



# OneChildren'sWorkforce

**The Children and Young People's Workforce Newsletter**

**Issue 2 • December 2009**

## A message from Pat Reynolds, Director of Children's Services

**The focus of this Winter edition of the One Children's Workforce Newsletter is to share widely important information about social care Service Thresholds and other sources of support for children and young people in Redbridge.**

Our shared vision is that "Children and young people can fulfil their dreams and achieve their full potential. They will be aspiring, independent and confident, enjoying family, school, play, learning and life. They will be proud of themselves and able to make informed life choices, while growing up in a safe and secure environment."

As we are all aware, the majority of children and young people have a number of basic needs that can be supported through access to good universal services such as health, early years, housing, youth services, school place and a GP to progress well in all areas of their development. They will not need extra help to achieve the five Every Child Matters outcomes. Some children will have more complex needs and as a result may need access to specialist services from one or more agencies to support them – for example Social Care. However, some children may not have complex needs, but could need the involvement of an additional agency.



In these instances the use of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) will provide for an integrated approach to meeting need and could lead to multi-agency involvement.

To enable all our children to receive the support they need quickly and without wasting or duplicating scarce resources, it is important that all of us involved with children and young people are aware that there is a London wide agreement and description of the levels of need that should draw down particular responses from services. These are described as Thresholds. They distinguish between the needs of a child with low level additional needs through to children in need of immediate protection from significant harm.

Understanding these thresholds is crucial. We know, for example, where social care child protection services receive large numbers of referrals that do not meet the threshold of "risk of significant harm", there can be delays in providing the right support to children who have very real additional needs. There can also be unnecessary stress for families and the potential that resources are directed away from the most vulnerable children. This newsletter provides a link to the Redbridge Service Thresholds and also summarises the common assessment process and how to use it.

Please can you share the information in this newsletter widely. Thank you for your continuing contribution to

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**'It shows what we can achieve by working together as one'**

making Redbridge a better place to live for children, young people and their families.

With best wishes for the festive season and a happy 2010.



## LB Redbridge Children's Trust Service Thresholds

**In order to provide suitable responses to the needs of children, young people and families, access to services are defined within Service Thresholds of which there are three levels.**

Level 1 - Children with no identified "additional" or "complex" needs using "universal services"; Level 2 - Children with additional needs; and Level 3: Children with more complex needs.

The thresholds are based on best practice and the Every Child Matters programme.

Needs are considered on an individual basis and responses based on assessment and judgement.

The outcomes of the assessment will be informed by legislation, statutory guidance as well as local policies and procedures. Local Authorities are not expected to meet every individual need, but they are asked to identify the extent of need and then make decisions on the priorities for service provision.

Please find below a link to the LB Redbridge Children's Trust Service Thresholds and descriptors document on Redbridge i.

[http://cms.redbridge.gov.uk/social\\_care\\_\\_health/children\\_and\\_families.aspx](http://cms.redbridge.gov.uk/social_care__health/children_and_families.aspx)

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Duty Team Manager on 020 8708 3736  
[katie.thomas@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:katie.thomas@redbridge.gov.uk)



'It shows what we can achieve by working together as one'

## The Common Assessment Framework (CAF)

**Common Assessment Framework (CAF) is one of a number of integrated tools and processes which helps practitioners to assess and address the needs of a child or young person.**

Children, young people and families experience a range of needs at different times in their lives.

However, while all children and young people require access to high-quality universal services, some of them also have additional needs which may relate to their development, education, health, social welfare or other areas. Integrated working focuses on enabling and encouraging the children and young people's workforce in the public, private and third sectors to work together effectively to deliver frontline services.

With the introduction of the electronic CAF (eCAF) we are now able to store this information electronically, share it with other

practitioners and use it to assist us with the initial and on-going care planning of a child or young person. eCAF can be offered by any practitioner in the children and young people's workforce and the eCAF system itself will be accessible to all practitioners via a secure web browser connection.

You do not have to be an expert in any particular area to do a common assessment; you do however, need to have the right skills to store this information and to have completed the eCAF End User training, via the Online CBT training course. Access to the training course will also be available via a web browser.

If you would like any further information or guidance on CAF or e.CAF, including how to access training, please contact Beverley Applewhaite, CAF Co-ordinator on 020 8708 5508 or email [ecaf@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:ecaf@redbridge.gov.uk)



## Child Protection Concerns

**If at any time you are concerned that a child or young person may be being harmed or is at risk of significant harm, you must follow your service's safeguarding children procedures and ensure that a referral is made to the Child Protection Assessment Team. The CAF is NOT a replacement for a child protection referral.**

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Duty Team Manager on 020 8708 3736 or email [CPAT.Referrals@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:CPAT.Referrals@redbridge.gov.uk)



## How to get additional support

There are other sources of support available within Redbridge. These can be accessed directly through Children's Centres, Extended Schools and Families info Direct (FiND), or be identified through the completion of the CAF process.

## Children's Centres

**Children's Centres offer a range of services and assistance to local families, and link closely with partners such as health, Job Centre Plus as well as those in the private and voluntary sector.**

There are currently fourteen children's centres around Redbridge with a further eight to follow in 2010-11.

The centres are open to all families with children, and run a variety of groups and services tailored to the specific needs in that location. These include drop in groups for mothers with babies, baby weighing, English for speakers of other languages (ESOL), job

clubs, computer literacy, parenting skills, baby massage and many more all with the aim of helping children to achieve the every child matters outcomes.

A signposting service is also provided to ensure that families receive continual care and support, be it simple or complex.

For example access to services for children with special needs is being developed at a number of Children's Centres.

Children's Centres are situated at various locations around Redbridge. Your nearest centre can be located by calling Freephone: 0800 093 1983 or by contacting FiND on 0800 587 7500.

## Extended Schools

**Schools are now providing a range of extended services to support families and the community.**

Ninety per cent of Redbridge schools are now meeting the full extended services core offer of:

Access to childcare (primary schools) 8am to 6pm, either by providing it directly or signposting to other providers. Providing a "safe place to be" (secondary schools) with activities at the end of the school day till 6pm.

A varied menu of extra activities to engage children and young people outside normal school hours. Some activities are free of charge, others at a reasonable cost.

Support for parents through Parent Support Advisors, support groups, adult education or access to parenting courses.

Access to other local services to meet the particular needs of children, young people and their families.

Community use of school facilities (where available).

From April 2010 schools will have targeted funds available to support children and young people from economically disadvantaged backgrounds to take part in activities that are normally charged.

The activities on offer in each school will vary widely. Contact the individual school for further details.



For general enquiries about extended services in Redbridge schools contact the Extended Schools Team on 020 8708 3705



## FiND - Families Information Direct

**FiND (Families Information Direct) is a 'one stop' information and advice service for families and people who work with families.**

FiND provides a wide range of information and advice on a comprehensive range of issues that impact on family life - from childcare and childcare funding; activities for children and young people through to care and support services available when the going gets tough - if we cannot help you we will find someone who can.

FiND can be accessed by professionals or families themselves directly as follows:

Freephone: 0800 587 7500  
Email: [find@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:find@redbridge.gov.uk)  
Fax: 020 8708 9193

There is also a web page: <http://find.redbridge.gov.uk/> and a useful Family Services Directory with zones for parents and carers, practitioners, young people and kids.

FiND also have notice boards in various locations around the Borough such as libraries, schools and health centres - these contain contact information, as well as leaflets and guidance on various topics to support parents, carers and practitioners.

