

Welcome to the LIIA

This document sets out the context of LIIA's work and provides a high-level description of how the collaboration which LIIA embodies will impact upon children's services and the lives of children in London.

Context

The Association of London Directors of Children's Services (ALDCS) identified workforce, adolescent safeguarding, SEND and resources / commissioning as its four priority areas for concerted action three years ago. Work on all of these priorities has been progressed in the intervening period, despite the significant impact of the pandemic. These workstreams are now coming to the point of fruition, where critical decisions are needed to enable collaboration at scale. It is increasingly recognised that the individual interests of any one borough can only be served through investing in collaboration with others. The coming year may prove to be the tipping point in moving towards decisive collective action for the benefit of London's children.

It is difficult to overstate the size of the current challenge for London's children's services in relation to ALDCS's four areas for priority action. The pandemic has exacerbated these challenges and highlighted the structural inequalities that underpin these priorities. Many of the responses which can improve outcomes and experience for children and ensure sustainable services for them in the future can only be achieved through systematic collaboration. The LIIA workplan for 2022-23, which has been endorsed by ALDCS, is reliant upon this collaboration becoming the norm.

Common to each of the ALDCS priorities is the need to invest together to use the scale and influence of London to impact upon the challenges faced. In some cases this investment is financial or in risk sharing activity, as in the development of the Pan-London Vehicle, or it may be in learning together to develop effective practice, as seen in the Your Choice violence reduction programme. All of LIIA's work to support ALDCS in its ambitions is founded upon commitment from each London LA to work for mutual benefit of all LAs and all London's children.

What we are trying to achieve

- **Impact for children:** each of ALDCS priorities, and the associated work on racial disproportionality, health and the care leavers' offer, has the purpose of improving outcomes and experience for children.
- **Financial sustainability:** LIIA's work promotes innovation to better manage cost and demand.
- **Culture shift:** where shared learning and problem-solving is the norm and where common problems are addressed through collective solutions. Peer challenge will support this move to learning together.
- **Shared intelligence to better direct resources:** decision-making informed by a Pan-London data platform and systematic approach to children's services data-sharing and benchmarking.
- **Common infrastructure:** to enable London's children's services to work better together and to work with our partners more effectively, through embedding structures at a Pan-London level, such as the Adolescent Safeguarding Oversight Board, and use of ALDCS sub-regions and co-terminus ICS relationships.
- **A louder voice for London's children:** by working collaboratively the needs of London's children and their voice will be amplified. LIIA's work has already contributed to shaping national developments that will benefit London's children.