

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2017

Welcome to the Summer edition of the LSCB newsletter.

The [Ofsted](#) inspection of children's services last autumn included a review of the effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB), and we were pleased to be assessed as an "effective" Board. When Ofsted were with us, though, we told them that the Board was still on a journey in making sure that it had a real grasp of the quality of practice on the front line, and this was reflected in their recommendation that our audit programme needed to become "further embedded". It was timely, therefore, that the Board's agenda at its most recent meeting, on 11 July, had a major focus on audit and quality assurance. We considered a report drawing together the conclusions of the recent self audit, carried out by all the statutory agencies represented on the Board, of the effectiveness with which they fulfil their responsibilities for the safeguarding of children (a 'Section 11' audit under the [Children Act 2004](#)). All the audits were subjected to a robust process of peer challenge. The Board has now agreed a comprehensive action plan covering all agencies to address those areas in which some improvement is required, and will monitor this at each forthcoming meeting for the remainder of the year. The Board also considered a report from NELFT on its audit of safeguarding children practice across the Trust, and asked for an update on actions taken and their impact at its next meeting.

We also received a report on a multi-agency audit of practice and decision making with children subject to a child protection plan under the category of neglect. This was the first of what will be a series of audits using our new multi-dimensional approach to audit – not only carrying out a multi-agency

'deep dive' on a number of cases, but also auditing a larger sample of child protection plans and observing a number of child protection case conferences. This new methodology proved to be extremely successful in generating and triangulating a richness of learning. A multi-agency briefing has been scheduled for [9 October](#) – details are in the [LSCB Training Programme](#) – and I would urge as many people as possible, from all agencies, to attend. Topically, the LSCB's [Neglect Strategy](#), first adopted in 2015, has recently been revised, setting out a really clear set of priorities for tackling this most difficult to pin down of child protection issues.

Most of you will know that there has been a significant restructuring of Metropolitan Police services in Redbridge in the past few months. Instead of being organised on an individual borough basis, Redbridge is now part, with Havering and Barking and Dagenham, of a tri-borough 'Basic Command Unit' or 'BCU', with a single Commander, and a single senior officer, Detective Superintendent John Ross, responsible for all safeguarding activity across the three boroughs. While welcoming some of the principles behind the new structure, it is fair to say that both I and colleagues in children's social care had some real concerns about its implementation – particularly as Redbridge's children benefitted under the previous structure from what Ofsted described as some of the best joint working between social care and the police they had seen anywhere, and we do not want to see a falling off from that gold standard. It is also true to say that there have indeed been a number of teething problems with the new structure, with difficulties experienced in getting the swift access to and action from the police child protection team to which we have been accustomed. We are now

meeting monthly with John Ross and his colleagues to try and make sure these difficulties are resolved as quickly and securely as possible.

Finally, let me just mention that having chaired the LSCB now for almost three years, I have also, since April, been the Independent Chair of Redbridge's Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB). I will be ably supported in this role, as I have been in my work with the LSCB, by Lesley Perry, who will now be the Business Manager for both Boards. While I think adult and child safeguarding issues are very different in many ways, I do hope that working across the Boards will enable a more joined up approach to a number of shared concerns – for example, modern slavery and trafficking, or working with parents with mental health or substance abuse issues, or experiencing domestic violence.

Best wishes for a great summer.

John



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Board Report

Feedback from the LSCB Meeting – 11 July 2017

Summary of items discussed by the Board

Among other items, the Board:

