

Redbridge Safeguarding Children Partnership: Terms of Reference

1. Purpose and functions

1.1 The Redbridge Safeguarding Children Partnership (RSCP) is part of the BHR (Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge) Safeguarding Children Partnership. Its role reflects the recognition articulated in the [BHR Partnership arrangements](#) that:

“Children, young people and their families live in local neighbourhoods and communities. Their prime reference points are firstly those local areas and secondly the boroughs made up by those communities. The core part of our Plan therefore is designed to reflect those realities and ensure we build arrangements that best meet local needs.”

1.2 The RSCP is committed to supporting effective safeguarding across the BHR area, and to supporting and contributing to the strategic priorities agreed by the BHR Safeguarding Partnership. Within that, the overall purpose of the RSCP is to ensure effective multi-agency working to safeguard children within the London Borough of Redbridge. It exists to co-ordinate, monitor, evaluate, challenge and drive improvement in the work of all agencies, separately and together, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the Borough.

1.3 Specifically, the functions of the RSCP include:

- Identifying and co-ordinating action to deliver local safeguarding priorities
- Co-ordinating the contribution of Redbridge agencies and services to deliver on the strategic priorities of the BHR Partnership
- Monitoring and challenging safeguarding performance in Redbridge across all relevant agencies
- Co-ordinating the response to local and emerging safeguarding risks in Redbridge
- Supporting Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews commissioned by the statutory Safeguarding Partners, and ensuring the local dissemination of learning

1.4 Effective multi-agency audits of practice are a key part of quality assurance in safeguarding. It is currently envisaged that multi-agency audits will be co-ordinated on a BHR basis. It may be that in the future multi-agency training will also be delivered on a BHR basis. However, for 2020/21 and pending future developments, the RSCP will take responsibility for planning and delivering a Redbridge Multi-Agency Training Programme. The RSCP will continue to apply the training policies and procedures of the former Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB), including those relating to training charges. The RSCP will seek opportunities to open training to staff and organisations across the BHR area, where appropriate.

1.5 Pending future developments at the BHR level, the RSCP will adopt and continue to apply all policies, procedures and strategies agreed by the Redbridge LSCB before 29 September 2019. This includes the document, “Are you worried about a child? How to access early help, and thresholds for referral to children's social care”, September 2018. A full list of LSCB policies, procedures and strategy can be found on the RSCP website, www.redbridgescp.org.uk.

2 Values

- 2.1 The RSCP has adopted and adapted the values and principles agreed by the LSCB, as follows.
- 2.2 The Partnership will conduct all its business on the basis of the following core values and principles:
- The Partnership exists to improve outcomes for children. The welfare of children and young people is paramount. Under no circumstances will professional or organisational interests or sensitivities be allowed to get in the way of that paramount focus.
 - The experience and voice of children and young people is central to all the Partnership's work. The Partnership will work closely with the Redbridge Youth Council, and seek to ensure that the voices of children and young people are heard in everything it does.
 - Similarly, the Partnership will at all times seek to understand, listen to and engage with front line practitioners
 - The Partnership is concerned with the safety and welfare of children at all stages in the child's journey including early help and early intervention
 - The Partnership will pay particular attention to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the most vulnerable children and young people, including (but not restricted to) children who are or at risk of abuse, neglect or exploitation; children at risk of female genital mutilation; children who are living away from home, who have run away from home, or are missing from education; children in the youth justice system, including in custody; children who are vulnerable to being radicalised; disabled children; and children and young people affected by gangs.
 - The Partnership will conduct all its business in a spirit of transparent and constructive debate, challenge, and respect. All members accept a responsibility to challenge and to accept challenge. The contribution of all partners is of equal value.
- 2.3 The RSCP does not itself commission or deliver services. It does not have the power to direct partner organisations. It does however has a responsibility to highlight where change or improvements for children are needed. Each partner retains its existing line of accountability for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, including action or otherwise on RSCP recommendations and challenges.

