

Redbridge Safeguarding Children
Partnership

Annual Scrutiny Report

April 2024 - March 2025



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Introduction by the Redbridge Delegated Safeguarding Partners

We are pleased, as Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs), to present the first annual report of the Redbridge Safeguarding Children Partnership (RSCP) under the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

This report highlights key achievements from the past year and identifies areas requiring a greater focus in 2025/26. We recognise that this is a period of significant organisational change for all statutory safeguarding partners, set against the backdrop of an ambitious programme of child safeguarding reforms. In this context, the role of DSP's is more vital than ever – working jointly with our wider partners to ensure that we successfully co-design, oversee, assure, and deliver implementation plans that reflect the voices of our local children and communities in Redbridge.

We would like to acknowledge the efforts and contributions of all stakeholders to safeguard children during the past year and their ongoing work to improve outcomes for local children and their families in 2025/26 and beyond.



Diane Jones
Director of Nursing
NHS NEL ICB



Stuart Bell
Chief Superintendent
Borough Commander
EA BCU MPS



Elaine Redding
Interim Executive
Director
London Borough of
Redbridge

Comments from the Independent Scrutineer



Throughout the period from January 2025, I have continued to work alongside the RSCP in the role of Independent Scrutineer.

The RSCP have been very open to scrutiny, which has resulted in reflection and a clear commitment to drive improvements, ensuring the effectiveness and quality of the multi-agency arrangements in effectively safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

I have regularly attended the meetings of the RSCP and the Safeguarding Executive Group and have met with the Lead Safeguarding Partners for the Local Authorities and the Integrated

Care Board to discuss governance, areas of priority, safeguarding activity, staffing and funding requirements of the RSCP. Additionally, as the previous Independent Chair of the RSCP, I was able to support the development of the [Statement of Vision and Values of the RSCP](#) to ensure that the UNICEF Child Friendly Redbridge was central to the new arrangements.

As part of my role as Independent Scrutineer I have utilised "The Six Steps for Independent Scrutiny" ([Appendix 1](#)) to scrutinise the overall work the RSCP

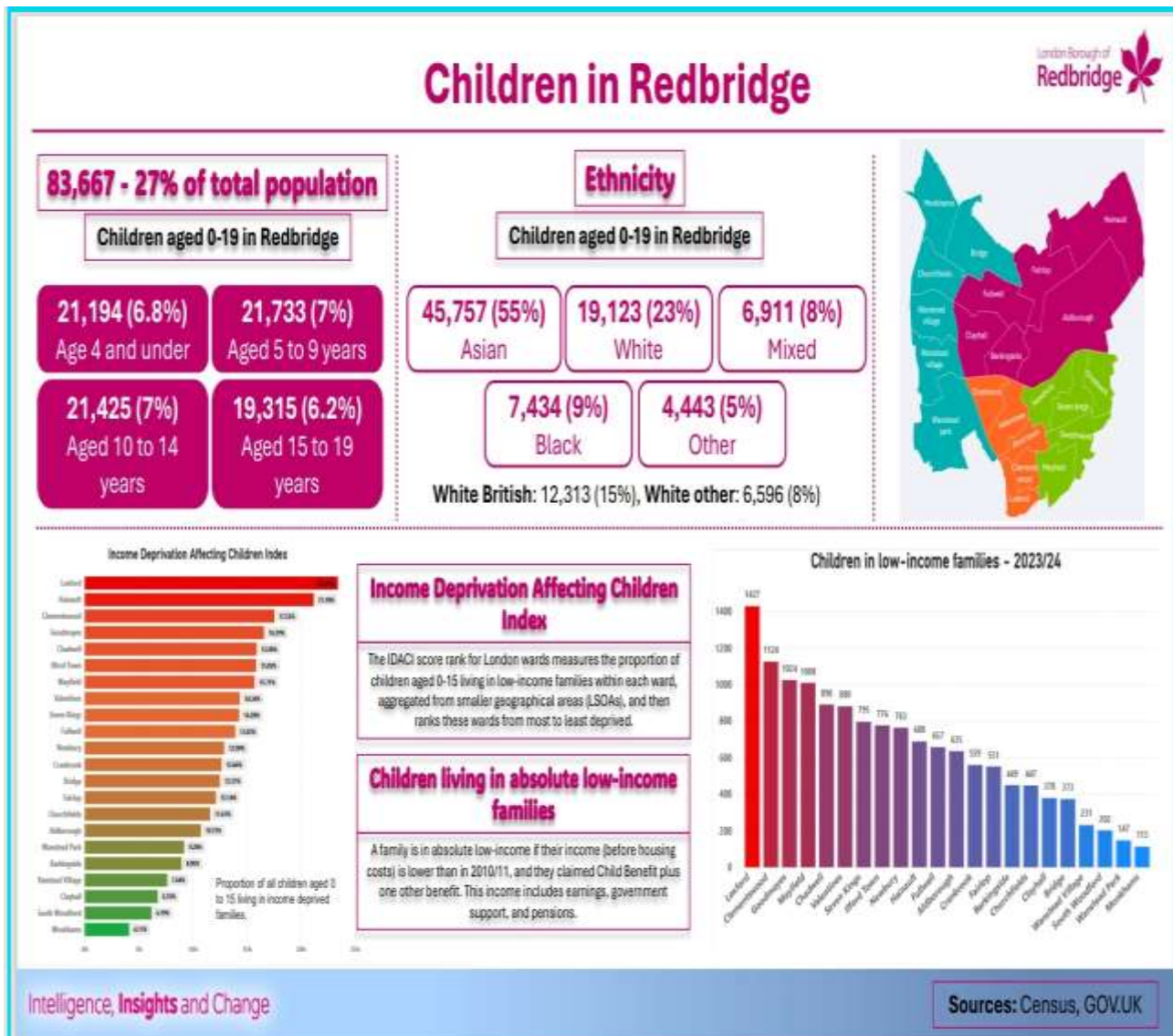
In addition, I have provided

- Scrutiny of work undertaken by the subgroups to progress the identified priorities.
- Scrutiny of the partnership data and quality assurance processes, providing challenge and advice regarding areas of development.
- Supporting the work undertaken to support a joined-up approach across the priorities and work of the various strategic boards.
- Ongoing scrutiny of the embedding of the developments in response to [HM Government Statutory Guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023](#).