- Received the first quarter's update on progress against its [Business Plan for 2017/18](#). Good progress is being made against most of the actions in this ambitious and comprehensive plan, with no actions at this stage rated 'red'.
- Considered a report and consolidated multi-agency action plan arising from the recent 'Section 11' self-audits by all statutory agencies. The Board was pleased to note that none of the eight standards applied was wholly 'unmet', by any agency. For every agency, however, one or more standards was assessed as 'partially met', and actions to address the gap were included in the action plan which the Board will monitor progress against for the remainder of the year.
- Considered a report from NELFT on its audit of safeguarding children practice across the Trust, and asked for a further report in October on actions taken and their impact.
- Considered a summary report on the multi-agency audit of children subject to a child protection plan under the category of neglect. For more details, see the Chair's [Introduction](#) to this newsletter.
- Considered a report on the framework for evaluating the impact of LSCB training and some of the findings of that evaluation. Much progress has been made. Continued and increased management support in all agencies is essential, though, to increase the return of Training Impact Questionnaires.
- Received and discussed the end of year (2016/17) multi-agency performance data. This will be fully reported in the LSCB Annual Report, which will be published in October 2017.
- Received and discussed reports on work undertaken in 2016/17, and its impact, both on child sexual exploitation and with children who go missing from home or care. Again, this will be fully considered and discussed in the LSCB Annual Report.
- Received an update report on plans and proposals for a child sexual abuse hub in North East London. A decision on funding is awaited from the relevant NHS body.
- Considered and endorsed in principle a revised Missing from Care or Home Policy. Some further amendment is required to take account of recent changes in police practice.
- Received assurance on the very close working in place between the Metropolitan Police, Community Safety and children's social care in Redbridge in the wake of the recent terrorist attack at London Bridge / Borough Market.
- Received an update on the new integrated Healthy Child Programme 0-19 in Redbridge, the skill mix in the service to support the Health Visiting and School Nursing Services, and some of the challenges faced in delivering the programme.

Priority 1

To improve services for young people experiencing mental ill-health

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) transformation plan is in its implementation stage. The LSCB will continue to seek updates on progress through its monitoring of the [Business Plan](#), particularly the development of early recognition of needs, promotion of referral pathways and staff training.

The [Business Manager](#) represents the LSCB on the Redbridge Suicide Prevention Strategy Working Group, ensuring sufficient focus on children and young people, in the new Strategy due to be published later this year.

Our new multi-agency course – [Introduction to Child and Adolescent Mental Health](#) – will take place again on 7 November. Places can be booked [on-line](#).

Priority 2

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

A new course has been commissioned for the [LSCB Training Programme 2017 – 2018](#) – Harmful Sexual Behaviours. It will be delivered by the [Lucy Faithfull Foundation](#), experts in this field of safeguarding, on 21 September 2017. Full details can be found on the [flyer](#) and sign up is via the on-line [Nomination Form](#). The course is receiving a lot of interest so we anticipate releasing a second date in the near future. Find out more about the work of the Foundation from its [website](#), including the [Stop It Now! Campaign](#), and [Parents Protect!](#) which aim to create more awareness of sexual abuse and improve safeguarding.

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 [LSCB Multi-Agency Audit Programme for 2017 – 2018](#) is now well underway. We recently completed an audit of cases of children on Child Protection Plans under the category of neglect using a triangulated approach looking in depth at a selection of cases, observing Child Protection Conferences, reviewing Child Protection Plans and observing Strengthening Families training provided to CP Chairs. The recommendations presented to the Board, which were accepted, were:

- Improve consistency across agency in relation to safeguarding supervision of cases of children on a CP Plan.
- Greater promotion of the [LSCB Escalation and Resolution Policy](#) to support working together and the [LSCB Neglect Toolkit](#), as a tool to identify, quantify and review neglect.
- Tighter record keeping and information sharing for children on CP Plans transferring into the Borough.
- Increased management oversight of cases where a child has been subject of a CP Plan for over 15 months or on more than 3 occasions.
- Good practice guidance to be developed on SMART planning, robust contingency plans to be more clearly defined and use of professional jargon or terminology used in conferences and reports to be challenged to ensure accessibility for parents.
- Consistency of delivery of the Strengthening Families model for conferencing to be improved.
- Children's Social Care to review use of written agreements with parents.
- Multi-agency professionals attending CP Conferences to have greater awareness of child protection thresholds and the Strengthening Families model to ensure recommendations they make are robust.
- Review of the duration of CP Conferences to be undertaken to ensure that the conference is focussed and succinct.

