

## AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2024

### 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 14 October, the focus of which was on reviewing the current Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) following the new requirements of [Working Together 2023](#). The meeting considered the structural changes required but also the values of the RSCP and listened to presentations on areas which the RSCP has identified they would like to develop, work already taking place and new roles and responsibilities. **These included a children's rights-based approach; addressing inequalities in safeguarding; the Families First for Children Multi-Agency Pathfinder; strengthening the role of education in multi-agency safeguarding; and the proposed new MASA model.**

Partners considered the following: what are the strengths (or working well) in the current Redbridge MASA **and don't need to change?**; **What are the opportunities in the new proposed MASA that would lead to improvements in response to what has been shared today? (i.e. child's rights-based approach; responding to disproportionality; the opportunity of the Pathfinder); and How will we know that the MASA are making a difference to children and young people?**

Feedback from the discussions has been considered and have informed the drafting of the new MASA arrangements from 2025, and revision of the vision and values of RSCP which will be published in December 2024. More feedback from the meeting can be found on [page 2](#).

Back to our newsletter, and this edition is focusing on the NSPCC safeguarding resources available for schools. However not all children attend an educational setting. The National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel produce a briefing in earlier this year on [Safeguarding Children in Elective Home Education](#), to share learning from analysis of rapid reviews and local child safeguarding practice reviews (LCSPRs) to inform the work of safeguarding partners generally to help and protect children who are electively home educated. Most children who are home educated have happy and safe lives, but a small minority do not. Children who are educated at home and where there is a risk of abuse and neglect, will not be able to benefit from the protective care that school can provide.

Children who have never been to school are especially at risk of becoming invisible, rendering agencies much less able to act to protect them when necessary. The briefing calls for the government to increase and clarify the scope and responsibilities of local authorities, including through the establishment of a national register to ensure that there is knowledge about which children are being electively home educated.

As safeguarding partners we must take all necessary steps to assure ourselves that policy, practice, and procedures in all areas enables professionals to work effectively together, with children and their

families, to safeguard and protect this group of children.

The Panel has also recently issued advice on terminology and language in safeguarding reviews. The language used when referring to children, their families and communities can at times be contested and interpreted in different ways. Preferred terms can develop and change quickly.

As far as possible, the Panel try to use person-centred language to foster understanding, dignity and recognition of the full range of **children's identities**. For example, the Panel would **use the term 'Black and other minoritised communities'** when referring to communities affected by inequality related to their ethnic and racial heritage. The Panel use this term because it is important to recognise that experiences and challenges can vary for individuals with different ethnic or racial heritages. The Panel think that use of this inclusive language can support work to address the specific issues faced by various communities whilst also emphasising the common goal of promoting equity and addressing disparities.

Finally, please take the time to view the new MASA arrangements, and the revised Vision and Values statement that reflects the commitment the RSCP has made to safeguard children in our Borough, once published.

Best wishes

Eileen Mills

This issue	Page
Board Report	<a href="#">2</a>
Safeguarding Priorities	<a href="#">3</a>
RSCP Learning Together	<a href="#">4</a>
Focus On	<a href="#">5 &amp; 6</a>
News	<a href="#">7</a>
Contact Information	<a href="#">8</a>

# Feedback from the RSCP Meeting – 14 October 2024

## Summary of items discussed at the last RSCP meeting

In addition to the presentations and discussions mentioned in the Foreword, the RSCP received the following updates and information:

- Feedback on the launch of the new joint Data Subgroup with the Redbridge Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB), which is chaired by the Local Authority.
- The RSCP safeguarding dataset for Quarter 1, 2023 – 2024.
- **Received a copy of the latest edition of the Redbridge 'One Panel' Case Referral Log**, which lists the cases that are referred into the Panel, the decision-making in relation to these and the outcomes in terms of case reviews. A local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) is commencing in November 2024. **For information, the Redbridge 'One Panel' mailbox** for referrals, scoping information, queries etc. has changed to: [nelondonicb.onepanelredbridge@nhs.net](mailto:nelondonicb.onepanelredbridge@nhs.net)



## Priority 1

### Contextual Safeguarding

A multiagency review of Contextual Safeguarding was undertaken in 2022 - 2023. Partners have agreed an action plan developed to respond to the learning and recommendations made. CSPRs, DHRs and SARs have also provided learning to be taken forward in respect of Contextual Safeguarding, developing a recognition of all-age/system learning from incidents and case reviews.

