

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2019

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the RSCP newsletter.

Eagle eyed readers will have spotted that this is **not** the LSCB newsletter: it is the first newsletter of the Redbridge Safeguarding Children Partnership or RSCP. So another new acronym to get used to! This change reflects the formal abolition of LSCBs on 29 September, under the [Children and Social Work Act 2017](#), and their replacement by new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements agreed between the local authority, the Clinical Commissioning Group, and the police. In our part of East London these arrangements cover the three boroughs of Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge – the [BHR Safeguarding Partnership](#). The Partnership has clearly recognised, however, the importance of a continuing focus on local needs and local accountability within the BHR arrangements. In Redbridge, an independently chaired multi-agency Redbridge Safeguarding Children Partnership (RSCP), with a similar membership to the LSCB, will be responsible for identifying and progressing local safeguarding priorities, and ensuring the accountability of all agencies for their performance and the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding in Redbridge. I am pleased to be now chairing the RSCP. I am very confident that it will uphold and develop the legacy of the LSCB – what Ofsted described in 2016 as “a culture where constructive challenge and scrutiny are welcomed in order to improve service provision effectively”, and a driving commitment to hearing and acting on the voices of children, young people and families.

The RSCP met for the first time on 15 October, and on the next page you will find a summary of the issues discussed and some of the outcomes.

A highlight of the meeting was a presentation and a discussion led by Amelia Crorie, one of Redbridge’s two Members of the Youth Parliament, of the work, priorities and action plan of the Redbridge Youth Council. Action to combat knife crime has been a consistent priority for the past few years. However, there are many other issues which the Youth Council has worked to publicise and address – mental health issues for young people and how professionals and other adults respond, environmental crisis, body image, and period poverty. While the outgoing Government committed to provide funding for free sanitary products in all English secondary schools and colleges, delivery on this pledge is still very patchy. Meanwhile, research suggests that one in ten young women aged between 14 and 21 have been unable to afford sanitary wear. Amelia urged all Redbridge schools to make sure they are doing everything they can to help tackle this issue.

One of the last acts of the outgoing LSCB is the publication of its final [Annual Report](#), which covers the eighteen months from April 2018 to the end of September 2019, which gives a comprehensive overview of the state of children’s safeguarding in Redbridge, its strengths and weaknesses. One of the most striking findings in this year’s Annual Report is that in 2018/19, while the volume of referrals to children’s social care increased by 9%, the numbers of children assessed to need the protection of the most intensive forms of state oversight and intervention – protection within a child protection plan framework, or compulsory public care – have fallen significantly. There were 249 children subject to a child protection plan at the end of 2018/19, down from 298 in 2017/18 and 380 a year before that. Most dramatically, there

was a 57% fall in the number of Redbridge children who were subject to care proceedings in 2018/19 – 49 children, compared to 114 the year before. The number of early help assessments completed using the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) increased, from 867 in 2017/18 to 1123 in 2018/19 – a 30% increase.

The Annual Report comments: “It seems clear that there has been a determined and successful drive to seek and deliver interventions which safeguard children and support families in the least intrusive and invasive ways consistent with the paramountcy of the child’s welfare.” This is very encouraging evidence of the impact of a range of practice innovations in the last year or so, and perhaps particularly the development of the multi-agency Family Intervention Team within children’s social care.

Much more information on this and many other developments in the [Annual Report!](#)

Regards and seasons greetings

John

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Board Report

Feedback from the LSCB Meeting –15 October 2019

Summary of items discussed by the Board

Among other items, the Partnership:

