

London Youth Justice Newsletter – December Issue

Dear colleagues,

I'm taking this opportunity to introduce myself to those of you who haven't already come across me in my day job as DCS in Lewisham or through my role as youth justice policy lead for ALDCS. It's also a chance to share thinking in relation to Youth Justice from the national Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) and to consider what this means for us in London.

This time last year ADCS published its [youth justice policy paper](#).

London colleagues made a significant contribution to the development of the ADCS policy and this subsequently informed the Independent Review of Children's Social Care's recommendations on youth justice. Directors of children's services are accountable for the well-being of all children, including children who find themselves in the youth justice system. In line with the Taylor Report in 2016, the ADCS policy and Care Review recommendations recognise that separate systems (government departments, inspectorates, assessment frameworks) for children in the YJS are largely unhelpful. This separation can cause us to lose focus on these children's status as children: their rights and our responsibilities towards them.

In common with the national approach, in London we want to see children in the YJS as children and promote Child First responses. This means shaping services that are better integrated with those for other adolescents, in a way which breaks down silos and reduces the marginalisation and stigma which are often experienced by children in the YJS.

We know we have significant challenges in London, with acute concerns about exploitation and violence, higher numbers of children in custody than any other region, and we incarcerate a disproportionate number of black and mixed heritage boys. While we continue to tackle these big challenges through the work of our youth justice services, we also need to site this within our wider adolescent safeguarding approach which seeks to build safety for all of London's children and young people.

I look forward to taking on these challenges with you and moving us closer to a youth justice system that works for children.

Pinaki Ghoshal, Executive Director Children and Young People LB Lewisham and ALDCS Youth Justice Policy Lead



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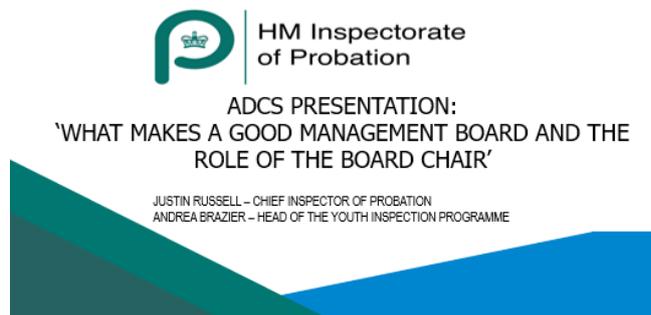
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YJSL Meeting Date

You should all receive a Teams invite for **Tuesday 17th January from 10.00am - 11.30am** when we'll come together to focus on the plans for delivering [Turnaround](#) in London.

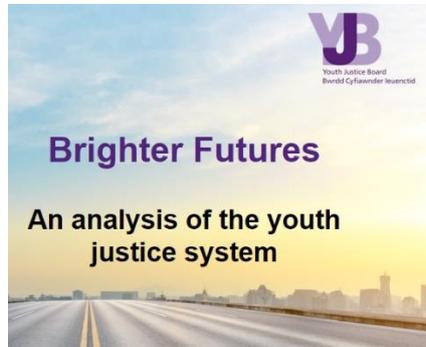
If you do not receive this invite, please contact [Serina Mehmi](#).

HMIP leadership and governance



Management boards can [access the presentation from HMIP Chief Inspector Justin Russell](#) useful as a guide for testing effectiveness against domain one of the HMUP framework.

Child First: identifying progress and priorities and accompanying resources



Last month YJB released their Brighter Futures resources to support the application of Child First principles. You can access the [full report here](#), however access the resource is intended to be interactive when accessed through the [YJB's resource Hub](#).

Reports and Papers

National Audit Office – Support for Vulnerable Adolescents

- The [National Audit Office report](#) presents an interesting picture of government initiatives to support vulnerable adolescents - unsurprisingly concluding that these need to be better joined up to provide value for money.

Services Inaccessible to Girls and Young Women

- [Agenda Alliance report](#) on services for girls and young women.

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Thematic Review of Outcomes for Girls in Custody

- [HMPPS action plan](#) in response to HMI Prisons review of the experience of girls in custody.

'It's a Hard Balance to Find': The Perspectives of Youth Justice Practitioners in England on the Place of 'Risk' in an Emerging 'Child-First' World

- This is an [excellent paper by Dr Anne-Marie Day](#) which deals with the challenge practitioners experience in aligning Child First practice with a risk-orientated inspection regime.

Children, violence and vulnerability 2022

- [YEF's survey](#) of over 2000 children identifies high levels of violence and fear of violence which shapes many children's behaviour.

Stop and Search - Guidance for people with autism

- [This report](#) is a useful stop and search resource aimed at people with autism and those who work with them.

Members Area Access

[Click here to register for access to our dedicated Adolescent Safeguarding and Youth Justice Reports area.](#)

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Get in touch with the LIIA team

Please visit [liia.london](#) for more detailed information on each of the ALDCS priorities, or [contact the team](#) directly to discuss anything in greater detail. Please let us know your feedback on this newsletter [via email](#) so we can keep improving future editions.



Wishing you all the very best for the festive season and looking forward to seeing you in January.

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