

Redbridge Safeguarding Children Partnership: Terms of Reference (ToR)

1. Purpose and functions

- 1.1 The Redbridge Safeguarding Children Partnership (RSCP) is the statutory local partnership for safeguarding children under the [Children and Social Work Act 2017](#). It is led by the statutory safeguarding partners identified within the legislation i.e. the Local Authority, police, and Integrated Care System (ICS). In Redbridge, this is the London Borough of Redbridge, the East Area (EA) Basic Command Unit (BCU) MPS and NEL (North East London) NHS.
- 1.2 The RSCP also works in conjunction with the BHR Safeguarding Partnership which leads on strategic themes and challenges across the Barking & Dagenham, Havering, and Redbridge 'footprint' and with the Redbridge Safeguarding Adult Board (RSAB), thorough a joint Executive Group, on strategic themes and challenges which impact on both children and adults.
- 1.3 The overall purpose of the RSCP is to ensure effective multi-agency working to safeguard children within the London Borough of Redbridge, within the statutory guidance [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#). It exists to co-ordinate, monitor, evaluate, challenge and drive improvement in the work of all agencies, separately and together, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the Borough and works within the [London Safeguarding Children Policy and Practice Guidance](#).
- 1.4 The key functions of the RSCP include:
 - Development of annual Borough 'place based' safeguarding priorities and related actions.
 - Monitoring and challenging safeguarding performance in Redbridge across all relevant agencies using a variety of quality assurance activities.
 - Co-ordinating the response to local and emerging safeguarding risks in Redbridge.
 - Supporting Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPR) commissioned by the statutory safeguarding partners and ensuring the local dissemination of learning.
 - Provision of a multi-agency safeguarding training programme covering key areas of safeguarding, including those determined by the annual priorities.
 - Provision of a multi-agency thresholds and referrals guidance document for Redbridge.
 - Contributing to the strategic work of the BHR Safeguarding Partnership.

2. Values

- 2.1 The Partnership will conduct all its business based on the following core values and principles:
 - The Partnership exists to improve outcomes for children. The welfare of children and young people is paramount. Under no circumstances will professional or organisational interests or sensitivities be allowed to get in the way of that paramount focus.

- The experience and voice of children and young people is central to all the Partnership's work. The Partnership will work closely with the Redbridge Youth Council and seek to ensure that the voices of children and young people are heard in everything it does, and within the ethos of children's rights and the work of the UNICEF Child Friendly Borough approach.
- Similarly, the Partnership will always seek to understand, listen to, and engage with front line practitioners.
- The Partnership is concerned with the safety and welfare of children at all stages in the child's journey including early help and early intervention.
- The Partnership will pay particular attention to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the most vulnerable children and young people, including (but not restricted to) children who are or at risk of abuse, neglect or exploitation; children at risk of female genital mutilation; children who are living away from home, who have run away from home, or are missing from education; children in the youth justice system, including in custody; children who are vulnerable to being radicalised; disabled children; and children and young people affected by gangs.
- The Partnership will conduct all its business in a spirit of transparent and constructive debate, challenge, and respect. All members accept a responsibility to challenge and to accept challenge. The contribution of all partners is of equal value.

2.2 The RSCP does not itself commission or deliver services. It does not have the power to direct partner organisations. It does however have a responsibility to highlight where change or improvements for children are needed. Each partner retains its existing line of accountability for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, including action or otherwise on RSCP recommendations and challenges.

3. Structure and governance

3.1 The full Partnership meets four times a year. Any Partnership member may request the inclusion of an item on the agenda. Standing items on each agenda will include:

- Scrutiny of a multi- agency performance data set
- A report from the BHR Safeguarding Partnership as appropriate
- A review of progress against the agreed priorities for the year, identifying and seeking to resolve any blockages to progress
- Consideration of new guidance/ legislation in relation to safeguarding and impact on the partnership and response required

3.2 The Partnership undertakes much of its work through Subgroups. Currently the standing Subgroups are:

- Learning and Improvement Subgroup
- Training Subgroup

The structure, terms and reference, and number of Subgroups are subject to review.

