

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2022

Foreword from the Independent Chair & Scrutineer



Welcome to this Spring edition of the RSCP newsletter, although we are now moving into our summer and I write this on what is being described as the hottest day of the year (so far)!

It has been a pleasure to join both the RSCP, and the Safeguarding Adults Board, and I have been made most welcome by all the partners. It is my ambition to carry on the good work of the former Chair and move us forward in developing the work of the RSCP and RSAB, with particular attention to the spaces where adults and child safeguarding are inter-dependant.

My professional background is nursing, with substantial experience of strategic safeguarding in health services and partnership working. I bring with me experience from both provider and commissioning organisations from my work in Greater Manchester, from which I recently retired, for adults and children.

The first RSCP meeting I chaired took place on the 28-April 2022 via Microsoft Teams.

We had hoped to have a face-to-face meeting to introduce ourselves and come together after a long time following the relaxation of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. Unfortunately, Ofsted had other ideas and announced they were undertaking a focussed inspection of the “front door” services for children provided by Redbridge Children’s Social Care. Therefore, in order to manage time effectively the decision was made to move to the virtual platform.

One of the plus sides of a slightly delayed Spring edition is that we can now share the outcomes from that Ofsted visit, which have been published in letter form. Do check out [here](#) the very positive findings from the inspectorate, identifying high quality services, which have been developed even further since being rated as ‘Outstanding’ by Ofsted in 2019. Well done to all involved for providing such a robust response to children in need of support and protection. The recommendations, which relate to multi-agency working, have led to reflection on how partner agencies support delivery and will be a focus of future development that the RSCP will support the Local Authority in taking forward.

Despite the pressures on services, the meeting in April was well represented by all agencies. I am sharing the [headlines](#) from the meeting later on in the newsletter.

The highlight of the meeting was the presentation from the Redbridge Youth Council and their priorities for the coming year. It was fantastic to see such passion and enthusiasm from our young people, which was matched by partners extending offers of support to this work. As Chair, I committed to ensuring they are considered in the future planning of RSCP priorities. Alongside updates on the current priorities, the Partnership committed to reviewing the current safeguarding dataset to incorporate a wider partnership dashboard, which would provide assurance that children are safe and highlight areas that may need more focus. This work will be progressed over the coming months.

I hope to meet as many of you as possible at one of my ‘Meet the Chair Events’ running across the summer.

Best wishes

Eileen Mills
Independent Chair & Scrutineer

This issue	Page
Board Report	2
Safeguarding Priorities	3
Focus on ...	4
RSCP Events Calendar	5
News	6
Contact Information	7

Board Report

Feedback from the RSCP Meeting – 28 April

Summary of items discussed at the last meeting

Among other items, the Partnership received presentations and discussed the topics below.

Redbridge Youth Council – Priorities for 2022 - 2023

These include the following which relate to safeguarding:

- preventing the normalisation of sexual harassment in schools;
- ensuring students feel safe and comfortable to speak about their experience of domestic violence (DV) and be able to ask for guidance and support;
- raising awareness and providing information about help and support with homelessness;
- highlighting the detrimental effect of substance misuse on young people;
- plans to reach out to faith communities in raising awareness regarding domestic abuse and promoting services such as Refuge;
- preparing for Adulthood Strategy; and
- supporting Child Friendly Redbridge.

The Partnership received assurance on:

- progression of Partnership priorities;
- the response to the [City & Hackney SCP 'Child Q' Child Safeguarding Practice Review \(CSPR\)](#), published in March 2022;
- a pending review of Assessment, Care Planning and Therapy Provision in Redbridge special schools; and
- the progress of a recent Rapid Review to a local CSPR.

The Partnership received information on the following items, the implications of which will be addressed via the Learning and Improvement Subgroup:

- [Joint Targeted Area Inspection \(JTAI\) – new Framework Guidance \(March 2022\)](#)
- [London Safeguarding Children Procedures and Practice Guidance, 7th Edition, 2022](#)

Priority 1

Safeguarding Adolescents

Completing the work begun in 2019/20 on transitional safeguarding – a joint project with the [Redbridge Safeguarding Adults Board \(RSAB\)](#) to develop proposals for an effective Redbridge response to the needs of young adults at risk of exploitation, recognising that adolescence as a developmental phase does not suddenly end on the eighteenth birthday. A small working group has now formed and met earlier this month and will meet again in March.

Carrying out a multi-agency self-assessment against the questions and challenges posed in "[it was hard to escape: safeguarding children at risk from criminal exploitation](#)", a thematic review published by the [Child Safeguarding Practice Review \(CSPR\) Panel](#). The 'four key areas' are problem identification, supporting your staff, service design and practice development, and quality assurance. A report based on this self-assessment was presented to the July Partnership meeting. The recently published report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) [Child Sexual Exploitation by Organised Networks](#) will also be considered in this work stream.

The London Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) nine principles for safeguarding adolescents to be embedded in the above work streams and across agencies in the Partnership (see page 2 of the [RSCP Plan and Priorities 2020 – 2021](#)).



Priority 3

Child sexual abuse in the family environment

The Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) Report on the multi-agency response to sexual abuse in the family environment, published in February 2020, identifies a number of challenging findings which are highly critical of much practice in this area. The Partnership carried out a 'true for Redbridge?' multi-agency self-assessment against these key findings. A report on this was presented to the July Partnership meeting and the Learning and Improvement Subgroup is taking forward the Action Plan.