Do [book a place](#) and find out more about the learning from this audit at our [Learning from Multi-Agency Audit Briefing](#) on 9 October. The LSCB looks forward to reviewing the impact of the audit and implementation of the recommendations in due course. A refreshed 2nd Edition of the LSCB multi-agency [Neglect Strategy](#) has recently been published.

Priorities cont ...

Priority 4

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

Our multi-agency publicity plan is now being implemented. Firstly, our [LSCB Private Fostering Information Pack](#) was launched in May and has been sent out to 100s of organisations working with children young people and their families in Redbridge, including schools, colleges, GP Surgeries and community and voluntary groups, to support identification and promote notification. The pack includes a [quick guide](#), [short presentation](#), and links to [posters and leaflets](#). During Private Fostering Week 2017 (3-7 July), we had a real publicity splurge using social media. A number of presentations to different forums are taking place over the next couple of months including to an early years forum and to the Redbridge Children and Young People's Network (RCYPN).



Priority 5

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

The LSCB commissioned [training](#) on this topic took place on 27 June 2017. The course achieved an 81% sign up, with 92% attendance and a 100% satisfaction rating of 'very satisfied'.

The LSCB Youth Forum will be taking forward specific projects to raise awareness amongst young people in the autumn and our [multi-agency audit](#) on service responses to cases relating to e-safety and peer on peer sexual abuse will commence in September.

TriX (Signis Group) published a [Peer on Peer Abuse Briefing](#) earlier this year which provides a useful introduction to the topic.

Priority 6

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

A 2nd Edition of the LSCB Children Missing from Home or Care Policy was agreed in principle by the Board at the July meeting and will shortly be available to download from the [LSCB website](#).

Priority 7

Monitoring and ensuring the effectiveness of the arrangements for safeguarding children and young people in Redbridge in the new Metropolitan Police structure

As a new tri-borough Basic Command Unit (BCU), we are still very much in an infancy stage. The LSCB continues to monitor progress, meeting with key senior MPS officers regularly and keeping to the actions for the MPS in the Section 11 Audit Action Plan. Our Independent Chair, John Goldup, is also part of one of the multi-agency groups overseeing the MPS action plan in response to last year's [HMIC inspection report](#). A [1st quarter update](#) was published last month.

Priority 8

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

The actions in the Business Plan are progressing well with a report made to Board this month evidencing the impact of safeguarding children training, our S11 Audit now at the Action Plan monitoring stage, and our [Multi-Agency Audit Programme](#) moving on as per schedule to the next audit which is on Children who go Missing.

Service Highlight: Redbridge VAWG/Refuge



Refuge is the national charity which provides a wide range of specialist services to women and children experiencing domestic violence and other forms of violence and abuse. On any given day our services support approximately 5,000 women, children and men* across the country.

The Refuge-Redbridge Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Service provides expert support for women and girls experiencing gender-based violence and for men experiencing abuse within intimate or family relationships who have been identified as high risk.

The service is available to anyone living in Redbridge who has experienced, or is at risk of experiencing, gender-based violence, including: domestic violence and abuse; rape and sexual violence; prostitution; trafficking for sexual exploitation; stalking and harassment; female genital mutilation; forced marriage; so-called 'honour'-based violence; child sexual exploitation. The Refuge team includes:

- **Independent Gender-Based Violence Advocates (IGVAs)** – who provide a specialist service for women and men at high risk of harm within a family or intimate partner relationship
- **Young People's Advocate** – who supports girls aged 14-17 years who may be at risk of, or are experiencing, domestic violence, sexual violence, gang related issues and/or child sexual exploitation
- **Children's Outreach Worker** – a specialist worker for children and the non-abusing parent

Refuge-Redbridge VAWG, funded by Redbridge Council, provides free confidential, non-judgmental, independent specialist support on a one-to-one or group basis.