3.3 The RSCP will be chaired by an independent person, appointed by the statutory safeguarding partners. The Independent Chair is accountable to the statutory safeguarding partners for the effective functioning of the RSCP and will provide a scrutiny role. A Deputy Chair is appointed from among the members of the Partnership.

3.3 The RSCP operates within a network of different forums including joint working and reporting between the Redbridge Health and Wellbeing Board, the Redbridge Community Safety Partnership, and the Redbridge Safeguarding Adults Board. The Independent Chair of the RSCP is an ex officio member of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

4. Membership

4.1 RSCP member organisations will designate a senior officer as their representative at the Partnership, to ensure that there is consistency and continuity in the membership of the RSCP. With the agreement of the Independent Chair, an agency may be represented by more than one person. Members will be sufficiently senior to be able to:

- speak for their organisation with authority;
- Commit their organisation on policy and practice matters;
- Hold their organisation to account;
- Share information about their organisation's approach to safeguarding and promotion of children's well-being; and
- Ensure the dissemination of information within their organisation, regarding the RSCP's work and activities.

All members will be required to sign the Membership Agreement at [Appendix 1](#).

4.2 The statutory safeguarding partners are the lead members of the RSCP. The membership also consists of representatives from health and education providers, the National Probation Service, plus up to five representatives of the voluntary and community sector.

4.3 Up to three lay members, drawn from the different communities in Redbridge, will be appointed to serve on the Partnership. Appointments will be for three years and may be renewed. Lay members have equal status with other Partnership members across all areas of the Partnership's work. They have a particular role in:

- Supporting public engagement in local safeguarding issues and contributing to an improved understanding of the Partnership's work in the wider community;
- Challenging the RSCP on the accessibility to the public and to children of its plans, policies, and procedures; and
- Helping to make links between the RSCP and community groups.

4.4 The London Borough of Redbridge elected member for Children's Services acts as a participant observer on the RSCP.

5 Challenge and scrutiny

5.1 The Children and Social Work Act 2017 requires the statutory safeguarding partners to ensure, in making their arrangements for multi-agency working, that they include "arrangements for the scrutiny by an independent person of the effectiveness of the arrangements". The Independent Chair will act as an independent scrutineer of the effectiveness of the arrangements as they operate in Redbridge.

5.2 The Independent Chair will publish an Annual Scrutiny Report on the effectiveness of the multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding children in Redbridge. The report will seek to provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services. It will identify any areas for development, the causes of any issues or challenges and the action being taken to address them as well as other proposals for action.

July 2022

Redbridge Safeguarding Children Partnership (RSCP) Member Agreement
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As a member of the Partnership, I agree:

- 1) To carry out a strategic role in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.
- 2) That I have the authority to speak on behalf of my organisation and to represent its views and various duties.
- 3) That I am able to refer back to my organisation to account on all matters relating to safeguarding vulnerable adults and to recommend ways to implement necessary changes within my organisation.
- 4) I am able to request my organisation to deploy resources to support safeguarding children's work.
- 5) Develop knowledge and understanding of any emerging field of work in order to keep up to date. Share this within the Partnership and my own organisation.
- 6) Keep any information or reports shared with the Partnership confidential unless given the express permission of the Independent Chair.

As a member of the Partnership, I will contribute to its effective functioning by:

- 1) Prioritising attendance at Partnership meetings.
- 2) Where I am a member of other relevant safeguarding Subgroups or forums, I will represent the interests of children who have suffered or may suffer harm and neglect and safeguarding.
- 3) Contributing to the work of operational activities by identifying and mandating appropriate delegates from my own organisation and ensuring they keep me informed as appropriate.
- 4) Ensure that my organisation is appropriately represented at any case review panels or Working Groups.
- 5) Contribute to the development of the RSCP Annual Scrutiny Report.

In return, I can expect:

- To be kept informed of relevant national developments.
- Current policies and procedures.
- influence a positive interagency process.
- Advice and guidance from peers.
- Consultation and appropriate support on difficult issues or cases.

Partnership Member Name:		Role:	
Agency:		Service:	
Signature:		Date:	/ /