

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2019

Welcome to the Winter edition of the LSCB newsletter.

The Board met on 15 January, and on the next page you will find a brief summary of the issues discussed and some of the outcomes.

A number of reports included some important learning which we need to find ways of embedding in practice. A follow up report on the timeliness of reports for child protection case conferences highlighted the continuing need for improvement in this. It is a recurring theme of complaints from parents under the LSCB's Complaints Procedure that too often they don't have the opportunity to digest and discuss what professionals are saying about them, and as a result feel disengaged and marginalised from the process, because they don't see the reports that have been prepared until just before or even as they arrive at the conference. For initial conferences, all reports should be received two days before the conference, and for review conferences, diarised well in advance, this should be five days. In the most recent twelve month period for which data is available, while 84% of social worker reports were received within the timescale (which of itself means 16% were not) as were 76% of police reports, no more than 70% of reports from other professionals (health visitors, schools, midwives, and school nurses) were delivered on time. For review case conferences, only 32% of social work reports were on time, and no other agency managed to get reports in on time in more than 26% of cases. I will be writing to senior management in all agencies to ask what steps what they are taking to improve and monitor their performance. I think this improvement is critical to the genuine delivery of the Strengthening Families approach to which the partnership is committed.

We considered the findings of the recently completed multi-agency audit of practice and outcomes with for young people experiencing mental ill-health. It was encouraging, given the Board's concerns over the last couple of years about mental health services for young people, that in the cases audited CAMHS assessments were timely and robust. Generally, the findings in relation to health services were good. The communication between acute and community services was effective, and health services were better than other services at eliciting the views of young people themselves. However, and surprisingly, while substance misuse was a recurring issue in the cases audited, there was little consideration of the relationship between that and the mental health difficulties experienced, and there was not enough evidence of the involvement of young people or families in the development and implementation of child in need plans.

The Board also agreed a three year strategy which sets clear objectives to reduce and ultimately eliminate the practice of female genital mutilation in Redbridge, to effectively identify and safeguard children at risk of FGM, and to effectively support women who have experienced FGM. It is deliberately short, because it is intended as a framework for action. It identifies four priorities, and makes a series of commitments under each priority:

- Improving prevention and support
- Improving practice and multi-agency working
- Developing an informed, confident and culturally competent workforce
- Strengthening leadership

Lesley Perry, the Board Manager, is now leading a small multi-agency

task and finish group which will develop an action plan to deliver on these priorities, to be brought to the Board's next meeting on 1 May. The action plan will be specific about who will do what, by when, and what the measurable outcomes for improvement will be. If you would like to know more, or to contribute ideas to the action plan, please do contact Lesley.



Finally, I would like to pay tribute to the work of Andrea Barrell, the LSCB Quality Assurance Manager, who, sadly for us and excitingly for her, is leaving us in February to take up a new opportunity in Australia. I cannot overstate the impact that Andrea has had on the LSCB's work – her passion, dedication, and inexhaustible commitment to young people have totally transformed the LSCB's creative multi-agency audit programme which is giving us an increasingly clear picture of the quality of practice, its many strengths and areas for improvement. I personally cannot thank her enough, and wish her all the best in her new life.

Regards

John

This issue	Page
Board Report	<u>2</u>
Business Plan Priorities	<u>3</u>
Service Highlight	<u>4</u>
LSCB Events Calendar	<u>5</u>
News	<u>6</u>
Contact Information	<u>7</u>

Board Report

Feedback from the LSCB Meeting –15 January 2019

Summary of items discussed by the Board

Among other items, the Board:

