

### Editorial from the Chair



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

It is my pleasure to be taking over the role of Chair for the next year, leading the RSCP forwards on behalf of the Lead Safeguarding Partners.

I would like to start my first Newsletter Editorial with a heartfelt thank you to Eileen for delivering so successfully the dual role of both Independent Chair and Scrutineer over the last nearly three years. I look forward to continuing to work closely with her in her new dedicated role as Independent Scrutineer. You will see her review of the recent Partnership meeting which took place on 20 January on [page 2](#) which was my first in the role as Chair.

The Partnership has now implemented the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements under Working Together 2024, which was referenced by Eileen Mills in the Autumn Edition. The official published statement can be viewed on the [RSCP website](#) along with the revised [vision and values](#), which I will return to in my detail shortly.

For those of you that do not know me, I would like to share a bit about my role within the North East London (NEL) NHS Integrated Care Board (ICB) which is Chief Nursing

Officer. I am a registered Midwife and Nurse. I like to spend time getting out meeting professionals and residents. My latest visits were to Queens Hospital and Goodmayes Hospital where I got the opportunity to meet both patients and hospital staff.

I wanted to set out some thoughts around our new [vision and values](#) which really set out the fundamental basis of the work of the Partnership.

Our agreed vision is:

*"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."*

Our agreed values, which will support delivery of the vision, are:

All children have the right to live their lives free from violence, abuse, and neglect and the 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 also a commitment to take a **Children's Right Based approach**, as part of the **UNICEF 'Child Friendly Borough'** development, which means that organisations will prioritise children's rights in their **work 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; and organisations and individuals are accountable to children for decisions, and for **outcomes that affect children's lives**.

In the Spring Edition of the Newsletter, I am looking forward to providing details of our newly agreed priorities for the 2025 – 2026 year, which will embrace the above vision and values.

If you would like to make contact please email [RedbridgeSCP@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:RedbridgeSCP@redbridge.gov.uk).

Finally, I would like to thank you for your work in delivering services to children and families, and importantly your dedication to safeguarding.

Best wishes

Diane Jones

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# Commentary from the Independent Scrutineer on the RSCP Meeting, 20 January 2025

## Summary of items discussed at the last RSCP meeting

In addition to the presentations and discussions mentioned in the [Editorial](#), the RSCP received the following updates and information:

### Contextual Safeguarding

Areas of progress for the priority are:

- the creation of the Transitional Safeguarding Panel. The establishment of a process for post 18 contextual safeguarding concerns to be managed by Adult Services
- Launch of the Specialist Exploitation Team (SET) which is the amalgamation of the two teams delivering specialist exploitation services into one. This impact of this has supported the team to eliminate step up and step-down transitions, strengthen relationships with young people and integrate the services into one integrated delivery mechanism.

### Child Mental Health

- Review of the [LBR Public Health Map](#) which support children and families on where to find help and support
- Development of a multi-agency audit/self-assessment on child mental health – finding due in April 2025

### A Suitable Home for Every Child

- The partnership received a presentation on the impact of living in temporary accommodation on children
- The impact of the Early Intervention Service in the Hostels- identifying the support that families need - *“Work together in central locations such as Community Hubs to provide in person support”. ‘Provide access to form filling services and basic interpreting services. “Help moving out of temporary accommodation at earliest opportunity.*

### Sexual Harassment in Schools

The meeting was provided with an update on the progress of the sexual harassment in schools project. As part of the [This Has to Stop Campaign!](#) initiative to challenge sexist behaviour, education sessions are being delivered in local schools with children aged 11-16 and are continually being evaluated and developed. Phase 2 will be launched within this academic year which will include Year 6 pupils transitioning to senior schools.

## 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 is focusing 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.

Activities have included a 'roundtable' quality assurance event; gaining an insight into the use of Quooth; and a multi-agency self-assessment. A full report will be coming to the Partnership in April 2025.

## 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. In January 2025, the Partnership received a presentation on the role of the Local Authority's Early Intervention Service in supporting those families in temporary accommodation and the impact of that work.

## RSCP Training Programme 2024 – 2025

The [Redbridge SCP Training Programme for 2024 – 2025](#) continues to be rolled out. Over 70 sessions are grouped into three series, key to your work with children and families :

Understanding Safeguarding Risks

Contextual Safeguarding & Child on Child Abuse

Creating Safer Settings for Children and Families

To book your place on any of the courses, please use our [online booking form](#). You will see there are some courses that have 'dates and times TBC'; please don't try and book a place on those yet – we just want you to know they're in the pipeline for this year! For notes on training fees and cancellation policy, please click [here](#) and visit [our website](#) for full details of our training programme. If you would like to receive information direct to your mailbox, please sign up via our [contact form](#).

