

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2023

Foreword from the Independent Chair & Scrutineer



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

The last meeting of the Redbridge Safeguarding Children Partnership took place on 25 April, the details of which are shared on [page 3](#).

Since the last edition there are some new publications, I would like to draw your attention to. Firstly the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel have published [Phase Two report on Safeguarding Children with Disabilities in residential care homes](#).

There was widespread public shock and distress when the [Phase 1](#) report was published about the disturbing neglect, abuse and harm experienced by a large number of children with disabilities and complex health needs living in residential settings run by the Hesley Group in Doncaster. Based on the learning about what happened at Hesley Doncaster, several wider systemic issues relating to national policy and practice required further exploration in phase 2 of the review. The analysis of these issues, and recommendations for national changes and improvements, are the focus of this second report. It makes the following National Recommendations

Recommendation 1: All children with disabilities and complex health needs should have access to independently commissioned, non-instructed advocacy from advocates with specialist training to actively safeguard children and respond to their communication and other needs.

Recommendation 2: Where an admission to a residential placement for 38 weeks or more is being considered, children, young people and their parents should have access to advice and support through their jointly commissioned and suitably resourced local Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Advice and Support Service, with allocation of a **'navigator' to work with the family where this is identified as being necessary.**

Recommendation 3: Local authorities and ICBs should be required in statutory guidance developed by the Department for Education and NHS England to jointly

commission safe, sufficient, and appropriate provision for children with disabilities and complex health needs aligned with local inclusion plans and planning for care through Regional Care Cooperatives.

Recommendation 4: The DfE, DHSC and NHS England should co-ordinate a support programme for commissioners in local authorities and ICBs, focusing on improvements in forecasting, procurement, and market shaping.

Recommendation 5: Local and sub-regional initiatives to improve the quality and range of provision in the community and in schools for children with disabilities and complex health needs should be priorities for **inclusion in the government's pathfinder programmes in children's social care and SEND.**

Recommendation 6: The government should commission the development of an integrated strategy **for the children's workforce in residential settings, to include:** leadership development, workforce standards and training.

Recommendation 7: National leadership and investment by providers is urgently required to address the longstanding challenges in recruiting, retaining, and developing a skilled workforce in residential settings.

Recommendation 8: Systems for the early identification of safeguarding risks in residential settings should be strengthened through an enhanced role for host local authorities and ICBs in the oversight of residential settings in their area.

Recommendation 9: The DfE and DHSC should (a) review and revise the regulatory framework for residential settings to reduce complexity and improve the impact of the current arrangements for monitoring, quality assurance and oversight; (b) take immediate steps to establish arrangements for joint inspection by Ofsted and CQC of residential settings for children with disabilities and complex health needs.

Although these recommendations seem far removed from frontline practice and the

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system in which professionals work needs to improve, we **can all be mindful that the child's must be heard**, and plans of care are tailored to their individual needs. Children are safer when agencies work together and communicate effectively with each other. I encourage everyone to be an advocate for this group of *children and provide challenge to each other when you are concerned for the welfare of a child with disabilities*.

The second publications are from the London Safeguarding Children Partnership, which I encourage you to read:

- [Executive Annual Report \(February 2023\)](#) and
- London Safeguarding Children Procedures – Updated threshold document : [Continuum of Help and Support](#)

As you will see on the following page relating to the RSCP meeting, contextual safeguarding and the multiagency response to when concerns are raised in relation to exploitation was discussed, which had lead me to revisit the work of the children society on the [Impact of Language](#); and how it can be the difference between a child being properly safeguarded or put at further risk of exploitation.

The document can inform and help frame discussions during child protection and multiagency meetings, or other settings where professionals are discussing children and young people who are at risk of or subjected to exploitation or any activity an agency undertakes to disrupt and tackle child exploitation. Language implying that the child or young person is responsible in any way for abuse and crime that they are subjected to, must be avoided to ensure we safeguard them appropriately. It is also important to recognise that a child cannot consent to their own exploitation. The [Language Guide](#) provides examples of *Language of Concern and Suggested Alternatives*, here are a few to think about (see below).

I encourage everyone to read the information and think about the language that is used in practice and challenge each other when victim blaming language is used in practice.

I look forward to the findings of the review later this year and thank all those that are working hard to support young people who are at risk of being or already are exploited.

Warm regards

Eileen

Inappropriate Term	Suggested alternative
In a relationship with... This implies that the child or young person is in a consensual relationship and does not reflect the abusive or exploitative context, including the use of coercion and control by the perpetrator.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The young person says that they are in a relationship with a person and there are concerns about that person's age, the imbalance of power, exploitation and/or offending. • The young person has been/is being groomed, exploited, and controlled. • The perpetrator has manipulated the child/young person to believe they are in a relationship.
Putting themselves at risk This implies that the child is responsible for the risks presented by the perpetrator and that they can make free and informed choices without recognition of the child's age, circumstances and lived experience or the realities of grooming, coercion, and control.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The child may have been groomed. • There are a lack of protective factors surrounding the child. • The situation could reduce the child's safety. • The location is dangerous to children. • It is unclear whether the child is under duress to go missing. • There are concerns that the child may be being exploited. • It is unclear why the child is getting into [x] vehicle or visiting [x] location. • There are concerns that there is a power imbalance forcing the child to act in this way. • There are concerns regarding other influences on the child.

