

## WINTER NEWSLETTER 2023

Foreword from the Independent Chair & Scrutineer



A warm welcome to this Winter edition of the RSCP newsletter.

The last meeting of the Redbridge Safeguarding Children Partnership took place on 25 January, the details of which are shared on [page 2](#).

I am pleased to let you know the [RSCP Annual Scrutiny Report 2021 - 2022](#) is now published on the RSCP website. The annual scrutiny report is a mandatory requirement, directed by the [Children and Social Work Act 2017](#). The supporting guidance [Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children 2018](#), states that on an annual basis the safeguarding partners (the local authority, the police, and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) (now NHS North East London (NEL) Integrated Care Board)), must publish a report to bring transparency for children, families and all practitioners about the activity undertaken by the partnership.

The report highlights the strong partnership commitment to RSCP, who make effective challenges of each other. The partnership demonstrates a responsive learning culture and offers an extensive multiagency training offer.

As part of the scrutiny of the Partnership, the report also identifies the areas where the RSCP can strengthen its arrangements, which

are its engagement with children and families, wider multi-agency attendance at RSCP training and closer alignment of the Community Safety Partnership, RSAB and RSCP to ensure the system shares learning and responds to safeguarding challenges together; further develop data to support measuring outcomes and future planning of the work of the RSCP.

The National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel has also produced its [Annual Report 2021](#) which offers insights and reflections on how the English safeguarding system is working. The report identifies six key areas that have been identified through its analysis of reviews undertaken, they are:

1. Supporting critical thinking and professional challenge through effective leadership and culture
2. The importance of a whole family approach to risk assessment and support
3. Considering racial, ethnic, and cultural identity and impact on the lived experience of children and families
4. Recognising and responding to the vulnerability of babies
5. Domestic abuse and harm to children – working across services
6. Keeping a focus on risks outside the family

The RSCP will consider how these themes continue to be embedded in its training programme and development, but it is also essential that everyone considers this in their everyday practice. Some of these themes will be focused upon in the new approach to a how we screen and learn for serious incidents. A new Redbridge 'One Panel' launched in February which provides a forum for the receipt of case review referrals (e.g. SARs, CSPRs, and DHRs). Find out more by viewing the

dedicated page on the [RSCP website](#).

Referrals can be made to the 'One Panel' by completion of the referral form, available to download from the website, and e-mailing to:

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

In December 2022, the Department for Education (DfE) published two reports on serious case reviews (SCRs) in England. [Learning for the future](#) is an overview of SCRs between 2017 and 2019. It includes analysis of key themes from reviews, including neglect, challenges to practice and listening to the child's voice. The second report, [Serious case reviews 1998 to 2019](#), examines government-commissioned periodic overviews of SCRs and aims to give a final summary of practice challenges during that period.

As we start the new year with lots to think about from local and national reviews, I am sure with the existing strong partnership commitment and the hard work of our frontline services that the RSCP will continue to strengthen over the coming twelve months.

Warm wishes

Eileen Mills

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# Partnership Report

## Feedback from the RSCP Meeting –25 January 2023

Summary of items discussed at the last RSCP meeting

### Transitional Safeguarding

The first formal Panel will take place in February 2023. Regular updates will be provided to the RSCP on the positive impact this multi-agency work has had on young people and the challenges and barriers faced for successful transition. More information on transitional safeguarding is available on the [RSCP](#) and [RSAB websites](#) with information about the Transitions Panel to be added shortly.

### Contextual Safeguarding

Partners heard updates relating to the Redbridge Crime Commission Report on the workstreams aligned to safeguarding, including the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) workstream.

- A five-year training strategy in relation to domestic abuse is now in place, with relates to role.
- The work includes a Behaviour Change Campaign which includes development of a counter-narrative and presentation of positive male role models, this topic linked to sexual harassment in schools.

As part of the contextual safeguarding priority a multi-agency review of pathways and services for young people affected by exploitation will commence in April.

The partnership received a report on the increasing numbers of children affected by Self-Generated Sexual Abuse. Work is underway with the Internet Watch Foundation to explore the potential for joint working to develop resource materials for professionals and training on this topic.

