

# Redbridge Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)

## AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2016

### Message from John Goldup, Independent Chair

Many of you will have been involved in the recent four week unannounced Ofsted inspection of how well LBR Children's Services and partnership working safeguard and promote the welfare of vulnerable children in the Borough. The inspection, which started on 12 September, was thorough, exhaustive and exhausting! The inspectors will make judgements both on the effectiveness of Children's Services and on that of the LSCB. Thank you to everybody – and it was an awful lot of people across the partnership – who contributed to the inspection. The report will be published on 25 November.

Even before the inspection, it was a busy summer for the LSCB Team. They ran stalls at a number of community events, promoting, among other things the Board's work on child safety, child sexual exploitation and e-safety. They also delivered a session on the Board's work to GPs in the borough, and as a result the Board now has a regular page in the CCG newsletter, which goes to all GPs in Redbridge.

The Board held its quarterly meeting on 18 October at which we received the annual report on private

fostering. While it is clear that those private fostering arrangements which are notified to Children's Services are well supported, it is equally clear that there are far more placements which ought to be notified to Children's Services but are not. Across the whole of London in 2015, there were only 330 known private fostering placements. It is likely that the real number was higher than that in some individual boroughs. The Board will make private fostering one of its priority areas in its Business Plan for 2017/18. In the meantime, if you would like to know more about private fostering and to help raise awareness of it in your school, organisation, or community visit the [LSCB website](#).

The Board received a report on the progress of the Prevent programme in Redbridge. While everybody is very aware of some of the controversy surrounding this national programme, the Board was pleased to note that Redbridge has the highest rate of voluntary participation in the programme of any of the nine East London boroughs, and is delivering a range of innovative work directly with young people to build their confidence in resisting extremism and encouraging their peers to do so too.

Every quarter the Board receives a report on the developing profile of child sexual exploitation in Redbridge from the MASE (Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation) Panel. We were concerned that the number of referrals to MASE has dropped significantly, even though the number of referrals to Children's Services raising concerns about CSE has not. The MASE role in collating intelligence which can be used to tackle some of the root causes of CSE

in Redbridge is vital. Please remember that if you have held a child protection strategy meeting which has identified potential CSE issues, then, as well as following normal child protection processes, you must also refer the case to the MASE.

This newsletter takes as a particular theme the safeguarding of children with disabilities. A great deal of research highlights an increased risk of children with disabilities falling through the safeguarding net, sometimes because aspects of behaviour or communication are misinterpreted as aspects of the disability rather than potential indicators of neglect or abuse. As well as the features in this issue, please do read the [LSCB's Children with a Disability Protocol](#), which sets out some of these issues, as well as the [threshold document](#) published earlier this year, 'Are you worried about a child?', which seeks to give clearer guidance to potential referrers on this and other complex subjects. If you are not yet familiar with this document, consider signing up for one of the [Understanding Thresholds in Safeguarding](#) briefings in the [LSCB Training Programme](#).

Finally, can I encourage you to make sure you are aware of the LSCB's [Escalation and Resolution Policy](#)? There will be situations in which professionals disagree about the risk to or plan for a child. This policy provides a clear and simple route for escalating and resolving these issues if necessary. If you are concerned that a child is not being appropriately safeguarded, it is your responsibility to pursue that concern until it is resolved.

Best wishes  
**John**

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# Priorities

The LSCB finalised its **Business Plan for 2016 – 2017** at the April Board meeting. The priorities have been agreed as follows:

## 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 is a feature of our Multi-Agency Audit Programme for 2016- 2017. Audits have now been completed and a 'round table' event is due to take place on 20 October to discuss findings and identify learning.

A Briefing on findings from our previous CSE Multi-Agency Audit was held on 12 September as part of the LSCB Training Programme. The slides from the presentation are available on the [website](#).

The Board is promoting on [Twitter](#) the Children's Society Seen and Heard Campaign which helps equip professionals with knowledge of the signs of sexual abuse and exploitation and an understanding of why young people find it difficult to share when they are affected. Read more about this on our dedicated [page](#) on the website and take the elearning module.

Seen and Heard fits in well with the findings identified in the Ofsted [Time to Listen Report](#), which covers the deep dive from the last Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI).

## Priority 2

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

We are currently undertaking a Multi-Agency Audit on cases that involve children who are impacted by domestic violence, substance abuse and adult mental health – sometimes referred to as the 'toxic trio'. A 'round table' event is due to take place on 22 November to discuss findings and identify learning.