The priority will be to ensure the findings of the Redbridge multi-agency Contextual Safeguarding Review, alongside local data and research, considers and responds to the findings from:

- [HMICFRS MPS Inspection - Putting Vulnerable Children at Risk, 2023](#)
- [Missing Children in London, London Assembly Police and Crime Committee Report, 2023](#)

We will need to ensure arrangements are in place to appraise and respond to the recommendations of the review and have oversight of the progress on implementation of the recommendations.

The current plan is to provide a learning event for Redbridge professionals and volunteers in conjunction with the Redbridge Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB) and Redbridge Community Safety Partnership. A multi-agency working group has been established to take this forward.

## Priority 2

### Children & Young People's Mental Health

It was established last year that work was needed on raising awareness of different support and resources available for children and young people with mental health needs and to test out whether service provision is meeting those needs.

A number of Rapid Reviews and local Learning Reviews on adolescent suicides have provided learning.



Action will focus on challenging accessibility and ensuring understanding of the service offer by parents/carers, young people and front-line professionals.; scrutinising agency evaluation and feedback from referrals into mental health services.

There will be a review of the quality of multiagency working for children experiencing challenges with their mental health, including a 'round table' audit event being facilitated by a multi-agency Task and Finish group in November.

## Priority 3

### A Suitable Home for Every Child

Current housing crisis, both nationally and acutely felt in LB Redbridge (4,442 children in temporary accommodation placed by Redbridge at the end of June 2023). Temporary accommodation can be a stable long term home but less so for children in B&B and hostel type accommodation.

Ensuring the prevention of homelessness duties are promoted across the Partnership.

Articulating the response across the Partnership for families that are badged as making themselves intentionally homeless or no recourse to public funds but have vulnerable children.

To review the effectiveness of multiagency arrangements to ensure continuity and support for those children who are likely to experience frequent changes in accommodation moving in and out of the Borough.

## RSCP Training Programme 2024 – 2025

The new [Redbridge SCP Training Programme for 2024 – 2025](#) is now open for bookings. Over 70 sessions are grouped into three series, key to your work with children and families :

- Understanding Safeguarding Risks
- Contextual Safeguarding & Child on Child Abuse
- Creating Safer Settings for Children and Families

New sessions this year include:

- [Modern Slavery \(FREE BRIEFING\)](#)
- [Intrafamilial Child Sexual Abuse – An Introduction](#)
- [‘Think Family’: Safeguarding the Whole Family \(FREE BRIEFING\)](#)
- [Understanding Unconscious Bias](#)
- [Safer Recruitment \(Refresher Training\)](#)

To book your place on any of the courses, please use our [online booking form](#). You will see there are some courses that have ‘dates and times TBC’; please don’t try and book a place on those yet – we just want you to know they’re in the pipeline for this year! For notes on training fees and cancellation policy, please click [here](#) and visit [our website](#) for full details of our training programme. If you would like to receive information direct to your mailbox, please sign up via our [contact form](#).

A sample of some of our upcoming courses over the next few weeks is below.

