

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2022

Foreword from the Independent Chair & Scrutineer



A warm welcome to this Autumn edition of the RSCP newsletter.

The last meeting of the Redbridge Safeguarding Children Partnership took place on 11 October, the details of which are shared on [page 2](#), which include the priority areas of work agreed for 2022-23.

There are lots of new publications to make you aware of in this edition, but firstly, just a follow up on information shared in the last newsletter in relation to the publication of the [National CSPR Panel Report Child Protection in England: the national review into the murders of Arthur Labinjo Hughes and Star Hobson, May 2022](#). Our RSCP Training Manager has developed a briefing in response to the recommendation of the report that *'Referrals are not deemed malicious without a full and thorough multi agency assessment'*, which is on the [RSCP website](#).

The National Child Safeguarding Practice Review panel has also published further reports over the summer, including one on [multi-agency working and domestic abuse](#). The report highlights that safeguarding partners *should recognise their central role in the local response to domestic abuse*. To ensure clear connectivity, I am now a member of the Redbridge Community Safety Partnership which has the strategic oversight of the domestic abuse and violence **against women and girls' agenda**.

The key findings of the analysis are lack of understanding of domestic abuse; no **'whole system' response**; and distinguishing domestic abuse from **'parental conflict'**.

During the pandemic the rate of domestic abuse increased, and given the challenging times ahead this winter and a world cup (that we know leads to increased levels of violence), it is essential that professionals are confident to recognise domestic abuse – so I urge everyone to look at training that is available on a single and multiagency basis to support early recognition and response. That where there are concerns identified **that the "system" offer is utilised to provide multiagency support at the earliest opportunity now just for the most serious cases**. Finally, the review analysis found an overemphasis on physical violence as the primary indicator of domestic abuse which reflects a lack of recognition, understanding or **response to abusers' use of controlling and coercive behaviours**. Professionals have a responsibility to identify the dynamics of the situation and thoroughly understand the risks to children.

Another report, the [management of bruising in non-mobile infants](#), includes guidance that will be considered as alongside our current Safeguarding policy and procedures relating to babies and young children.

The National Panel has updated its [guidance](#) which supports local safeguarding partners with the process of managing the review of serious child safeguarding incidents.

Finally, a [report](#) has been published on phase one of a national review which seeks to make sense of how and why a significant number of children with disabilities and complex needs came to suffer very serious abuse and neglect whilst

living in three privately provided residential settings in the Doncaster area. All Local Authorities has been asked to undertake several actions to assure themselves of the care of any children they may have placed in any such similar settings.

To put into context that learning is not just taking place at a national level, the RSCP has just published a local [Child Safeguarding Practice Review \(Baby 'A'\)](#), which was undertaken to find learning through consideration of practice and systems relating to an infant who sustained a head injury aged 10 weeks old. The recommendations from the report (see [page 2](#)) are being considered and the response and further information will follow over the coming months.

I note in the last edition I hoped everyone was staying cool, now I hope that you are all able to keep warm! The Local Authority and partners are pulling together all the sources of support that are available over this winter period and [cost of living](#) crisis. I expect that it will be difficult period for yourself and those you are supporting. However, I hope you can find time to rest over the winter period and I send best wishes to those who will be celebrating religious holidays over the next few weeks.

Eileen Mills

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Partnership Report

Feedback from the RSCP Meeting – 11 October 2022

Summary of items discussed at the last RSCP meeting

Child Exploitation Annual Report - the RSCP welcomed the report and its findings, which are summarised below.

- Child sexual and criminal exploitation remain a concern in the Borough.
- There are good services in place to assess and support young people.
- There is good management oversight of child exploitation in place.
- The Operational and Strategic MASCE meetings are embedded and becoming increasingly effective in driving forward the understanding and response to child exploitation.
- New ways of working have been introduced and shown to be effective. These continue to be developed.
- Funding opportunities are continually explored, and bids made
- The current review CSE/CCE processes and pathways will lead to improved support for victims and perpetrators.

Homes for Ukraine – Safeguarding Assurance

Sadly, where there is vulnerability, it gives rise for the opportunity for those that want to exploit others. As Redbridge residents have welcomed Ukrainian refugees into their homes it has been at the forefront of local planning to ensure safeguarding arrangements are in place.