Priority 2

Monitoring and supporting the multi-agency safeguarding response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Continuing to monitor and support the multi-agency safeguarding response to the challenges of the Covid19 pandemic, the safeguarding risks that have been identified in this context, and the management of the recovery phase. Verbal updates from partners are being presented to each quarterly meeting focusing on the challenges and learning from this difficult time.

Focus on ... DBS Regional Service



The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) provide a vital service to UK employers, processing over 6 million criminal record checks each year as well as maintaining the child and adults barred lists of over 75,000 names. In 2020, the DBS announced a new [5-year strategy](#), in which one of the key areas for improvement was 'profile' i.e. managing the perception and understanding of what the DBS actually does.

As part of the response, a [Regional Outreach Service](#) was launched to focus on working collaboratively with safeguarding and recruiting organisations. The aim is to work closer with organisations and networks to build and develop relationships, acting as a single point of contact for all DBS related enquiries within the region.

Kiran Rehal is the DBS Regional Advisor for Greater London, which includes Redbridge, and is based in the region.

Below are some of the areas in which Kiran will be able to offer support:

- Providing guidance, responding to queries, and helping with clarification on issues via telephone or e-mail.
- Attending meetings, training, conferences or visiting organisations to have a face-to-face discussion.

- Developing and delivering presentations, workshops, webinars, to provide an overview of DBS and safer recruitment.
- Taking any feedback, suggestions or comments from DBS experiences and feeding this back into the business.
- Helping to understand what level of check can be applied for and what information these checks will provide.
- Informing organisations and employers of their duty or power to refer individuals who may pose a future risk of harm within regulations activity. This includes how to make barring referrals; when should a referral be made; and how to DBS assess whether a referred person should be included on **the children's and/or adults** barred list.

E-mail:

Kiranpreet.rehal@db.gov.uk

DBSRegionaloutreach@db.gov.uk

Telephone: 0300 105 3081

For more information, see the [DBS guidance page](#) where you can also access a short video on the Regional Outreach Service. Follow the DBS on Twitter [@DBSgovuk](#) for up to date developments.

Redbridge SCP Multi-Agency Training

The **RSCP Training Programme 2021 - 2022**, your multi-agency safeguarding training for professionals and volunteers working with children and families in Redbridge, continues to be rolled out and courses have been very well evaluated.



Below are the last two courses that are running as part of our current programme for 2021 - 2022.

Both are currently fully subscribed, but contact RedbridgeSCP.Training@redbridge.gov.uk if you want to be added to the waiting list in case there are any last minute cancellations.

If you're not currently on our mailing list, you can sign up [here](#) for regular updates. This will ensure that you received a copy of the new Training Programme, due for publication in August, which will commence in September.

Course	Date(s)
The Voice of the Child and Safeguarding – Waiting List only	20 06 2022
Safer Recruitment – Waiting List only	23 06 2022

Learning from National Reports

During the break from training, there are two recently published national reports worth attention:

- [Independent Review of Children's Social Care - Final Report, May 2022](#)
Whilst this report is **focused on children's social care**, there are implications within the recommendations for multi-agency working in child protection. An executive summary is provided plus information on the evidence used within the review.
- [CSPR Panel Report – Child Protection in England: the national review into the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson, May 2022](#)
This important National Review holds key challenges for a range of safeguarding partners. The NSPCC has produced an accessible [summary briefing](#) which can aid discussions in supervision, staff safeguarding briefings and service meetings.

London Safeguarding Children Procedures and Practice Guidance

What have been known for many years as the London Child Protection Procedures and Practice Guidance have been renamed to the London Safeguarding Children Procedures and Practice Guidance. The [7th Edition](#) was published on 31 March 2022.

Do [sign up](#) to ensure that you receive updates on any changes to the procedures, particularly following the twice yearly review, the next of which will be taking place in order September 2022.

Update to the local thresholds document: Worried about a Child?

The guidance document for agencies to refer to when there are concerns about a child in Redbridge has been updated. The full document can be found [here](#) and there is also an accessible one page [summary version](#). If you are a professional working in Redbridge and want to understand more about the process, share good practice etc. why not join our monthly Redbridge Multi-Agency Thresholds and Referrals Meeting? Information is available on the [RSCP website](#) or you can e-mail Redbridge.SCP@redbridge.gov.uk

Meet the Chair Events

Our new Independent Chair/Scrutineer is running a series of 'virtual' events across the summer where you can meet her, find out more about the strategic developments in multi-agency safeguarding in Redbridge and share your views as a professional, support staff or volunteer.

The dates and times are:

30 June @ 16:00

5 July @ 12:00

7 September @ 16:00

They are open to all working with children, young people, families., or adults at risk in Redbridge. To book a place, e-mail RedbridgeSCP@redbridge.gov.uk including your name, role, agency and e-mail address and a MS Teams calendar invitation will be sent out to you.

Private Fostering – Need to Know



Are you looking after a child who is not your own?

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

Please contact the Child Protection and Assessment Team (CPAT):
020 8708 3885
CPAT.Referrals@redbridge.gov.uk
or visit www.redbridge.gov.uk/private-fostering for more information

Keeping Children Safe in Education

Updated DfE guidance now published for schools and colleges , which is implemented from 1 September 2022

- [Keeping Children Safe in Education, September 2022](#)

Contact Information

Redbridge Safeguarding Children Partnership (RSCP)

RedbridgeSCP@redbridge.gov.uk

Tel: 020 8708 5282 or 020 8708 3289

Website: www.redbridgescp.org.uk

 @RedbridgeSCP

 @RedbridgeSCP

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 (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 July 2022.