- Received a presentation from Amelia Crorie, Member of the Youth Parliament for Redbridge, on the work and priorities of the Redbridge Youth Council. This is discussed in more detail in the Chair's Foreword.
- Considered safeguarding performance data for the first three months of 2019/20. It noted that while the number of Section 47 enquiries undertaken continues to increase, only a fifth of those enquiries in the first quarter of the year led to a child protection case conference. Service representatives suggested that this reflects an increasing number of concerns that a child may be at risk of significant harm which are found on investigation to have their roots in poverty rather than any form of parental neglect or lack of care - something which cannot be addressed through a child protection plan. This is a disturbing reflection of the stresses and pressures on many families in Redbridge in 2019.
- Reviewed progress against the four priorities which it is taking forward from the LSCB: safeguarding vulnerable adolescents; support to schools and other educational settings; learning from practice; and learning from children, young people, and families. 29 schools have responded to an online consultation on what support they would value in delivering their crucial safeguarding role. Partners were particularly pleased to learn of the work now underway, jointly with the Safeguarding Adults Board, to develop an approach to the challenge of 'transitional safeguarding' – how to respond to the needs of vulnerable young people who become vulnerable adults and potentially fall through the gaps between two safeguarding systems.
- Discussed a report from the first meeting of the BHR Safeguarding Partnership, referred to in the Chair's Foreword. The Partnership has agreed to focus on domestic violence as a key priority area across BHR over the next year. It plans to commission work to develop a co-ordinated BHR response to the issue of county lines, and to develop an integrated approach to quality assurance activity across the area.
- Agreed a proposal to expand the remit of the Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation Panel (MASE) to include a strategic response to criminal as well as sexual exploitation. This reflects a clear recognition by the Redbridge Partnership that the exploitation of young people takes many different forms, often interrelated and affecting the same young people.
- Received the Child Death Overview Panel Annual Report for 2018/19. It was excellent to learn that while some years ago Redbridge had one of the highest rates of infant mortality in London, and higher than the London average through the period 2001 to 2010, it has more than halved since 2001. Partly as a result of work to increase the uptake of ante-natal care. Redbridge now has one of the lowest infant mortality rates in the capital.
- Discussed a report on ongoing work undertaken across agencies to improve the quality of Multi-Agency Referral Forms to social care. There are some continuing issues about referrals not being sufficiently prompt or containing adequate information which will be followed up with the agencies concerned.

Priority 1

Safeguarding adolescents

Work on a Transitional Safeguarding project, jointly with the Redbridge Safeguarding Adults Board, has begun with a Task and Finish Group with Terms of Reference established.

The Group will develop a project plan and in the meantime support the piloting of some different approaches with individual young people's cases.

Across the Barking, Havering and Redbridge Safeguarding Partnership, a response to County Lines is being developed.

There are also plans for two Redbridge schools to pilot a new contextual safeguarding approach and Children's Services are developing work on safeguarding vulnerable adolescents within the London ADCS sector-led improvement programme.

Priority 2

Supporting schools and other education providers

Following a recent on-line consultation exercise, the Partnership are much clearer on the different safeguarding issues facing schools, what work they are already undertaking in these areas and what support they would find helpful from across the Partnership.

Feedback on the consultation exercise is going to be shared at the Designated Safeguarding Leads meeting at the end of October.

To support communication with schools, RedPEN is being used more routinely and individual school staff are being encouraged to sign up to receive Partnership newsletters and training information.

Priority 3

Learning from Practice

The BHR Safeguarding Partnership has made a welcome commitment to develop an integrated multi-agency quality assurance programme across BHR, focusing on practice.

In Redbridge, the Learning and Improvement Sub Group is currently developing a model of approach to local Learning Reviews, which will focus on a specific identified theme that is present in a number of cases. This will allow an opportunity to deep dive into the presenting factors and gain insight and learning into processes, multi-agency working and information sharing.

We are exploring how best to resource the collation of relevant information from agencies for Learning Reviews. This will consist of a delegate working as a conduit to identify all the key themes, draw out the learning and identify good practice.

The proposal for the development of a BHR Practitioner Forum has been well received and this will be taken forward. The timeliness of the forum is to be finalised, a proposal could be three times a year, providing each local partnership with the opportunity to host the forum.

