

Redbridge Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2016

Message from John Goldup, Independent Chair

Welcome to the Summer Edition of the Redbridge LSCB Newsletter.

Since our last newsletter, the LSCB has published its revised multi-agency thresholds document, "[Are You Worried About a Child? – how to access help, and thresholds for referral to children's social care](#)". This is hopefully a much more user-friendly document than its predecessor, and it really is essential that everybody who works with children and families in Redbridge is familiar with it.

The LSCB met on 19 July. As always, the meeting was very well attended by partner agencies working with children, young people and families.

A major item on the Board's agenda was reviewing progress against the actions and priorities we agreed in our 2016/17 our Business Plan. You can read about some of the work that has been going on in relation to our Board priorities on [pages 3 and 4](#). We also received updates on work going on in Redbridge in relation to tackling the very challenging issues of child sexual exploitation (CSE). If you have contacts with private businesses operating in the Redbridge area – particularly in the leisure, hospitality and transport

industries - do alert them to our [Operation MakeSafe 'See Something, Say Something' campaign](#) which seeks to local businesses involved in reporting suspicions of CSE.

In a busy agenda, the Board also received an encouraging report on progress in relation to the Violence Against Young Women and Girls (VAWG) Integrated Service, and an update on housing pressures in Redbridge. The Board is extremely concerned about the impact of some of these pressures on vulnerable children. We fully appreciate the constraints on the Council, the priority the Council gives to this issue, and the negative impact of a number of national policy developments. Noting that the Council is currently developing a new over-arching Housing Strategy, we agreed that I should write to the Lead Member urging on the Board's behalf the priority we would like to see the Strategy give to recognising and addressing the safeguarding implications of housing pressures.

Having expressed a number of concerns over time about workforce capacity across partner agencies, the Board was delighted to hear about the recent successful recruitment activity in Children's Services, with 35 newly appointed social workers in the process of joining Redbridge.

The LSCB Team have been out and about across the Borough, taking part in a child safety event at Cranbrook Children's Centre on 29 June where we were involved in sharing information with parents and carers about keeping children safe outdoors in the Summer and again at the Fullwell Community Event on 21 July. There was positive feedback from visitors, particularly about the very practical information that was shared. To continue this

theme, now that the school holidays are upon us, [pages 7 and 8](#) of this edition of the Newsletter focus on key tips etc. on keeping babies and children safe outdoors. Do share with the parents and carers of young children you work with and look out for the LSCB stall at the "We Are Redbridge Community Event" on 25 August (see [Events](#) page for more information).

The LSCB now has a [Facebook page](#) – another way of staying in touch and receiving updates. Do visit the page and give us a 'like'!

Many of you will know that Pat Reynolds, Corporate Director Children and Young People in Redbridge, is leaving the Council in August after eleven years in the role. The LSCB recorded its enormous appreciation of the tremendous contribution Pat has made to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Redbridge. The Council is actively recruiting to its new post of Director of People – a role which will also hold the responsibilities of Director of Children's Services. In the meantime, I have agreed to take on the role of DCS for a few months. I will be stepping down for the duration as LSCB Chair, and Gladys Xavier, Vice Chair and Deputy Director of Public Health, will be ably standing in for me. I can assure you, however, that I shall be continuing to support and engage with the work of the LSCB, with a temporary new hat on, as energetically as ever!

Best wishes for an enjoyable summer.

John



This issue

Page number

LSCB Priorities	2
Priority Updates	3-4
Service Highlight: Barnardo's London	5
LSCB Events Calendar	6
Feature: Staying Safe in Summer	7-8
Contact Information	9

Priorities

The LSCB **Business Plan for 2016 – 2017** is based on the following priorities, with a number of actions identified for each one which enable the monitoring of progress:

Priority 1

To improve the protection and support of children who are sexually exploited, and to strengthen our work in identifying, disrupting and prosecuting child sexual exploitation (CSE).

Priority 2

To improve the protection and support of children living with domestic violence, substance abuse, and adult mental health, or at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM).

Priority 3

To improve the protection of young people from involvement with violent extremism.

Priority 4

To strengthen the safeguarding of children with disabilities, and to reduce the incidence of disability by increasing awareness of the risks of consanguineous relationships.

Priority 5

To strengthen our work in preventing, identifying and protecting children from neglect.

Priority 6

To increase the effectiveness of the LSCB in co-ordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of work of all agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

Priority Updates

Priority 1

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

A new CSE Action Plan has been agreed for 2016 – 2017 which will take forward our CSE Intervention and Prevention Strategy, the second edition of which is due to be published in the Autumn.

The Action Plan is led by the LSCB CSE Sub Group and monitored by the Board to ensure progress.



