

LONDON ADOLESCENT SAFEGUARDING AND YOUTH JUSTICE NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2024 ISSUE

Dear colleagues,

I'm pleased to share with you the news that I have been elected as Chair of the Association of London Directors of Children's Services. What this means for my policy lead on adolescent safeguarding is still to be determined but I can assure you that in my new role, I will continue championing the work we have developed with partners through our adolescent safeguarding programme.

I have attached the LASOB progress report which the London Safeguarding Children's Partnership executive reviewed during their June meeting, from which you will see the extent of the wide-ranging LASOB work programme, which touches upon all areas of our adolescent safeguarding and youth justice responsibilities. This programme represents the increasingly mature partnership, convened through LASOB, which has become the go to place when London partners need to do adolescent safeguarding business together.

The extent of our shared work and ambition is also evident in our latest newsletter. Do take up the opportunities to contribute and be part of the London adolescent safeguarding and youth justice conversation that you'll see throughout the newsletter.

Very best wishes

Florence Kroll, DCS Royal Borough of Greenwich, ALDCS Adolescent Safeguarding policy lead, chair of the London Adolescent Safeguarding Oversight Board (LASOB) and chair of the ALDCS.



As usual, if you would like to be added to the main LIIA newsletter circulation list please contact:
liiateam@londoncouncils.gov.uk

THIS MONTH'S UPDATES

- Updates from the London Adolescent Safeguarding Oversight Board (LASOB)
- Call for responses to the Adolescent Safeguarding in London handbook survey
- London Violence and exploitation support service
- Takeaways from: 'Reducing Criminalisation of Looked After Children' webinar
- Upcoming workshop: 'Reducing Criminalisation of Children in Care and Care Leavers' workshop on 3 July
- Takeaways from: London YCS/YJS Roundtable
- Custody numbers for March 2024

UPDATES FROM THE LONDON ADOLESCENT SAFEGUARDING OVERSIGHT BOARD (LASOB)

The May meeting of LASOB featured:

- An update on the Metropolitan Police's Children's Strategy by Supt Iain Keating. The draft strategy has been shared with LASOB as part of the partner consultation process.
- A safeguarding and education sub-group of SELL has been established and will feed into LASOB. Annabel Bates provided an update on this strand of work.
- Ben Byrne updated on recent LIA activities, such as the Reducing Criminalisation of Looked After Children webinar held on the 17 April and the London YCS/YJS Roundtable held on the 30 April. You can read more about these events on page four or view the recording by clicking on the below image.
- Ben Byrne also notified the group of recent developments to the CYP Violence and Exploitation Service and the Stop & Search project.
- Stephen Carter demonstrated the London Adolescent Safeguarding dataset and dashboard, which LASOB members can access via the LIA website.
- Róisín Madden presented key findings from the Child Safeguarding Practice Review on Serious Youth Violence published by the Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership. You can access the thematic review [here](#).

[Read more about the work overseen by LASOB on LIA's Adolescent Safeguarding page.](#)



CALL FOR RESPONSES TO THE ADOLESCENT SAFEGUARDING IN LONDON HANDBOOK SURVEY

The London Innovation and Improvement Alliance (LIIA), in collaboration with Colin Michel and a wider project team, is working on the second edition of the "Adolescent Safeguarding in London" practice handbook. [You can access the current version of the handbook here.](#)

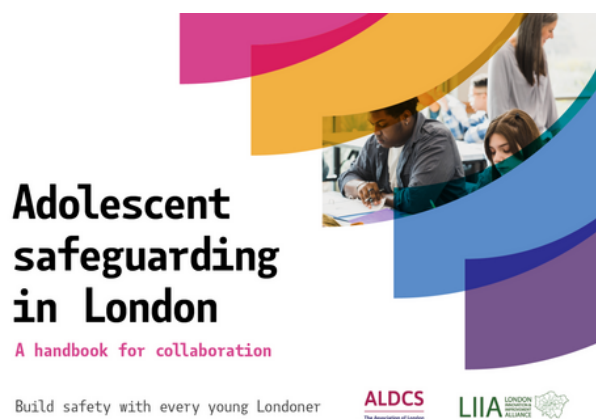
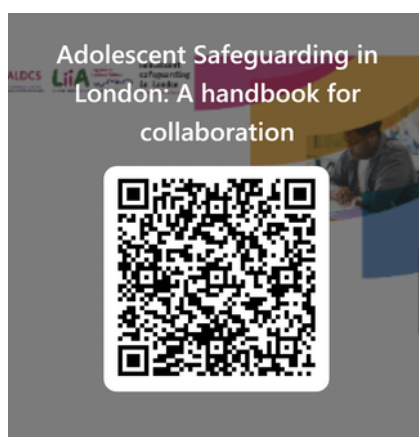
As part of this process, we are consulting with partners and have circulated a survey to key contacts in safeguarding partnerships to update on their local adolescent safeguarding arrangements. This input will feed into the revised content of the handbook. We are eager to hear from a diverse range of partners, including those in Police, Health, Education, and Children's Services etc, as well as colleagues who work at different levels. Your response to the survey will focus on the work you do in your local partnership to create safety for young Londoners.

