in the planning stage but one that will see a natural pulling together of safeguarding responsibilities across what is now recognised as a much longer period of adolescence into the 20s.

#### How can I find out more?

The RSAB has a [webpage](#) on the MyLife website and there is also a page on the LSCB website on [safeguarding adults](#).

You can also read the Board's [Annual Report 2017 - 2018](#). The 2018 – 2019 will be available from October.

More important than understanding the function of the RSAB is gaining knowledge of safeguarding adults to enable all to undertake a proactive and preventative approach. For more information on Safeguarding Adults Training, contact the Local Authority's Engagement and Development Team via 020 8708 5784.

# LSCB Training Programme Calendar

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



[@RedbridgeLSCB](#)

Below are the [upcoming learning events](#) that still have places available from the new [LSCB Training Programme 2019 - 2020](#). These multi-agency courses reflect the safeguarding priorities in Redbridge and compliment training already available within individual agencies. These are great for both professional and team development. You can see more about each event by clicking the links. Sign up is via our online [Nomination Form](#). Courses are £35 for half a day and £65 for a full day. There is no charge for attendance if you work or volunteer in the voluntary and community sector.

*Facilitator was easy to talk to and able to answer questions clearly.*

Course	Date
<a href="#">Working Together to Safeguard Children – A Shared Responsibility (Safeguarding Level 2)</a>	05 09 2019
<a href="#">Harmful Sexual Behaviours</a>	10 09 2019
<a href="#">Common Assessment Framework (CAF) – Assessing and Planning for Practitioners</a>	12 09 2019
<a href="#">Neglect Workshop</a>	17 09 2019
<a href="#">Designated Safeguarding Lead (Safeguarding Level 3)</a>	28 11 2019
<a href="#">Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) – Training for Practitioners</a>	26 09 2019
<a href="#">Working with Young People in Relation to Gangs/Knife Crime</a>	01 10 2019
<a href="#">Safeguarding Children with Disabilities</a>	03 10 2019
<a href="#">Harmful Practices and Safeguarding Children</a>	10 10 2019
<a href="#">Safeguarding Through Relationship and Sex Education</a>	29 10 2019
<a href="#">Modern Slavery Awareness</a>	01 11 2019
<a href="#">Abuse in Teenage Relationships</a>	05 11 2019
<a href="#">Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP)</a>	21 11 2019
<a href="#">Safer Recruitment</a>	26 11 2019
<a href="#">Understanding Drug Use and Impact on Safeguarding Children</a>	03 12 2019
<a href="#">Working with Race, Culture and Belief Systems in the Context of Professional Curiosity</a>	05 12 2019

*Powerful training delivery style.*

*The facilitator was very good and made the course engaging, interesting and thought provoking.*

## Redbridge Youth Conference

On 1 July, Redbridge Youth Council held its Annual Youth Conference featuring inspiring speeches, quizzes, and meeting professionals. 56 young people came together from 11 Redbridge schools including a primary school.

The evening started with a speech from Bridget Okhioigbe (pictured right and below), a former Redbridge Member of Youth Parliament



(MYP) who spoke at the dispatch box in the House of Commons! We heard a really remarkable story

about her own growth and development inspiring all the attendees.

This was followed by the current MYPs talking about their plans to tackle period poverty, body image and knife crime. Isabel George, Leader of the Young Cabinet and Deputy MYP introduced the Young Cabinet and outlined their portfolios, which mirror the adult Cabinet portfolios.

Helen Anthony, Service Manager for the Council's Youth Offending and Targeted Prevention Service (YOTPS), then did a presentation on the root causes of why young people turn to crime and then the attendees of the Youth Conference got into groups and brainstormed ideas about how young people can stop other young people being involved in crime. This enabled young people to gain a thorough understanding of youth violence and how imperative it is for them to voice their ideas and put them into action and they looked at ideas to reduce the numbers of young people being involved in crime. The feedback included

having education on the issue, ex-offenders coming in to schools to speak and more opportunities and activities to keep young people busy.

Faizal Patel, a Speech and Language Therapist at the Youth Offending and Targeted Prevention Service then talked about the importance of communication and wellbeing. The group learnt that the impact of **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)** on the risk of offending is prominent and they consolidated their learning with a fun quiz with shocking statistics on the effects of communication difficulties and how young people with these difficulties were disadvantaged negatively.

**Make Your Mark**, Europe's largest referendum for young people, was announced at the conference. This offers young people from across the UK the chance to vote for two issues out of ten, which then get debated in the House of Commons by Members of Youth Parliament from all over the UK. Schools and young people aged 11-18 should sign up to become a Make Your Mark Champion on the **UKYP website** by 18 July.

The conference received an overwhelmingly positive response with numerous young people saying that it encouraged them to get involved, to instigate positive change and that it informed them on current issues affecting young people. The evening came to an end with pizza!

### Ali Raja

#### Member of the Redbridge Youth Council

Great report from Ali! I was privileged to be in the audience at the Conference as an observer. We really do have fantastic, passionate, caring and confident young people keen to 'trail blaze' a path for children growing up in Redbridge. It was an inspiring evening and I for one am looking forward to hearing how the important chosen work streams progress and also their involvement in the UNICEF Child Friendly Community initiative.

Lesley Perry  
LSCB Manager


# Contact Information

## Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)

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

Tel: 020 8708 5282 or 020 8708 3289

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)

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

Tel: 020 8708 3455/5961

Mobile: 07701295120



### 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 07775399017. Our next edition – Autumn 2019 – will be published in October 2019.

Additionally, young people can share their views on the safeguarding issues that concern them at any time through completion of our [on-line survey](#). There is also [one](#) for parents and carers.