

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2025

Editorial from the Chair



A warm welcome to this Spring edition of the RSCP newsletter. Also, a particular welcome to our three new Lay Members, Neelam, Hazel and Cerrie. It is great to have you join the Partnership and bring with you your experience, challenge and local knowledge.

I'm sure you share my feeling that there is so much going on in relation to safeguarding children currently. We have the pending Child Wellbeing and Schools Bill going through parliament, the continued implementation of the DfE Families First for Children Pathfinder which is moving onto phase 2 and also beginning work on our new priorities 2025 – 2026.

Amongst other things, we are going to be focusing on national reports published by the Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) Panel on child sexual abuse in the familial environment, and race and racism in safeguarding. We also have the learning to be taken forward from our our own recent Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) '**Zara**' which is due to be published this summer, and a Local Learning Review.

We are also anticipating that there will be various actions to take forward following analysis of the recent S11 multi-agency audit and will be looking at where the RSCP can support agencies and the children and families workforce.

There is also work for us to do in implementing the specific points from the recently published non-statutory guidance on the Pathfinder which is aimed at Safeguarding Children Partnerships. It was really pleasing to hear that the implementation has gone so well to date and a big

thank you to all partners involved for great joint working to get this off the ground, and who are now sharing their knowledge, experience and learning with other local areas that are earlier in their implementation journey. Well done all!

Do check the discussions at the last RSCP meeting which took place on 28 April and are reviewed by our Independent Scrutineer on [page 2](#).

Finally, I am aware that we are working in challenging times, with a number of professionals and agencies struggling with uncertainty. My special thank you for keeping up your commitment to safeguarding the children of Redbridge.

If you would like to make contact please email via RedbridgeSCP@redbridge.gov.uk.

Best wishes

Diane Jones

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Commentary from the Independent Scrutineer on the RSCP Meeting, 28 April 2025

Summary of items discussed at the last RSCP meeting

In addition to the presentations and discussions mentioned in the [Editorial](#), the RSCP received the following updates and information.

The RSCP received the end of year position for the 2024 - 2025 priorities.

1. **Contextual Safeguarding** Over the course of the year achievements included the ongoing strengthening and embedding of the Youth Intelligence Hub development of resources and support.
2. **Child Mental Health** The Task and Finish Group made several recommendations to be taken forward by the placed based partnership and NELFT.
3. **A Suitable Home for Every Child** The presentation covered the restructure of the LBR Housing Service, an update on housing strategies and policies, wait times on social housing, new ways of working, housing outcomes, including how safeguarding alerts are processed.

Update on Missing Persons Arrangements The police representative outlined arrangements for missing persons which included information on the drivers for **change, challenges, the new model, and staffing, advising that the 'go live' date was October 2025**. It is anticipated that the new arrangements will improve how the service identifies and assesses risk and how it responds when children are reported missing.

RSCP Children with Disabilities Protocol Work has been taking place to review the existing protocol. The Redbridge Safeguarding Partnership (RSCP) recognises that the presence of a disability increases the vulnerability of children to abuse and neglect. The revised Protocol (May 2025) is now available on the [RSCP website](#).

DfE Families First for Children Pathfinder Update The latest update included the Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF) is now an on-line form which has received positive **feedback. Pre and post birth Family Help Team is the next to go 'live'. The presentation** outlined further detail of the Multi-Agency Child Protection Team (MACPT) with responsibility for core, statutory child protection functions -

Lead Child Protection Practitioner-co-work with lead practitioner in Family Help to lead Independent Child Protection Conference (IPCP)

Specialist Child Protection Health Practitioner - advise on health, mental health and wellbeing issues, expertise and time to identify actual or likely significant harm, drawing on network of health colleagues, including GPs, for further advice.

Education Child Protection specialist - brings key education insights to the team, accessing key information from education and childcare providers, crucial to our **understanding of child's experiences**

Child Protection Police Officers Review all Child Protection, collaborating with MASH, CAIT & CSU colleagues

Priority 1

Responding to national Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) Panel reports

The national CSPR Panel has recently published two very important reports:

- I Wanted Them All To Notice: Protecting children and responding to child sexual abuse within the family environment, November 2024.
- It's Silent: Race, Racism and Safeguarding Children, March 2025.

The RSCP will be considering the findings and learning from these and planning relevant actions to take forward the learning locally.



Priority 2

Learning from Case Reviews and responding to Section 11

Our local case reviews, including a Local Learning Reviews and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review, from the past six months, have provided key areas for learning and development which we will be looking to develop into action plans in order to take the learning into local policy and practice.



