

## AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2023

### 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 (RSCP) took place on 16 October, the details of which are shared on [page 2](#). The meeting also considered the new priorities for 2023 – 2024, currently out for consultation. More information will be provided in the next newsletter. Meanwhile, there is a final update on those for 2022 – 2023 on [page 4](#).

It was great some of our young people from the Redbridge Youth Council could join us and update us on their work and inform the planning of the RSCP priorities for the coming year.

Since the last edition of the newsletter Ofsted, CQC, HMICFRS and HMIP have published guidance for the thematic focus on serious youth violence, as part of their programme of joint targeted area inspections (JTAs). Serious youth violence is a major social concern that has dramatic effects on the lives of children and families. It can be devastating for those directly involved and has much wider significance and impact across communities. The JTAs aim to identify aspects of

effective multi-agency responses that are making a real difference to the safety and well-being of children and aspects of multi-agency work that need to improve. Due to the interrelated nature of criminal exploitation and serious youth violence this will also be part of any inspection.

All children who commit violence require a safeguarding response. However, partner agencies also need to work together to protect both the child and the wider community from further violence. It has been a strategic aim to bring the work of the [Redbridge Community Safety Partnership](#) and the RSCP into closer alignment as a reflection of how children are kept safe in the places they live. [London's Violence Reduction Unit](#) is a team of specialists who bring people across London together to better understand why violence happens and to take action to prevent it now, you can find out more about how we're working to prevent and reduce violence in London on the website.

Continuing with this theme, the [Redbridge 'One Panel'](#) (the multi-agency group which receives referrals on cases in Redbridge that may meet statutory review criteria, such as a Safeguarding Adults Review (SARs), Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs) or Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)), recently discussed the findings of a CSPR undertaken by another area, which can be read in full in the case review portal hosted by the [NSPCC](#). The case related to a 15-year-old boy who was fatally stabbed by another

15-year-old. A key feature of the case for all young people involved was the impact of a temporary or permanent exclusion from mainstream education, as result of this the panel are seeking assurance about what multi-agency process or information sharing is undertaken at the point of exclusion.

Just a reminder to everyone that when a professional believes that the criteria has been met on a case for DHR or SAR, CSPR the relevant referral form is completed and submitted to the Panel as soon as possible to explore the issues in a timely and prevent delay in identifying system learning.

The last RSCP meeting received powerful messages from our housing colleagues

- 3,000 households are in temporary accommodation (TA) in Redbridge
- 4,442 children in TA placed by Redbridge at the end of June
- Placements are 57% in borough and 43% out of borough
- 4,550 Council tenanted properties, all other social landlords have 4,500, only 9% of the housing in Redbridge is social housing, one of the lowest levels in London
- Only 169 social housing lettings in 2022/23, social housing is highly unlikely to be the way out of

homelessness for families entering TA now

- The private rented sector is no longer an option in the borough for any household relying on benefits to pay any part of their rent due to the escalating costs

There are strategic action plans in place which the RSCP were asked to support by sharing the following information from the Housing Service across the partnership.

- [The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017](#) is designed to increase the focus on prevention of homelessness and all the associated traumas including time in temporary accommodation
- Families to be encouraged to approach the [Housing Service](#) as soon as they become aware of an issue that may mean they are likely to be threatened with homelessness
- Families can check our webpages to see the support that we can offer Redbridge - [Get help if you are homeless](#)
- Use the Duty to Refer [Redbridge - Duty to Refer](#) whilst not all partners are not covered by this statutorily, we will accept any referrals that you want to make
- We will work with families and landlords to try to

keep them in their homes, if we cannot, we will work to find alternative settled accommodation

The meeting also received a presentation from [the Child Death Overview Panel \(CDOP\)](#) and the work that is planned to reduce Sudden Death in Infancy (SUDI). Reflections on the challenges of the housing situation for families really brought home that the risk factors for SUDI can be increased because of homelessness.



