

## SPRING NEWSLETTER 2024

### 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 (RSCP) took place on 17 April, the details of which are shared on [page 2](#).

Firstly, I would like to express on behalf of the RSCP and myself condolences to the family and friends of Daniel Anjorin, and our thoughts are with all those affected by the tragic events that took place in Hainault.

I would like to also thank all the emergency services that responded to the incident and prevented further harm and to all of you who offer ongoing support to those that are impacted.

Our April meeting heard about the great success of Redbridge Council being selected to deliver the [Families First for Children Pathfinder programme](#). The aim of the programme is to improve services to help more children stay with their families in safe and loving homes and protecting vulnerable children from harm where needed. This can only be good news for the children and families of Redbridge. There are more details on [page 6](#).

In recognition of such a significant work programme to safeguard children the RSCP will receive reports at all future RSCP meeting on the

progress and impact on partnership working.

Implementation of the programme will also be a fundamental element of the partnership arrangements going forward.

The meeting also heard about the innovative work of the Youth Intelligence Hub. There are full details on [page 5](#) on what the hub is and how to contact but the most important information was the impact that it has had on keep children safe. One example of many shared was how the work of the hub has led to the identification of children being criminally exploited by organised crime groups and the initiation of a wider London Police investigation. The strength of the work and the response to children affected by youth crime, violence and exploitation has been achieved through strong partnership working and using the intelligence provided to disrupt, respond to, and prevent crime, exploitation, and anti-social behaviour.

The Youth Intelligence hub is part of the multiagency response to contextual safeguarding, which is an ongoing priority for the RSCP. The RSCP held an extraordinary meeting in February to discuss in more detail the Contextual Safeguarding Report.

The report was completed following Interviews/discussions with service & strategic leads, those who work directly with exploited, children/young people; listening to the voices of children/young people; identifying good local and national practice. Review of current practice in the borough an analysis of local data.

The report identified positive work in responding to contextual safeguarding concern but areas where it can be improved, as such the findings will now be taken forward by establishing a Task and

Finish group to oversee the action developed from the review findings.

Sadly, a key finding from the data is a stark disproportional and concerning overrepresentation of Black boys affected by issues related to contextual safeguarding.

The action plan will look to address this issue but also the RSCP needs to consider how disproportionality across all aspects of safeguarding children is recognised at the earliest opportunity and appropriate responses taken to address the issues.

I will hopefully be able to provide more detail as to how this will be done going forward.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of Nahim Hanif and Shabana Shaukat who have recently stepped down as Lay Members of the RSCP. They were both selected in 2012 to provide challenge and a voice for the community. We all wish both Nahim and Shabana all the very best for the future.

Best wishes  
Eileen Mills

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# Feedback from the RSCP Meeting – 17 April 2024

## Summary of items discussed at the last RSCP meeting

In addition to the presentations and discussions mentioned in the [Foreword](#), the RSCP received the following updates on the progress of the agreed priorities and other safeguarding issues:

### Contextual Safeguarding

The actions needed to take forward the finding of the Contextual Safeguarding review have been agreed and members were keen to join the task and finish group.

### Child Mental Health

The task and Finish group is established, and work progress the impact we should hear about at the July RSCP

### A Suitable Home for Every Child

The first two actions have been achieved by raising awareness of the challenges of the housing market in Redbridge and the help and support **available to prevent homelessness. In relation to children's needs being met** in temporary accommodation Children Services CW has work going on in this area and will bring something to the next meeting as an update. **The work includes monthly trilateral meeting between children's, adults & housing to look at concerning cases.**

### RSCP Dataset Q3 2023-24

The data set is a standing item on the RSCP agenda, but a few points were noted.

Domestic Abuse continues to be highest area of need identified on point of **referral to children's services, although it was noted that the number of referrals relating to housing and mental health had increased.**

Completion of Initial Health Assessments when a child becomes looked after has improved to its highest level, there is more work needed but health colleagues have added extra resource to help combat this.

