

LONDON ADOLESCENT SAFEGUARDING AND YOUTH JUSTICE NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2023 ISSUE

Dear colleagues

It is a pleasure to share with you the new look Adolescent Safeguarding and Youth Justice Newsletter. As previously stated, there is a strong rationale for bringing the work we do in the youth justice strategic leaders network closer to that of the ALDCS adolescent safeguarding programme. It makes sense to have one vehicle to communicate about these overlapping areas of practice and we want to model the integration around children that we would like to see in our services and from our partners (including government).

We hope you find the contents of interest and that they provide a holistic perspective on work to promote safety for London's children and young people.



**Florence Kroll, DCS Greenwich and ALDCS
Adolescent Safeguarding Policy Lead**



**Pinaki Ghoshal, DCS Lewisham and
ALDCS YJ Policy Lead**

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

THIS MONTH'S UPDATES

- Launch of the first alternative to custody accommodation through the London Accommodation Pathfinder
- LASOB updates
- MECC Link – Safeguarding Contacts Tool
- Turnaround Programme – Pilot YOT Survey with the Anna Freud Centre – call for participants
- Custody numbers and update on Cookham Wood YOI

FIRST ALTERNATIVE TO CUSTODY ACCOMMODATION FOR CHILDREN LAUNCHED IN NORTH CENTRAL LONDON



The London Accommodation Pathfinder (LAP) which is sponsored by the YJB has officially launched the first supported accommodation for the 6 Local Authorities in North Central London (NCL). The property is located in Barnet and is the first of its kind to solely support children within the Youth Justice System, as an alternative setting to custody.



Matthew Knights (left), LAP Strategic Development Manager, LB of Camden and Martin Pratt (right), Executive Director, Supporting People, LB Camden at the launch event for the NCL Accommodation Pathfinder

6 Local Authorities (Barnet, Haringey, Enfield, Islington, Camden, Hackney) who form part of the NCL sub region will be able to refer their children into the LAP through the following alternative to custody pathways:

- Remand in Local Authority Accommodation
- PSR sentencing stage
- Resettlement from Youth Detention Accommodation

Children will have the opportunity to work with some fantastic services under the LAP model with self-development, identity, education and relationships being at the heart of the project. The following organisations have been commissioned to work with the children in the LAP, St Christophers Fellowship, Wipers Youth C.I.C, No1 Fitness Academy, Street Doctors.

In the next 4 weeks the 6 local authorities are focusing on the first cohort of referrals and we will start to see the first children being placed in the LAP as an alternative to Youth Detention Accommodation.

For more information about the LAP please [click here to see the YJB resource hub](#).

You can also read the [recently published Interim Evaluation Report](#) which focuses on phase 1 of setting up a complex project and highlights the learning to date.

The next site to launch will be in East London in the coming months.



Launch event for the NCL Accommodation

A word from Matthew Knights, LAP Strategic Development Manager...

“ Firstly, I want to thank the YJB for sponsoring the London Accommodation Pathfinder over the past 3 years and Barnet Council for providing the capital investment and resources to renovate this property from a hostel into a supported accommodation. I want to formally welcome everyone to Jonah house which means ‘resurrection’ and was named by children and young people from the Youth justice Service that were consulted. ‘Jonah’ fits perfectly with the LAP ethos, it’s about giving children a second chance and the scaffolding of support in order to make change. ”

THE LONDON ADOLESCENT SAFEGUARDING OVERSIGHT BOARD (LASOB)



LASOB is a sub-group of the London Children's Safeguarding Partnership Executive, created in 2021 and chaired by Florence Kroll. LASOB provides a partnership forum to convene representatives from a wide range of partners involved in efforts to build safety for young people in London. [Click here for an overview of LASOB's work.](#)

Key workstreams overseen by LASOB include:

- **The London Young People's Study and Your Choice violence reduction programme.** Having initially developed Your Choice to deliver to 500 children and young people in 2021/22 through Home Office funding, the programme has now undergone an initial pilot evaluation funded by the Youth Endowment Foundation (YEF) and overseen by the Institute for Fiscal Studies and the Ann Freud Centre. As a result of the pilot, Your Choice will now enter a full efficacy trial to enable its evaluation. The efficacy trial brings Your Choice funding brought into London's adolescent services to £12.5m. [You can find out more about Your Choice and the LYPS here.](#)
- **Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) improvement programme.** Following review of the MACE arrangements across London in 2022 a programme of improvement work is underway to ensure a consistent, high quality response to children at risk of exploitation across London and from all safeguarding partners. [Click here to find out more about the MACE improvement workstreams and progress to date.](#)
- **Adolescent Safeguarding Practice Handbook.** Published in 2022 the handbook's dissemination is being supported by the development of tools, bite-sized chunks for specific areas of practice and audiences and through a series of webinars.

[Click here to read the handbook.](#)

The author of the handbook Colin Michel presented a webinar to practitioners on 6 June. You can [watch the webinar here](#) and [see the supporting slides here](#).



MECC LINK - LA SAFEGUARDING CONTACTS TOOL

On 4th May 2023 the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) London and Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH) London launched [MECC Link London](#) which is an online resource providing a directory of health and wellbeing services localised to all 33 London boroughs, as well as information on key healthy lifestyle topics, suggested open questions using the Ask, Assist, Act model and information on a range of primary self-care tools and resources.

