

Redbridge Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Newsletter



Message from John Goldup, Independent Chair



Dear Colleagues

Although the activities of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) may seem rather remote from the front line, the Redbridge Board is a really strong focus for partnership working in the borough to safeguard and promote children's welfare.

I have been chairing the Board since August 2014. During this time we have put new arrangements in place to make sure that across agencies we are effectively identifying and protecting young people at risk of sexual exploitation, and have developed much more joined up working to help disrupt and prosecute the activities of perpetrators.

We have launched a programme of multi-agency audits of practice, both to identify strengths and to highlight areas for improvement, and through a programme of constructive challenge we have strengthened the accountability of all partner agencies to each other and to the Board. We have continued to deliver a very extensive training programme, and I do urge you to have a look at the programme on the LSCB website to identify the training opportunities that might be helpful to you and your practice. This year I am keen to do more to learn from the experience of front line practitioners in all agencies – health, education, police, the voluntary sector, and others - about

how we can improve safeguarding in Redbridge. For example, at the moment we are reviewing the threshold document, which sets out a framework for describing the different levels of need which families and children who need support might have, and when it is appropriate for social care to become involved. If you have comments or ideas on how the threshold document can be made more accessible and easy to use, please do email the LSCB Business Manager, Lesley Perry, via Lesley.Perry@redbridge.gov.uk.

I am hoping to meet as many front line staff from across partner agencies as possible at the 'Meet the Chair' events in February (see page 3 for further information).

I know we also need to listen to and learn from young people themselves more. That's why our annual conference on 26 April will be organised around professionals listening to young people on what they think the most important safeguarding issues are, and thinking about how as adult professionals we can work with them better to help them feel and be safe. More about this on page 3 too!

I think this is an exciting and challenging time to be involved with the work of the LSCB, and I hope you will take up some of these opportunities. In the meantime, my very best wishes for 2016.

John

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LSCB Priorities 2015/2016

The LSCB set out its priorities for the year in its annual [Business Plan](#). In 2015—2016 we have six key priorities. These are:

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.

Priority 2: To improve the protection and support of children living with domestic violence, substance abuse, and adult mental health.

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 the work of all agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

Against each priority, the Plan sets out what we will do, who is responsible, when actions will be completed by, and how we will know if it has improved the lives of children and young people. The board reviews progress against the Plan at every meeting.

Female Genital Mutilation

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is increasing featured in the media, particularly since the Government implemented the mandatory requirement to report from 31 October 2015.

FGM is the partial or total removal of external female genitalia for non-medical reasons. It is also known as female circumcision or cutting.

If this is a subject that you are not familiar with, it is important that you understand the facts and your duty to respond. The LSCB website includes some useful information, including links to various resources that you may find useful plus a Home Office free [elearning module](#), a factsheet

and guidance for professionals.

Key points to remember are:

- FGM is child abuse;
- FGM affects girls and women in the UK; (current estimate 137,000 although the true extent is unknown due to the “hidden” nature of the crime);
- FGM is illegal in the UK;
- FGM can have a very negative effect on health and wellbeing;
- FGM can kill!
- You have a legal duty to report known cases of FGM carried out on a child under 18 to the police. If you become aware of a case,

the duty to report is yours personally, and you can't delegate it to your manager or anybody else.

Full information on Mandatory Reporting can be found in the [Home Office Guidance](#).

Lesley Perry
LSCB Business Manager



Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Training

LSCB training, which focuses on safeguarding and child welfare, is available to all organisations within Redbridge who work with children, young people and their families or carers.

Course coming up over the next three months include:

- CSE Training for Practitioners—19 02 2016
- CAF Assessment and Planning Workshop—22 02 2016
- Consanguinity—01 03 2016 (For more information on consanguinity see [LSCB Children's health and parents related by blood leaflet](#).)
- Families with Multiple Needs—The Toxic Trio

05 02 2016

- Learning from Individual Cases: Child Deaths, 08 03 2016
- Safeguarding Children with Disabilities, 18 03 2016
- Train the Trainer, 07 03 2016 and 21 03 2016
- Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent, 15 03 2016

For more information about the courses available throughout the year, or to access the online booking form, visit: the [Training](#) section on the Redbridge LSCB website.

Training needs analysis and commissioning for the 2016 – 2017 Training Programme will commence shortly.

If you have any suggestions for what should be included, in line with the LSCB priorities (see page 1), we would be pleased to hear from you. Please contact the Chair of the LSCB Training Sub Group via LSCB.Training@redbridge.gov.uk

Somebody Else's Child - Everybody's Responsibility



Please help us to ensure the safety and well-being of children in Redbridge who are being cared for by someone who is not a direct relative.