If your agency or team would like a short briefing on CSE, please contact LSCB.Training@redbridge.gov.uk

Priority 2

Children living with domestic violence, substance abuse and adult mental health, or FGM

Services relating to domestic violence and abuse are delivered via the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Integrated Service which is commissioned from Refuge since November 2015. Funding for VAWG has been secured at least until March 2017.

By June 2016, 596 referrals had been received into the Service relating to domestic violence and abuse, sexual violence and sexual exploitation, stalking and harassment and 'honour' based violence. Whilst the level of crime generally in Redbridge has slightly decreased, domestic abuse is on the increase. The Redbridge Fairness Commission has recommended more awareness raising as much domestic abuse is unreported.



To make a referral to the service:

- Telephone: 0800 169 7759
- Email: redbridgevawg@refuge.org.uk

Read more about the service and what support is available on the LSCB [website](#).

Priority 3

Radicalisation

The Prevent Team, based in Redbridge Community Safety, have been busy extending the provision of [WRAP](#) (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent) training beyond schools to include staff in Council services, Higher and further Education Institutes, and the Youth Council.

The next development with schools is to recruit a Prevent Schools Officer.

Good links have now been established in the community and voluntary sector, mainly through the Redbridge Council of Voluntary Services (CVS) and the Redbridge Faith Forum.

Indicators are that confidence within agencies is growing in the Prevent Duty, which has now been in force for a year.

If your agency, service or team have not yet participated in WRAP do check out the available dates in the [LSCB Training Programme](#) or contact the [Prevent Co-ordinator](#) direct.

As part of its regular twice-yearly meeting with the Community Safety Partnership Board, the LSCB Executive will be holding a workshop based on scenarios of typical referrals received in relation to safeguarding children and young people at risk from radicalisation and violent extremist behaviour, to further develop understanding and joint working between the [Redbridge Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub \(MASH\)](#) and the Channel Panel.



Priority Updates

Priority 4

Children with Disabilities and Consanguinity

New pages have been added to the LSCB website on both the [professionals](#) section and the [parents/carers](#) section providing information on Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorders (FASD) which refer to the physical and mental problems that can occur if a woman consumes alcohol during her pregnancy. Research indicates that a large percentage of children with disabilities are disorders arising from FAS disorders.

The LSCB is promoting awareness of this by giving out advice leaflets at Community Events as part of this priority and that of working with families with multiple needs (Priority 2) – which includes alcohol misuse.

The National Working Group on Safeguarding Disabled Children (NWGSDC) this month published "[Safeguarding Children with Disabilities: How LSCBs are delivering against Ofsted requirements to protect disabled children](#)". In 2015, the NWGSDC carried out a survey of LSCBs to establish the effectiveness of local arrangements to protect disabled children. In particular, the survey gauged the progress LSCBs have made to implement recommendations from [Ofsted's 2012 thematic inspection](#) on protecting disabled children. 36 LSCBs responded. The NSPCC have provided a summary of the [key findings](#).



Priority 5

Neglect

Child cruelty and neglect cases, recorded by police across the UK, have risen by 75 per cent over the last decade, according to research published by the NSPCC. The charity's [How Safe Are Our Children? 2016](#) annual child protection review has revealed a surge in recorded cases, from 6,616 in 2005/6 to 10,136 in 2014/15. Sir Peter Wanless, Chief Executive of the [NSPCC](#), said neglect is the most common form of child abuse and "*can wreak havoc on a child's brain development, emotional wellbeing, ability to form relationships, and mental health*".

Reports such as these confirm that it is right to continue to regard safeguarding children and young people from neglect as a priority of the LSCB. The LSCB will be continuing to take forward its [Neglect Strategy](#), fulfilling its role in raising greater public awareness of safeguarding issues relating to neglect as well as equipping practitioners through training and the provision of the [Neglect Toolkit](#) to recognise neglect. If you are a practitioner, do refer to the [guidance note](#) on the LSCB website on developing professional curiosity in relation to neglect. We will shortly be making available a useful summary on lessons learnt from a recent Serious Case Review (SCR) – '[Megan](#)' – published by Thurrock LSCB in February, which featured teenage neglect.

Priority 6

Developing the effectiveness of the LSCB

The LSCB has concluded its consultation on the review of the Multi-Agency Threshold Document and the new version has been circulated across partner agencies and published on the [website](#). The next steps are to develop a one page 'quick guide' that can be easily accessed by anyone working with children and young people that have cause to be worried about them and need guidance on making a referral. We shall also be running some briefings on the new document as part of the LSCB Training Programme 2016 – 2017 now published on the website.

Our [Multi-Agency Audit Programme for 2016 – 2017](#) has been published and includes audits on working with families with additional needs, CSE and later in the year, an audit of the implementation of the new Threshold Document.