Known risk factors that can contribute to SUDI

- Parents who smoke or have consumed alcohol or substances (including prescription medication that may make them drowsy)
- Smoking, alcohol and/or substance misuse in pregnancy
- Babies born before 37 weeks or who have a birth weight less than 2.5kg
- Co-sleeping when known risk factors are present.
- Parental mental ill-health and domestic abuse

- Overcrowding, poor housing and social deprivation
- Disruption to normal routines prior to 'the last sleep'

There is a planned piece of work to introduce a [Prevent and Protect model](#), at the core of this model is the acknowledgment that SUDI Prevention needs to be seen in the context of the safeguarding continuum and that work is required across the multiagency partnership to ensure that SUDI Prevention messages reach the most vulnerable families. As this work progresses it may be useful for all professional to revisit the [Safe Sleep](#) to support families they work with.

Thank you for your continued hard work and commitment to the children and families of Redbridge.

Warm wishes  
Eileen Mills

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# Feedback from the RSCP Meeting – 16 October 2023

Summary of items discussed at the last RSCP meeting

In addition to the presentations and discussions mentioned in the [Foreword](#), the RSCP included the following updates:

## Transitional Safeguarding Panel Update

Transitional Safeguarding Panel started at the beginning of the year and has met three times so far. Challenges faced include getting more partners involved and getting consistent representation and attendance from all agencies. **High risk young people who don't meet criteria for a transfer between Children's and Adults' Social Care need a multi-agency approach.**

## Pathways & Provision – **Children and Young People's Mental Health Services**

There are 41 relevant services that young people could access for support, which could be challenging to navigate. In comparison to other London boroughs Redbridge CAMHS was relatively poorly resourced. There is ongoing work on a business case to bring funding for Redbridge CAMHS into line with the other local boroughs, based on demand on the service. The meeting considered if there was any scope for integration, particularly the **'front door' between CAMHS and Child & Family services**, with an aim to improving responses to the needs of families.

## Update on Redbridge Youth Council priorities

The young people presented slides on the work the Youth Council has been doing related to their priorities, which include:

- young people and vaping
- civic pride
- Youth Climate Forum
- challenging the perception that only women and girls are victims of sexual harassment.
- crime and poverty - key concerns for young people in the Borough.

## Priority 1

### Transitional Safeguarding

The Transitional Safeguarding Panel in Redbridge is now well established. Find out more about the Panel and how to refer a young person to it on the [RSCP website](#).



## Priority 2

### Contextual Safeguarding

The multi-agency review of Contextual Safeguarding is drawing to a close and will shortly be available, with recommendations, for comments by safeguarding partners. These will be taken forward in 2023 – 2024. Find out more about the importance of this area of safeguarding on the [NSPCC Learning website](#).

## 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.

UNICEF are facilitating a number of different courses based on Children's Rights. For more information, check out the flyer on the [RSCP website](#) which includes full booking information.

# Focus on ... Neglect

## RSCP Multi-Agency Neglect Toolkit

In 2022, the Redbridge Safeguarding Children Partnership (RSCP) published the Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) '[Baby A' Child Safeguarding Practice Review \(CSPR\) – Baby 'A'](#)', in which neglect was a feature. Neglect is also the common priority for safeguarding partnerships.

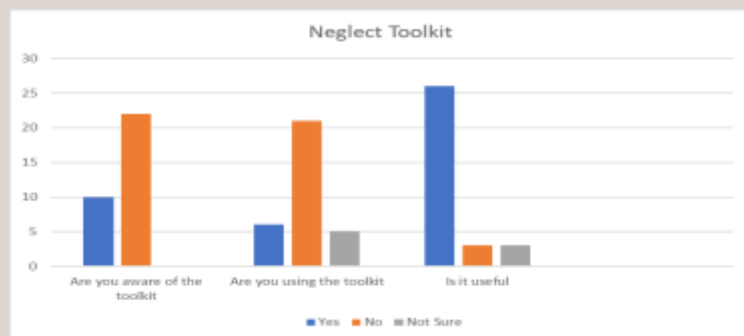
One of the recommendations from the Baby 'A' Review was for a review of the Multi-Agency Neglect Toolkit which was first produced in 2014.