A sample of some of our upcoming courses over the next few weeks is below.

Date	Course Title	Delivery
24 03 2025	Sexualisation, Development and Safeguarding Children and Young People	Classroom
27 03 2025	Early Help for Children and Families – An Introduction to the CAF (Common Assessment Framework)	Classroom
23 04 2025	Working Together to Safeguard Children – A Shared Responsibility (Safeguarding Level 2)	Classroom
25 04 2025	Safeguarding Children Who Go Missing	Online
30 04 2025	Sudden Unexpected Death in Infants (SUDI) and Safer Sleep for Babies	Online

### Stop press .... Online Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF)

The on-line version of the Redbridge MARF is coming. The launch is planned for 1 April 2025. Information will be made available, including a guide and frequently asked questions document. If you missed the demonstration held on 20 March, do get in touch via [RedbridgeSCP@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:RedbridgeSCP@redbridge.gov.uk) if you would like further information.

# Focus on ... Pathfinder



## *Families First for Children* PATHFINDERS programme

The Pathfinder's programme is progressing at pace. It is less than a year since Redbridge was awarded [Pathfinders status by the DfE](#) and in that time the Pathfinders Team has delivered a complete transformation of Children's Services in the Borough with the aim of ensuring that families access impactful support as early as possible, to prevent problems escalating.

Under the new ways of working, Children's Services now has a single front door for family help services. The Family Help Front Door includes the new Family Resource Team where families can access help at the first point of contact for issues including parenting support, housing issues, domestic abuse and benefits & debt advice.

For concerns that are more complex, families will be supported through one of the five Family Help Teams, three of which will provide targeted support for specific concerns around Contextual Safeguarding, vulnerable parents pre- & post-birth and Children with Disabilities.

Most Redbridge families who come in to contact with Children's Services will be supported at the front door or by one of the friendly and welcoming Family Help Teams who will develop a plan of support with the family.

In a small number of cases, the concerns will be serious enough to warrant a referral into the new Multi-Agency Child Protection Team (MACPT). This team is made up of experts in child protection from children's services, the police, education and health. These practitioners will be experienced have the expertise to collate, analyse and distil complex information about a child's circumstances.

Watch out for a further update in the Spring Edition of the Newsletter.



## KEY MILESTONES

- 25 November 2024: New EHM system 'go-live'
- 02 December 2024: Family Help - Contextual Safeguarding service 'go-live'
- 6 January 2025: Family Help front door 'go-live'
- 20 January 2025: Family Help 1 & Family Help 2 'go-live'
- 3 February 2025: Multi-Agency Child Protection Team (MACPT) 'go-live'
- 11 February 2025: Formal visit to Redbridge from DfE & launch of Multi-Agency Child Protection Team (MACPT)



## Foster for Redbridge Council

Redbridge Council need more foster carers who can make happy, lasting memories for a child or young person.

We often take some things for granted. Taking our children to the park or to a playground; jumping in puddles; getting your wellies stuck in thick mud. Many children in Redbridge, however, have never experienced these fun and free activities. A care leaver remembers the time that she was fostered and had a picnic in a park, **“I had never had a picnic in a park before. I was 11. It was so exciting.”**

If you would like to create happy memories for our most vulnerable children and are considering fostering for Redbridge Council, please call us on 020 8708 6068 or visit the Local Authority [website](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/fostering) to book onto our next virtual information session.

## Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Bill 2024

This new legislation, arising from the [Department for Education \(DfE\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/departments/department-for-education) **“Keeping Children Safe, Helping Families Thrive – Breaking down barriers to opportunity”, November 2024** vision for the child protection system and delivery of reform, has now reached the Committee

Stage in the House of Commons. It has received widespread interest across the **children and young people’s workforce, and specifically for those involved in the multi-agency safeguarding ‘system’**. A copy of the Bill as introduced and any amendments can be downloaded from the [UK Parliament website](https://www.parliament.uk)

alongside information on the [progress of the Bill](#). The Department for Education (DfE) has produced [Policy Summary Notes](#) to accompany the Bill, which provide a background on the purpose and main elements of the Bill.

## Multi-Agency Response to Serious Youth Violence

In November 2024, a [report](#) was published summarising the findings from the six Joint Targeted Area Inspections (JTAs), carried out between September 2023 and May 2024, on the theme of the multi-agency response to serious youth violence. The focus is on three areas:

- strategic responses to serious youth violence
- work with children, both individuals and groups, affected by serious youth violence and child criminal exploitation; and
- Intervention in specific places to improve safety for children and communities.

Part 3 of the Report is specifically addressed to strategic partnerships and the RSCP will spend time considering this and how it can respond alongside the Community Safety Partnership and public health.

# 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)



## 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 at the end of April 2025.