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One Minute Guide: LBR C.A.R.E Panel

What is it?

The Redbridge C.A.R.E (Children at Risk of Exploitation) Panel is a multi-agency panel which commenced in July 2013. The Panel consists of professionals from Children's Social Care, Police, Health, Education, Housing and Youth Offending Services, working together to reduce the number of exploited children and young people.

What is child sexual exploitation?

The Department of Education (DfE) defines child sexual exploitation as *"a form of child abuse ("child" being defined as anyone under the age of 18 years of age). It can manifest itself in different ways but essentially involves children and young people receiving something – for example, accommodation, drugs, gifts, or affection – as a result of them performing sexual activities, or having others perform sexual activities on them. It can occur without physical contact, when children are groomed to post sexual images of themselves on the internet."*

What does the C.A.R.E Panel aim to do?

The objectives of the Panel are to:

- Establish data, as accurately as possible, in order to develop a picture of missing children and children at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Redbridge
- Evaluate the effectiveness of current arrangements to safeguard children who are at risk of going missing¹ or at risk of CSE.
- Report on the current processes for managing missing children's cases and cases of children who have been victims of sexual exploitation.
- Make recommendations to improve Redbridge's policies and procedures to reflect best practice.

¹ The UK Border Agency Home Office offers a description of a missing child and sexual exploitation in the Enforcement Instructions and Guidance Non-Compliance and Absconder Process Instructions - "the definition of a missing child is limited to a minor, whether unaccompanied or a member of a family unit, whose whereabouts are unknown." (Chapter 19, page 5, section 9, November 2012).

- Clarify roles and responsibilities of all agencies involved and provide training where required.
- Disseminate learning with other boroughs.
- Support at risk children and young people and their families with information, advice and support.

How is it used?

The Panel will allow the multi-agency working group to develop safety planning for children and young people. The Panel meets on a monthly basis and is jointly chaired by [Catherine Worboyes](#) (Head of Child Protection and Early Intervention) and the Police.

What is the process?

There is a designated referral form, available from the [M.A.S.H Administrator](#). Should any professional have concerns for a child or young person regarding any of the categories below, the referral form should be completed.

- Repeated missing episodes
- Duration of absence
- Risk of sexual exploitation present

From November 2013, the referral form will be available in the [Forms Library on TriX](#).

How can I make a referral to the Panel?

1. The agency that identifies the concern completes the referral form, which may be obtained from the M.A.S.H Administrator.
2. Once the referral form is completed it must be sent by secure email to the M.A.S.H (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) Administrator, [Ann Alexander](#).
3. Children or young people placed outside of the Borough but case managed by Redbridge should also be referred.
4. The [M.A.S.H Administrator](#) sends the referral to the Panel Chairs and it is screened to ensure the panel would be the most appropriate avenue.
5. Once the referral is formally accepted, an invitation letter will be sent to all relevant parties involved with the child or young person to attend the next panel meeting. Team Managers are also invited to attend with allocated Social Workers.
6. During the Panel, the referring agency presents the information and other agencies share additional details regarding their involvement with the child or young person.

7. At the end of the discussion an action plan will be agreed.

*Please note that if there are any immediate safeguarding concerns, agencies are required to follow their safeguarding procedures.

How can I find out more?

- If you would like to have a discussion about the Panel, you may also contact [Michelle Johnson](#) (Interim Strategic Development Manager)
- The Department for Education (DfE) have published [What to do if you suspect a child is being sexually exploited: A step-by-step guide for frontline practitioners](#) (2012) which provides very accessible guidance including how to identify a case of CSE.
- Lengthier guidance, [Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation](#), was published by HM Government in 2009. It is available as a downloadable PDF or in hard copy form from the [Workforce Development Team](#).
- The Redbridge LSCB provides a 2 day Training Course on Child Sexual Exploitation and a half day briefing. More information is available via [Redbridge i](#) or by contacting [LSCB Training Administration](#).