Private Fostering describes an arrangement when someone who is not a close relative cares for another person's child for 28 days or more. A close relative is defined as step-parent, grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt. A child is defined as under 16 years old, or under 18 if disabled. Although this is undertaken as a private arrangement, legally the parent and the carer must notify the local authority where the child is going to live so that the local authority can ensure that the child is being properly looked after. In order to promote the safety of children, it is important to ensure that the Private

Fostering arrangements for children who are living away from their parents are suitable. Serious case reviews (SCRs) such as the case of Victoria Climbié highlight the importance of monitoring these arrangements to ensure that children are safeguarded. Nobody knows exactly how many children are privately fostered, and it is feared that many of these 'invisible' children could be at risk of abuse, or victims of trafficking. We are aware of a number of private fostering arrangements in Redbridge but we believe there are many more that we are unaware of as some families may not know that there is a duty to inform the Local Authority of such arrangements. We need the help of people working with children to be

aware of private fostering and to notify immediately if they suspect such an arrangement. Teachers, early years and health staff are particularly well placed to identify cases of private fostering. Information sharing is vital to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and it is essential to enable early intervention and preventative work. To notify the Local Authority about a private fostering arrangement in Redbridge, please contact the Fostering Duty Team on 020 8708 7528. If you would like to find out more about private fostering or arrange a presentation for your agency, perhaps at a Team Meeting, please contact: Leticia.Bondjanga@redbridge.gov.uk



LSCB Conference - save the date!

Our next conference is due to take place on **26 April 2016** from **16:30 to 18:30**. This will be a conference for and with young people. It will be an opportunity for young people to tell us what **they** think the most important safeguarding issues are, and to work with us on what we can do about those issues and how we can better support them in dealing with them. The Board hopes that as many front line practitioners and managers as possible will take up this opportunity. Further information will be cascaded shortly but for now—save the date!

It is important to ensure that the voices of children and young people inform the work of the LSCB and partner agencies. They are key to evidence informed practice and their views and insights into their lived experiences should be respected as a key part to the fundamental values of working within children's services. The foundations to this are consultation, participation but fundamentally most importantly, listening.

'Meet the Chair' Events 2016

Our Independent Chair, John Goldup, is hosting two 'Meet the Chair' events as part of our drive to raise awareness of the LSCB amongst practitioners and managers across our partner agencies and to hear the views of practitioners about how we can improve safeguarding in Redbridge.

The meetings are being held as follows:

**Wednesday 3
February 2016**
10:00—12:00
Committee Room 2,
Town Hall

**Monday 29 February
2016**
14:00—16:00
Meeting Room,
Albert Road Children's
Centre

These events will provide an opportunity to hear about the work of the LSCB, its role and responsibilities.

It will also enable you to take part in conversations to help improve safeguarding the children and young people of Redbridge and meet other professionals across the children and young people's workforce and other services working with families. Spaces are filling up fast, so book early by e-mailing LSCB@redbridge.gov.uk stating your name, role, and agency.

Full information on venues, with guidance on parking, will be sent out with booking confirmation. Hot beverages will be provided.

We will hold more events later in the year. We appreciate that the timing of the February events will make it difficult for teachers to attend, so there will be at least one event planned which is not during the school day.

Lessons from Serious Case Reviews (SCRs)

The NSPCC maintain a national [Case Review Repository](#), which was launched in collaboration with the Association of Independent LSCB Chairs in November 2013. The repository provides a single place for published case reviews to make it easier to access via a helpful [search](#) facility and share learning at a local, regional and national level. The repository is accessible via the NSPCC library online and contains over 600 case reviews and inquiries dating back to 1945. The NSPCC have also provided a number of thematic briefings and review of [learning](#) from SCR's based on types of abuse; professional practice; and specific sectors. Follow [@NSPCCpro](#) on Twitter for the latest news on Child Protection and sign to receive [CASPER](#) e-mail alerts to receive regular information on practice, policy and research on children's services. If you need help accessing particular resources or guidance, the NSPCC operate an enquiry service that can be contacted via help@nspcc.org.uk or on 0808 800 5000.



Useful Contact Details

Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)

LSCB@redbridge.gov.uk

Tel: 020 8708 5282

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

Tel: 020 8708 5350

LADO@redbridge.gov.uk

Child Protection Referrals

Tel: 020 8708 3885 (Office Hours)

Tel: 020 8708 5897 (Evenings & Weekends)

CPAT.referrals@redbridge.gov.uk



LSCB Annual Report 2014 - 2015



The LSCB Annual Report 2014—2015 has been published and is available via the [LSCB website](#). The Report has a good deal of information in it about safeguarding in Redbridge – for example, the dramatic increase during the year in the number of children on child protection plans – and the strengths and weaknesses of current practice. Fundamentally, it tries to answer the question, 'how well are children in Redbridge protected, and what do we need to do better?' Do take a look at it, and let us know what you think.

Meet the LSCB Team

Since our last Newsletter, there have been a few changes in relation to the LSCB Team. Key staff now in post are:

Lesley Perry

LSCB Business Manager

Lesley.Perry@redbridge.gov.uk

0208 708 5282

Andrew Reed

LSCB Senior Admin Officer

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020 8708 3289

Monica Clarke

CDOP Co-ordinator

Monica.Clarke@redbridge.gov.uk

0208708 5961

We are currently planning for the Team to be expanded with the addition of an Apprentice.

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 articles.

For contributions/information, please contact Lesley Perry, LSCB Business Manager via LSCB@redbridge.gov.uk or on 020 8708 5282.