Please feel free to circulate the survey link to other relevant members of your team or organisation. The deadline to complete the survey is **Friday 28 June**.

Scan the QR code or use the link to complete the ASIL handbook survey:
[**https://forms.office.com/e/SsCtpJS2p**](https://forms.office.com/e/SsCtpJS2p)

You can read more about the [ASIL handbook survey here.](#)

If you have any questions about the survey, its content, or structure, please get in touch with Sunniva Minsaas
(sunniva.minsaas@londoncouncils.gov.uk)



LONDON VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION SUPPORT SERVICE

Following MOPAC's announcement back in March 2024 regarding the successful award of the contract for the new London Violence & Exploitation Support Service, the service launched on **3rd June 2024**.

The service is being delivered by an alliance of organisations: Safer London, St Giles Trust, New Horizon Youth Centre, and the Anna Freud Centre. The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) also forms part of this Alliance.

This means that as of 31st May 2024 LGE, Empower and Rescue & Response are no longer in operation.

How is it delivered?

The London Violence and Exploitation Support Service provides holistic support to children and young adults (up to the age of 25) impacted by violence and exploitation in London.

The goal is to provide comprehensive support tailored to the individual circumstances of those accessing the service, ensuring they receive the right support - at the right time.

The Alliance model enables us to provide the highest level of support, resulting in impactful and tangible positive outcomes for young Londoners and their families.

Local Authority Element

A complimentary delivery model, led by London's local authorities, will operate alongside the support service. This element of operation will focus on improving access to, and coordination of, support for children and young adults.

Following continued work to clarify the details of this model, and engagement with LHOCSs (London Heads of Community Safety), MOPAC is working with the London Innovation & Improvement Alliance (LIIA) to assume leadership of this element of delivery on behalf of London's local authorities. This is, however, still subject to further internal governance sign-off, negotiation and contract signing. Further information will follow.

If you have any questions on any of the above, please contact safercyp@mopac.london.gov.uk

REDUCING THE CRIMINALISATION OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN - TAKEAWAYS FROM ONLINE SESSION

On the 17 April, LIA was joined by researchers from Manchester Metropolitan University, Lancaster University and University of Salford, along with colleagues from Islington Council, for an insightful discussion on the criminalisation of children in care. The event focused on sharing best practice from regional and national partners in reducing the unnecessary criminalisation of vulnerable children.

You can watch the recording of the session by clicking on the image to the right. The slides for all the presentations can be accessed using below link.

We are excited to announce a follow-up workshop, which is currently being organised and will take place on July 3. More information about this upcoming event can be found below.



[Watch the session recording here or by clicking on the image above](#)

[Access the slides presented at the event here](#)

[Read the **Reducing Criminalisation of Looked after children and Care Leavers protocol** developed by MOPAC and partners here](#)

REDUCING THE CRIMINALISATION OF CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS WORKSHOP - 3 JULY

On the back of the event held on April 17, a follow-up workshop is currently being organised and is scheduled to take place on July 3. More information about the agenda, which this time will have a greater focus on reducing criminalisation for care leavers, will be circulated closer to the event.

Invites have been circulated to the ASYL newsletter distribution list, Practice Leads, the care leavers trust board and service managers.

If you have not received this invite, please get in touch with Sunniva Minsaas (sunniva.minsaas@londoncouncils.gov.uk)

LONDON YCS/YJS ROUNDTABLE 30 APRIL TAKEAWAYS

Since the ALDCS visit to Cookham Wood in November, work has been ongoing with the Youth Custody Service to identify activities, which local authorities can support that will help to promote safety in custody by improving the interface between LA's and custodial establishments.

To support this work, a roundtable was hosted at London Councils on the 30 April. The London Roundtable brought together YJS heads of service with senior YCS staff including the YOI Feltham governor and her top team. The focus of the meeting was to discuss how within the current constraints of the system, YJS and YCS partners can work together. The heads who attended the meeting agreed to work on a range of actions to improve information sharing and communication between YCS and London LA's, including exploring secondments, improved visiting arrangements and use of YJAF.



CUSTODY NUMBERS FOR MARCH 2024

Custody numbers for March 2024

For March 2024 there were **410** children in custody in England and Wales, compared to **452** in March 2023 (Youth Custody Service, 2023, Table 1.1).



116 children and young people from London were in youth secure estates (including some 18 year olds) in March 2024. This compares to **126** at the same time the year before but accounts should be taken for the fact that there are a greater number of 18 year olds retained in the youth estate (Youth Custody Service, 2023, Table 1.10).

[View the full statistics on GOV.UK](#)

GET IN TOUCH

Please visit our website: 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.

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