Children and young people living in households affected can hold the role of a [young carer](#). If you are working with a child or young person who is spending time caring for a parent or other family member, maybe due to mental health or physical health problems, there is support available to them in Redbridge through the Barnardo's Indigo Service. Services in Redbridge have signed up to a [Memorandum of Understanding – No Wrong Doors](#), which provides a whole family approach to supporting young carers and their families. See our website for more information and links to reports and a guide from the Carers Trust on working with young carers. If you would like to make a referral, contact Barnardo's on 020 8554 2888.

## Priority 3

### Radicalisation

The number of WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent) briefings delivered across Redbridge has risen with 35 sessions delivered to 950 participants since April 2016. We have seen a real impact of the training with professionals, particularly in schools, feeling more confident about when to make a referral. If you have not yet attend a WRAP, do sign up for one of the dates being hosted as part of the LSCB Training Programme on 19 January 2017 or 30 March 2017, or contact the Prevent Team, based in the Borough's Community Safety Service, on 020 8708 5230 to arrange for delivery 'in house'. Find out more by reading the [course flyer](#).



#### Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales

Guidance for specified authorities in England and Wales on the duty in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

# Priority Updates

## Priority 4

### Children with Disabilities and Consanguinity

The learning from the recent Children with Disabilities Multi-Agency Audit was recently shared at a briefing held as part of the LSCB Training Programme. Information on the findings and identified learning can be viewed on page 8. The slides from the presentation area available on the [website](#).

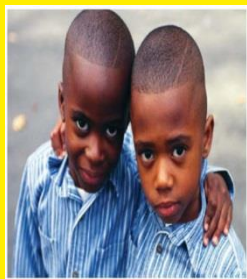
We are looking at ways in which the information on consanguinity provided on our website and in our leaflet for parents can be more accessible through translations. Find out more about in our [consanguinity training](#) for professionals taking place on 2 December.



## Priority 5

### Neglect

The LSCB has a neglect [Toolkit and guidance](#) that it is promoting across agencies to assist with the identification of child neglect. The Toolkit covers the areas of physical care, health, safety and supervision, love and care, stimulation and education and parental motivation for change. If this is an area that you would appreciate development in, do sign up for one of our Neglect Training Courses taking place on 10 January and 14 March 2017.



## Priority 6

### Developing the effectiveness of the LSCB

The effectiveness of the LSCB was scrutinised recently by Ofsted who undertook a review of The Board as part of its [Single Inspection Framework \(SIF\)](#) in Redbridge. The Report is due to be published on 25 November. Look out for more information on this in the next edition of the Newsletter. In the meantime, a big thank you to partner agencies who engaged in this process by taking part in interviews and meetings with the Ofsted Inspection Team or who hosted a visit to their setting. It is all very much appreciated and provided an excellent opportunity to showcase joint working to safeguard children in Redbridge.





## Haven House Children's Hospice

Haven House Children's Hospice in Woodford Green was first conceived in the early 1990s, by Sue Irwin, a registered nurse and health visitor, who with friends and colleagues founded Haven House to provide care to life-limited children and their families at no cost to them.



Like many community hospices at that time, the initial plan had been to raise enough funds locally to create a purpose-built children's hospice. After several years of fundraising, Sue was alerted to the Mallinson Estate, on the borders of Essex and North East London. Through the support and dedication of Sue's friends and our early supporters in 2000 we acquired a 99-year lease on The White House, a locally-listed former family home set in four acres of protected woodland.



Since 2003, we have provided specialist care for over 650 families with children who have life-limiting and life-threatening conditions. Across North and North East London, West Essex and East Hertfordshire we provide a range of services to families to support them through the most difficult circumstances imaginable. These include planned respite, short break

and end-of-life care, as well as therapeutic services designed to improve emotional and physical wellbeing run from The White House, our Holistic Care Centre and in our local community.

Working in partnership, we plan to deliver these services whenever and wherever our families need them. Around 26% of our children live in the London Borough of Redbridge - the second highest proportion out of all 11 boroughs we serve.



We are providing care and support to more life-limited children and their families than ever before, but it is still the case that not enough families are accessing hospice care services in our local area. As part of Vision 2020, our new five-year strategy launched in October 2015, we intend to grow our services in order to support 500 children per year by 2020. We hope to achieve this by expanding our hospice at home service to ensure that all babies children and young people have the choice of home for therapies, respite and end of life care.