Considerations around which approach to take to complete this review included options of a task and finish groups, roundtable discussion or semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders.

The approach selected was for a series of semi-structured interviews which were categorised into sector groups. The aim was to capture the views and needs of different agencies and services so that we could have a neglect tool for professionals across Redbridge which would support the identification of and response to child neglect.

5 sessions of group semi-structured interviews were held and attended by 32 professionals in total from MASH/CPAT, Health, Education, Families Together Hub and Children with Disabilities teams

We found that many professionals were not aware of the existing Neglect Toolkit but



after reviewing it for the purpose of the semi-structured interviews some professionals expressed they would now use the tool.

Some professionals asked for the language used in the tool to be changed and become more inclusive of the cohorts of children and young people

who could suffer from neglect, for example children with complex health needs or disabilities.

Recommendations from the multi-agency practitioner views included: updating the existing toolkit and include additional areas that participants raised, re-launch the toolkit across Redbridge with safeguarding leads taking responsibility to launch in their service and the perspectives of different services should be included in the update.

The RSCP have now updated the [Neglect Toolkit \(2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, September 2023\)](#) and hope that professionals will find this a useful resource when working with children and families.

The Toolkit will be featured in the RSCP half-day training course '[Understanding Neglect](#)' which is taking place on 21 November 2023 and 24 April 2024. Find out more by viewing the training flyer. For additional information, RSCP website has a dedicated page for professionals on [neglect](#).

# Focus on ... Safer Recruitment

## Disclosure and Barring Service



The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) aims to protect the public by helping employers make safer recruitment decisions, and by barring individuals who pose a risk to vulnerable groups from working in certain roles. It is important that employers have good recruitment practices in place. DBS checks can play a part in this process but should not be seen as the only safeguarding measure.

### Disclosure

Those who work with children may be asked for a DBS check, of which there are four levels: Basic DBS check; Standard DBS check; Enhanced DBS check; and Enhanced with Barred Lists DBS check. The information contained on each type of certificate is different and the role will determine what level of DBS check can be applied for. For more detail on eligibility for DBS checks, please refer to the [DBS eligibility guidance](#). The information on a DBS check is used by employers to make a suitability decision. After the certificate has been received, the applicant can choose to subscribe to the [Update Service](#), which is a tool for employers to check whether new information has been added to the certificate since it was issued.

### Barring

DBS maintains two Barred Lists – **the Adults' Barred List and the Children's Barred List**. These are lists of individuals who are barred from working or volunteering with the respective workforce in regulated activity. Regulated activity providers and personnel suppliers have a [legal duty](#) to make a barring referral when two main conditions are met:

1. The individual is removed from engaging in regulated activity by being dismissed, redeployed, or retired, or because they resigned or were made redundant.
2. You think the individual has either:

- engaged in relevant conduct
- satisfied the harm test
- received a caution for, or been convicted of, a relevant offence.

Even if the duty to refer is not met, you can still make a referral to DBS in the interests of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults if you believe someone poses a safeguarding risk. DBS is required by law to consider all information sent from any source. You can submit an [online barring referral](#) to DBS or you can use the paper form. You can find further information about how to make a referral in the [barring referral guidance](#).

### Further Information

For further information about DBS, please email [DBSregionaloutreach@dbs.gov.uk](mailto:DBSregionaloutreach@dbs.gov.uk) or get in touch with Kiran Rehal, your Regional Outreach Advisor (Greater London) at [Kiranpreet.Rehal@dbs.gov.uk](mailto:Kiranpreet.Rehal@dbs.gov.uk).

