

# SAFEGUARDING YOUNG PEOPLE

*Florence Kroll, Director of Children's Services RB Greenwich  
ALDCS Adolescent Safeguarding Lead*

**2X** London has double the number of children in custody compared to the national average



**90%** Of London children remanded in custody are Black, Asian and minority ethnic with over half being Black

**23** Teenagers murdered by stabbing in London in 2019 – a 10 year high.

**3,290** Young people in London identified in County Lines exploitation in 2019 – many more unidentified...

# 23 Teenagers murdered by stabbing in London in 2019



## ALDCS ADOLESCENT SAFEGUARDING – A PRIORITY FOR LONDON

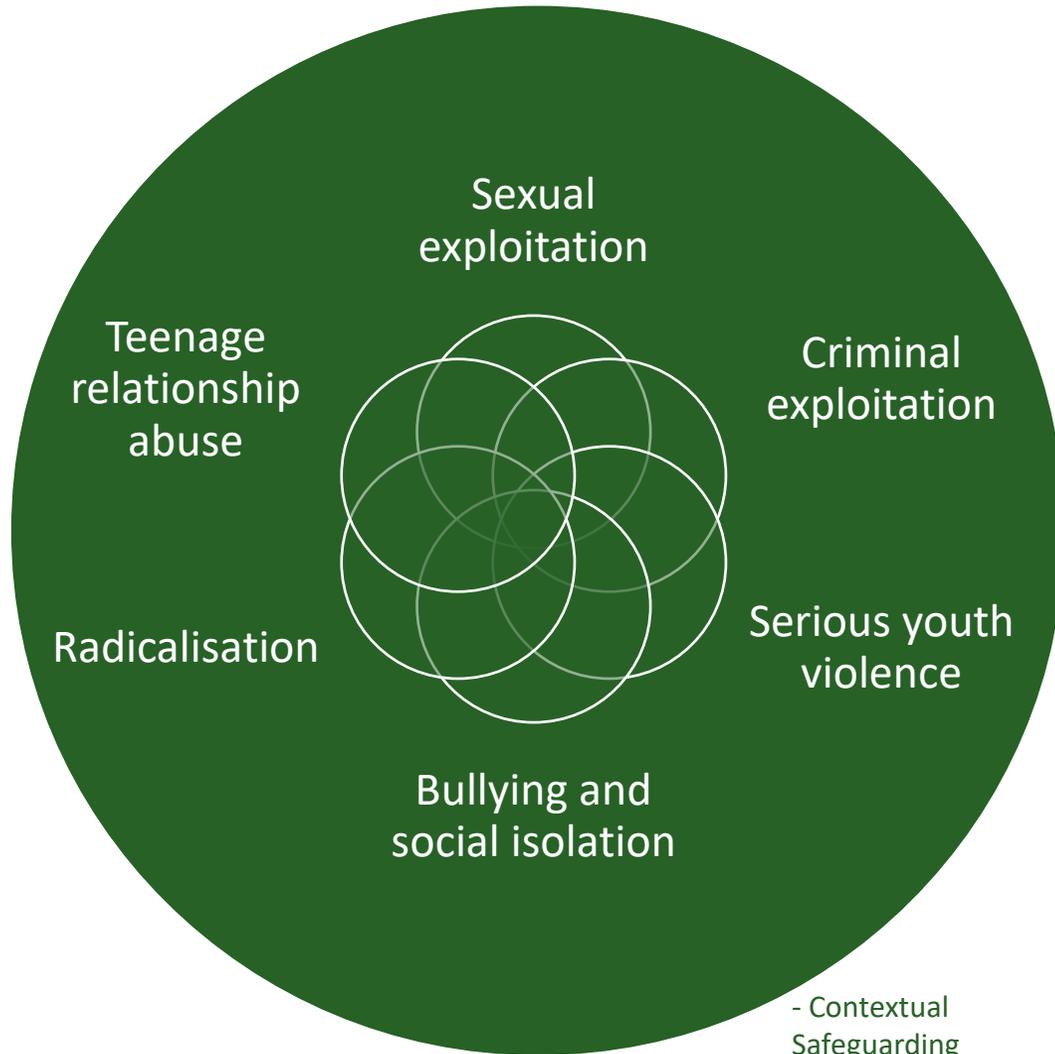
Adolescent Safeguarding includes the range of individual, familial and community risks and safeguarding concerns that children experience in terms of risks to themselves, risk from others and risks to others.

It is a complex dynamic that requires multi-layered and systemic solutions.

Our responses to adolescent safeguarding are expensive, distressing and continue to challenge the sector.