Families often tell us that accessing our services has made a substantial improvement to their lives and that is why expanding care into our local community is a key aim for Vision 2020. To achieve this we will continue to collaborate and work in partnership with NHS colleagues, local authorities and other organisations so that we don't duplicate effort or services. Working closer with our partners in Redbridge will help move us nearer to achieving our strategic vision.

**Eileen White Director of Care, Haven House Children's Hospice and member of Redbridge LSCB Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)**

# LSCB Events Calendar

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



## We Are Redbridge Community Event

The LSCB had a stand at this community event on 25 August, which was attended by a wide range of local residents and professionals working across more than 30 organisations. It was an opportunity to raise the profile of the LSCB, share information on child safety with families and network with groups working with children and young people in the community.



## Training

The LSCB Training Programme 2016 – 2017 includes the following learning events:

- Safeguarding Children Level 2
- Safeguarding Children at Risk of Neglect
- CSE Training for Practitioners
- Safeguarding Children with Disabilities
- Working with Families with Multiple Needs ('Toxic Trio')
- Abuse in Teenage Relationships
- Safeguarding Children in a Digital World and Cyberbullying
- Are you ready? Helping young people delay early sex
- Cousin Marriage Awareness (Consanguinity)

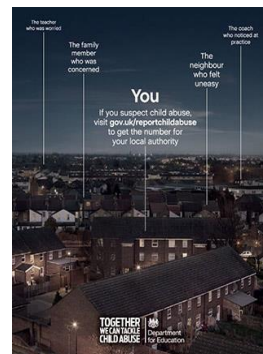
We will also be continuing with regular briefings and workshops on:

- 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.

## Department for Education (DfE) Public Awareness Campaign

The LSCB supported the DfE nationwide communications campaign, which ran from March to September 2016, encouraging members of the public to report child abuse. Hopefully, you will have seen posters, website banners etc. or viewed the campaign information on [Redbridge i](#).



The key message was – together, we can tackle child abuse! Everyone has a role to play in protecting children and young people from child abuse and neglect. All children have the right to safe and should be protected from all forms of abuse. Unfortunately, research tells us that a third of all people who suspect child abuse do nothing. This could be because they are worried that they may be wrong or that simply by raising your concerns, a child could be taken from their parents. You do not need to be absolutely certain about whether a child is being abused. If you have a feeling that something isn't right, report it to the professionals who can make further enquiries and undertake a full investigation. To spot the signs of child abuse or neglect consider any changes in ABC – Appearance; Behaviour; and Communication that a child or young person may be exhibiting. Your information may be part of a bigger picture. In 2014 – 2015, more than 400,000 children in England were provided with support because someone noticed they needed help. Do support the campaign by signposting to Report Child Abuse. Specific concerns about children or young people in Redbridge should be reported direct to the [Child Protection and Assessment Team \(CPAT\)](#) via 020 8708 3885 (see Contact Information on page 11).



## White Ribbon Day 2016

White Ribbon Day is getting closer! On 25 November we celebrate the international day against violence against women. Find out more on the [White Ribbon Campaign website](#), including how to get [resources](#) to awareness raise.

# Feature: Safeguarding Children with Disabilities

## Why are children and young people with disabilities more vulnerable to abuse than others?

Abuse can happen to any child or young person but research has identified that those with disabilities are over three times more likely to be abused or neglected than non-disabled children ([Jones et al, 2012](#)). They are also less likely to receive the protection and support they need when they have been abused ([Ofsted, 2012](#)). The NSPCC Report [Deaf and disabled children: learning from case reviews](#), published in January 2016, highlighted again the increased risk that exists.

Increased risk and vulnerability is due to a number of factors, including:

- **Communication** – children with speech, language or communication needs face increased barriers in being able to alert adults to any abuse taking place. Over reliance on adults to facilitate communication can result in the adult's views and not the child's being shared. Children may not have the language or ability to describe what is happening to them.
- **Dependency on adults** - children with disabilities can be very reliant on carers for day to day care, including personal care. This provides additional opportunities for abuse.
- **Disclosure** – children and young people with disabilities may not disclose abuse and if they do, professionals may not focus on the child's views or understand their needs and respond appropriately.
- **Increased isolation** – children with disabilities can be reliant on adults to take them out and may not have the same access to social opportunities that other children have, resulting in them having less contact with people in general, particularly if they are in a residential school placement away from their family.
- **Lack of awareness on staying safe** – a disabled child or young person may not understand that they are being abused, who to tell or what steps to take to keep themselves safer.
- **Missing the signs** – spotting the signs of abuse can be more difficult in relation to children and young people with disabilities. A cry for help, such as self-harming, may not be distinguished from behaviour relating to their disability.