Eileen Mills

Independent Scrutineer

Children And Young People in Redbridge



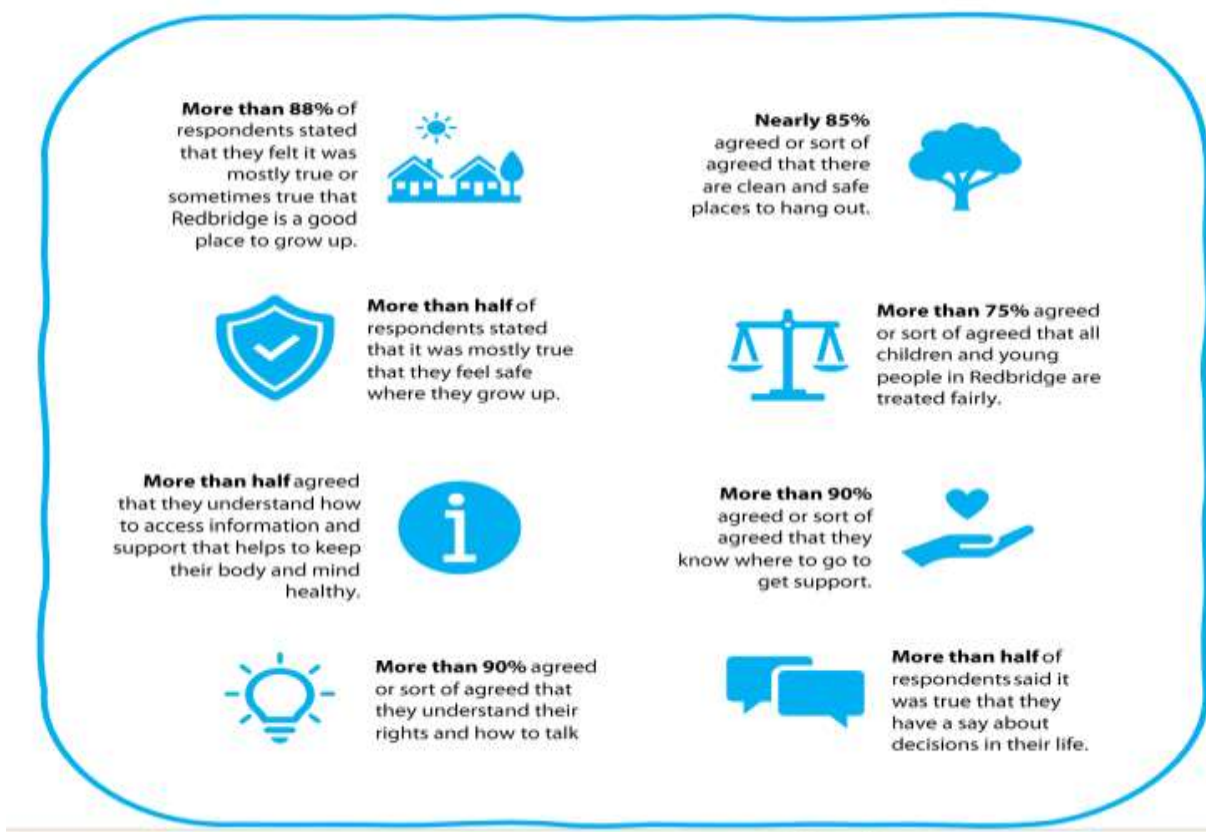
What Children have to say about living in Redbridge

Safeguarding encompasses proactive measures aimed at preventing harm and promoting the well-being of children. At its core, safeguarding prioritises the fulfilment of children's rights, as outlined in the [United Nation Convention on Rights of a Child](#). Redbridge has partnered with UNICEF to implement "[Child Friendly Redbridge](#)" which will aim for Redbridge to become accredited globally as "Child Friendly" by 2025. The RSCP has worked closely with the programme and its ambitions below.

- Children's views being respected and heard
- Ensuring both family and community play a part in creating Child Friendly Redbridge
- Giving the borough's children and young people the best opportunities for education and work
- Ensuring children in Redbridge are given the best start in life
- Empowering and giving the borough's children and young people their say in the decisions that affect them

The Child Friendly Redbridge programme team launched a survey to better understand children's awareness of their rights and to provide a space for their reflections, concerns and ideas. Here is a brief overview.

Living in Redbridge



About Redbridge Safeguarding Children Partnership

Child Safeguarding Multiagency Arrangements in Redbridge

In response to the publication of Working Together 2023 the RSCP published reviewed [Multiagency Safeguarding Arrangements \(MASA\)](#) in December 2024 and operationalised the arrangements in January 2025.

Alongside the review of the MASA the RSCP took the opportunity to reflect on its vision and values which underpin the approach the Partnership will take in delivering its objectives.

RSCP Vision

“We want all children in Redbridge to be happy, healthy, and safe; to feel listened to and to have the maximum opportunities to be ambitious. If children or their families need help and support it should be at the right time, by the right person and in the right place for them. We are determined to secure this aim for every child and young person in Redbridge.”