- Reviewed progress against the [2018/19 Business Plan](#).
- Considered the quarterly performance management report. While performance on most indicators remains strong, the Board was concerned about an ongoing fall in the number of assessments completed under the Common Assessment Framework and the possible implications for families' access to early help. The Board asked for further information on this at its next meeting.
- Discussed reports on the timeliness of reports to child protection case conferences, and the findings of a multi-agency audit of practice with young people experiencing mental ill-health. These are both discussed in a little more detail in the Chair's Foreword.
- Discussed some recent developments in data collection and recording relating to child sexual exploitation. As noted in the LSCB's Annual Report for 2017/18, the profile of CSE in Redbridge appears to be changing, with some evidence emerging of more group and gang related exploitation. The Board asked for a full report on this changing picture and the multi-agency response to it at its next meeting.
- Discussed a report on the impact and effectiveness of the 'skill mix' arrangements in the health visiting service, in which qualified health visitors directly undertake the first stage of work with new born babies and their parents and ongoing more complex work, and oversee the work of community nursery nurses and clinical assistants responsible for the ongoing review programme. The Board noted that performance on four key indicators (percentage of required new birth visits undertaken, and of 6-8 reviews, 12 month development reviews, and 2/2.5 years reviews) is on an upward trend. However, on the most recent data (to June 2018) it remains below England and London averages on three of the four indicators reported. The percentage of new birth visits completed, at 99.4%, exceeds performance across both London and England as a whole. The Board was pleased to learn that at 6.1% the vacancy rate in the health visiting workforce is at the lowest level ever.
- Received an update on the new Metropolitan Police Service arrangements for online reporting of missing persons, and for requesting welfare checks. These have been introduced in October 2018, in part to address the long standing difficulty of getting through to the 101 police non-emergency number. However there is as yet no collated evidence to assess their effectiveness. The Board asked for an assurance that care homes in the Borough have access to the online reporting system and that it has been fully publicised to them, given the long standing concern about the difficulties often experienced in reporting missing young people.
- Asked for a report at its next meeting on the implementation of Operation Encompass, which is intended to alert schools to incidents of domestic violence affecting pupils on the next working day. This is something for which schools have been pressing for at least a couple of years.

LSCB Business Plan 2018 -2019

Priority 1

To improve services for young people experiencing mental ill-health

The Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Service (EWMHS) is now fully rolled out and will be monitored, audited and evaluated on an ongoing basis to ensure it is meeting the needs of children and young people in Redbridge. A new multi-agency Mental Health Working Group, consisting of LB Redbridge and its partners, has started to meet which will provide input and overview of mental health services for all ages, including children and young people.

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

Work is on-going on development of responses to the wider range of exploitation, including missing and County Lines, with reviews of the MASE arrangements and improving intelligence through a Borough 'problem' profile. Specific areas of gang and street violence are being addressed through a multi-agency Action Plan.

Priority 3

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

A young person's support guide, developed by the [Youth Council](#), has been published and promoted across agencies. The current multi-agency audit is based on the topic of peer-on-peer abuse and specifically harmful sexual behaviours. A report will be presented to the April Board.

Priority 4

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

The 'voice of the child' is being sought and listened to through a number of engagement exercises, both on-line using the new consultation tool – [CitizenSpace](#) and face-to-face, for example, through the Youth Bus.

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

The three key partners are now meeting regularly and developing a proposal for new arrangements both Borough and cross-borough based.

The new Redbridge, Barking & Dagenham and Havering arrangements for Child Death Reviews are anticipated as going 'live' from April 2019. The process will be supported by eCDOP, the electronic reporting and management system for child deaths, which has been successfully implemented across the three Boroughs.

[Working Together 2018](#) is now embedded in all LSCB training courses.

Priority 6

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

Following agreement by the Board, a new [Redbridge Multi-Agency Female Genital Mutilation \(FGM\) Strategy - working towards ending FGM in Redbridge](#), has been published. It is due to be presented to the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy Group at the end of January. An Action Plan based on the Strategy is being developed by a task and finish group and this will be presented to the Board in May. The Borough's partnership with the [National FGM Centre](#) is progressing, with a specialist FGM Social Worker, [Nonzwakazi Masunda](#), is now based in the MASH and can be contacted via 020 8708 6764. Nonzwakazi (below) would like to engage with teams across the Local Authority and partners to help raise awareness of FGM, support with engaging with families and community and also ensuring that the referral process is understood.