The RSCP received a presentation from the lead for the Homes for Ukraine's scheme, which outlined what safeguarding measures are established and include:

- Safeguarding Checks - utilising the DBS system and information local and nationally to ensure those offering homes are suitable hosts
- Property checks by housing officers and family intervention team
- Wellness visits and follow-on support
- Make guests aware of their rights, entitlements, and contact details for support, (such as local charities or the Modern Slavery Helpline) as soon as possible
- Ensuring all those working with the scheme are alert to signs of exploitation

Presentation of Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPP) **Baby 'A'**

A large part of the meeting was allotted to the presentation and findings of the LCSPP which was undertaken on behalf of the RSCP to find learning through consideration of practice and systems relating to an infant who sustained a head injury aged 10 weeks old. The full report can be found on the [RSCP website](#). All the recommendations from the report are now being considered by the partnership to respond and further information will follow over the coming months. They are as follows:

- 1: The Partnership to make promoting the involvement of fathers a key focus of its work.
- 2: The Partnership to consider the scope of the Leaving Care Service and how it aligns with the wider partnership offer of services.
- 3: Transition from child to adult mental health services are not only relevant for care leavers, therefore, the Partnership should assure itself that the transitional pathways are flexible and seamless.
- 4: The Partnership to consider the timeliness of pre-birth assessment and reassure itself of application and impact.
- 5: The Partnership to seek assurance that risk formulation applied in statutory meetings is realistic, consistent, timely and reflective of a full multi-agency view. Furthermore, that when progress is not evident, and risk is increased that Legal Planning threshold is always revisited and tested
- 6: The Partnership should review its approaches to neglect and seek assurance that consistent trauma informed, strengths-based models of working are being implemented across the agencies.
- 7: **The Partnership should seek reassurance that agency policies that are applied when people "do not attend" or "do not engage" with services are reflective of safeguarding risk.**

Priority 1

Transitional Safeguarding

The joint project with the [Redbridge Safeguarding Adults Board \(RSAB\)](#) continues with a piece of work focusing on the transitional arrangements for those children who may continue to need support past their 18th birthday due to ongoing risk of exploitation.



Priority 2

Contextual Safeguarding

Developing a joined-up approach and response with the [Community Safety Partnership](#) for those children who are exploited.

Priority 4

Children & Young People's Mental Health

Supporting a response to the growth in children and young people's mental health concerns, including raising awareness of different support and resources available.



Priority 3

Responding to National Safeguarding Reviews and Reports

Supporting the response and developments arising from the publication of reports including the [Independent Review of Children's Social Care](#), the [Child Safeguarding Practice Review \(CSPR\) Panel Report – Child Protection in England: National Review into the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson](#) and any future reports or directives impacting multi-agency safeguarding in 2022 – 2023.



Priority 5

Child Friendly Redbridge

Supporting the progress to achieve [UNICEF 'Child Friendly Redbridge'](#) status, and the specific priorities of the Redbridge Youth Council relating to safeguarding including normalisation of sexual harassment in schools; signposting to provision of support for children impacted by domestic violence or homelessness; raising awareness of the effects of substance misuse on young people.



Focus on ... Trauma Informed Practice



An exciting new development within the Local Authority is the implementation of Trauma Informed Practice. It is a new way for social workers and family support workers to engage with children and their families through a trauma informed lens, using a different language and an awareness of the impact on trauma on the workforce.

Partners can find out more via the free [multi-agency briefings](#) that are being provided by the delivery partner and provider, [Interface](#), as part of the RSCP Training Programme. The briefings aim to develop an understanding of the emotional psychological trauma people experience as they go through life and how using a strengths-based approach to working with children and families can help support frontline practitioners to focus on:

- “What happened to you?”, rather than “What is wrong with you?”
- Approaching families with empathy
- Building stable and trusting relationships that empower children and families
- Understanding power differentials between families

and practitioners, and how to reduce them

- Reducing the risk of re-traumatisation for both the child and family
- Promoting and supporting positive relationships between children and their families, wider social and community networks.

The learning objectives are for partners to understand what trauma-informed practice is, the drivers, research and what children and families say; understanding the principles; and promoting a change in language and approach in multi-agency relationships. Check out the [flyer](#) for more information.

A useful **‘blog’**, published by [SecEd](#), has been written by Dr Pooky Kingsmith for education professionals, which takes the principles of trauma-informed practice (safety; choice; collaborate; trust and empower) with suggestions of how these can be applied in school leadership. A slide deck is available to [download](#) which accompanies the blog.

Considering the importance of language as part of trauma informed practice, also aimed at education colleagues but useful for all, the UK Council for Internet Safety has published a guide on [Challenging victim blaming language and behaviours when dealing with the online experiences of children and young people](#). The scenarios within the guidance can be used in training.