RSCP Values

- All children have the right to live their lives free from violence, abuse, and neglect and they feel safe in their homes and communities.
- All children and young people should have the opportunity to grow up safely and be protected from abuse and neglect, crime, and anti-social behaviour.
- The individual, family and community should be at the heart of safeguarding practice, and we should value and actively seek their views and experiences to shape future practice and policy.
- High quality multi-agency working based on consensus, equality, respect, and collaboration is essential to good safeguarding outcomes.
- There is a commitment to continuous improvement and learning across the Partnership.
- There is a commitment to identify and respond to disproportionality that is identified within safeguarding for all children and young people.
- There is a commitment to take a Children’s Right Based approach, which means
 - Organisations will prioritise children’s rights in their work with children and families to improve children’s lives
 - All children are given the opportunities to make the most of their talents and potential
 - All children are given access to information and resources to enable them to take full advantage of their rights
 - All children are provided with meaningful opportunities to influence decisions about their lives
 - Organisations and individuals are accountable to children for decisions, and for outcomes that affect children’s lives

Governance and Structure

North-East London (NEL) Safeguarding Children Lead Safeguarding Partners Meetings

The Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs) for the RSCP are:

- Chief Executive, NEL NHS ICB, delegated to the Chief Nursing Officer, NEL NHS ICB
- Assistant Commissioner (AC), MPS
- Chief Executive Officer (CEO), LB Redbridge

Our LSPs are part of the NEL ICB LSP annual meeting which takes place across the sub-region to give strategic direction to local safeguarding children's partnerships in the area and which identify opportunities for regional or sub-regional collaboration.

Redbridge Safeguarding Adult Board and the RSCP Executive

The RSCP will report into the joint Redbridge Safeguarding Adult Board and the RSCP Executive which consists of the Delegated Safeguarding Partners, and Director of Education and will report, as appropriate, to the LSPs.

Redbridge Safeguarding Children Partnership

Redbridge Safeguarding Children Partnership meets at least four times a year, has a strategic focus, leading subgroups who report on a work plan for their area. A thematic approach is taken throughout the year with a focus on the priority areas. The members of the RSCP can be found in [Appendix 3](#).

The RSCP will be chaired by one of the Delegated Safeguarding Partners' on an annual cycle. The DSPs are:

- Director of Nursing, NEL NHS ICB
- Chief Superintendent, Basic Command Unit East Area, (EA BCU MPS)
- Corporate Director of People (including Director of Children's Services), LB Redbridge

The Chair for 2025/26 will be the DSP for the NEL NHS (ICB).

The RSCP has established links with the [Redbridge Community Safety Partnership](#) and the [Redbridge Safeguarding Adult Board](#). The RSCP is supported by the following Subgroups:

- **Learning & Improvement Subgroup**

Oversees the development and delivery of the RSCP multiagency audit programme, responds to learning from reviews both local and national. Evaluating learning and improvement activity.

- **Training Subgroup**

Undertakes training need analysis of multi-agency safeguarding children training needs. Develops, commissions, and evaluates the impact of multi-agency training.

- **Data Subgroup**

Is joint with the Redbridge Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB). The purpose of the Data Subgroup is to develop a multi-agency data set for adults and children and review the data to inform the activity of the RSAB and RSCP.

- **Redbridge 'One Panel'**

Is joint with the RSAB and Community Safety Partnership (CSP) a multi-agency group which receives referrals on cases in Redbridge that may meet statutory review criteria, such as a Safeguarding Adults Review (SARs), Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs) or Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs). The purpose of the Panel is to provide a multi-agency decision making forums for all referrals for statutory reviews against the relevant criteria and to make recommendations in respect of what type of review should be undertaken, if any.

Scrutiny

Our Independent Scrutineer will act as a critical friend and offer independent scrutiny and challenge to the partnership in line with Working Together requirements. The RSCP is to introduce and Audit and Scrutiny Subgroup to strengthen the learning cycle.



Changes to Multiagency Safeguarding Arrangements in response to Working Together 2023

Consideration on how the National Framework will impact on other agencies current arrangements

Redbridge has been selected by the Department for Education (DfE) to be a [pathfinder](#) for the new Families First initiative, developed following publication of several national reviews and reports, which are the foundations to the revisions for the changes in [Working Together 2023](#). An update of the progress of Families First is included later in the report.

Strengthening the role of Education

Education is an accountable partner to the RSCP with a named senior leader on the Executive Group, and RSCP plus representatives on the Subgroups. This will ensure RSCP is kept apprised of key developments from within the sector so that implications for partnership working receive a prompt, coordinated response.

The LSP should agree on the level of funding needed to deliver the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

This includes consideration of business and analytical support, independent scrutiny, infrastructure, and core functions including local children safeguarding practice reviews, multi-agency training and learning events. It is the responsibility of the LSPs to ensure that

adequate funding is allocated and spent in line with agreed priorities. Funding contributions from the statutory safeguarding partners should be equitable and agreed by the LSP.

The issue of equitable and adequate funding has been a long-standing issue for the RSCP. The issue has been raised at the safeguarding executive on several occasions. The issues have been raised at a national level via the London and National SCP Independent Scrutineers, as reaching a local agreement has proved problematic over many years. Especially the contribution by the Metropolitan Police Service as can be seen in the budget ([Appendix 2](#)) being significantly lower than that of the LA and the ICB.

There is no plan at the present time as how the Lead Safeguarding Partners will resolve this issue.



Designated Social Care Officer (DCSO) role to be developed by LA

As part of the action plan following the Local Area Partnership SEND inspection a full time DSCO role is being developed, in compliance with legislative requirements of the [SEND Code of Practice \(2015\)](#). Our ambition is that the roles will directly inform and influence the direction of wider SEND services through intelligence and insight.

Learning from serious child safeguarding incidents

[Working Together 2023](#) requires that death of any Care Leaver is reported via the Serious Incident Notification system in addition to the existing criteria. The Redbridge 'One Panel' has reviewed its guidance to reflect the changes.

Learning from Reviews

Redbridge has a strong culture of wanting to improve practice. This is evidenced through the work of the Redbridge One Panel which coordinates and maintains oversight of the outcomes of all types of case reviews, both statutory and non-statutory, for both adults and children to bring system learning together where possible.



During the reporting period, five referrals for children were received from a range of agencies including, Children's Social Care, and Health Agencies, which demonstrates the commitment to learning and safeguarding effectiveness by statutory partners. Two of the cases met the threshold of serious harm, as determined by criteria outlined in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023), resulting in a statutory Rapid Review taking place.

The Rapid Reviews were completed and submitted to the national CSPR Panel within statutory guidance and findings accepted.