Since launching in November 2015, the Refuge-Redbridge VAWG Team has taken part in local Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) awareness day along with other agencies as part of its work to highlight the issue amongst young people in the area. An IGVA attended last summer's 'We are Redbridge' community day in Ilford, a free event for local residents.

In 2016 - 2017, the Refuge-Redbridge VAWG Service supported 567 women, 745 children and 11 men. Of new clients coming to the service, 41% had experienced threats to kill, and 37% had experienced multiple types of VAWG. Upon exiting the service, 96% of those asked said they felt safer and 95% said their quality of life had improved.

One woman, on leaving the service, said: *"It meant a lot when my IGVA told me that I should be proud of myself."*

Another woman said: *"I was grateful for the support, as I felt someone believed me."*

In the months to come the Refuge-Redbridge VAWG Team will work hard to build further links and raise awareness of the service within the local community and looks forward to supporting many more clients into the future. Together with Redbridge Council, the LSCB, and other partners we are saving, changing and transforming lives.

To make a referral to Refuge-Redbridge VAWG, please call 0800 169 7759 or email RedbridgeVAWG@refuge.org.uk or Redbridge.vawg@refuge.cjsm.net

*As of July 2017

LSCB Events Calendar

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



@RedbridgeLSCB

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) – 7 August or 8 December
- Child Trafficking Across Borders – 8 September
- See the Adult, See the Child – 11 September
- Safeguarding Children with Disabilities – 12 September
- CAF Assessment and Planning for Practitioners – 14 September or 13 November
- Safeguarding Level 2 – 14 September or 23 November
- Safer Recruitment – 19 September or 19 October
- Private Fostering Briefing – 22 September
- Harmful Sexual Behaviours – 21 September
- Understanding the Roma Community in the context of professional curiosity – 26 September
- Safeguarding Children from Refugee Families – 2 October
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Training for Practitioners – 3 October
- Learning from Multi-Agency Audits (Neglect) – 9 October
- Safeguarding Children who go Missing – 12 October
- Learning from Multi-Agency Audits (Missing Children) – 6 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
- Understanding Thresholds – 28 November
- Safeguarding Children in a Digital Age and On-line Bullying – 30 November
- Cousin Marriage Awareness – 5 December
- Voice of the Child – 12 December

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



Once again, the LSCB will have a stand at the Redbridge Community Day which this year is taking place on **3 August**. If you are not sitting on a beach somewhere, do come and say hello!

The main focus of the day last summer was on helping people keep safe in the Borough, and also to meet people from the public and voluntary and community sectors who work in areas relating to crime and community safety.

There were around 45 stalls in the Town Hall (see photo above of the LSCB stand) which were a mix of local voluntary organisations and statutory services. Police officers served teas and coffees, painted faces, marked bikes and provided activities for children, as well as giving crime prevention advice and stop and search demonstrations.

The fire engine was a great hit with the kids, and dancing in the High Road was also an option! There really was something for everyone. See the [Redbridge CVS website](#) for more information and stall booking details for this year's event.

We Are Redbridge Community Day

11am-2pm, Thursday 3 August
Redbridge Town Hall and Ilford
High Road



- Find out more about Redbridge
- Discover how to volunteer
- Meet police, fire and council services
- Meet local community groups
- Activities for children
- Crime prevention advice
- Try a taster fitness session

Free and open to all - bring your friends and family

RedbridgeCVS



Feature: Neglect

What is neglect?

Neglect is the ongoing failure to meet a child or young person's basic needs. It is the most common form of child abuse. Neglect may be obvious, particularly babies and small children who are left hungry, dirty, without clean clothing, supervision or medical care. It may be less overt such as not being protected from physical or emotional harm, exposure to domestic violence, a teenager being left alone for long periods, or simply not receiving the love, care and attention that all children should from their parents or carers. Neglect can be a symptom of issues within the family, such as parental mental ill-health, substance misuse or insufficient capacity or capability. Neglect is usually described in terms of one of the following types: physical; educational; emotional; or medical. Whatever form it takes, neglect is a child protection issue and can cause serious, long-term damage or even death to a child or young person.