Date	Course Title	Delivery
05 11 2024	Safeguarding Children from Honour Based Abuse	On-Line
07 11 2024	Safer Recruitment	On-Line
13 11 2024	Working to Safeguard Children with Disabilities in Redbridge	On-Line
19 11 2024	Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Children	Classroom
20 11 2024	Radicalisation Awareness Workshop	On-Line
26 11 2024	Understanding Loss, Grief and Bereavement and the Effects on Children and Families	Classroom
27 11 2024	Understanding Unconscious Bias	Classroom
28 11 2024	Safeguarding Children who go Missing	On-Line
29 11 2024	Safeguarding Children in a Digital World	On-Line
03 12 2024	Young Women and Girls Affected by ‘Gangs’ and County Lines	On-Line



# Focus on ... NSPCC

NSPCC have a range of free resources to help schools safeguard children. See below for a whistlestop tour of just some of what is available for primary and secondary settings.

## Primary Settings

The NSPCC has reached over 90% of all UK schools with the **Speak Out Stay Safe Campaign**.

## How are the Speak Out Stay Safe assemblies delivered?

With the help of celebrities, Ant and Dec, the child friendly, age-appropriate assemblies and workshops help children understand their right to be safe, to be listened to and receive help if they are worried.



It helps them understand:

Abuse in all its forms and recognise the signs, including online abuse and neglect;

That abuse is never a child's fault, and they have the right to be safe;

Know how to get help, and the sources of help available to them,

including safe adults in and outside school and Childline.



There is also an option, where there is capacity, to have face-to-face workshops for Years 2, 5 and 6 which build and consolidate the messages in the films. These are also free of charge and delivered by the NSPCC School Service Volunteers.

There is also a SEND version of the programme for



children with moderate learning disabilities, autism spectrum conditions or other additional learning needs.

To sign up, please visit the NSPCC [website](https://www.nspcc.org.uk) or email [caroline.roughley@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:caroline.roughley@nspcc.org.uk)



# Focus on ... NSPCC

## Secondary Settings



Building Connections is an online service for people up to the age of 19 who are experiencing loneliness.

Across 11 sessions, participants work through a seven-step strengths-based approach programme with a befriender.

The service believes in a young person's right to early intervention if they are experiencing or struggling with the impact of loneliness and poor relationships, which sometimes lead to other severe mental health needs like anxiety, low self-esteem, etc.

Each Building Connections session gives the young person tools that can support them and help them develop resilience and coping techniques.

Young people will need to be referred into the service by a professional within an organisation/agency that works with those children and young people.

You can find out more about the Building Connections Service by visiting the [NSPCC website](#).



Talk Relationships is a free resource that supports secondary school teachers and leaders to confidently deliver effective and inclusive relationships and sex education.

We want all young people to understand healthy behaviours in relationships and recognise their right to be safe, heard, and respected. And we want them to know how to get help from a trusted adult if they need it.

Talk Relationships includes:

- A free elearning course for teachers that addresses their specific needs when delivering relationships and sex education.
- A free elearning course, specifically tailored to school leaders, on implementing a whole-school approach relationships and sex education.
- 14 free ready-to-teach lesson plans and resources.
- 6 free SEND-specific lessons plans, adaptable for the needs of different students.
- A helpline dedicated to supporting secondary school educators with help and advice to deliver effective sex and relationships education.
- A whole-school approach framework to relationships and sex education. The framework is made up for five free documents that, when used together, will support school leaders to implement a whole-school approach to relationships and sex education, based on evidence and best practice.

Find out more on the [NSPCC website](#).

## Empower a child. Foster for Redbridge.

You could be the one to guide, listen to, **teach, and enrich a child's life**, empowering them to become confident and independent young people.



If you have a place in your home and heart to foster a child, please call us on 020 8708 6068 or join us on our next virtual information session to find out more. Visit the [website](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/fostering) to book a place.



## Consultation

The Borough has launched a consultation on a new draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy for 2024 – 2029. Please do engage with this consultation and provide your views via the link below:

<https://engage.redbridge.gov.uk/hrss>



You may also wish to view the accompanying 'Home Truths' video (2 minutes, 25 seconds) on YouTube:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=trJaVTbNbKc>

Do take part and share your views on this important topic.



# 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)

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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 at the end of January 2025.