

Foreword from the Business Manager



Welcome to this Winter edition of the RSCP newsletter.

As you will be aware from the Foreword in the last [newsletter](#), published in Autumn 2021, our Independent Chair and Scrutineer, John Goldup, stepped down at the end of January after over seven years in the role. I am sure you will wish to join me in thanking John for his commitment to partnership working in Redbridge and most importantly to the safeguarding of our children and young people. Whilst we are going through the process of appointing a replacement, I, as the Partnership Manager will do my very best to keep our priorities and joint working moving forward starting with this Foreword and review of the last meeting (see [page 2](#))! We are expecting to publish John's final Annual Scrutiny Report shortly.

The last meeting of the Partnership took place on MS Teams on 12 January, and a summary of some of the items discussed can be found on the next [page](#).

I would like to draw your attention to the review that is taking place on the local thresholds for referrals document – known as 'Worried

about a child?' Please do get involved and let us have your feedback on any areas of the document that you feel could be made more accessible. You can find the current version on the [RSCP website](#).

In this edition, instead of focusing on a particular service or agency, we have provided a roundup of useful learning resources which are available (see [page 4](#)).

When I am not busy with work for the RSCP, I am undertaking similar work with the [Redbridge Safeguarding Adults Board \(RSAB\)](#). As we know, children and young people generally live in families, some of which may include adults at risk. In keeping with our 'think family' approach, and the [protocols](#) that we have developed between the Partnership and the RSAB, please do keep abreast of the work around safeguarding adults by [signing up](#) to receive regular updates from the Board and consider whether you or a colleague might benefit from attending the free training available on [safeguarding adults at risk of exploitation on 7 March](#).

One of the priorities of the Partnership over the last couple of years has been transitional safeguarding (see [page 3](#)). A key element of this is contextual safeguarding, which refers to the extra-familial harm that young people can experience as they move through adolescence, with decreasing parental supervision. This includes exploitation, which the

traditional child protection system was not designed to address. For those of you that missed it, I would recommend listening to Professor Carlene Firmin's inaugural lecture given at Durham University last month – 'Green lights, speed bumps and cul-de-sacs: the road to Contextual Safeguarding'. It is a timely reminder of the need to listen to young people, focus on the context of harm and social conditions within them. This approach requires strong partnership working on a broader basis beyond statutory agencies. The recording can be accessed via [YouTube](#). On [page 4](#), there is information on the Contextual Safeguarding Network which was .

On a final note, I hope that our next newsletter, due out in May, will include an introduction to a newly appointed Independent Chair/Scrutineer!

In the meantime, keep safe and well.

Lesley Perry
Partnership Manager

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Board Report

Feedback from the RSCP Meeting – 12 January

Summary of items discussed at the last meeting

Among other items, the Partnership:

- Considered the safeguarding data report and scorecard for Quarter 2, 2021 – 2022 where it was noted that the percentage of assessments completed within 10 working days was markedly better than the comparison benchmark; the number of ‘missing’ episodes increased as restrictions were removed, which had been anticipated; good performance in relation to reviewing Children in Need (CiN) Plans, particularly under the circumstances of the pandemic; and marked improvement in reducing the social worker vacancy rate.
- Heard from partner agencies about the current position in relation to the challenges, impact and learning from the COVID-19 pandemic. Particular pressures were noted in Emergency Departments at the local acute hospitals and referrals in to NELFT for community services.
- Had an update on the work of the BHR Safeguarding Partnership, which was due to meet again that week, including the proposal to move the statutory responsibilities back to the local Safeguarding Children Partnership to enable the tri-borough group to take more in depth, strategic look at safeguarding topics and issues common across the ‘patch’.
- Heard feedback on the Peer Review from Redbridge Children’s Social Care which had gone well and the submission of the self-assessment to Ofsted, ahead of the annual engagement meeting due to take place shortly.
- Considered a proposal to amend the local thresholds document in the specific area of Level 2/3 physical abuse and also a forthcoming general update of the document (see [page 6](#)).
- Monitored the Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) in the Family Environment Action Plan that was one of the outputs of the recent multi-agency self-assessment. All actions were on track and the Plan was likely to be closed at the next meeting.
- Heard from Redbridge School Improvement on the work taking place to support schools with safeguarding through self-assessments and quality assurance audits. This would be followed up with a report later in the year when themes arising from this work were identified.
- Received the Annual Report on Private Fostering. All partners were urged to ensure awareness of private fostering and the requirement for notification (for more information see [page 6](#) and the [RSCP website](#)).