## Priority 1

### Contextual Safeguarding

A multiagency review of Contextual Safeguarding was undertaken in 2022 - 2023. Partners have agreed an action plan developed to respond to the learning and recommendations made. CSPRs, DHRs and SARs have also provided learning to be taken forward in respect of Contextual Safeguarding, developing a recognition of all-age/system learning from incidents and case reviews.

The priority will be to ensure the findings of the Redbridge multi-agency Contextual Safeguarding Review, alongside local data and research, considers and responds to the findings from:

- [HMICFRS MPS Inspection - Putting Vulnerable Children at Risk, 2023](#)
- [Missing Children in London, London Assembly Police and Crime Committee Report, 2023](#)

We will need to ensure arrangements are in place to appraise and respond to the recommendations of the review and have oversight of the progress on implementation of the recommendations.

The current plan is to provide a learning event for Redbridge professionals and volunteers in conjunction with the Redbridge Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB) and Redbridge Community Safety Partnership.

## Priority 2

### Children & Young People's Mental Health

It was established last year that work was needed on raising awareness of different support and resources available for children and young people with mental health needs and to test out whether service provision is meeting those needs.

A number of Rapid Reviews and local Learning Reviews on adolescent suicides have provided learning.



Action will focus on challenging accessibility and ensuring understanding of the service offer by parents/carers, young people and front-line professionals.; scrutinising agency evaluation and feedback from referrals into mental health services.

There will be a review of the quality of multiagency working for children experiencing challenges with their mental health.

## Priority 3

### A Suitable Home for Every Child

Current housing crisis, both nationally and acutely felt in LB Redbridge (4,442 children in temporary accommodation placed by Redbridge at the end of June 2023). Temporary accommodation can be a stable long term home but less so for children in B&B and hostel type accommodation.

Ensuring the prevention of homelessness duties are promoted across the Partnership.

Articulating the response across the Partnership for families that are badged as making themselves intentionally homeless or no recourse to public funds but have vulnerable children.

To review the effectiveness of multiagency arrangements to ensure continuity and support for those children who are likely to experience frequent changes in accommodation moving in and out of the Borough.

## RSCP Training Programme 2023 - 2024

The [23/24 RSCP Training Programme](#) launched last September, is being well supported and we are already getting good uptake for the 70 learning events we are delivering this academic year. As well as increasing the number of essential courses for creating safer settings for children; Level 2 and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Training, we have some exciting new partnerships contributing to local and national safeguarding initiatives. The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) will be co-facilitating a course on [Understanding Coercive Control](#) and Redbridge Education Welfare Team (REWT) have designed a new course, [Cost of Living Crisis, Poverty and the Effects on Parenting and Children's Mental Health](#). The RSCP Training Manager sits on the London Safeguarding Children Partnership's Training Subgroup and this year as well as our local offer, anyone working with Redbridge children and families can take advantage of their free [Pan London Training Programme](#).

Our upcoming courses include:

Course	Date	Delivery
Early Help for Children and Families – An Introduction to the CAF	11 06 2024	Online
Professional Curiosity in Safeguarding`	05 06 2024	Online
Attending Child Protection Conferences and Making Plans with the Strengthening Families Approach	12 06 2024	Classroom
Fabricated and Induced Illnesses	14 06 2024	Online
Safeguarding Children with Disabilities	18 06 2024	Online
Understanding Coercive Control	19 06 2024	Classroom
Safeguarding Children in a Digital World	20 06 2024	Online
Young Women and Girls Affected by Gangs and County Lines	21 06 2024	Online
RSCP Designated Safeguarding Lead (Safeguarding Level 3)	25 06 2024	Classroom
Voice of the Child and Safeguarding	28 06 2024	Classroom
Working Together to Safeguard Children – A Shared Responsibility (Safeguarding Level 2)	10 07 20 <u>24</u>	Classroom
<b>Children's Rights and Safeguarding</b>	18 07 2024	Classroom

Check out the full list and availability on our [website](#).