In order to respond to this, the needs and voice of children and young people with disabilities should inform strategic planning, policies and procedures. Learning and development activities for those working with children and young people with disabilities should include safeguarding and direct work which enables communication. In recognition of the importance of safeguarding these children and young people, the LSCB have developed the [Children with Disabilities \(CWD\) Protocol](#).

For more information on this subject, see the [NSPCC website](#) or sign up for the [Safeguarding Children with Disabilities \(CWD\) Training Course](#), taking place on 16 January 2017 as part of the [LSCB Training Programme](#).

# Children with Disabilities (cont ...)

## Safeguarding Young People with Disabilities through Transition

Transition for any young person from childhood to adulthood is a time of great change. For young people with disabilities, this can be additionally challenging and a time of potentially increased vulnerability. Every effort is made to ensure young people are supported and safeguarded during the move from children's social care to adult services, which starts during the young person's 14th birthday. During the next three years, the focus is very much on preparing young people for adulthood. Preparation for adulthood is the preferred process because it includes ensuring that educational needs are being prioritised or that care packages are still pertinent and fulfilling their safeguarding and protective role. During this period, the young person's case will be managed in line with the statutory safeguarding processes, including the support of an allocated social worker where necessary. When the young person approaches the age of 18, a further assessment is undertaken which focuses on the pertinent issues linked to a successful transition to adulthood. This includes identifying their independent living skills, health needs and any safeguarding issues. The Transition Team then case manages those cases that meet the criteria for adult social services until they are transferred to the relevant locality team. Safeguarding concerns are managed in the Transition Team with Adult Social Services.

## The 'Voice' of the Child

The [NSPCC Report 'We have the right to be safe – Protecting disabled children from abuse'](#), published in 2014, included a number of messages from young disabled ambassadors which provide insight into the voice of the child or young person with disabilities. *"If people don't listen to young people, it could be more dangerous for them."* *"It's harder to make yourself heard at times. You can't communicate easily, because of whatever problem. Even if you're able to verbalise what you want to say, you are always in a weaker position, as you need that help."* Read more of these powerful insights on pages 6 and 7 of the [Report](#).

## Consultation – Short Breaks

### What are short breaks?

Parents and children do sometimes need a break from each other. Families with disabled children may need more support or a different kind of support. Short breaks can provide a

break from caring but also a new experiences and opportunities for children, including having fun, trying new activities and making new friends. More information on care packages and short breaks from the [local offer](#) can be accessed on [Families Information Direct](#).

### Why is Redbridge consulting?

The Borough is consulting with children and young people, parents and carers and providers because they are looking to change the way in which short breaks are delivered in Redbridge and need to know what stakeholders value as the most important features of the service.

### How can I get involved?

Complete the on-line consultation survey which can be reached via [Redbridge i](#). The survey includes around 12 questions and only takes a few minutes to complete and is open until 7 November. The results will be published by the end of the year. If you want to discuss the consultation, please contact the Redbridge Children with Disabilities Service via 020 8708 7539.

## Learning from Multi-Agency Audits – CWD

As part of our Multi-Agency Audit Programme we recently completed an audit of cases involving children with disabilities that had input from a number of different professionals. The audit produced some generally positive results but also some important learning points which are shared below:

- There is still opportunity for improvement in the effectiveness and timeliness of information sharing.
- Invitations to Child Protection Conferences need to cover a broader base of agencies.
- Sibling groups who all have disabilities need to be considered individually rather than the focus being on the most disabled child.
- Improved management oversight on cases files, ensuring they are up to date and care plans follow SMART.
- Increased evidence of regularity of management oversight on cases with child protection concerns.

A presentation on the findings and resulting learning can be viewed on the [LSCB website](#).



