

## SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2024

### Foreword from the Independent Chair & Scrutineer



A warm welcome to this Summer edition of the RSCP newsletter. **(Although I'm not sure the weather knows it's summer yet!)**

The last meeting of the Redbridge Safeguarding Children Partnership (RSCP) took place on 9 July, the details of which are shared on [page 2](#).

It was good to hear that following an inspection of **the local authority children's services (ILACS)** by Ofsted that the overall rating of **"Outstanding" has been maintained**. This is a great achievement and due to the hard work of everyone involved. Well done! The report can be accessed on the [Ofsted website](#).

In addition to the priority areas of work updates, the meeting heard two presentations from the RSCP Learning and Improvement Subgroup. The first being the outcome of an audit on

the use of the neglect tool kit, which took place to review the impact of work that happened in 2023 when the Neglect Toolkit was updated and relaunched. A multi-agency self-assessment was developed to review how the toolkit is now being used and its effectiveness. The audit found that although the Neglect Toolkit is considered a useful tool it is not widely used across those agencies that responded. However, it provided the assurance that all agencies are confident that neglect, the risks associated with neglect and its impact are clearly understood and that staff can identify and respond to concerns. As an outcome of the audit is that further work will be done to produce **"flash cards" that can be available as a prompt when considering any concerns, risks and impact of neglect**. RSCP resources to support neglect are available on the [website](#).

The second presentation was on the work undertaken to develop a Multi-Agency Guide on Trauma Informed Practice (TIP) (see [page 5](#)). A draft was shared with the RSCP and a final version will shortly be published on the [website](#).

The meeting also received the annual report on Private Fostering. Despite all the hard efforts and training on the subject the numbers reported are very low, which causes concern that some arrangements are going unnoticed and/or unreported. The RSCP website hosts a number of resources to support practitioners. It may be useful to revisit this as part of your practice and with your wider teams, to make sure that any children subject to private fostering are referred appropriately.

May I thank everyone again on behalf of the RSCP for your continued hard work and hope you all manage to get a break over the summer

Best wishes

Eileen Mills

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# Feedback from the RSCP Meeting – 09 July 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 Task and Finish Group to take forward the findings of the Contextual Safeguarding Review has been agreed and members identified. The first meeting is due to be held on 31 July. Recent learning from a Rapid Review identified the additional complexity in supporting young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) who are vulnerable to exploitation. This will now be added to the agenda for the Task and Finish Group.

### Child Mental Health

The Task and Finish Group is established, and work progressing. We should hear about the findings and planned actions at our next meeting.

### A Suitable Home for Every Child

A monthly meeting is taking place within the local authority between the Children and Families Service, Adult Health & Social Care, and Housing, where cases are brought for discussion. The recent Ofsted inspection findings were positive about the housing provision for care leavers and 16-17 year olds. The RSCP will receive an impact report from this work later in the year.

### Child Friendly Redbridge

The RSCP received a presentation of the work being done. The Borough is moving into the final stage, which is towards the end of the delivery phase and starting to gain recognition. UNICEF that leads the accreditation have been very impressed with the work undertaken so far in Redbridge. Through this work there is now a wide network to capture the voice of young people. As part of the development of the arrangements for the RSCP in response to *Working Together 2023*, they would like to explore how this can **more effectively include a Children's Rights approach**. All working with children are **encouraged to complete the Children's Rights Training**. **Find out more by contacting [Sadaf.Rayworth@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:Sadaf.Rayworth@redbridge.gov.uk) and complete the new staff survey (see page 6)**. Find out more on the Child Friendly Redbridge webpages.

### Patient online access

The ICB outlined the new on-line access that patients will have to records and the safeguarding implications of this (see News page 6).

## 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. A multi-agency working group has been established to take this forward.

## 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, including a 'round table' audit event being facilitated by a multi-agency Task and Finish group in

## 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

The RSCP Training Programme continues to be popular and well attended by our multi-agency partners. Amongst the 80 sessions on offer, the new courses this year, Understanding Coercive Control, Fabricated and Induced Illness and Cost of Living Crisis, Poverty and the Effects on Parenting and Children's Mental Health were well evaluated. Our 2024/25 programme is currently in development but will include many of the courses enjoyed in 2023/24 as well as well as the shorter free briefings to make sure keeping up to date is even easier. Look out for the new offer published in September with the latest evidence, current legislation and learning from [Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews](#). If you don't already receive RSCP emails direct, make sure you sign up to our [mailing list](#) to be the first to plan your safeguarding training when our Programme is published in August. In the meantime, check out the free [Pan London Training Programme](#). To get information on what is available, sign up to the London Safeguarding Children Partnership (SCP) mailing list via [here](#).