## Focus on ... Youth Intelligence Partnership Hub

The Youth Intelligence Partnership Hub was established by **Children's Services in October 2022 to safeguard and protect children and young people in Redbridge** who are at risk of, or exposed to, sexual or criminal exploitation, violence, gangs, knife crime or other forms of exploitation.

The partnership meeting takes place weekly in person and is chaired by Sharon Springer (LB Redbridge Service Manager for CPAT, MASH, **Exploited Children's Team & EDT**). **The meeting brings together senior operational leads to share real-time intelligence/information about youth crime, violence and exploitation and uses the intelligence to safeguard young people, by disrupting, responding to and preventing crime, exploitation and anti-social behaviour.**

The meetings are well attended and include representation from a **number of teams in Children's Services, the Youth Service, Youth Offending and Targeted Prevention Service Community Safety, Safer Schools Officers, police youth engagement, Anti-Social Behaviour team and Health.** Other services are invited to attend where relevant to an issue such as the Community Safety CCTV Team.

A range of exploitation concerns have been responded to by the meeting over the last 19 months including the disruption of organised sexual exploitation of pupils, the targeting and grooming of girls from a care home and the coercion by one pupil to others to become engaged in criminal activity.

Partners should raise any concerns for the Youth Intelligence Partnership Hub Meeting via [david.cooke@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:david.cooke@redbridge.gov.uk) and [amanda.ireland@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:amanda.ireland@redbridge.gov.uk).



## 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

## New! DfE Information Sharing Guidance

The Department for Education (DfE) have published revised [guidance](#) this month for practitioners providing safeguarding services for children, young people, parents and carers.

## Families First for Children Pathfinder

Redbridge has been selected by the Department for Education (DfE) to be a pathfinder for the new Families First initiative, developed following publication of a number of national reviews and reports, including the [Independent Review of Children's Social Care](#), [Child Protection in England](#) and [Stable Homes, Built on Love](#). This is an opportunity to test new ways of working and be part of the national conversation on the whole system

**transformation of children's social care and early help.** There are four reform strands.

Safeguarding partners – partners need to be fully engaged at a strategic and partnership level, with an anticipated increased role for education.

Family help – merging targeted early help and Section 17 support; locally based; and multi-disciplinary and collaborative.

Child Protection – multi-agency, skilled child protection specialist, including education child specialist.

Family Networks – family group decision making with access to Family Network support packages.

In Redbridge this will mean:

- establishing a new family help service built on the existing early help offer;
- creation of a multi-agency child protection team, including an education lead;
- family group decision making for all families, independently co-ordinated and practical and financial support offered via Family Network Support Packages.

Importantly for families, this means access to a range of services in their local area; encouragement for the wider family network to become involved; support from one key practitioner who will stay working with the family; no transfer of cases; and if the case meets the threshold for child protection intervention, the existing key practitioner will undertake the child protection inquiry and be responsible for the child protection decisions.

To find out more, please contact [Sharon.Springer@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:Sharon.Springer@redbridge.gov.uk). The RSCP will continue to keep updated on this existing new initiative.

# 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)



## Foster for Redbridge

#FosteringMoments. Foster for Redbridge Council.

Redbridge foster carers describe what it is like being a foster carer as part of the Foster Care Fortnight campaign

#FosteringMoments [The moment I describe being a foster carer for Redbridge - YouTube](#)

If you could care for a child in need of fostering and would like to join our fostering community, please call us on 020 8496 3437 or join us on our next virtual information session on 24 May 2024 10am to 11am.

Visit:

[https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/adult-and-childrens-services/fostering/?utm\\_source=Rscp&utm\\_medium=newsletter&utm\\_campaign=fostering](https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/adult-and-childrens-services/fostering/?utm_source=Rscp&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=fostering) to book a place. #FCF24 #fostercarefortnight24

## 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 July 2024.