We have launched a new Job Shadowing Scheme for partners. See our [website](#) for more details and consider taking part.

Service Highlight – Barnardo’s London



Barnardo’s London supports the most vulnerable children, young people and families in the capital in many different ways, furthering the work that started when Thomas Barnardo first arrived in the East End 150 years ago. Today, the services we provide are hugely diverse and designed to meet the particular challenges facing children and young people in London, with some teams operating right across the capital, while others work entirely within individual boroughs such as Redbridge.

Our Children’s Rights Service serves the whole of London, providing advocates who help looked after children to understand and participate in decisions made about their lives, and to work with them to resolve any immediate issues or concerns that they might have. Our independent visitors, meanwhile, help those same young people in foster care to feel that they have a trusted adult who they can develop a positive mentoring relationship with over the longer term.

Also supporting young people across the capital is our Pan-London Family Support Service, combining guidance and advice for vulnerable children and their families with tailored support and advocacy for victims of child sexual exploitation and trafficking, and those who go missing from home, helping young people to recover, keep safe and address any individual issues. And in 10 London boroughs, our Independent Supporters help families manage changes in the way services are provided to disabled children and young people, helping them work towards better outcomes.

When looked after young people in Redbridge start to move out of foster care and into adulthood, there is a continued need for intensive support. This is provided by our dedicated team at Redbridge Leaving Care Service, which is now run through a new strategic partnership agreement between Barnardo’s and Redbridge Council. The service works closely with the borough’s care leavers to make sure they have somewhere to live, feel supported and can access the support to which they are entitled. Barnardo’s has been developing a range of employment and training opportunities for care leavers and other vulnerable young people in Redbridge and we are proud to have worked with the University of East London to develop a new foundation degree in family support. This will create a pathway for young people who would like to work in the sector, enabling us to bring their first-hand knowledge and experience into our services. This programme is currently in the final approval stage and we hope to be able to offer the course from September 2017.

Our Indigo service, also in Redbridge, has a long track record of providing a range of support for children and young people in the borough, including young carers, disabled children and children with life-limiting diseases. For our young carers, Indigo offers a rare chance to take a regular break from their usual caring responsibilities at home and spend quality time with other young people in similar situations. Indigo also houses one of our three residential homes in the borough. Along with Water Lane and The Drive, these offer a range of opportunities for short breaks and longer stays, providing round-the-clock support for children and young people with learning or physical disabilities and those with challenging behaviour. Our aim is to support families in maintaining positive and emotionally resilient relationships, by giving children and young people the opportunity to have a break away from home. Our residential care service has successfully improved outcomes for many looked after children and has helped some who are in long term care placements to return to their families.



Suzanne Turner Jones

Assistant Director of Children’s Services, Barnardo’s London & Member of Redbridge LSCB

LSCB Events Calendar

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



'Meet the Chair' Events

Thank you to all those professions that came and met with our Chair over the series of events run during the first half of this year. All featured lively debates and an opportunity for the LSCB to hear direct what the local safeguarding concerns are for those working directly with children and young people.

Training

The LSCB Training Programme 2016 – 2017 has been published. For full details, please view the Programme on the website.

Featured courses, workshops and briefings include:

- Safeguarding Children Level 2
- Safeguarding Children at Risk of Neglect
- CSE Training for Practitioners
- Safeguarding Children with Disabilities
- Working with Families with Multiple Needs (Domestic Violence, Parental Mental Health and Substance Misuse)
- Abuse in Teenage Relationships
- Safeguarding Children in a Digital World and Cyberbullying

We will also be continuing with regular briefings and workshops on:

- Learning from Individual Cases: Child Deaths
- Learning from Individual Cases: Multi-Agency Audits
- Introduction to CSE
- WRAP (Introduction to Prevent) Workshop
- Common Assessment Framework (CAF): Assessment and Planning for Practitioners Workshop
- Safeguarding Children and Young People from the Practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Please see [website](#) for full Training Programme Information. New courses commissioned as part of this Programme include:

- Working with Young People in relation to gangs and crime.
- Safeguarding Across Borders
- CSE – a Survivors Perspective
- Young people and mental health

LSCB Job Shadowing Scheme

The LSCB has recently launched a Job Shadowing Scheme for professionals and volunteers across partner agencies in Redbridge.

This provides an opportunity for professionals to find out more about each other's role and that of their agency in relation to safeguarding.

It also develops working together which benefits both individuals, agencies and the children, young people and their families and carers that we work with to provide more robust safeguarding.

Full details of the Scheme are available on the [website](#), including information on how to apply.

If you want to know more about a different role or agency, a shadowing opportunity might just be the answer!