Priority 3

Responding to non-statutory guidance DfE The Families Partnership Programme Guide, March 2025

The DfE Families First For Children Pathfinder in Redbridge is now entering phase 2 of implementation. As announced by the Government. DfE guidance **The Families First Partnership (FFP) Programme Guide**, published in March 2025, outlines delivery expectations for safeguarding partners in England which will be taken forward during the year, overseen by the RSCP.

Learning Together – RSCP Training Programme

Our Spring Term is seeing a good uptake from professionals, updating their knowledge and skills and sharing a learning environment with their multi-agency colleagues. However, in these busy times, we know it can be difficult to step away from front-line practice. The latest version of [Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2023 \(WT23\)](#), emphasises the contribution of multi-agency training to a collective understanding and identification of the new and emerging forms of harm to children. Ofsted inspections of **Local Authority Children’s Services** have found the best local safeguarding arrangements have training as a contributing factor to an environment where multi-agency practice flourishes. [Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2024 \(KCSIE24\)](#), also requires schools and colleges to engage in continual professional development, reinforcing the importance of collaborative learning.

This year we have been updating our programme with the recent findings from the [Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Annual Report](#), which provides an analysis of multi-agency practice within the 330 rapid reviews of serious incidents. We have also been reflecting in our training delivery on the importance of partnership and communication this year, the 25th anniversary of the death of Victoria Climbié. Courses have also been adapted to consider emerging legislative changes such as the [Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Bill](#) and the [Crime and Policing Bill](#) which includes measures on mandatory reporting. We have also been supporting the borough by raising awareness of the new online referral form, [Request for Safeguarding and Protection](#). Recent studies continue to find safeguarding training significantly improves staff confidence in identifying and reporting concerns. Multi-agency training also increases the likelihood of professionals making accurate referrals, leading to faster interventions and reduced harm.

Busy schedules may mean that you miss some dates on our training, so professionals working with Redbridge families can also benefit from the RSCP’s partnership with the [London Safeguarding Children Training Programme](#) with lots of free online briefings. Below are some of the courses we are running here in Redbridge. For the full programme visit the [RSCP website](#). As always, if you would like to join our mailing list you can sign up [here](#).

Date	Course Title	Delivery
14 05 2025	Awareness of Child Sexual and Criminal Exploitation (Free)	Online
15 05 2025	Early Help for Children and Families – An Introduction to the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) (Free)	Online
20 05 2025	Understanding Coercive Control	Classroom
21 05 2025	Fabricated and Induced Illness (Free)	Online
22 05 2025	Understanding the Journey of Refugee and Vulnerable Migrant Children	Online
03 06 2025	Understanding Serious Youth Violence, Gangs and the Criminal Exploitation of Children	Classroom
09 06 2025	Working to Safeguard Children with Disabilities in Redbridge (Free)	Online
11 06 2025	Safeguarding Children in a Digital World	Online
25 06 2025	Understanding Thresholds and Making Referrals	Classroom
02 07 2025	Working Together to Safeguard Children – A Shared Responsibility (Level 2)	Classroom
07 07 2025	Sudden unexpected death in infants (SUDI) and Safer Sleep for Babies (Free)	Online
08 07 2025	Working with Race, Culture and Belief Systems	Online

Fostering with Redbridge



Redbridge Council Fostering Team are recruiting foster carers with transferrable skills to foster children in one of our specialist pathways with allowances of up to £1300 per child per week.

Currently, there is active recruitment campaign specifically for foster carers for three specialist pathways. Please take a look at the [YouTube video](#) to find out more about the three specialist pathways:

The full video can be viewed on the fostering page on the [Local Authority website](#).

If you have a place in your heart and home to foster a child and would like to join the Redbridge family of foster carers, please call the Team on 020 8708 6068 or join the [next virtual information session](#).

London Safeguarding Children Procedures and Practice Guidance - Update

The [Procedures](#) (7th Edition, 2022) were updated at the end of March 2025. Updates have been made to eight of the chapters. In particular, important changes have been made to the chapters on Bullying, Domestic Abuse and Information and Communications Technology Based Forms of Abuse. Details of the changes can be viewed on the [amendments table](#).

Redbridge MARF goes online!

At the beginning of April, Redbridge launched a new on-line eform to replace the Word version of the MARF (Multi-Agency Referral Form). The aim of this is provide an accessible portal for referrals and also to take into consideration the changes that **have been implemented at the 'front door'** of the Children and Families Service. The form can be accessed [here](#).

If you have a very urgent child protection issue, please contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) by telephone before submitting your referral, or if you need some advice and guidance about your referral.

Tel:

020 8708 3885 (Monday – Friday, 09:00 – 17:00)

Tel: 020 8708 5897 (Evenings, weekends and public holidays)

New 7 Minute Briefing

We have a new briefing, jointly published with the Redbridge Safeguarding Adult Board on Professional Curiosity which can be accessed [here](#).

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 (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 at the end of July 2025.