It has been a concern of ours since at least 2006 and one which we have yet to resolve in a sustained way

# INTERCONNECTED EXPERIENCES OF EXTRA-FAMILIAL HARM

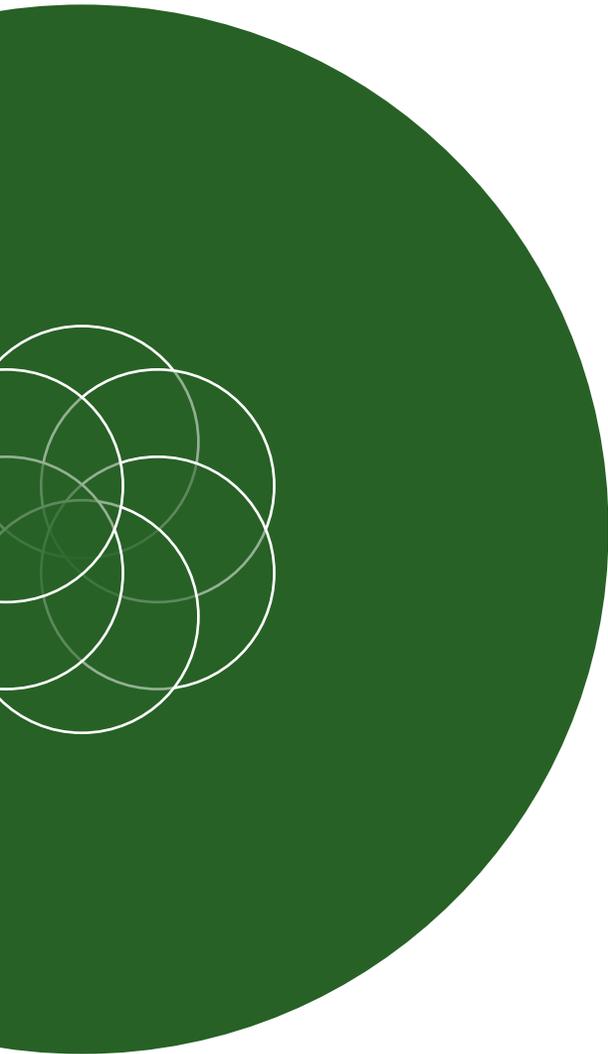


- Contextual  
Safeguarding  
Network, 2020

## ALDCS Adolescent Safeguarding: A Priority for London

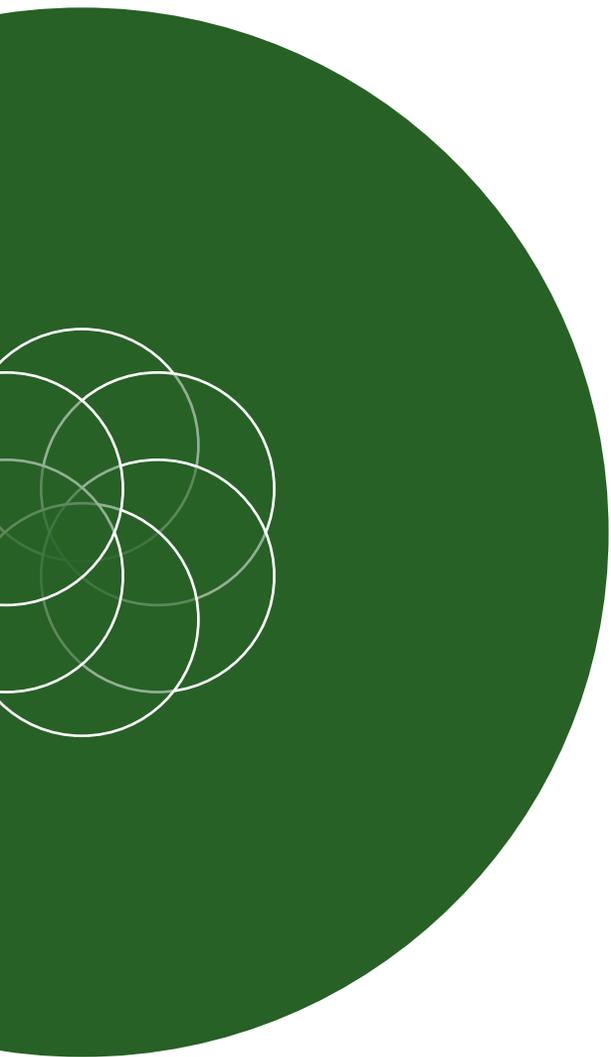
- *Self assessment x 16 LAs*
- *Peer review – Harrow and Lambeth*
- *Adolescent Safeguarding in London Group*
- *Developed Adolescents Safeguarding Practice Framework*
- *Developed Child Exploitation Protocol with MPS and Partners*
- *Attention to strategic join up of LAs, Health, MPs, MOPAC/VRU and partners at a pan-London level*