"We Are Redbridge" Community Day

11am-2pm

Thursday

25 August

Redbridge Town Hall

FREE EVENT

- Find out more about your borough
- Discover how you can volunteer
- Meet the police and fire services
- Learn how to keep safe online
- Find out about voluntary organisations working in Redbridge
- Learn more about our different communities
 - Activities for children
- Get some crime prevention advice
- Taster fitness sessions in the High Road
- Entertainment

For more information contact 020 8553 1004
or email: liz@redbridgecvs.net



RedbridgeCVS
inspiring everyone to play a part in a caring, vibrant community

Feature: Staying Safe in the Summer (Part 1)

The LSCB is concerned with the wider safeguarding of children and young people and the Team have been out and about at various community events across the summer giving out information, children's worksheets, and signposting parents to resources on keeping their young ones safe whilst enjoying the outdoors. Some key tips and links to resources on summer safety are below but the central message, as always, is **don't leave babies and young children unsupervised**. In addition to the information below, our Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) has published [leaflets](#) on water safety and safety in the home for both parents and professionals.



In the sun

Whilst sunlight is good for general health, the summer sun, even behind clouds, brings with it a few hazards.

- Ensure babies and children have plenty to drink, especially water, to avoid dehydration in hot weather
- Keep babies and young children out of direct sun, particularly during the hottest hours to avoid sunstroke and skin damage
- Use a sun block even in the shade and reapply regularly
- Invest in fun sun hats and/or caps
- If your children are prone to insect bites, use a repellent and also have some treatment available
- See the NHS website for more guidance on safety in the sun: <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/pregnancy-and-baby/pages/safety-in-the-sun.aspx>



Road safety

Roads, whether walking near them or travelling on them, can be a hazard.

- Car seats - ensure you have the right sort for your child's age, height and weight and that it is fitted correctly. ROSPA provide comprehensive advice: <http://www.childcarseats.org.uk/>
- Teach children basic [road safety](#) - 'Stop, look and listen': http://think.direct.gov.uk/education/early-years-and-primary/docs/hls_stop_look_listen.pdf
- Keep hold near roads: http://think.direct.gov.uk/education/early-years-and-primary/docs/hls_keep_hold.pdf
- Traffic Club - helping children stay safe when out and about near traffic: <http://www.childrenstrafficclub.com/>

On the beach

- Choose blue flag beaches
- Do not let children in the sea where there are jellyfish that can sting
- Paddling and swimming in the sea should always be supervised and children should wear appropriate buoyancy aids/life jackets - although these should be relied upon!

Feature: Staying Safe in the Summer (Part 2)



Garden

- Keep garden tools locked away in a shed out of reach of small hands
- Ensure garden gates are secured and fences are intact
- Empty paddling pools when not in use
- Ensure that there are no poisonous plants or stinging nettles in your garden
- Keep children away from lit BBQs
- Safely anchor to the ground permanent outdoor equipment such as swing sets or climbers
- Fill in garden ponds – children can drown in as little as 5cm of water. Why not make a sand pit instead?
- Cover sandpits when not in use so animals don't use them as toilets
- Regularly check play equipment to ensure that it is safe and secure
- Child Accident Prevent Trust (CAPT) has a useful [leaflet](#) on general garden safety



Active play

Play and being active is very important for children for all areas of their development. Simple safety measures help make activities safer and reduce risk of injuries from accidents.

- Wear protective clothing, including helmet and knee and elbow pads for skateboarding and hi-vis jacket on bikes
- Older children can learn bike safety through cycle proficiency – see [Bikeability](#)
- Playgrounds – choose playgrounds with soft surfaces and teach children to play away from the swings area and don't allow small children on bouncy castles.

General

- Animal – be wary of dogs and other animals as all have the potential to bite. Read notices and wash hands after touching animals at petting farms.
- Always use safety harness and straps in buggies, prams etc.
- It is a good idea to have a basic first aid kit with you when out and about. The [Babycentre](#) provides a useful list of what to include and the British Red Cross has published advice on basic aid procedures <http://www.redcross.org.uk/What-we-do/First-aid/Baby-and-Child-First-Aid> The [Redbridge Children and Young People's Network \(RCYPN\)](#) provide paediatric first aid training
- Stranger danger is a bigger risk in the summer when children are outside more. Child Alert provides guidance to parents on how to address this with small children <http://www.childalert.co.uk/>
- Finally, some general health and safety tips for carers of small children <http://www.healthline.com/health/outdoor-safety-for-kids>

Contact Information

Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)

LSCB@redbridge.gov.uk

Tel: 020 8708 5282

Website: www.redbridgelscb.org.uk

[@RedbridgeLSCB](https://twitter.com/RedbridgeLSCB)

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/redbridgelscb/>

LSCB Training

LSCB.Training@redbridge.gov.uk

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

LADO@redbridge.gov.uk

Tel: 020 8708 5350

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



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.