### Child Friendly Redbridge

A key challenge for the RSCP is to improve its engagement with Children and young people, the meeting discussed how the work of Child Friendly Redbridge and support this work.

Other items:

### RSCP Safeguarding Training Programme and Impact Report 2021 – 2022

The partnership recognised the extensive offer available in Redbridge and the hard work that goes on to produce so a high-quality programme. The training subgroup are also responsive to new learning identified and including this in the programme or linking into to existing sessions.

### Youth Justice – **“Child First, Offender Second”**

A report detailing the service, the legislation and the multi-agency approach with accompanying data was received. Key issues for the service included

- The number of children placed in Redbridge by other local authorities impacted on staff capacity.
- BME children were still overrepresented in data.
- Work around linking school exclusion and crime was developing and outcomes will be measured after some intensive work with schools.
- All staff have received Trauma Informed Practice (TiP) training as a high number of the children they are working with have experience trauma. This has helped in identifying the best protective factor for them. A key challenge is working with those children that go missing from home or school.
- More concentration had to be given to working with partners on early intervention as from the 62 children that came into the service over the last year, **45 were already known to Children’s Services.**

## Priority 1

### Transitional Safeguarding

The joint project with the [Redbridge Safeguarding Adults Board \(RSAB\)](#) continues with a piece of work focusing on the transitional arrangements for those children who may continue to need support past their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday due to ongoing risk of exploitation. Check out the '[rapid read](#)' on transitional safeguarding produced by the Safeguarding Adults Network NHS.



## Priority 2

### Contextual Safeguarding

Developing a joined-up approach and response for those children who are exploited. This is being taken forward initially with a review, commencing in April 2023, to understand what services are being provided across the partnership and where the gaps are.

## 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; signposting to provision of support for children impacted by domestic violence or homelessness; raising awareness of the effects of substance misuse on young people.

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.

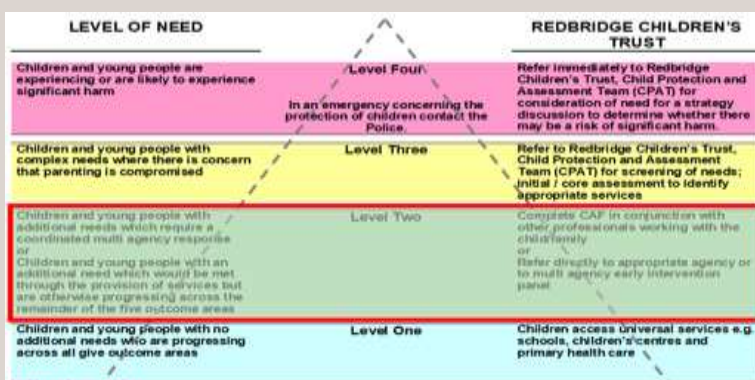
# Learning Together

## What is the Common Assessment Framework (CAF)?

The CAF is a shared assessment and planning process for use across all **early help children's services**. It aims to support **the early identification of children and young people's additional needs and provide a co-ordinated service** through a Team Around the Family (TAF). The TAF provides the family and professionals with a framework to progress agreed actions, focused on the voice of the child. It works to **improve the child's life and education**, to ensure all their needs are met and to prevent concerns escalating for children whose level of need, or risk, is not such that involvement by statutory children's social care services is required.

## Why can't I just do a Mult Agency Referral Form (MARF)?

Completing a MARF when it's not needed can cause parents/children to repeat their story unnecessarily and may impact on service resources for families at Level 3 (children with multiple needs) or level 4 (children with acute needs) Also, families may end up being signposted to a number of services before they get the right one, therefore delaying access to appropriate support. For more information on levels of need, check out the [RSCP MA Threshold Guidance](#).



The CAF has been designed for use by all professionals working with children and families who are level two, who do not meet the threshold for the more intensive interventions provided by children's social care.

## What are the benefits?

- A framework for the Early identification of the strengths and needs of a family, exploring in more depth the possible contributing factors to the presenting issues, to understand the root cause and start addressing that, to sustain real change.
- Avoids children and families having to tell and re-tell their story to multiple professionals, preventing potential re traumatization.
- Information sharing between professionals, shared understanding of a child/ren's needs, and the triangulation of information to support safeguarding.
- Access to a agencies, including the [Families Together Hub](#) the whole family to support identified needs.