3 Structure and governance

- 3.1 The full Partnership meets four times a year. Any Partnership member may request the inclusion of an item on the agenda. Standing items on each agenda will include:
- Scrutiny of a multi- agency performance data set
 - A report from the BHR Safeguarding Partnership
 - A review of progress against the agreed priorities for the year, identifying and seeking to resolve any blockages to progress
- 3.2 The Partnership undertakes much of its work through a number of subgroups. Currently the Sub Groups are:
- Learning and Improvement Sub Group; and
 - Training Sub Group

- 3.3 The structure, terms and reference, and number of Sub Groups are subject to review.
- 3.4 The RSCP will be chaired by an independent person, appointed by the Chief Executive of the Council with advice from partners. The Chair is accountable to the Chief Executive for the effective functioning of the RSCP. A Vice-Chair will be appointed from among the members of the Partnership.
- 3.5 The RSCP operates within a cross Board Governance Protocol, which sets out the relationships and arrangements for joint working between the Health and Wellbeing Board, the RSCP, the Safeguarding Adults Board, and the Community Safety Partnership. The Chair of the RSCP is an ex officio member of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

4 Membership

- 4.1 RSCP member organisations will designate a senior officer as their representative at the Partnership, to ensure that there is consistency and continuity in the membership of the RSCP. With the agreement of the Chair, an agency may be represented by more than one person. Members will be sufficiently senior to be able to:
- speak for their organisation with authority;
 - Commit their organisation on policy and practice matters;
 - Hold their organisation to account;
 - Share information about their organisation's approach to safeguarding and promotion of children's well-being; and
 - Ensure the dissemination of information within their organisation, regarding the RSCP's work and activities.
- 4.2 The following agencies will be represented on the RSCP:
- Corporate Director of People, LB Redbridge (which incorporates the role of Director of Children's Services)
 - LB Redbridge Lead Member for Children's Services
 - LB Redbridge Director of Public Health
 - LB Redbridge Children's Social Care Services
 - LB Redbridge Housing Service
 - Metropolitan Police Service
 - Probation Service
 - Redbridge Clinical Commissioning Group
 - NELFT
 - Barking Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust
 - Barts Health NHS Trust
 - Representatives of maintained primary and secondary schools, academies, special schools and private schools within the Borough
 - New City College (Redbridge Campus)
 - Partnership of East London Co-operatives Ltd.
- 4.3 Up to five representatives of the voluntary sector will be appointed to serve on the Partnership.
- 4.4 Up to three Lay Members, drawn from the different communities in Redbridge, will be appointed to serve on the Partnership. Appointments will be for three years, and

may be renewed. Lay Members have equal status with other Partnership members across all areas of the Partnership's work. They have a particular role in:

- Supporting stronger public engagement in local safeguarding issues and contributing to an improved understanding of the Partnership's work in the wider community;
- Challenging the RSCP on the accessibility to the public and to children and young people of its plans, policies, and procedures; and
- Helping to make links between the RSCP and community groups.

4.5 Voluntary sector and lay member representatives will be appointed by the Chair, following appropriate consultation.

4.6 The Chairs of the RSCP Sub Groups will be invited to attend meetings of the Partnership.

5 Challenge and scrutiny

5.1 The Children and Social Work Act 2017 requires the statutory Safeguarding Partners to ensure, in making their arrangements for multi-agency working, that they include "arrangements for the scrutiny by an independent person of the effectiveness of the arrangements". At a BHR level, arrangements for independent scrutiny will be agreed by the BHR Safeguarding Partnership. In Redbridge, the RSCP itself, given that these terms of reference include responsibility for monitoring and challenging safeguarding performance in Redbridge across all relevant agencies, is an important part of the scrutiny arrangements. In addition to any scrutiny arrangements that may be agreed, the Independent Chair will act as an independent scrutineer of the effectiveness of the arrangements as they operate in Redbridge.

5.2 The Chair will publish an Annual Report on the effectiveness of the arrangements for safeguarding children in Redbridge. The report will seek to provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services. It will identify areas of weakness, the causes of those weaknesses and the action being taken to address them as well as other proposals for action. The report will be submitted to the BHR Safeguarding Partnership for consideration as part of the Annual Report that they are required to publish under the Children and Social Work Act 2017 on the effectiveness of the BHR arrangements.

Agreed 14 January 2020