The first Rapid Review took place in June 2024 with the recommendation to undertake a Local Safeguarding Practice Review, which is due to be presented to the RSCP in the next reporting period.

The second Rapid Review took place at the end of March 2025, with a recommendation to undertake a Local Learning Review in the next 6 months.

The other three cases had outcomes for single agency learning.

This year has seen the completion of a Local Learning Review lead by our Designated Nurse and Doctor following the Rapid Review undertaken 2023-2024. The purpose of this review was to examine the circumstances surrounding a child's contact with various services prior to her death. The child with complex physical health needs had travelled abroad without receiving necessary medical care and advice, ultimately resulting in her death in a hospital there due to Aspiration Pneumonia. The review aimed to identify gaps in processes, communication, and decision-making to prevent similar incidents in the future. Concerns regarding safeguarding activities, inter-professional communication, and adherence to protocols for ensuring the welfare and health needs of the child were raised following her death.

- Key Achievements
 - A protocol for children with oxygen needs boarding a flight
 - Guidance for Parents/Carers: Boarding a Flight with a Child Who Has Oxygen Needs
 - Checklist for Children with Complex Needs Traveling Abroad
 - Strengthen awareness among practitioners about the importance of using professional interpreters instead of family members

- What difference has it made
 - Improved awareness of travelling safely abroad for children with complex health needs
 - Improved communication between health professionals working with children with very complex health needs
- Next Steps
 - Development of the lead professional role for children with complex needs

The RSCP has also considered the findings of National Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and reflected on what this means for us locally. In response to the [Safeguarding children with disabilities in residential settings](#) review, the Local Authority assured themselves that there were no children residing in dual registered residential special schools and children's homes identified in the review. One child had historically been resident in one of the provisions identified and their case reviewed, and no safeguarding concerns were identified. The opportunity was taken to review how residential placement are quality assured which has led to the creation of the Residential Education Placement quarterly meeting which includes representatives from the ICB, Children Social Care, SEND and Adults Social Care. The aim of this meeting is to provide oversight on the residential placements particularly those that are not Children Looked After. When any concerns are raised about a residential provider, social work and quality assurance visits increase in frequency. The Local Authority has developed a Quality Assurance post for Children Looked After Placements and the role specification centres on visiting placements, working with providers around registration compliance and ensuring that safeguarding policies and procedures are in place and are being adhered to. The review also helped us identify some areas of practice that we would like to develop, and these are detailed below:

- We have recognised that there is a need to ensure that every Section 20 child in a residential education or care placement is uploaded onto the Child Protection Information System, and we are looking at how we can ensure that this is done in a timely manner.

Outcome – There are no children in residential schools under a Section 20 arrangement. All children subject to Child Looked After status, including those under Section 20 are recorded on the CPI system in a timely manner.

- The right to advocacy for disabled children and children with complex needs, including those who use alternative, or augmentative communication methods is respected.

Outcome Voiceability is the service that the disabled children are referred to by the CWD Team.

The service is however promoted to all parents of disabled children and children themselves, and they can independently access the service, or access with support as necessary.

In response to the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review panel report on [Safeguarding Children in Elective Home Education](#) the RSCP accepted the positive Ofsted feedback as assurance in this area of practice. However, since following the outcome from the Local Authority Partnership SEND inspection the Elective Home Education (EHE) Service requires a full review to improve the outcomes for those children and young people who are electively home educated.

Evidence of Impact of the work of the RSCP

Learning & Improvement Subgroup

• Key Achievements

- Neglect Tool Kit Audit, which involved agencies completing a self-assessment. The summary findings indicated that agencies were able to recognise neglect and respond to neglect appropriately.
- Reviewed and received agreement on the RSCP Multi-Agency Children with a Disability (CWD) Protocol
- Improved the recording and monitoring of GP attendances to Child Protection Conferences.



• What difference has it made?

- Shared learning in respect of Local Learning Review which included the review and implementation of the Multi-Agency CWD Protocol which considers the safeguarding of disabled children, access to services and the complexities of protecting CWD from abuse and significant harm. It highlights that children with complex needs often have a significant professional network involved in their care, however that network may not robustly share information and this can lead to pertinent information not being communicated and potentially exposing a child to risk. The protocol offers good practice guidelines and promotes professional curiosity to ensure the rights and views of disabled children are considered in the decisions that are made in relation to their care and medical treatment.
- Shared learning from a child whose parent took them to India for treatment, sadly they passed away, after contracting dengue fever. There was no evidence of them having alternative treatments in India, however it raised awareness that parents are seeking alternative therapies for their children's presenting needs and it highlights the concern that there are no clear national protocols for agencies to follow in respect of whether the treatments that parents may want to pursue are reasonable or of a safeguarding concern.

• Next Steps

- The Learning and Improvement subgroup will work in conjunction with the CSA Task and Finish Group to develop and deliver the action plan objections in response to: [Wanted Them All to Notice – Protecting children and responding to child sexual abuse within the family environment, November 2024](#)
- The Learning and Improvement Subgroup will work in conjunction with the Audit and Scrutiny subgroup to take forward any learning to inform practice.

Training Subgroup

• Key Achievements

- The RSCP Training Programme continues in this year, to offer diverse and extensive learning, based on the priorities agreed by the RSCP.
- Updated our programme with the recent findings from the [Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Annual Report](#)
- We have also been reflecting in our training delivery on the importance of partnership and communication this year, the 25th anniversary of the death of Victoria Climbié.
- Courses have also been adapted to consider emerging legislative changes such as the [Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill](#) and the [Crime and Policing Bill](#) which includes measures on mandatory reporting.
- We have also been supporting the borough by raising awareness of the new Pathfinders Programme and consulted and promoted the online referral form, [Request for Safeguarding and Protection](#)

• What difference has it made?

