**ALDCS Covid-19 Learning and Recovery Activity**

ALDCS has undertaken a three pronged approach to Covid-19 learning and recovery:

* **DCS Recovery Workshops:** these facilitated sessions in each sub-region followed a common framework in which the experience of working through Covid, the benefits of collaboration and the challenges thrown up as a result of the impact of Covid were explored. Each workshop agreed on sub-regional priorities that will now underpin the sub-regional work for the coming months.
* **Work through ALDCS networks:**specific recovery activity has been undertaken by Strategic Education Leads for London, the Youth Justice Strategic Leaders Network and the Practice Leaders (AD Safeguarding) Network. 32 of the 33 AD’s with social care responsibilities took part in one of the externally facilitated workshops exploring the challenges and opportunities of working through the Covid period for the social care system.
* **Action Learning Sessions – ‘Learning from Lockdown’:**Research in Practice (RiP) facilitated 18 online workshops with colleagues from across London drawn from different vantage points in children’s services; from front-line practitioners to heads of service. Particular attention was paid to the impact of an increase in digital engagement and consideration of the benefits, or otherwise, in various settings such as CP conferences, CLA reviews, courts, contacts and the impact on staff of these new ways of working. A full report from these sessions is currently being prepared.

The body of evidence from the action learning sessions is currently being combined with the output of the other workshops and with messages from children and families about how they have experienced engagement during the Covid period. Proposed next steps will include the development of frameworks (with RiP) to promote safe and effective digital practice and to support staff in new ways of working that promote resilience and well-being. This pan-London work will align with the sub-regional recovery work which is already underway.

Additionally as part of the Covid-19 resilience work ALDCS undertook two placements surveys and convened a weekly pan-London placements panel. What was conceived as a short-term response to the threat to placements in the pandemic has now developed into the Pan-London Placements Commissioning Programme which has a number of workstreams targeting sufficiency, improved outcomes and greater value from the high cost / low incidence placements, particularly those for adolescents.

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9th September 2020