## How do you engage in the process?

1. It is an important to avoid a professional duplicating existing assessment, therefore the CAF Enquiry must be completed before you commence a CAF.
2. Talk to the family regarding concerns you have, explain the CAF process, and ensure that you have consent.
3. Submit your CAF Enquiry to CAF Admin mailbox, to check if Childrens Services or a CAF is already in place for the family, [cafadmin@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:cafadmin@redbridge.gov.uk). Provide the **child's name, D.O.B, gender, address, school, and reason for considering CAF**.
4. You will then be advised if services are in place and if so, directed to existing key person to share your concerns. If not currently part of an ongoing assessment, you will be advised to commence your CAF Assessment.

## Professional support

Half day training sessions are available via the RSCP MA Training Programme - '[An introduction to the CAF \(common Assessment Framework\)](#)'. Three CAF Coordinator's within Families Together Hub / Early Help team, who cover each of the Redbridge localities, they provide case discussion, guidance, case monitoring and training and can be contacted be email [cafadmin@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:cafadmin@redbridge.gov.uk)

# Learning Together

## RSCP Training Programme 2022 - 2023

The [RSCP Training Programme for 2022 – 2023](#) aims to support our multi-agency colleagues in their safeguarding practice with a range of courses under our usual series:

- Understanding Safeguarding Risks
- Contextual Safeguarding and Child on Child Abuse
- Working Together to Safeguard and Creating Safer Settings for Children and Families



Please sign up to our [Contact List](#) to ensure that you receive updates and copies of Training Flyers as these are issued and check out our [website training page](#). Below is a list of courses coming up in the next couple of months. Click on the link to find out more about the course content and complete the [on-line training booking form](#).

<a href="#">Safeguarding Children Who Go Missing</a>	23 February 2023
<a href="#">Understanding Neglect</a>	01 March 2023
<a href="#">Harmful Practices and Safeguarding Children</a>	02 March 2023
<a href="#">Intrafamilial Child Sexual Abuse</a>	10 March 2023
<b><a href="#">Children's Rights and Safeguarding</a></b>	14 March 2023
<a href="#">Trauma Informed Safeguarding Briefing</a>	16 March 2023
<a href="#">Understanding Serious Youth Violence, Gangs, &amp; the Criminal Exploitation of Children</a>	17 March 2023

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

The Safeguarding Adults Board have again arranged regular [Introduction to Safeguarding Adults Briefings](#), each of which is held on MS Teams and lasts an hour. Attendance is free and open to any one working with children, families, or adults at risk in Redbridge. They provide a brief overview of the topic and guidance on making a referral. To make a booking, just e-mail your contact details and chosen date to [RSAB@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:RSAB@redbridge.gov.uk).

Date	Time
22 March 2023	10:00 – 11:00
24 May 2023	10:00 – 11:00
26 July 2023	10:00 – 11:00
18 October 2023	10:00 – 11:00
06 December 2023	10:00 – 11:00

## 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

## Fostering for Redbridge -New Year, New Challenge?

I will save more money. I will eat more healthily. Why not make a new year's resolution which will change a life? Over 300 children are unable to stay with their families in Redbridge each year and need a secure, stable, and nurturing home.

If you have a place in your heart and home and are considering fostering, please email [fostering@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:fostering@redbridge.gov.uk) or call us on 020 8708 6068.

**New Year, New Challenge**



**Foster for Redbridge**  
020 8708 6068  
[fostering@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:fostering@redbridge.gov.uk)

## Cost of Living Increases

The Council has usefully provided information on its [website](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/costofliving) relating to what support is available to residents who are struggling with cost of living increases. Please share with anyone who lives in Redbridge. [Costofliving.redbridge.gov.uk](http://Costofliving.redbridge.gov.uk)



## The Lullaby Trust – Safer Sleeping Advice

The Lullaby Trust website is a great source of guidance for

parents of babies on safe sleeping, including [‘Safer sleep in winter’](#). There is also a [‘Dads Zone’](#) aimed at new and expectant dads. Do signpost any new parents that you are working with to this resource.



# 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 in April/May 2023.