- It has increased bookings and consisted of 68 courses across 36 different safeguarding topics.
 - Trainees benefitted from the accessibility of online learning, including more free shorter briefings.
 - For our key courses we achieved our goal of increasing in-class learning to 52%.
 - Our learning partnerships continue to develop. From working with our partners to deliver training, to maximising learning opportunities through our membership of the London Safeguarding Children Partnership Training programme which has increased participation in this year to 220 Redbridge professionals.
 - The training subgroup raised to the Independent Scrutineer a lack of mandatory safeguarding children and adult training for local authority staff. This year has seen this Level 1 safeguarding adult and safeguarding children training funded and in development in partnership with the RSCP.
 - The Training Subgroup continues to support key partners in their meetings, with a quarterly training impact theme and the collation of an Evidence Informed Practice, Research and Resources Briefing to influence and support training delivery.

• Next Steps

- In the coming year we will focus on maximising the potential and opportunities of agencies and partners that experience reduced capacity.
- We acknowledge the operational constraints for our partners (both in time and resources) to attend training, by designing accessible and pertinent learning opportunities on local safeguarding priorities.

WHAT DID YOU FIND USEFUL ABOUT TODAY'S TRAINING?

"Discussions around professional curiosity and the importance of practitioners using this to produce informative assessments. Reflecting on understanding of what culture means to individual rather than making assumptions,"

"I really enjoyed discussing with colleagues across different sectors and seeing how this weaves in with the work we complete in school. The documents shared were really useful-particular the London Safeguarding document and threshold descriptors. These are going to be so useful for our team moving forward"

"Mostly the recognising signs and knowing who to report to. But also felt that I could actually trust my own instincts and have the strength to report, even if it turns out to be a false alarm. But always put the needs of the child/young person ahead of everything I might be feeling."

- We will continue to encourage under-represented partners to engage in the Training Subgroup, to participate in the multi-agency learning it provides and to share what in-house learning is made available, as required for all safeguarding partners.

Redbridge One Panel

Over the past year, the Redbridge One Panel has continued to provide strategic oversight and multi-agency scrutiny of the most complex safeguarding adult and children concerns across the borough. The panel, whilst chaired by the Deputy Director for Safeguarding Adults, NEL ICB and comprising partners from health, social care, housing, police, and the voluntary sector, met **five times between April 2024 and March 2025**, including one extraordinary meeting and one follow-up meeting for complex discussions.

Key Achievements

- A clear straightforward referral process that underpins an efficient mechanism for case submission.
- Attendance at the Panel has contributed significantly to members' continuous professional development, enhancing their understanding of multi-agency safeguarding.
- The development of the One Panel policy and standard agenda items also contribute to consistency in operations.
- Recognised as having a strong multi-agency approach and Integrated multi-agency learning from safeguarding adult reviews (SARs), Rapid Reviews and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPR) and Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDR)

What difference has it made?

- This year, the panel has increasingly functioned as a hub for reflection, assurance, and challenge—ensuring that safeguarding in Redbridge is not only compliant, but person-centred and rooted in human rights. We have also played a pivotal role in escalating systemic barriers to the Executive, influencing local quality improvement activity across safeguarding pathways.
- The panel's ability to track cases effectively, ensures appropriate follow-up actions are taken.
- Good attendance and consistency in Panel leadership, particularly with oversight from the SAB Chair/Independent Scrutineer, provide structured decision-making.
- The Redbridge 'One Panel' is recognised for its strong multi-agency approach, with members valuing the collaborative nature of discussions and the benefit of shared decision-making.

Next Steps

- Review of the One Panel Guidance and consider how to improve Scoping Information completion
- Formalise Decision-Making Process: a review of guidance to introduce a voting system for case decisions to ensure a transparent and balanced approach and consider the introduction of Breakout Discussion Groups when consideration of cases for statutory review

Data Subgroup

Key Achievements

- The Data Subgroup for RSCP and RSAB was established in 2024-2025, with its inaugural meeting conducted on 05/09/2024.
- The terms of reference and membership have been formally set.
- The primary aim of the Data Scrutiny and Challenge Subgroup is to identify data from partner organisations, supporting assurance to the RSAB and RSCP that multi-agency efforts are safeguarding adults and children within Redbridge.
- To achieve this, a mechanism is being developed to consolidate data into a unified dashboard format.
- The subgroup will conduct comprehensive multiagency analyses of all collected data to highlight exceptions, trends, emerging concerns, or themes, and report these findings to the RSAB and RSCP.
- Areas requiring additional scrutiny will be reviewed and reported to the RSAB and RSCP accordingly.



What difference has it made?

- Subgroup members have contributed initial datasets aimed at identifying key performance measures for inclusion in the dashboard.
- There have been delays in establishing and finalising both the dashboard and the agreed-upon metrics.
- Consequently, the subgroup's capacity to effectively scrutinise and challenge data has been limited to date.
- Processes and methodologies for data identification and collection have undergone review.

Next Steps

- The dashboard will be finalised in collaboration with all subgroup members, who will subsequently be requested to provide data aligned with the defined measures.
- The dashboard will include the developing data set for the Multi Agency Child Protection team and Family First Pathway Programme
- Quarterly meetings will be held to review, analyse, and scrutinise submitted data, identifying areas that may require further examination.

Key Achievements in Priority Areas

Pathfinders

In April 2024 Redbridge Council was selected today to deliver the [Families First for Children Pathfinder Programme](#). The RSCP has been overseeing the development of the implementation of the programme.