RSCP Training Programme 2022 - 2023

The [RSCP Training Programme for 2022 – 2023](#) was launched in August with courses running from September until next July.

The aim of the Programme is to support our multi-agency colleagues in their safeguarding practice with a range of courses under our usual series:



- Understanding Safeguarding Risks
- Contextual Safeguarding and Child on Child Abuse
- Working Together to Safeguard and Creating Safer Settings for Children and Families

Please sign up to our [Contact List](#) to ensure that you receive updates and copies of Training Flyers as these are issued and check out our [website training page](#).

Below is a sample of courses available for the remainder of 2022. Click on the link to find out more about the course content and complete the [on-line training booking form](#).

Abuse in Intimate Teenage Relationships	22 November 2022
Voice of the Child & Safeguarding	24 November 2022
Working with Race, Culture & Belief Systems in the Context of Professional Curiosity	28 November 2022
Domestic Abuse & Safeguarding Children	07 December 2022
Understanding Loss, Grief & Bereavement & the Effects on Children & Families	08 December 2022
Understanding Serious Youth Violence & the Criminal Exploitation of Children	13 December 2022

The Amber Project – Enhancing the response to abuse linked to faith and belief – Webinar



The Amber Project is holding a webinar on 1 December from 13:00 to 15:00. The event is free, but bookings are limited and need to be made via [Eventbrite](#). The webinar explains: (a) what abuse linked to witchcraft and spirit possession accusations is, (b) the factors and indicators professionals need to look out for and (c) what safeguarding actions need to be taken by those identifying cases. There is an explicit focus on those within the education sector, policing, social care and health. It is also of benefit to those who are from faith communities and communities working with families and children.

Private Fostering

Do you know of a child who is being cared for by someone who is not a close relative for more than 28 days?

Private fostering describes an arrangement when someone who is not a close relative cares for **another person's child under the age of 16 (18 if disabled) for 28 days or more.**

A close relative is considered to be an aunt, uncle, grandparent, stepparent or siblings. Other family members such as cousins or great aunts are not classed as close relatives for the purposes of Private Fostering. Private Fostering also includes families hosting overseas students being educated in the UK.

To notify us about a private fostering arrangement in Redbridge, please contact Redbridge Children's Services on 020 8708 3885 or by email

CPAT.Referrals@redbridge.gov.uk

For more information please visit our website:

<https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/private-fostering>



Do you know anybody who is looking after somebody else's child?

- Is the child under 16 (or 18 if they have a disability)?
- Is the child living with someone who is NOT their parent, step parent, sibling, aunt, uncle or grandparent? This also includes host families to overseas students
- Is it due to be for more than 28 days?
- This is called "private fostering" and we must be LEGALLY notified to ensure the child is safe.

Please contact Redbridge Children's Services:
020 8708 3885
CPAT.Referrals@redbridge.gov.uk
or visit www.redbridge.gov.uk/private-fostering for more information

Foster for Redbridge

It takes a special person to care for a special person.

Gloria Samuel, Service Manager for Fostering and Children with Disabilities Services

in Redbridge Council, previously fostered for 20 years. Many of the children she cared for had physical and learning disabilities. Now retired from fostering, Gloria states "I don't think potential foster carers realise just how much training and support is available when looking after children who happen to be disabled or have additional needs. There are many different care packages offered to support the child and foster carers fully and the training involved is outstanding".

If you are considering fostering and would like to know more, please email

fostering@redbridge.gov.uk or call us on 020 8708 6068. We can't wait to hear from you!



Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

The Inquiry has now published its final report. The report draws on evidence from public hearings, research, and submissions to the 'Truth Project' from people who were sexually abused as children. Recommendations include introducing a statutory requirement of mandatory reporting; establishing a national scheme to provide monetary reparations to those who have experienced sexual abuse in institutions; and creating national Child Protection Authorities to improve practice, provide advice to government and monitor implementation of the Inquiry's recommendations. The report is available on the [ICSA website](http://www.icsa.gov.uk) and the NSPCC has produced a useful [summary briefing](#).



Contact Information

Redbridge Safeguarding Children Partnership (RSCP)

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Website: www.redbridgescp.org.uk

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RSCP Training

RedbridgeSCP.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 (Emergencies - Evenings and weekends)

CPAT.Referrals@redbridge.gov.uk

Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

Tel: 020 3182 3515

E-mail bhr.cdop@nhs.net



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, RSCP Manager, via RedbridgeSCP@redbridge.gov.uk or on 020 8708 5282 or 07775399017. Our next edition will be published in January 2023.