## RSCP Training Programme 2023 - 2024

The new [23/24 RSCP Training Programme](#) launched in September, and we are already getting good uptake for the 70 learning events we are delivering this academic year. As well as increasing the number of essential courses for creating safer settings for children; Level 2 and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Training, we have some exciting new partnerships contributing to local and national safeguarding initiatives. The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) will be co-facilitating a course on [Understanding Coercive Control](#) and Redbridge Education Welfare Team (REWT) have designed a new course, [Cost of Living Crisis, Poverty and the Effects on Parenting and Children's Mental Health](#). The RSCP Training Manager sits on the London Safeguarding Children Partnership's Training Subgroup and this year as well as our local offer, anyone working with Redbridge children and families can take advantage of their free [Pan London Training Programme](#).

Our upcoming courses include:

Course	Date	Delivery
<a href="#">Radicalisation Awareness Briefing</a> FREE	Tuesday 28 November	ONLINE
<a href="#">Voice of the Child and Safeguarding</a>	Wednesday 29 November	CLASSROOM
<a href="#">Understanding Loss, Grief, and Bereavement</a>	Thursday 30 November	CLASSROOM
<a href="#">Early Help for Children and Families - An Introduction to the Common Assessment Framework</a> FREE	Wednesday 6 December	CLASSROOM
<a href="#">Awareness of Child Sexual and Criminal Exploitation</a> FREE	Thursday 7 December	ONLINE
<a href="#">Working with Refugee and Vulnerable Migrant Children</a>	Friday 8 December	ONLINE
<a href="#">Young Women &amp; Girls Affected by 'Gangs' and County Lines</a> FREE	Tuesday 12 December	ONLINE
<a href="#">Understanding Thresholds and Making Referrals</a>	Wednesday 13 December	ONLINE

## Redbridge Safeguarding Adult Board (RSAB) – Multi-Agency Introduction to Safeguarding Adults Briefings 2023



The Safeguarding Adults Board have one final [Introduction to Safeguarding Adults Briefing](#) this year on 06 December, from 10:00 – 11:00 (MS Teams). Attendance is free and open to any one working with children, families, or adults at risk in Redbridge. It will provide a brief overview of the topic and guidance on making a referral. To book, e-mail your contact details and chosen date to [RSAB@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:RSAB@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](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/private-fostering) for more information

## Updated! Mental Health and Wellbeing Map

The local authority has updated and relaunched an interactive map showing the location of [mental health support services](#) for both children and adults in the Borough.

It is a useful tool that can be used by the public and professionals to filter by type of need and indicates the referral route. For example, you can search for services that can provide support with anxiety, trauma or eating disorders and read a brief description, view the location and identify the referral process.

Anyone requiring urgent help in relation to their mental health can call

24/7 Redbridge Mental Health Direct on 0300 555 1000; Safe Connections on 0300 561 0115; or the Samaritans on 116 123.

## Financial Support

The Borough's Reach Out Domestic Abuse Service has developed a useful [guide](#) for professionals who may need to signpost residents in need help with their finances or whom are experiencing difficulties during the recent rises in the cost of living. The Local Authority also has information on its [website](#).

## Learning from Case Reviews: Adolescent Suicide

Check out our new publication which is a [7 minute briefing](#) featuring the key learning points from two local learning reviews undertaken recently on the theme of adolescent suicide. This multi-agency resource highlights topics such as the voice of the child; working in a trauma informed way; information sharing and record keeping; **'think family'**; the workforce; and partnership working.





# Contact Information

Redbridge Safeguarding Children Partnership (RSCP)

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

Tel: 020 8708 5282 or 020 8708 3289

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



@RedbridgeSCP



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## RSCP Training

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

## Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

Tel: 020 3182 3515

E-mail [bhr.cdop@nhs.net](mailto: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](mailto:RedbridgeSCP@redbridge.gov.uk) or on 020 8708 5282 or 07775399017. Our next edition will be published in January 2024.