Partnership Report

Feedback from the RSCP Meeting –25 April 2023

Summary of items discussed at the last RSCP meeting

Transitional Safeguarding The Transitional Safeguarding Panel has received and discussed a number of cases referred and a broad range of partners were in attendance. The cases brought to the meeting –focused on 17/18 -year-olds without an established pathway. The Panel will look at any strategic blockages on these **young people's safe transition to adult services**. Further updates will be given at future RSCP meetings. More information on the Panel, including the Terms of Reference (ToR) and the Panel Referral Form can be found on the dedicated Transitional Safeguarding page on the [RSCP website](#).

Children & Young People's Mental Health This priority has agreed to focus on what support is available for young people, parents, carers, and professionals before young people get to the stage where they are presenting in crisis **and how easy is this for parents' children and professionals to navigate**. The second area of work planned is to develop a multiagency forum to discuss high risk mental health cases to provide the best support possible

Contextual Safeguarding The terms of reference for review of the multiagency practice will look at what the current pathways are, their effectiveness and will suggest what the RSCP can do to help with improvements. The current plan is to bring a final report to the RSCP in October.

Child Friendly Redbridge The RSCP received an update on the Youth Council Priorities. Members of the Youth Council were unfortunately unable to attend due to school commitments. However the Partnership received a presentation they had prepared, which covered manifesto projects: sexual harassment; substance misuse; and preparing for adulthood. Work by young people on the manifesto is feeding directly into the UNICEF Child Friendly Borough process.

Private Fostering the partnership had opportunity to review the annual report and discuss its findings. The number of children identified as being privately fostered remains low in the borough. All agencies were asked to think about how they promote understanding of what Private fostering is and access the [resources available](#).

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 18th 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, which commenced 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

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](#).

Early Help for Children and Families – an Introduction to the CAF	23 May 2023/08 June 2023
RSCP Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) – Safeguarding Level 3	24 May 2023
Safeguarding Refugee and Vulnerable Migrant Children	26 May 2023
Radicalisation Awareness Workshop	07 June 2023
Safeguarding Children who go Missing	09 June 2023
Safeguarding Children in a Digital World & Online Bullying	12 June 2023
Private Fostering Briefing	14 June 2023
Understanding Neglect	21 June 2023
Awareness of Child Sexual and Criminal Exploitation	22 June 2023
Voice of the Child and Safeguarding	05 July 2023
Children's Rights and Safeguarding	18 July 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.

Date	Time
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

What is Private Fostering?

Private fostering is when a child under 16 (or under 18, if disabled or a Ukrainian refugee) lives with someone who is not a close relative for more than 28 days.

Who are close relatives?

Close relatives include the child's parents, step-parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, uncles and aunts, whether by blood or marriage.

What is meant by NOT a close relative?

If you are a cousin, great aunt, great uncle, a friend of the family or if you are a host family to overseas students then you are NOT a close relative to the child.

A private foster carer may be a friend of the family, the parent of a friend of the child or someone **unknown to the child's family.**

Private fostering may take place, for example, when:

- children are sent to the UK from abroad for schooling or healthcare
- **young children are taken in by a friend's family, following separation, divorce or arguments at home**
- a teenager lives with the family of a boyfriend or girlfriend

Private foster carers are legally required to notify their local authority. If they intend to foster privately for more than 28 days, they must notify the Local Authority a minimum of six weeks before the child is due to join them, or immediately if a child arrives suddenly.

When a Private Fostering arrangement is **reported to Redbridge Children's Services**, the referral should be made to the MASH team at CPAT Referrals CPAT.Referrals@redbridge.gov.uk who will allocate this to CPAT for a Child & Family Assessment to be completed.

The allocated Social Worker will visit the child and undertake checks to ensure the child is safe and that their carer is able to provide a reasonable standard of care. It is also important to have a **formal agreement in place with the child's parents**, including information about their medical, educational, religious, and cultural needs. In order to progress this agreement, the Social Worker will need to contact the Practice Manager in the Fostering Team Kalvinder Kaur Kalvinder.Kaur@redbridge.gov.uk ext. 84483 to arrange a joint home visit.

On completion of the Child and Family Assessment, the child's case will be transferred to the Fostering Team at the Case Transfer Panel and the carers and child will continue to be supported by the Private Fostering Social Worker, who will complete a Private Fostering Assessment on the carers.

For further information on Private Fostering please see: <https://childlawadvice.org.uk/information-pages/private-fostering/> or attend our [free briefing](#).

#FosteringCommunities. Foster for Redbridge

Redbridge Foster Carers share what it is like to be part of the Redbridge Fostering Community and **caring for the Borough's most vulnerable children** as part of the Foster Care Fortnight #FosteringCommunities campaign. Take a look at what our foster carers say <https://youtu.be/4rnBZ3YpqbI>

If you have a place in your heart and home to foster, call 020 8708 6068 or email fostering@redbridge.gov.uk or join a 'virtual' introductory session.

Visit: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/foster-for-redbridge-coffee-morning-190523-10-11am-tickets-560846265277> to book a place.



Contact Information

Redbridge Safeguarding Children Partnership (RSCP)

RedbridgeSCP@redbridge.gov.uk

Tel: 020 8708 5282 or 020 8708 3289

Website: www.redbridgescp.org.uk

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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 in July 2023.