What is the LSCB doing about child neglect?

The LSCB recognises the significance of neglect for children in Redbridge and in acknowledgement that neglect is one of the main reasons why children and young people become subject to Child Protection Plans, developed a multi-agency Strategy, published in January 2015. The Strategy was recently refreshed and the 2nd Edition is now available on the [LSCB website](#). The Strategy has clear objectives on improving identification of neglect and early intervention and promotes the use of tools and take up of training opportunities.

How can I identify neglect?

Signs of neglect in children and young people can include poor appearance, hygiene, health and development problems, housing and family issues. A child experiencing neglect may be withdrawn, suffer from behavioural difficulties, anxiety or mental ill-health, misuse drugs or alcohol and have low school or college attendance. This list, however, is not exhaustive and neglect can be difficult to quantify.

To help practitioners in Redbridge, we have developed a multi-agency [Neglect Toolkit and Guidance](#) which provides professionals working with children and young people, from different agencies, with a framework for identifying and monitoring neglect. It is used when visiting families to help reflect on the child's circumstances and lived experience. It helps to put concerns into context, identifying strengths and resources. The Toolkit doesn't replace existing assessments e.g. the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) or the Child and Family Assessment used in Children's Social Care, but can be used alongside these

assessments. The Toolkit focuses on five key areas of need (physical care; health; safety and supervision; love and care; and stimulation and education) and considers the extent to which children's needs are being neglected and/or the needs or wants of their parents/carers are taking precedence, plus the parental motivation to change. The Toolkit can be downloaded from the [LSCB website](#), along with an accompanying [checklist](#).

How can I learn more about neglect?

A starting point on finding out more about neglect as a children's safeguarding issue is to look at the information provided on the LSCB website in the [professionals section](#). You will find there links to further reading about neglect, including guidance for practitioners, research and reports from organisations such as the NSPCC.

It may be appropriate for you to attend a course on [Neglect](#), facilitated by the NSPCC, which is available as part of the [LSCB Training Programme](#). The next date for this course is 9 November. Bookings can be made via the on-line [Nomination Form](#). In the Autumn, we shall also be running a workshop on the use of the Neglect Toolkit, the date for which will be available shortly.

If you are an experienced practitioner, you may want to find out what learning we have identified from a recent LSCB Multi-Agency Audit on Child Neglect, and the recommendations that have been made to partner agencies. A [briefing](#) based on this, bookable [on-line](#), is available on 9 October.



eSafety for Young Children

As we become more immersed in technology, young children and even toddlers are growing up with access to the Internet as a norm. Whilst this offers great learning opportunities and entertainment, how can we protect them from harmful information and content? The Internet provides a 'virtual' playground for learning, connecting, play and creativity and our children are often one step ahead of us in navigating it! As parents, we can take some control via the steps below:

- **Set-up parental controls**

Setting up some basic controls will enable parents to block access to content that other members of the family can see on shared devices, prevent downloading of apps and even how long children spend on-line. See guidance from the [NSPCC](#).

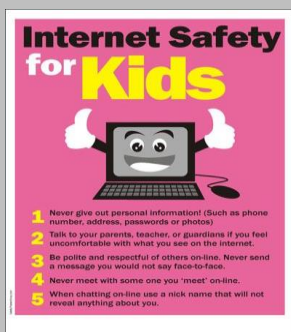
- **Talk to your child about staying safe on-line**

Keep the lines of communication open and talk regularly to your child about the potential dangers of the Internet, using resources such as the [NSPCC 'underwear rule'](#). Encourage children to ask questions and be approachable. Check whether your child has seen anything on-line that has made them feel upset. Older children can be taught how to report inappropriate content. Discuss sharing personal information, particularly location.