Priority

4

Learning from children, young people & families

A representative from the Redbridge Youth Council presented their priorities and planned work programme to the Partnership. These include knife crime, body image and period poverty. The findings from the Make Your Mark consultation with young people across the Borough will be made known shortly with new priorities identified.

At our next meeting, in January 2020, there will be an opportunity to hear directly from a group of young people with direct experience of the multi-agency safeguarding system.

Focus on ... the Truth Project

The [Truth Project](#) is part of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse. It helps the Inquiry to understand why and how children who have suffered from sexual abuse were let down by people in authority in the past, in order to prevent it happening in the future. It is an opportunity for people to share their experience in a safe and confidential way, and to be listened to without judgment.

The Truth Project would like to hear from those who have suffered sexual abuse; very often, someone in a position of authority knew about it (or should have known about it) and did not deal with it properly. The abuse may have happened in the family home or elsewhere, but if someone in authority knew or should have known, the victim may have been failed by an agency. The information shared with the Inquiry is very important and will help to make recommendations to protect children in the future. Many have said that they wish to contribute in order to make the world safer for future children, hoping that their personal experience will feed into the Inquiry's work.

Many have said that taking part in the Truth Project has helped them to feel heard and most importantly believed, some for the first time. Some participants have said that sharing their experience marks the beginning in the process of moving on and achieving resolution.

Ways to share with the Truth Project

There are different ways to get in touch with the Truth Project. Experiences can be shared in writing (via email or post), by telephone or in person by attending a private session. When an individual comes to a session, they can choose any of the Inquiry offices across England and Wales. The Truth Project staff can help to make all travel and accommodation arrangements and meet the costs for the participant and up to two companions.

A dedicated team of workers is available to support participants leading up to, on the day and after the session. They will try their best to meet the individual needs of

participants, including interpretation, and provide emotional support throughout the process.

The information that shared with the Truth Project is used for research reports, to support recommendations to protect children in the future, and to produce anonymised summaries of the experience. To date, we have published 365 experiences, which can be found on our [website](#).

The Project produces a quarterly [dashboard](#) which includes information about participants' backgrounds, the nature of the abuse experienced, the relationship to perpetrators, impacts of the abuse and disclosure. This information helps to bring new insight into child sexual abuse and provides valuable learning to feed into the recommendations for change. Reports published to date include '[Victim and Survivor voices from the Truth Project](#)' and a thematic report '[Child Sexual Abuse in the context of religious institutions](#)'. More information around research and publications can be viewed via the [website](#).

Last month, [London Live](#) has reported on the Truth Project hearing from more than 1,000 victims and survivors. The TV channel [interviewed](#) Michael May, head of the London and South East Truth Project office, and a survivor called Ruby. Michael also spoke on [BBC Radio 4's Woman's Hour](#) with Heidi Clutterbuck who praised the Truth Project as providing a safe space for her to speak about her experiences, and Michael May talked about the vital work the Inquiry was doing to open up conversations about child sexual abuse.

If you work with anyone affected by anyone who has experienced historical sexual abuse as a child and you feel would find it helpful to speak to the Project, please pass on the contact information below.

www.truthproject.org.uk

Inquiry Information Line 0800 917 1000



RSCP Training Programme Calendar

To keep fully informed about RSCP events, do follow us on ...



@RedbridgeSCP

Below are the [upcoming learning events](#) that still have places available from the new [RSCP Training Programme 2019 - 2020](#). These multi-agency courses reflect the safeguarding priorities in Redbridge and compliment training already available within individual agencies. These are great for both professional and team development. You can see more about each event by clicking the links. Sign up is via our online [Nomination Form](#). Courses are £35 for half a day and £65 for a full day. There is no charge for attendance if you work or volunteer in the voluntary and community sector.

"I was totally engrossed throughout the session and felt that at the end of it I had learned a great deal. I started off having no knowledge in the area and ended it feeling that I had tools to help me in my role."