Key Achievement	What difference has it made	Next steps
Creation of a new Family Help Front Door which manages all contacts into Children's Services.	Families can more easily access help & receive immediate advice on welfare, benefits, debt, Domestic Abuse and housing issues, where this is the sole key presenting issue, including families who have no recourse to public funds. This reduces the risk of family problems escalating and circumstances deteriorating	Increasing the number of families accessing Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) at point of contact and monitoring impact.
Establishment of five new Family Help Teams : Family Help 1 Family Help 2 Family Help - Contextual Safeguarding Family Help - Pre/Post Birth Family Help – CWD	These Family Help teams deliver multi-disciplinary support and help to families, bringing together targeted early help and child-in-need support and holding cases that meet the threshold for Child Protection. For families this means that the practitioner allocated to each family, becomes the family's primary contact and families tell their story once only. Lead practitioners bring together a team around the family, coordinating services and bringing in additional practitioners and professional expertise as required.	Single Unique Identifier Pilot starts in July.
Set-up of the Multi-Agency Child Protection Team (MACPT)	Redbridge now has a dedicated multi-agency child protection team (MACPT) with highly skilled child protection specialists, including children's social care, health, police and education. These child protection specialists have the expertise, experience and time to ensure actual or likely significant harm is identified and that swift decisions and effective action is taken to address it.	Trialling the chairing of ICPCs by Lead Child Protection Practitioners (LCPPs), as required of wave 2 pathfinders. Further develop MACPT as the accepted experts across the child protection system, including the judiciary. Development of a parental advocacy service for Child Protection

Contextual Safeguarding

Key Achievement	What difference has it made	Next steps
Contextual safeguarding review completed and signed off by the RSCP	Agreed understanding of the extent of contextual safeguarding concerns across the borough and the respective roles partner agencies can play in addressing these concerns.	Review of the Strategic oversight of Exploitation by the Community Safety Partnership and development of a Strategy and Data Set • The Strategy will reflect how disproportionality is addressed • the response to the findings of the Casey Review • The contribution of housing
Creation of the transitional safeguarding panel	The establishment of a process for post 18 contextual safeguarding concerns to be managed by Adult Services.	
Submission and confirmation of our status as a Families First for Children Pathfinder authority.	The redesign of early help and statutory services formulated with an increased focus on developing an integrated response to contextual safeguarding.	
Launch of Specialist Exploitation Team (SET)	The amalgamation of the two teams delivering specialist exploitation services into one. This has allowed us to eliminate step up and step-down transitions, strengthen relationships with young people and integrate our services into one integrated delivery mechanism.	
Youth Intelligence Hub continues to grow and mature	14 meetings having taken place in the past year, well attended by partner agencies and providing 'real time' intelligence. Reflecting a commitment from the partnership to tackle and prevent risks outside the home that impact our children	
SET Team are representing Children's Social Care at inclusion/exclusion panels.	Identifying children where early help is needed to try and prevent the school exclusion in the first place.	

Child Mental Health

Key Achievement	What difference has it made	Next steps
Challenging accessibility and ensuring understanding of the service offer by parents/carers, young people and front-line professionals.	Research undertaken to check the accessibility of information and whilst there is a wide range of resources, there is no indication of the levels or progression or criteria. The place-based partnership has been challenged to address the issue	Production of a diagrammatic view of pathways for child mental health support.
Scrutinising agency evaluation and feedback from referrals into mental health services.	Investigation has highlighted that guidance around criteria, lower-level support options is not made available to referrers to enable the right support at the right time.	Provision of a standard feedback to referrers were criteria for CAMHS have not been met
Review the quality of multi-agency working for children experiencing challenges with mental health.	A round table event took place which looked at example cases and in the multi-agency self-assessment audit. It was noted that more positive outcomes are achieved where inter-agency communication is at its optimum. Briefing for practitioner developed.	Evaluation of data from referrals that do not meet CAMHS criteria to inform targeted awareness raising and learning and development Development of guidance on consent and Gillick Competence.

Suitable Home for Every Child

Key Achievement	What difference has it made	Next steps
Two Housing Solutions Officers now joined Children and Family Services as Specialists Housing Officers.	Bring in-depth knowledge and skills that are critical for addressing complex issues seeing a difference from initial approach in Children and Families in terms of prevention and service delivery between both services and be customer focused	The work to be taken forward as business as usual
New safeguarding alert for contractors	Early reporting increasing contact to families in Council and Temporary Accommodation properties	
Emergency Accommodation Reduction Pilot (EARP) developed to reduce families in Bed & Breakfast accommodation over 6 weeks.	Resulted in a reduction of over 65% minimising risks associated with babies and children living in B & B accommodation	

What's Next for 2025 – 2026?

The **priorities** were agreed at the April 2025 RSCP meeting

Priority Area	Description	Actions
Responding to national Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) Panel Reports	I Wanted Them All to Notice – Protecting children and responding to child sexual abuse within the family environment, November 2024	Action Plan approved by the Executive. Task & Finish Group established.
	It's Silent: Race, Racism & Safeguarding Children, March 2025	Review of findings from report and develop an Action Plan.
	National CSPR Baby Victoria – awaiting publication.	Review of learning and development of an Action Plan in relation to any recommendations that can be implemented locally.
Learning from Case Reviews and responding to Section 11	Local CSPR 'Zara'	Taking forward the recommendations via development and fulfilment of an Action Plan.
	Local Learning Review 'AB'	Taking forward the learning and recommendations from the Rapid Review via development and fulfilment of an Action Plan.
	Analysing S11 responses	Taking forward any required actions.
Responding to non-statutory guidance DfE The Families Partnership Programme Guide, March 2025	Take forward the requirements of the guidance as it pertains to safeguarding children's partnerships.	Development of an Action Plan for monitoring by the RSCP.
	Formalisation of the governance arrangements and links to the RSCP for the Families First Pathfinder.	Production of a governance statement/Terms of Reference/organogram

Appendix 1

Independent Scrutiny

This checklist is developed from "[The Six Steps for Independent Scrutiny](#)" and informed by the work undertaken by [The Association of Safeguarding Partners \(TASP\)](#) Independent Scrutineer Network. This scrutiny report covers the period from March 2024 - April 2025. The checklist identifies six areas that to scrutinise the overall work of a Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP). The purpose of the list that is to prompt discussion about who is scrutinising LSCP activity, the methods used for scrutiny and what is being scrutinised.

Overall, the Safeguarding Children Arrangements are effective in Redbridge

KEY MEASURES OF SCRUTINY

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Strategic leadership | 4. Quality Assurance & Data Sharing |
| 2. Engagement of Relevant Agencies | 5. Learning from reviews and research |
| 3. Children & Young People | 6. Multi-Agency Safeguarding Training & Workforce Development |

RAG RATING

Each question in each of the steps can be answered and graded as follows:

Green: positive that the question can be answered with evidence to illustrate this

Amber: acknowledgement that some parts of the question can be answered positively (with evidence to illustrate the positive response) but that there is still work to be done

Red: it is not possible to confirm that any part of the question can be answered with a positive response.