- **Supervise**

Young children should be supervised at all times when accessing the Internet. This will also provide an opportunity to discuss any concerns and to lead by example if unwanted content appears.

Check out this useful short film for parents and carers of under 5s from [Internet Matters](#) and encourage parents and carers to follow the steps below.



Smoke Alarms



Following the recent tragic fire in west London, there is no better time than **now** to install a smoke alarm and/or to check the ones you have are working. See the Fire Service guidance on [Smoke Alarms](#).

Time for a bike ride?



The school summer holidays are the time when children love to go out on their bikes. There is guidance for parents and carers available on safety standard for cycles and helmets from [Cycling UK](#). Do signpost to their website for information on what to consider when buying a new bike and equipment for a child to ensure a wise and safe investment.

Encouraging Road Safety

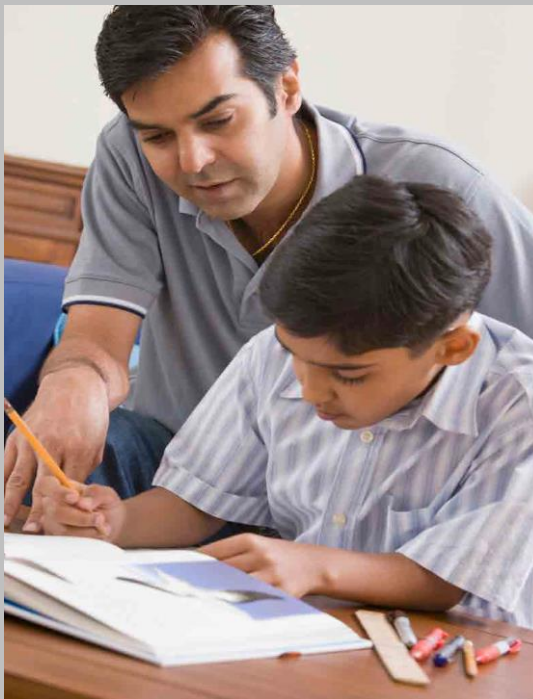
Advise parents and carers to practice good road safety this summer with their children by explaining simple road safety rules; planning safe routes to school; and sharing resources on the [Tales of Road](#) website for 6 – 11 year olds or the [Children's Traffic Club](#) for 3 – 4 year olds. Older children also need reminding not to risk their safety by isolating their senses listening to music when crossing roads.

New! Guidance for parents and carers on employing a private tuition service for their child

The LSCB, championed by our three Lay Members, recently revised and extended the remit of our guidance for parents and carers on using private tuition for their children.

The new leaflet has been expanded to include key safeguarding points to consider when not only when employing a private tutor, but also when considering the use of a private tuition centre, of which there are a large number in our Borough.

The leaflet can be downloaded from the [LSCB website](#). Please do share with the parents and carers that you work with. Schools are asked to add a link to the leaflet on their website.



Instagram

The LSCB has recently expanded its use of social media channels to include [Instagram](#), the social networking app that makes sharing photos and videos easy. The LSCB Team has been reliably informed by our Apprentice that if we want to share safeguarding messages with young people – this is the way to go!

Whatever your age - do follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for the latest information and updates on all things safeguarding for young people, parents, carers and professionals.



Modern Slavery & Child Trafficking

A growing issue in London is that of modern slavery and child trafficking. Both the LSCB and the [Redbridge Safeguarding Adults Board \(SAB\)](#) have this on their radar. There are still places on the [LSCB Child Trafficking Across Borders](#) training on 8 September – which is bookable [on-line](#). The LSCB Team are also going to be in a position shortly to offer bite-size briefings on modern slavery/trafficking to partner agencies at any regular forums they hold. The first of these will be delivered to the GP Protected Learning event (PLE) on 19 July, by our LSCB Business Manager and a Redbridge Community Safety Project Lead. To make a request on behalf of your agency, please complete our [Contact Form](#).

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 – Autumn 2017 – will be published in October 2017.