Course	Date
Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP)	23 01 2020
Harmful Sexual Behaviours	09 01 2020
Understanding Loss, Grief and Bereavement and Effects on Children and Families	16 01 2020
Awareness of CSE	23 01 2020
Working Together to Safeguarding Children - A Shared Responsibility (Level 2)	06 02 2020

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) training continues to be very well received, contributing to increased confidence in the role and lots of 'shared conversations' in settings. To complement this learning, we have a new course in this year's programme - **Supervising Safeguarding Practice**.

"Most commentators observe that the quality of supervision available is one of the most direct and significant determinant of practitioner's ability to develop and maintain critical mindsets and work in a reflective way" (Burton 2009).

A key skill for any manager working with children and families, good supervision offers a safe space for your staff to reflect and explore possibilities. It is also associated with improved job performance, commitment to an organisation, retention and keeping staff well. You can find out more about this course, due to run on 30 January, [here](#).

Stop press Redbridge Safeguarding Adults Board is recruiting Lay Members

The **Redbridge Safeguarding Adults Board** is looking to recruit voluntary Lay Members to join its Board from next year. If you know someone who lives in Redbridge, is not employed by any partner agencies and has an interest in the work that partners can do to support adults at risk, please ask them to check out the advert and role profile on the [RSCP website](#).

Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)

You may be aware that on 2 September the Department for Education's revised statutory safeguarding guidance for schools and colleges, Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2019 came into force; it is available on GOV.UK [here](#).

The DfE have asked children's safeguarding partnerships to draw attention to **Part 5** of the guidance, which was introduced for the first time in September 2018. It covers managing reports of child on child sexual violence and sexual harassment in schools and colleges. We know that many schools and colleges get their safeguarding information from their local authority and work closely with them when cases arise.

- Nothing is more important than safeguarding and promoting children's welfare.
- Children can sexually abuse other children and it doesn't only happen in secondary schools; it can take place in primary schools too.
- Child on child sexual violence and sexual harassment exists in many forms, from calling someone sexualised names, flicking bra straps, lifting up skirts, grabbing bottoms, breasts and genitalia to sexual assault and rape.
- Sexual violence and sexual harassment can happen online and offline (and in many cases there will be an element of both).
- Schools and colleges need to know how to identify it, manage reports and support all parties involved.
- It is essential that all victims are reassured that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe. A victim should never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by

reporting sexual violence or sexual harassment. Nor should a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report.

- Sexual violence and sexual harassment are not acceptable, should never be tolerated and should never be seen as an inevitable part of growing up.
- Everyone who comes into contact with children has a role to play in protecting them.

Detailed advice to support schools and colleges understand, prevent and respond to reports of child on child sexual violence and harassment and how and when to refer cases is available [here](#).

New Team Member

The RSCP Team has been joined by a new member – Abdul Muktedir. Abdul is part of the National Graduate Development Programme (NGDP) in Redbridge and this is his first placement. We welcome Abdul who will be supporting activities across both safeguarding children and also adults at risk.



The LSCB becomes the Redbridge Safeguarding Children Partnership (RSCP)

In line with changes following on from the Children and Social Work Act 2017, Working Together 2018, and the new Barking, Havering and Redbridge Safeguarding Partnership, our local safeguarding children forum has changed its name from the LSCB to the RSCP – Redbridge Safeguarding Children Partnership.



Contact Information

Redbridge Safeguarding Children Partnership (RSCP)

RedbridgeSCP@redbridge.gov.uk

Tel: 020 8708 5282 or 020 8708 3289

Website: www.redbridgescp.org.uk

 @RedbridgeSCP

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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 (Evenings and weekends)

CPAT.Referrals@redbridge.gov.uk

Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

Nem-tr.CDOP@nhs.net

Tel: 020 8708 3455/5961

Mobile: 07701295120



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 – Winter 2019 - 2020 – will be published in January 2020.

Additionally, young people can share their views on the safeguarding issues that concern them at any time through completion of our [on-line survey](#). There is also [one](#) for parents and carers.