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## **One Minute Guide:**

### **Redbridge Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)**

Safeguarding children - the action we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm - is everyone's responsibility.

The statutory guidance, "*Working Together to Safeguard Children*" (2013) defines safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children as:

- protecting children from maltreatment;
- preventing impairment of children's health or development;
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Each local authority must establish an LSCB to develop safeguarding policies and procedures and scrutinise local arrangements for the protection of children.

### **Objectives of the LSCB**

- (a) to coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area; and
- (b) to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.

### **Functions of the LSCB**

To develop policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority, including policies and procedures in relation to:

- the action to be taken where there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare, including thresholds for intervention;
- training of persons who work with children or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children;
- recruitment and supervision of persons who work with children;
- investigation of allegations concerning persons who work with children;
- safety and welfare of children who are privately fostered;
- cooperation with neighbouring children's services authorities and their Board partners;
- communicating to persons and bodies in the area of the authority the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising their awareness of how this can best be done and encouraging them to do so;
- monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advising them on ways to improve;
- participating in the planning of services for children in the area of the authority; and
- under taking reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learned.

## **Membership of the Redbridge LSCB**

Redbridge LSCB consists of a Strategic Board, an Executive and four sub-groups. The LSCB has an independent chair who is accountable to the Redbridge Chief Executive. Other members of the Board come from the various partner agencies including the Children's Trust and Children's Services, the Metropolitan Police, Health, the Probation Service, CAFCASS, Adult Social Care, Redbridge Schools, Redbridge College, Victim Support, Norwood, Pre-school Learning Alliance, Diocese of Brentwood, Redbridge Faith Forum, together with two lay members. The LSCB is supported by a Legal Adviser and a Practice Development Manager.

Members of Redbridge LSCB are people with a strategic role in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children within their organisation who can speak for their organisation with authority, commit their organisation on policy and practice matters; and hold their own organisation to account and hold others to account. The LSCB includes frontline professionals from relevant sectors such as a designated doctor and nurse, the Director of Public Health, Principal Child and Family Social Worker and the voluntary and community sector. The lay members operate as full members of the LSCB and its Sub-Groups. The Lead Member for Children's Services, Cllr Alan Weinberg, is a participating observer of the LSCB.

The Redbridge LSCB Sub-Groups are:

### **(a) Management of Individual Cases Sub group**

To assist the LSCB to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children

### **(b) Learning and Improvement Sub group**

To plan the provision and monitoring of training to assist individuals to achieve better outcomes for children and the development of learning from the findings of Serious Case Reviews<sup>1</sup>

### **(c) Serious Case Review Panel**

This group is responsible for undertaking reviews of cases where a child has died or has been seriously harmed in circumstances where abuse or neglect is known or suspected.

### **(d) Child Death Overview Panel**

This group provides a forum that allows for a professional multi-agency examination of all child deaths (except stillbirths) in Redbridge.

## **Ofsted's View of the LSCB**

The report of the unannounced inspection of local authority arrangements for the protection of children in October 2012 commented that *"Strong partnership working is effectively overseen by the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)"*.

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<sup>1</sup> Details on the latest LSCB training courses are available on [http://www2.redbridge.gov.uk/cms/benefits\\_care\\_and\\_health/children/safeguarding\\_children/safeguarding\\_children\\_board/lscb\\_training.aspx](http://www2.redbridge.gov.uk/cms/benefits_care_and_health/children/safeguarding_children/safeguarding_children_board/lscb_training.aspx)