Highlight – Child Friendly Redbridge

What is the programme about?

UNICEF's Child Friendly City initiative is a global programme encouraging local services to commit to fulfilling children's rights, to create a city, or community, where the voices, needs, priorities and the rights of children play an integral part in public policies and programmes, as well as being involved in decision-making process. A child friendly city is a city that is fit for all.

Redbridge's Borough Plan set out a commitment to bring families and young people together to give children and young people a decisive voice in the way the council and its partners make decisions and achieving international recognition for Redbridge. We want Redbridge to be a place where children can influence decisions and express their opinions, where they feel safe and can enjoy the space around them and where they feel valued. We want children and young people in Redbridge to flourish and help them to actively engage with us and the community around them.

What do we want from becoming a Child Friendly City?

It is hoped that by the end of this programme, children and young people in Redbridge will:

- understand their rights
- feel they can influence and shape services which affect them
- have the skills and support to constructively challenge and campaign when their rights are being overlooked
- are aware of and can access the support they need, when they need it
- are satisfied with the services that they experience

What's happened so far?

The project team at Redbridge have started engaging with the different service areas within the council and our partners in the community and voluntary sector to understand how they currently engage with children and young people, where co-design of services currently exists and how best to

engage with children and young people from different backgrounds. An Engagement Group has now met to help design the engagement activities, as well as a Steering Group to help drive the programme across all of the partners involved.

We also worked with children and staff at John Bramston Primary School, an accredited UNICEF Rights Respecting School, to meet with UNICEF and present to them why we want to be part of the programme, how we already embrace the principles of the programme, and the steps we will take to make Redbridge a child friendly city. We have also presented to the Youth Council, who warmly welcomed our ambitions and expressed interest in being involved as part of the governance for the programme

Next steps

Over the course of the coming months, we will begin our engagement with children and young people across the borough to understand what is important to them and what they envisage to be key in making Redbridge child friendly. We will use the expertise of the members of our Engagement Group to ensure that we get the most of out of our engagement and utilise existing platforms, forums and levers to further spread the message about the programme and encourage participation from more our partners and, more importantly, children and young people.

We also intend to work with our service areas and partners to complete the expression of interest form, to be officially accepted onto UNICEF's programme. We want to use this to highlight to UNICEF the work that we are already doing to make Redbridge a child friendly city.

How can you get involved?

If you would like to get involved or help the project team engage with children and young people that you work with please contact Ferzanah Ahmed, Joseph Small or Nazmul Haque in the Council's Policy, Equality and Communities team on 020 8708 2161.

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 [LSCB Training Programme 2018 – 2019](#). These multi-agency courses reflect the safeguarding priorities in Redbridge and compliment training already available within individual agencies. There 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 sector.

Course	Date	Details
Abuse in Teenage Relationships	Thursday 7th February	9.15am- 4.30pm, Town Hall, Ilford
Understanding Loss, Grief and Bereavement and the Effects on Children and Families	Thursday 7th February	1pm- 5pm, Haven House Children's Hospice, Woodford Green
Safeguarding Children in a Digital Age and Online Bullying	Tuesday 12th February	9.15am- 4.30pm, Town Hall, Ilford
Common Assessment Framework: Assessment and Planning for Practitioners	Monday 4th March	9.15am- 4.30pm, Albert Road Children's Centre, Ilford
Understanding the Roma Community in the Context of Professional Curiosity	Tuesday 5th March	1.15pm- 4pm, Town Hall, Ilford
Harmful Sexual Behaviours	Thursday 7th March	9.15am- 4.30pm, Town Hall, Ilford
Neglect Toolkit Workshop	Thursday 14th March	1.15pm- 4pm, Town Hall, Ilford
Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent	Tuesday 19th March	9.15am- 12pm, Town Hall, Ilford
Modern Slavery Awareness	Thursday 21st March	12.15pm- 4pm, Town Hall, Ilford
LSCB Designated Safeguarding Lead (Safeguarding Level 3)	Thursday 28th March	9.15am- 4.30pm, Town Hall, Ilford