The platform is intended for use by health and social care professionals, GPs, nurses, police, social prescribers, and anyone offering frontline help and support in communities across London. The contents have been refreshed following extensive engagement with a wide range of stakeholders.

We would particularly like to draw our YJ & AS newsletter readers' to the Safeguarding page of the site which contains a list of safeguarding contact details at every Local Authority in London. Please do share this more widely with your teams and practitioners if it would be of use:

[**LA SAFEGUARDING CONTACT DETAILS TOOL**](#)

TURNAROUND PROGRAMME - PILOT NATIONWIDE YOT SURVEY



Anna Freud
National Centre for
Children and Families



The Turnaround programme evaluation team at Anna Freud Centre has asked for help in piloting a nationwide YOT survey, ideally over the next couple of days. Please contact Martha.Reilly@annafreud.org if you are interested in taking part.

CUSTODY NUMBERS AND UPDATE ON COOKHAM WOOD YOI

In the latest published figures from the YCS there were 452 children in custody (554 inclusive of those who are 18 but remain in the youth estate). 127 (inclusive of 18 year olds) were from London.

In light of the [urgent notification in relation to Cookham Wood YOI](#), YOTs/children's services have been reviewing the safety of children placed at the establishment. YOTs are advised to maintain high levels of contact with children in Cookham Wood given the volatile environment described in the urgent notification.

Debra Baldwin (YCS) who is supporting HMYOI Cookham Wood with their action plan following the UN and Paul Crossey (Governing Governor at HMYOI Cookham Wood), along with other members of their SMT met with YJS Heads of Service from London and the South East on 8th June 2023 to clarify understanding of the measures being taken forward to promote a safer environment and to contribute to future planning. They discussed the process that takes place following the UN and the main points within the action plan. The focus was primarily on an immediate action around reducing the number of weapons across the site to make it a safe place to reside and work and the development of a violence reduction task force. Here is a summary of the main points:

- The DCS from Medway Lee-Anne Farach is directly supporting Cookham Wood and will be included on the Violence Reduction Task Force.
- Several people expressed an interest in being part of that task force. This will include a couple of representatives from London who have expressed an interest.
- Governing Governor is doing a video for the children that will explain the process and emphasise that this is not about placing blame or punishment, but is about making the prison a safe place for everyone.
- Communication will be sent to the children's parents/carers. This will either be directly to the parents/carers or via YJSs (to be confirmed).
- There will be a multi-agency approach to supporting the children up to, during and after the site search. Medway Safeguarding team members will be heavily involved. All children will be de-briefed and additional support will be available for any child who needs it.
- Feedback from the search will be provided to the next HoS meeting and at the YOT Open Day briefing on 6 July
- There will be a modified education/activities offer that will be active from July that will include more enrichment activities, sports, group activities that build confidence, self-esteem and teamwork and a wider vocational offer. Education will be embedded where possible and education sessions will still be available to ensure children remain on track and achieve things like functional skills/GCSEs etc.
- There is an open day for YJS and community partners on 6th July. This will include an update, information about the development of the task force, how the regime and activities offer is developing and an opportunity for people to speak with their children.

Cookham Wood and Custody Numbers continued..

- All attendees of the meeting yesterday said they wished to have regular monthly briefings with CW so these are now in the diary for the summer. They include all Heads of Service from London and the SE and MOPAC.

This is the beginning of the conversation with Cookham Wood following their UN and one that was honest, positive and supportive. Heads of Service from across London have offered a wealth of support including training for staff. Future briefings will include updates and explore other aspects of the plans for Cookham Wood.

The secretary for state has responded to the urgent notification with [an action plan](#) to improve conditions and safety.

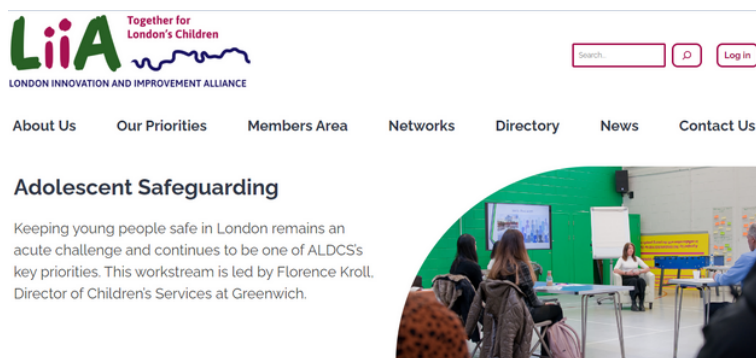
PROVISION FOR 18 YEAR OLDS

With a greater number of 18 year olds retained in the youth estate [the YCS has published a Q&A for YOTs on the impact of these changes](#). It is important to note that the existing transition protocol has not changed but "YOTs and Probation Services will decide on when a young person's care is transferred to Probation Services on a case-by-case basis. In most cases it is likely to be beneficial for YOTs to remain responsible for the young people's care whilst they are within the Youth Secure Estate, even if they are aged 18 to 19 years old." (YCS Capacity Measures Q&A, June 2023)

NEW LIIA WEBSITE!

In case you have not seen our brand new site already, please do head over to take a look! With better navigation and more detailed information about our projects, we hope you like our new look.

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



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!

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