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 ... safeguarding learning resources

Useful learning resources, research, and tools for safeguarding children and young people

NSPCC Learning

For topic based support and learning, [NSPCC Learning](#) is a good place to start. It includes briefings and resources on all areas of safeguarding children, plus access to free learning podcasts and teaching resources. Why not sign up to the [CASPAR newsletter](#) which will keep you up to date with training offers, events, news, services and resources.



Learning from Case Reviews

When a child dies or is seriously harmed as a result of abuse or neglect, a review may be conducted to identify ways that professionals can improve the way they work together to safeguard children. These reviews are known as Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs) and can be undertaken locally or nationally.

The NSPCC host the [National Case Review repository](#) where you can [search by subject, year or area](#) and learn from the findings of the reviews undertaken from around the country. There are a number of themed [briefings](#) published e.g. on harmful sexual behaviours; domestic abuse; and online abuse. If you have a specific query, the NSPCC Library and Information Service can help via information@nspcc.org.uk or 020 3772 9717. You can also [sign up](#) to receive updates when new Case Reviews are published.

Contextual Safeguarding Network



Signing up to the [Contextual Safeguarding Network](#) is a way of keeping in touch with the research and learning to help understand young people's experience of significant harm outside of the family environment. This includes out in their neighbourhoods, schools and online. The website provides access to briefings, practice guides and resources, webinars and short films which can help with this challenging topic. Create an account [here](#) - it is free! This will provide you with access to a regular newsletter.

Research in Practice



The LB Redbridge is in partnership with [Research in Practice \(RiP\)](#) which provides access to resources which help put the learning from research into practice. Anyone with a Redbridge.gov.uk can [sign up](#) and there are also a limited number of accounts available to multi-agency partners. Some parts of the RiP offer are also 'open access' – for example – [Tacking Child Exploitation](#).

Making Research Count



The LB Redbridge are also in partnership with [Making Research Count \(MRC\)](#) which includes access to practice development events and an informative [quarterly newsletter](#). Check out the February edition [here](#).

Redbridge SCP Multi-Agency Training 2021 – 2022

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 is the list of courses running in February and March which still have spaces. Whilst the majority



of the programme will continue to be delivered ‘virtually’, via MS Teams, for those courses marked with a * we are planning classroom delivery, subject of course to government guidance relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you’re not currently on our mailing list, you can sign up [here](#) for regular updates.

Bookings can be made [on-line](#). Check out the whole Programme [here](#).

Course	Date(s)
Early Help for Children and Families – An Introduction to the Common Assessment Framework (CAF)	09 02 2022
Safeguarding Children from Honour Based Abuse & Forced Marriage	09 02 2022
Understanding Serious Youth Violence, Gangs, and the Criminal Exploitation of Children	10 02 2022
Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Children	22 02 2022
Safeguarding Privately Fostered Children	24 02 2022
Working Together to Safeguard Children: A Shared Responsibility (Level 2)*	03 03 2022
Safeguarding Refugee and Vulnerable Migrant Children	07 03 2022
Safeguarding Children in a Digital World and Online Bullying	08 03 2022
Harmful Sexual Behaviours	16 03 2022
Safer Recruitment	21 03 2022
Child Protection Conferences and the Strengthening Families Approach*	22 03 2022
Children and Young People and Mental Health Awareness*	23 03 2022
Understanding Thresholds and Making Referrals*	30 03 2022

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 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

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 they have a disability) 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 the Local Authority about a private fostering arrangement in Redbridge, please contact the Child Protection and Assessment Team (CPAT) on 020 8708 3885 or by email CPAT.Referrals@redbridge.gov.uk For more information please visit the Council [website](#) or join our two hour [free briefing on 24 February 2022](#).

London Child Protection Procedures and Practice Guidance

What have been known for many years as the London Child Protection Procedures and Practice Guidance are shortly be renamed! They will become the London Child Safeguarding Procedures and Practice Guidance.

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 at the end of March 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 is being reviewed. [Are you worried about a child? How to access early help, and thresholds for referral to children's social care](#) was last reviewed in September 2018. A change in relation to the Level 2/3 threshold and response in relation to physical abuse was agreed by the Partnership at the January 2022 meeting. The document will be updated to reflect this and also have a general review. If you would like to take part in this process, do e-mail RedbridgeSCP@redbridge.gov.uk. There will be a period of consultation where the revised draft will be available on the [RSCP website](#) for comment.

Independent Review of Children's Social Care

The government commissioned review of children's social care continues. Read the latest update from the Review chair Josh MacAlister [here](#) which is headed 'Building Recommendations'. You can sign up to receive the monthly newsletters from the review or access them via the [website](#).

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 May 2022.