## Review – Research in Practice (RiP) Frontline Briefing

### Communicating with children and young people with speech, language and communication needs and/or developmental delay - Research in Practice (RiP) Frontline Briefing



In July, RiP published a briefing for use by practitioners undertaking direct work with children and young people who have speech, language and communication needs. However, it also

has a wider application across agencies and the whole children and young people's workforce, including managers, strategists and decision-makers.

Barriers that children and young people with additional communication needs include misconceptions about their capacity and ability to communicate; non-verbal and other means of communication not being recognised, explored, utilised or valued in the same way as verbal communication; insufficient additional time being allowed for assessments, reviews etc. and availability of independent interpreters or facilitators to enable full participation.

If we don't listen to all children and young people, taking account of additional needs and enabling communication, as RiP says, there is a price to pay in relation to safeguarding say. Risks include disclosures of abuse not being taken seriously or understood; lack of identification of the wider signs and indicators of abuse or attribution of them to their impairment or disability; lack of understanding of needs where there is challenging behaviour; social isolation; additional reliance on parents and carers to meet care and support needs; reluctance by practitioners to challenge parents, carers or other professionals; and finally, their

own views not being taken into account in important decisions about their lives.

We know from Ofsted's Report, [The voice of the child: learning lessons from serious case reviews](#), April 2011, that the voice of the child is not always adequately represented and the safeguarding issues that this contributes to.

The challenges we need to address and questions to answer, as explored in the Briefing, are:

- How we are specifically safeguarding children and young people with communication issues?
- Are we routinely listening to them in an appropriate setting, with any advocacy or interpretation support needed?
- Do we allow the voices of parents or carers to take centre stage, blocking out any messages coming directly from the child or young person, and if so, how can be guard against this?

The Briefing explores beyond the spoken voice and the importance of enabling wider methods of communication, how to build a listening culture, consideration of attitudes, understanding and skills of the workforce, and establishing inclusive and accessible processes, systems and structures to support inclusion.



For more information, and a free copy of the Frontline Briefing, which includes a comprehensive list of additional reading, contact [LSCB@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:LSCB@redbridge.gov.uk).

**Christopher Cloke, Head of Safeguarding in Communities, at the NSPCC, writes about 'The Underwear Rule' and resources that have been adapted for children with learning disabilities and autism.**

Talking PANTS is a simple way that parents and professionals working with young children can help keep them safe from sexual abuse – without using scary words or even mentioning sex. Since launching in 2013 our simple, age appropriate advice has helped over 400,000 parents and carers talk to their children about staying safe. To encourage even more sharing of these simple rules with children, we've just launched the next phase of our campaign, with a new song and animation to add to our PANTS resources, introducing our pant-wearing dinosaur, Pantosaurus!



We know that for many parents the idea of talking to their child about staying safe from sexual abuse can be overwhelming – and, although they know it's an important conversation to have, they just don't know how to go about it. They also worry about what's the appropriate age to start the conversations but evidence suggests that messages about staying safe are the most effective when taught to a child at an early age. The campaign complements the NSPCC's Speak Out, Stay Safe programme which is aiming to visit every primary school in the UK advising children from age 4-11 years about how to stay safe from all forms of abuse.



PANTS has been promoted nationally and locally with resources designed especially for 4-11 year-olds. The child-friendly language, colourful pictures and engaging characters makes it easy for parents to start the conversation with their child, sharing three key messages – that their body belongs to them, that they have the right to say no and to tell someone they trust if they're ever worried about anything. It's been adapted for use with children and parents with a mild to moderate learning disability and made into a short video for deaf or hard of hearing children and their families.

PANTS has been a fantastic success. Since it launched in 2013 we've spoken to many parents who've had the conversation and most have reported that once they've taught their child the rules they realise just how simple and vitally important it was. Parents, who were initially sceptical, have told us *"It's as important as teaching your child to cross the road"*.



For more information and to access and download resources, visit:  
[www.nspcc.org.uk/PANTS](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/PANTS)

# Contact Information

## Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)

[LSCB@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:LSCB@redbridge.gov.uk)

Tel: 020 8708 5282

Website: [www.redbridgelscb.org.uk](http://www.redbridgelscb.org.uk)

 @RedbridgeLSCB

LSCB Training

[LSCB.Training@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:CPAT.Referrals@redbridge.gov.uk)

## Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) Notifications

[Nem-tr.CDOP@nhs.net](mailto: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](mailto:LSCB@redbridge.gov.uk) or on 020 8708 5282.