<https://www.liia.london/liia-programme/adolescent-safeguarding-and-youth-justice>



## DEVELOPING A FRAMEWORK

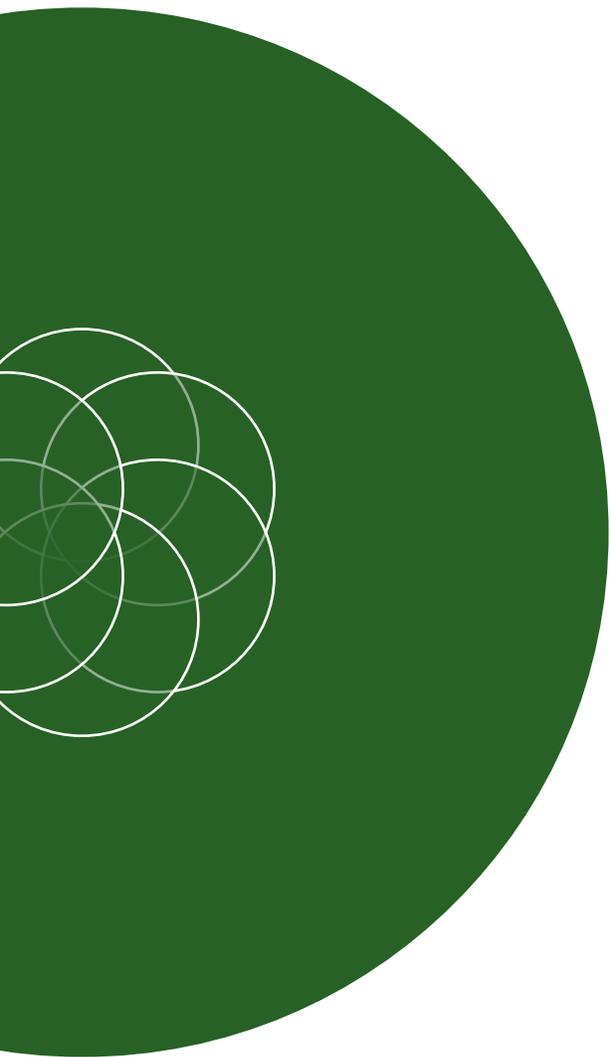
- **Shared vision, whole system:** the whole community and all partners
- Adolescent risk ('at' risk and 'of' risk) in and out of home (contextual)
- Developmentally attuned, "going with the grain" of adolescence (18+)
- Preventative: embedded in universal and whole family approaches
- Relational: "relationships are the dynamo for change"
- Built on trust with children, families and communities and attuned to experience of trauma and victimisation
- Practice which is culturally competent and addresses discrimination
- Attuned to well-being of staff who work in the midst of trauma



## DEVELOPING A FRAMEWORK

### A SHARED PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME FOR 2021

- Revise Child protection procedures to better reflect extra-familial harm
- Launch London Child Exploitation Protocol
- Embed the Adolescent Safeguarding Practice Framework
- Pursue London Crime Reduction Board reducing racial disparities action plan in relation to responses to child criminal exploitation and serious youth violence
- Enhance strategic join up through use of Tackling Child Exploitation Support Programme
- Develop best practice for Adolescent Residential provision
- Addressing the risks and information sharing for placing families out of borough where there are potential risks of gang involvement or exploitation



## DEVELOPING A FRAMEWORK

## A SHARED PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME FOR 2021

## OUR CHALLENGE

- Higher levels of SYV, CCE, youth custody than other areas of England
- Tension between public health / law and order / safeguarding
- Racial disparity at the apex of Child Protection and Criminal Justice systems
- Developing a shared strategic vision for adolescent safeguarding within a local authority and between partners (whole system)
- Statutory Frameworks which pull young people and practitioners in many directions, with binary responses to the same young people
- Cuts to universal & preventative offer despite 'a Public Health approach'
- Inequalities further exacerbated by Covid-19

# ROYAL BOROUGH OF GREENWICH: BUILDING BRILLIANT OUTCOMES TOGETHER

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES CONTEXT AND MOTIVATIONS FOR CHANGE



RBG's Children's Services were rated **Good** by Ofsted in December 2019



Staff **retention is high** and agency usage low



**94%** of the RBG's schools are rated Good or Outstanding



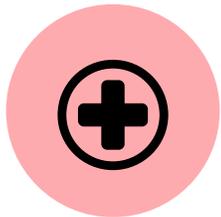
The number of children in our care has nearly **halved** in recent years