## Learning Resource for Social Care Providers

[Grey Matter Learning](#) is a resource made freely available for any professional or volunteer delivering social care across North East London, including Redbridge. This includes family and friend's carers, personal assistants and other roles. Find out more about the on-line training available by requesting an account via e-mail: [training@greymatterlearning.co.uk](mailto:training@greymatterlearning.co.uk).

## What's New on NSPCC Learning

[What makes a good assessment?](#) A practice-point resource aimed at Social Workers but can be helpful to other professionals which provides guidance on making a child-centred assessment, including identifying a family's existing or potential needs, strengths, risks and protective factors.

[Learn more about keeping deaf children and young people safe](#) a podcast which considers the language and communication barriers that can be faced by deaf children and how that can potentially increase the safeguarding risk.

Not new, but worth a re-read, see below links to key blogs in the [NSPCC series Why Language Matters](#):

- [Reframing responsibility for accessing services, December 2022](#)
- [In need of attention, not 'attention seeking', February 2023](#)
- [Why we shouldn't talk about the 'risky behaviour' of young people experiencing abuse, November 2023](#)
- [How using terms like 'recruited' and 'working' minimise children's experiences of criminal exploitation, June 2024](#)

## Kooth Talks for London Healthcare Professionals

Kooth, the free and anonymous mental health service available to children and young people aged 10 – 18 in North East London, are holding free webinars for healthcare professionals. There are various dates available in August and each will look at how Kooth works as a service, the evidence based outcomes and how to refer young people to Kooth. Find out more and register [here](#).



# Focus on Trauma Informed Practice (TIP)

The RSCP are pleased to launch a new multi-agency guidance on Trauma Informed Practice (TIP).

TIP is an approach that recognises that trauma is common and that people accessing services, including children and young people, plus those delivering the services may be affected by trauma. TIP is a strengths-based approach, which seeks to understand and respond to the **impact of trauma on people's lives**. The approach emphasises physical, psychological, and emotional safety for everyone and aims to empower individuals to re-establish control of their lives.



TIP involves a new way of thinking about children and families using a trauma informed lens; changing language; and support and supervision offered to staff with an awareness of the impact of trauma on the workforce.



The guidance covers information on **what do we mean by 'trauma informed', what principles apply to TIP**, the impact of childhood trauma, trauma responses, responding and recovering from trauma, case studies and opportunities for further learning.

The guidance has been produced as part of a programme in LB Redbridge **Children's Services to introduce Trauma Informed Practice**, with all front line staff being trained, plus managers, and pilots in schools. It is a journey starting with becoming trauma aware; then sensitive to trauma; being responsive to trauma; and then finally trauma informed.

If you want to know more about how trauma informed practice is being implemented in Redbridge in partnership with *Interface*, contact [Trauma.Informed@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:Trauma.Informed@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

Whilst children are under 11 years, parents can have proxy access. At the point a child is 11 the automatic nature of this access is removed, and parents need to request the same from the Practice. Between the ages of 11 and 16 years the competent young person may decide to stop parental proxy access to online services or restrict access to transactional features. At aged 16 all access is stopped. However, for looked after children or children with disabilities proxy access may continue after discussion with the GP.

For more information, please view the [NHS England website](https://www.nhs.uk).

## Child Friendly Redbridge Staff Survey



**HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD**

**Child Friendly Redbridge STAFF SURVEY**

Your views are important to us  
Taking part in the survey is voluntary and all answers are anonymous.

Scan QR code to access the survey

Logos: Child Friendly Redbridge, UNICEF, NHS

## On-line Access for Patients to Health Records

From 1 November 2023, GPs have been required to provide patients online access to their prospective records (unless they have individually decided to opt-out or any exceptions apply). This allows patients aged 16 years and over to have online access to data entered into their GP records accessed via their patient facing apps.

This means that from that date patients can see all appointments, medication lists, documents and letters, once they have been reviewed and filed, test results and consultation entries including free text.

The information patients will not be able to see is retrospective data entered prior to 31 October 2023 and any data entered before the patient turns aged 16. In addition, GPs are being advised to 'block out' from patient view all entries relating to **safeguarding, including children's services referrals** either for safeguarding or child in need, all safeguarding conference minutes, domestic abuse notifications and letters containing third party information. Please do note, for any service writing to a GP with safeguarding information it would support them greatly, if it could be written in the header that this contains safeguarding information and is not for sharing.

## Foster for Redbridge



**LOCAL COMMUNITY Fostering**

Some see hard work. You see a happy ever after.

**Foster for Redbridge**  
020 8496 3437  
[www.redbridge.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/fostering)

Image: A man and a woman smiling together.

# 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)

 @RedbridgeSCP

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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)



### 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 October 2024.