Any response (green, amber, or red) will still require an action plan to ensure reaching and maintaining desired outcomes.

1 Redbridge SCP Leadership				
	Key Line of Enquiry	Evidence	RAG rating	Actions required
1.1	The RSCP Partner Leads are clearly identified and accountable; are developing, reviewing and ensuring funding for strategic RSCP activity; and are identifying and publishing agreed desired outcomes for RSCP activity safeguarding children.	In December 2024 the Safeguarding Partners published Statement of Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements and Redbridge Safeguarding Children Partnership (RSCP) Statement of Vision and Values The RSCP have agreed and published annual priorities. There is a Joint Executive Group for the Delegated Safeguarding Partners from both the Redbridge Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB) and the RSCP with published Terms of Reference (ToR). There needs to be more consistency of engagement at the appropriate level at the meeting. There in agreement in place for the Lead Safeguarding Partners in the NEL footprint to meet on an annual basis, it is not clear how that arrangement will influence local arrangements In the later part of the reporting period there has been changes in the LA of LSP and DSP and DSP from the MPS The RSCP is not equitably or adequately funded		1. Review partner contribution to the funding of the RSCP and continue to pursue more equitable funding 2. Review the MASA arrangements in December 2025 the consider the impact of the current arrangements – equitable contribution to the work of the RSCP and the extent to which it is meeting it objectives, and the implications of the planned NHS reforms 3. Review attendance at the RSCP in terms of seniority and decision-making ability 4. Continue to receive an annual independent scrutiny report
1.2	Delegated representatives of the three lead partners are strategically placed on relevant partnership meetings, subgroups, and working groups.	Yes – identified from minutes of meetings. But attendance can be inconsistent or delegation not always at an appropriate level		1. Review attendance of all partners at subgroups, and working groups
1.3	The three partner leads are working alongside other partnerships: safeguarding adult board; community safety partnership; health and wellbeing board.	The Executive includes RSAB and RSCP leadership. The HWBB receive the annual scrutiny report. The Chair of the RSAB and RSCP attends CSP and there is representation from CSP at the RSAB and RSCP. Implementation of the One panel to bring learning together from RSAB CSP and RSCP. Evidence of greater joined up working e.g. CSP development of Cuckooing pathway following findings of SAR. Development of a youth intelligence Hub		1. Review of the MASCE strategic arrangements in partnership with the RSCP and CSP 2. Review of the Transitions pathway for RSAB and RSCP 3. Review of the cuckooing pathway – CSP RSAB and RSCP

1.4	The three strategic leads are ensuring that necessary annual reporting is in place: with the RSCP annual report appropriately scrutinised. They are ensuring that a process is in place to review annual RSCP outcomes and for assessing forward planning procedures.	The Annual Scrutiny Report is completed by the Independent Scrutineer, which is not in line with guidance. Priority areas of work are reported on at every RSCP meeting in which the Scrutineer does scrutinise		1. Arrangements for annual reporting needs to be reviewed in line with WT 2023. 2. Future reports are to be impact focused and produced by partners, the findings are then reviewed by the independent scrutineer.
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2 Engagement of Relevant Agencies				
	Key Line of Enquiry	Evidence	RAG rating	Actions required
2.1	All relevant agencies within the RSCP are appropriately informed of, and engaged with, the safeguarding children partnership arrangements and RSCP priorities.	Yes - that can be seen in the attendance at meeting and subgroups and the raising of agenda items The interim Director of Education is now a member of the Redbridge Safeguarding Executive At times it has been difficult to get traction on moving priorities forward due to capacity across partners and the resource available via the business unit The Area SEND inspection of Redbridge received in MAY 2025 identified widespread and/or systemic failings leading to significant concerns about the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), which the local area partnership must address urgently. The connections across school and colleges requires further development.		1. Review that the communication across all education settings is effective and allows opportunity for engagement in the RSCP activities and meets the requirements of WT 2023 2. Representation of Education at strategic and operational levels in monitored 3. The RSCP to receive reports on the response to the SEND inspection for assurance 4. The RSCP to consider the impact of the NHS reforms on attendance and membership 5. Consider amending the MASA to list all Education providers by name
2.2	All safeguarding partners are engaged with identifying and reviewing RSCP priorities: communication channels are clear for safeguarding concerns to move up to and down from the three lead partners.	Yes – minutes of Partnership and Executive meetings.		
2.3	All safeguarding partners are engaging with RSCP information sharing and staff training protocols.	Pan London Safeguarding Children procedures are in place and Redbridge is signed up to the London data sharing agreement (2021). A review of local arrangement has taken place to reflect the implementation of the Family First Pathfinders Programme and published Redbridge Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Safeguarding Referrals & Threshold Interim Guidance Section 11 undertaken and reported to the RSCP in July 2025		1. Respond to the findings of the section 11 audit 2. Continue to implement the Family First Programme