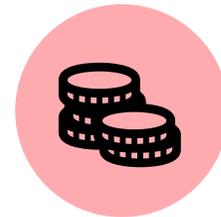
Challenges with **adolescent safeguarding** – multiple teams and processes creating opportunities to improve outcomes



Rising **pressures in SEND** – difficult processes, multiple partners, increasing tribunals, supplier difficulties



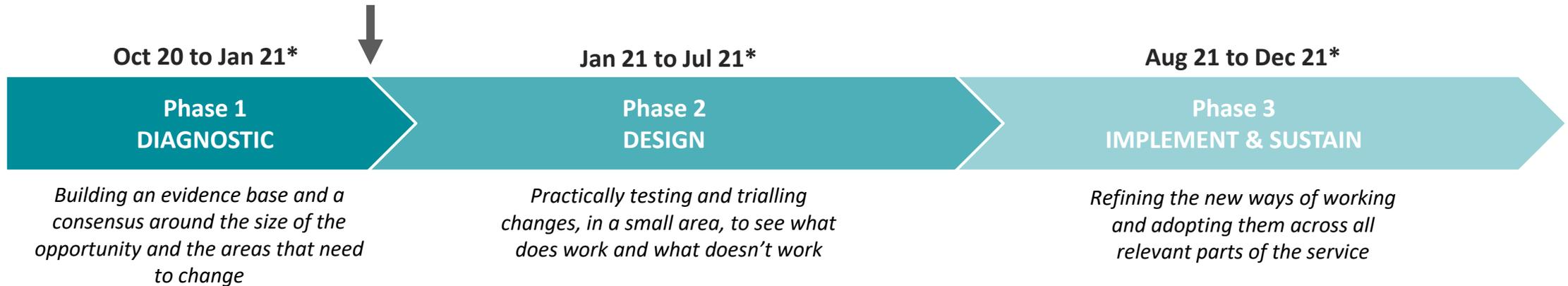
**Likely rise in demand** due to COVID and associated poverty



**Financial imperative** for directorate given current and expected funding and demand levels

# BUILDING BRILLIANT OUTCOMES TOGETHER – THE APPROACH

We are partnering with Newton Europe to consider our greatest challenges, to undertake a diagnostic that will lead to new ways of working and change that achieves sustained brilliant outcomes for children and young people. We will work through a 3 phased approach:



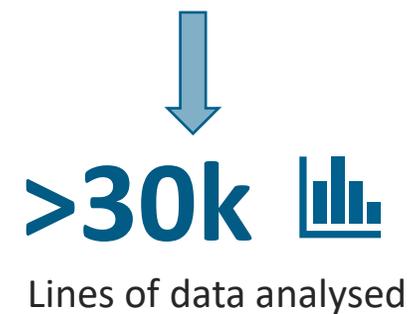
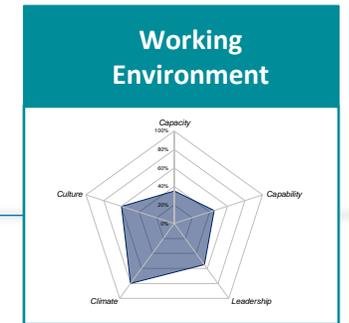
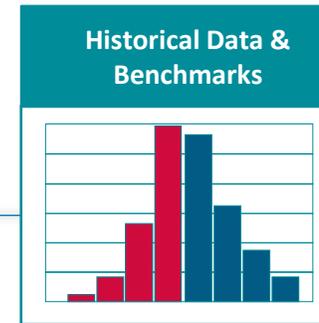
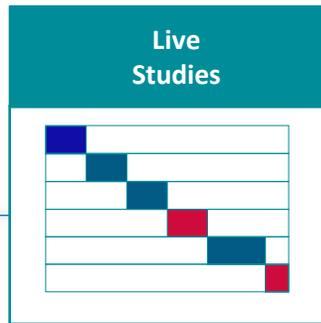
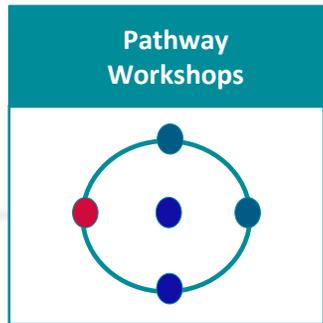
## Fundamentals:

- Leading with **improved outcomes** for children and families
- Rigorous, **evidence-based** approach to **prioritise** the areas which will most improve outcomes and financial performance
- A system approach working **hand-in-hand** with the representatives from across the service - this is a team effort
- Ensuring that all changes and benefits delivered are **sustainable** – yielding ongoing, recurrent value for RBG

\*timelines shown are indicative

# BUILDING BRILLIANT OUTCOMES TOGETHER

## DIAGNOSTIC ACTIVITIES AND PARTICIPATION

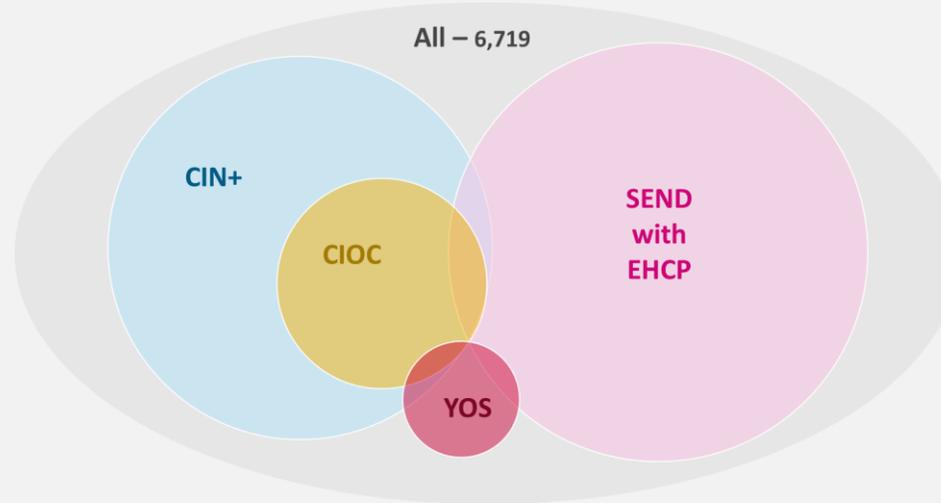


# GREENWICH BUILDING BRILLIANT OUTCOMES TOGETHER

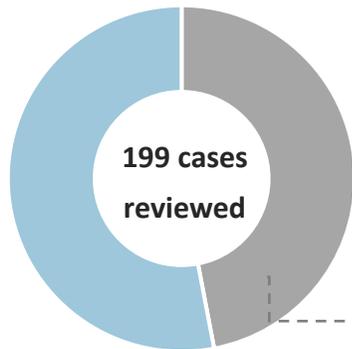
## SUMMARY OF DIAGNOSTIC EVIDENCE

Children and families are put in contact with the council with complicated and multi-faceted lives. Often they need support in multiple ways, over the course of different life stages.

Analysis data from Framework-1, IYSS and Synergy found that in a given year nearly **200 of the children with the highest levels of need will interact with multiple RBG services and professionals**



Understanding # of children, spend and demographics in each cohort



What is creating this opportunity?

In 47% of cases, there were opportunities to deliver brilliant outcomes, as relating to a child or families circumstances

# CHILDREN VENN DIAGRAM – FY19

- Assuming staff costs at £90 – £150 per week
- SEND children don't have FWi ids, so relies on matching name and date of birth – currently matched 80% of SEND children to an FWi ID
- SEND financial figures subject to change as we clarify exactly what's included/excluded in this dataset

## TOTAL

6,719  
£52m

**EH/  
ASSESS.**  
2,941  
£2.9m  
£990

## CIN+

988  
£2.6m  
£2.6k

## CIOC

557  
£18.1m  
£33k

## SEND (with EHCP)

1,918  
£19.9m  
£10.4k

## YOS

125  
£0.3m  
£2.5k

### KEY

**AREA**  
# Children  
£ in 19/20  
£/child in 19/20

24  
£0.1m  
£6k

27  
£2.1m  
£78k

8  
£0.4m  
£49k

50  
£4.1m  
£83k

71  
£1.0m  
£14.8k

5  
£0.05m  
£11k

\* YOS cohort defined as any young person interacting with the Youth Offending Service

# SAFEGUARDING YOUNG PEOPLE

“ Every kid needs someone who is crazy about them ”

[https://www.ted.com/talks/rita\\_pierson\\_every\\_kid\\_needs\\_a\\_champion](https://www.ted.com/talks/rita_pierson_every_kid_needs_a_champion)

“ Culture eats strategy for breakfast ”

Peter Drucker

Listen and learn from the experiences of the children you work with, “ Their stories keep whispering in our ears and hold us all to account ”

Ben Byrne

And an overdue cliché... “ The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again expecting different results ”

Einstein

“ Never give up on young people ”

HRH the Prince of Wales