Some of our training testimonials:

"Extremely well presented with much relevant information and useful LSCB links. I very much enjoyed the thought -provoking item on so-called childhood 'ACES'" -DSL, Safeguarding Level 3

"There was a lot of information which I was not aware of especially various websites and apps which helped me to add knowledge and guide parents appropriately"-GP, Safeguarding Children in a Digital Age and Online Bullying

"I felt it was a useful training. I am glad I attended as I now am more confident in my understanding of Prevent and am able to have discussions with parents with the ability to answer any questions or concerns." -Senior Social Worker, Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent

Feel free to email us if you have any further questions: LSCB.Training@redbridge.gov.uk . We've also planned a Focus Group for our learners, looking at how we learn, transfer learning into practice and outcomes for children and families. Watch this space for our findings!

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

In December 2018, both Lesley Perry, LSCB Business Manager and Andrea Barrell, Quality Assurance Manager had the privilege of viewing the film [Resilience: The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope](#). Andrea watched a screening in Leicester Square, facilitated by the Met Police Service (MPS) and Lesley at the Association of Independent LSCB Chairs Annual Conference. The film is based around the idea of [ACE's 'Adverse Childhood Experiences'](#).

THE CHILD MAY NOT REMEMBER, BUT THE BODY REMEMBERS

"Researchers have recently discovered a dangerous biological syndrome caused by abuse and neglect during childhood. This new documentary Resilience reveals, toxic stress can trigger hormones that wreak havoc on the brains and bodies of children, putting them at a greater risk for disease, homelessness, prison time, and early death."

The ACE Study [measured 10 types of childhood adversity](#), those that occurred before the age of 18. They are physical, verbal and sexual abuse; physical and emotional neglect; a family member with mental illness, or has been incarcerated or is abusing alcohol or other drugs; witnessing a mother being abused; losing a parent to divorce, separation or death. The presence of multiple ACEs is a major risk factor for mental health, violence and substance abuse, representing a cycle of abuse and poor health outcomes for the next generation. Practitioners are encouraged to understand their ACE's score: [Got Your ACE Score?](#)

In the film the communities across the state of Washington brought together teachers, police officers, social service workers and government officials to learn about the brain science of adversity. Since implementing "trauma-informed" policies and practices, these communities have seen drastic reductions in rates of everything from dropping out of high school to teen pregnancies, and youth suicide to domestic violence. The message from the MPS was to consider ways in which we can work to have a greater understanding of childhood trauma, to support us to treat toxic stress, and greatly improve the health of future generations.



Redbridge Early Years Festival 2019

Practitioners and professionals working with families with children aged 0 – 5 are invited to celebrate the launch of the Redbridge School Readiness Partnership Programme - Ready to Learn - at the Redbridge Early Years Festival taking place on 25 February, from 09:15 to 15:00 at Cranbrook Children's Centre. The event will include a number of speakers and workshops. Tickets cost £25 and include lunch. For more information, please contact Emily Sheppard, EYCIT Locality Lead via Emily.Sheppard@redbridge.gov.uk

Farewell to Andrea Barrell, LSCB Quality Assurance Manager

In February, we say a sad farewell to Andrea Barrell, who has occupied the role of LSCB Quality Assurance Manager over the past two years. Andrea is taking up a post in Melbourne, Australia, as a Child Protection Social Worker. We thank Andrea for her dedication to the role and her inspiring and enthusiastic contribution to safeguarding children and young people in Redbridge and wish her well for the future. She will certainly be missed!

Contact Information


Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)

LSCB@redbridge.gov.uk

Tel: 020 8708 5282

Website: www.redbridgelscb.org.uk

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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)

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 – Spring 2019 – will be published at the beginning of May.