2.4	The wider safeguarding children partnership is informed and updated with current findings from research and local and national reviews. They are informed of local and national guidelines regarding safeguarding children in and outside of the home environment.	The RSCP has a newsletter where updates both nationally and locally are shared. Regular presentation at the RSCP and Executive meetings for consideration of any local responses required.		
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3. Outcomes for Children & Young People				
	Key Line of Enquiry	Evidence	RAG rating	Actions required
3.1	Children and Young People are consulted; and given opportunities to input into, and influence the development, implementation, and review of the RSCP desired outcomes for children	The new MASA includes a commitment to a Children's Rights approach as part of the UNICEF Child Friendly Redbridge. There is little evidence of progress against this value at the RSCP level however Section 11 finds at an individual agency level a good response in self-assessment in accessing the views and experience of children RSCP received the findings of the Child Friendly Redbridge Survey 2024		1 To consider how Children can better participate in the work of the RSCP
3.2	A communication system is in place (engagement strategy) to ensure that those impacted most by safeguarding concerns are aware of their right to be safeguarded and to play a part in developing initiatives to prevent, respond to, and report about safeguarding threats.	As above Redbridge YP take part in the annual youth voice audit identifying priorities for their safety. The RSCP is part of the UNICEF 'Child Friendly Redbridge'		1. As above
3.3	Opportunities are in place for Children and Young People to lead or co-lead safeguarding initiatives focused on improving outcomes for children, safeguarding training for adults and children; and attending relevant meetings, working groups, and subgroups.	C&YP lead and develop their own SG initiatives separate to the RSCP and present their work		As above
3.4	Young people play a role in assessing and representing desired outcomes during their transition to adult services.	Transition Has been a priority area of work for the RSCP and a panel is now established		1. Review the effectiveness of the Transitions panel

4.Quality Assurance & Information Sharing				
	Key Line of Enquiry	Evidence	RAG rating	Actions required
4.1	Mechanisms are in place for the three core partners to collect, analyse, and share relevant multi-agency data pertaining to safeguarding children.	Data set presented quarterly		1. Continue the work on the development of a wider partner data set to be analysed as a partnership 2. Develop exception report for the RSCP with areas of good practice and areas that need further scrutiny
4.2	Agencies from the wider partnership are undertaking and sharing their own single agency audits of data pertaining to safeguarding children.	The RSCP regularly receives report from agencies on the outcome of their single agency audits		1. To establish and Audit and scrutiny subgroup for the RSCP
4.3	Relevant data from the full RSCP is being used to review the impact of safeguarding initiatives on desired outcomes for children.	Limited at the present time		1. The develop of the data set needs to link to the priorities of the RSCP
4.4	Relevant data shared across the partnership is used to inform an assessment of gaps in data needed to identify priorities, and future safeguarding plans.	Remains in its infancy		1. As above

5 Learning from Local & National Reviews & Research				
	Key Line of Enquiry	Evidence	RAG rating	Actions required
5.1	The full RSCP are aware of the criteria and process for referral of serious incidents	Information is published on the RSCP website . As part of the process the DSPs are required to jointly make the decision on notification of serious incidents and Rapid Review – this is at the present time is causing delay		1. To review how DSP can agree SIN and progression to Rapid Review in a timelier manner
5.2	Case reviews are adequately resourced to enhance learning, to embrace contextual as well as individual and family concerns and to involve the full range of strategic and operational staff to extract and embed learning.	CSPR are reviewed and commissioned as required When Local Learning Reviews are initiated, it can be demanding on all agencies and take longer than the desired 6 month to complete		1. Funding as discussed in 1.1 2. All agencies to consider the resources made available to support learning 3. Review the RSCP Learning and Improvement framework
5.3	Learning from local and national reviews is cascaded and used to improve outcomes for children, their families and community.	Evidence of training response to national and local reviews. Shared at RSCP		1. The RSCP – Audit and scrutiny subgroup to undertaker assurance against national and local learning
5.4	Learning from case reviews is integrated into future RSCP training, policy, and practice.	Yes		

Appendix 2

RSCP Budget 2024 - 2025

Income		Expenditure	
Public Health Grant	17,253	Staffing	129,364.65
Local Authority Contribution	56,837	Independent Chair/Scrutineer	24,169.20
MOPAC	5,000	Case Reviews	2,121.81
National Probation Service	2,427.54	Training Programme	12,369
NHS NEL ICB	34,865	TASP Membership	750
Barts Health	5,000	Office Equipment & Stationery	73.94
BHRUT	3,231	Travel & Subsistence	113.68
NELFT	7,500		
Training charges	26,575		
Total	158,688.54	Total	168,962.28

*The RSCP budget was balanced using funds previously carried forward from 2023 – 2024.

Appendix 3

RSCP Membership

Delegated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs)
Chief Superintendent, Borough Commander, East Area BCU, MPS
Director of People, LB Redbridge
Director of Nursing, NHS NEL ICB
Members
Independent Scrutineer
Detective Superintendent Public Protection, East Area BCU MPS
Chief Executive, LB Redbridge
Director of Public Health, LB Redbridge
Operational Director, Children & Families Service, LB Redbridge
Operational Director, Education & Inclusion, LB Redbridge
Head of Youth Justice & Positive Activities, LB Redbridge
Assistant Director, Corporate Parenting, LB Redbridge
Assistant Director, Family Help, LB Redbridge
Team Leader, Early Years and Childcare, LB Redbridge
Operational Director, Housing Services, LB Redbridge
Head of Community Safety, LB Redbridge
Deputy Director Safeguarding Children, NHS NEL ICB
Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children, NHS NEL ICB
Consultant Nurse Safeguarding Primary Care, NHS NEL ICB
Consultant Paediatrician for Child Death, NHS NEL ICB
Director of Partnership, Impact & Delivery, NHS NEL ICB
Associate Director of Safeguarding, Barts Health NHS Trust
Think Family Lead Nurse, Barts Health NHS Trust
Deputy Director Safeguarding, BHRUT
Named Nurse Safeguarding Children, BHRUT
Integrated Director, NELFT
Named Nurse Safeguarding Children, NELFT
Lead Safeguarding Doctor, PELC
Senior Safeguarding and Enrichment Manager, New City College
Headteacher, Apex Primary School
Deputy Headteacher, Barley Lane Primary School
Headteacher, Beal High School
Headteacher, Ilford County High School
Headteacher, Little Health School
Associate Headteacher, Oakdale Junior School
Area Manager, National Probation Service (NPS)
Senior Service Manager, CAFCASS

Head of Children's Services, Barnardos
Head of Health and Wellbeing, Community Action Redbridge
Vice-Chair, Redbridge Faith Forum
Senior Solicitor Social Care, LB Redbridge (Legal Advisor)
Lead Member Children & Young People (Participant Observer)
Lay Members
RSCP Partnership Manager

