

LONDON YOUTH JUSTICE LEADERS

APRIL 2023 ISSUE

Dear London Youth Justice Leaders

In the December YJ newsletter Pinaki Ghoshal, our ALDCS YJ Policy Lead, said one of the ALDCS ambitions was to find ways to more effectively integrate YJ services with other adolescent services. The challenge can be summed up as that of working through two systems with their own sets of practices, processes and cultures, but with the same children. This is a challenge to which we will have to keep returning, with shared conviction and ambition, but it is one which is given great momentum by the Child First approach (John Drew was eloquent on this point at last week's YJSL Child First event).



Reflecting on that ambition and drawing on the discussions last week, has encouraged us to think about the benefits of bringing our youth justice network and its activities closer to that of the ALDCS adolescent safeguarding programme.

One practical thing we can do to model the integration we want to see, is by communicating through one vehicle. For that reason, in future these newsletters will be for *London Adolescent Safeguarding and Youth Justice Leaders*. There is already a significant overlap in audience and areas of interest, so it is hoped that this will optimise the benefits for all and support a Child First response to children in the youth justice system and beyond.

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

Best wishes

Ben

THIS MONTH'S UPDATES

- Feedback on Child First event
- Alliance for Youth Justice Newsletter – new MoJ guidance on remands to LA accommodation
- Peer Power co-creation and participation in YJ
- YJB Business Plan

IMPORTANT UPDATE: URGENT NOTIFICATION RE COOKHAM WOOD

The LIIA Team has been made aware of an **Urgent Notification letter from HMIP HMYOI Cookham Wood following unannounced inspection between 4-20 April 2023.**

In the letter, HMIP notes that the inspection is the sixth time they have inspected Cookham Wood since 2016 and that these inspections 'chronicle a steady decline in outcomes across all four of our healthy prison tests'.

ALDCS is considering the appropriate response in order to ensure the safety of children placed in Cookham Wood.

ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH JUSTICE NEWSLETTER



In this month's AYJ newsletter (not yet published on the AYJ site – but keep an eye out on their [news section](#) and [click here to sign up to receive the newsletter](#)) I'd point you to new comprehensive MoJ guidance on remands to local authority accommodation

[Click here to read the new MoJ guidance on remands to LA accommodation.](#)

You will also find a wealth of resources in relation to addressing racial disparities and racism in youth justice including the following events related to a three-year project on transition in adulthood:

EXPERT SEMINAR: Transitions Project: Racial Injustice - Wednesday 7th June 2pm-5pm (Hybrid)

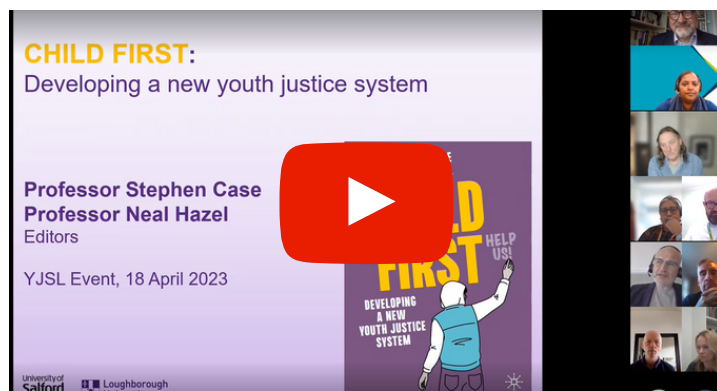
An expert seminar with practitioners and policy professionals to examine the experiences of racially minoritised young people transitioning into adulthood while in contact with the justice system, and develop recommendations for policymakers. Particular interest in the role of the specialist voluntary and community sector in supporting racially minoritised young people in the justice system, looking to gain insight from a range of experts. Please email mia.edwards@ayj.org.uk if you would like to know more.

YOUTH VOICE FOCUS GROUP: Transitions project: Racial injustice - Wednesday 10th May 2pm-5pm (In-person, London)

To widen understanding of the experience of racially minoritised young people in contact with the justice system as they transition into adulthood (see above), the AYJ is hosting a Youth Voice Focus Group to learn from children and young people aged 16-25 who have experience of transitioning from the youth justice system into the adult justice system. All participants will receive a gift voucher for their time. Please email saqib.deshmukh@ayj.org.uk if you would like to know more.

YJSL CHILD FIRST EVENT

We have had great feedback on our seminar, which launched the new compendium *Child First: Developing a New Youth Justice System*. The editors Professors Steve Case and Neal Hazel introduced the topic and were followed by two challenging presentations by Tim Bateman and John Drew who have both provided chapters for the book.



[Click the image to watch on Youtube](#)

Also referenced in the seminar was [Just Fair, the Staff College's new publication](#) on tackling racial disparities in the YJ system and beyond.

[Click here to download a copy of the slides](#)

PEER POWER CO-CREATION AND PARTICIPATION IN YJ

New resources from Peer Power as reviewed by Russell Webster:

[Click here to read more.](#)

YJB BUSINESS PLAN

In case you missed it, here's what the YJB is planning to do in the next year:

[Click here to read the YJB Business Plan 2023-2024](#)

At our Child First event, Neal Hazel noted the YJB's intentions to focus on influence beyond YOS's (courts, police, education). Meanwhile, John Drew reflected upon the omission of a focus on the deplorable experience of children in the youth custodial estate or on any commitment to move towards a holistic assessment framework which aligns with wider children's services.

CUSTODY NUMBERS

At the end of February there were **466 children in custody** in England and Wales. This is a rise of 52 on the same month last year and the biggest increase in a number of years. We will need to watch closely to see if this is an ongoing upward trend. **125 of these children were from London** (including a few recently turned 18).

NEW LIIA WEBSITE!

The LIIA team is delighted to announce that the new LIIA website was launched earlier this week. With better navigation and more detailed information about our projects, we hope you like our new look.

[Explore the ALDCS Adolescent Safeguarding Priority Area!](#)



[About Us](#) [Our Priorities](#) [Members Area](#) [Networks](#) [Directory](#) [News](#) [Contact Us](#)

Adolescent Safeguarding

Keeping young people safe in London remains an acute challenge and continues to be one of ALDCS's key priorities. This workstream is led by Florence Kroll, Director of Children's Services at Greenwich.



Those with existing LIIA Members Area accounts have received an email asking them to create a new password before trying to log in. You can use the **request new password** feature on the website to do so.

If you have never had an account on the LIIA website, you can **register here** to create one.

Please contact **administratoreliia.london** if you experience any issues with your account.

MEMBERS AREA ACCESS

As always, [you can click here to register for access](#) to our dedicated Adolescent Safeguarding and Youth Justice Reports area.

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.

THANKS FOR READING!

FOLLOW LIIA

 [LinkedIn](#)

 [Twitter](#)
