

LONDON ADOLESCENT SAFEGUARDING AND YOUTH JUSTICE NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2023 ISSUE

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to our bi-monthly round-up of adolescent safeguarding and youth justice activity in London.

In this edition, we have several items related to children in secure settings. As we all know, because they are out of sight, we need to make sure that children in the secure provision remain at the forefront of our minds. There are some areas of promise: London has DfE backing to build a new secure children's home to ensure those children from London who need a secure welfare placement can get a place near to home. After a long wait, the secure school at Medway for children in youth justice placements is due to open in the first half of 2024. In addition, we now have children placed in both of our newly opened London Accommodation Pathfinder alternative to custody provisions. Together these developments offer some hope in what is otherwise a desperately bleak landscape.

The experience for children in YOIs is brought home by John Drew's reflections and practice advice (below) and the reality for children with complex needs requiring welfare placements is further reinforced by the Nuffield Family Justice Observatory's research into deprivation of liberty orders, which is also featured. Until there is a significant improvement in provision for children who need to be in a secure environment, we will need to continue to shine a light on their circumstances and remain vigilant to their needs.

As usual, please do contact me with anything you would like to share with the network.

Ben Byrne
Strategic Lead - LIIA

THIS MONTH'S UPDATES

- The London Adolescent Safeguarding Oversight Board (LASOB) updates
- Opinion piece by John Drew – The crisis in our children's prisons
- Youth Justice Talks Podcast
- Safeguarding Short Films – Operation MakeSafe and 'Save Me'
- AYJ Newsletter updates
- VRU updates
- Care experience, ethnicity and youth justice involvement
- The use of Deprivation of Liberty (DoLs) orders
- Custody numbers for July
- Special 20% discount on Child First: Developing a New Youth Justice System

THE LONDON ADOLESCENT SAFEGUARDING OVERSIGHT BOARD (LASOB) UPDATE

The September meeting of LASOB featured:

- A thematic [review of recent Rapid Reviews](#) (following death or serious harm to a child) in London where extrafamilial harm was a feature. [Chris Miller's presentation is here.](#)
- An update on the MACE improvement work. [Jeanne King's presentation is here.](#)
- The Metropolitan Police children's strategy. Supt Iain Keating led a presentation on the developing Child First strategy. The strategy is due to be published in November.
- LASOB also received updates on the serious youth violence [Joint Targeted Area Inspection programme](#) which has been launched and the MOPAC's progress with recommissioning its violence and exploitation services, which are due to go live in April 2024.

CHILDREN IN MIND? THE CRISIS IN OUR CHILDREN'S PRISONS

In this opinion piece, John Drew, former YJB chief executive, ex-London Director of Children's Services and currently safeguarding Scrutineer at Cookham Wood YOI, offers some reflections to support DCS's in their work to safeguard their children in custody.

[You can read John Drew's opinion piece here.](#)

Here's John at our Child First event sharing thoughts on custody and other challenges in YJ. It will re-pay the 8 mins it takes to watch it: <https://youtu.be/563uGSezkSk>



John Drew

YOUTH JUSTICE TALKS PODCAST



YOUTH JUSTICE TALKS

Episode 1: Operational Constructive Resettlement with Michael O'Connor Head of Family and Youth Services Transformation at Swindon Borough Council and Director of Child First Consultancy.

Louise Wakelin, Strategic Manager for the London Resettlement Partnership and Michael O'Connor, Head of Family and Youth Transformation at Swindon Borough Council and Director of Child First Consultancy, discuss the importance of identity development in the first episode of the Podcast "Youth Justice Talks". In this episode they discuss how Youth Justice Services have successfully operationalised constructive resettlement, exploring the importance of participation, giving children fresh A.I.R and unconditional love.

[Click here to listen to the Podcast and to find out more about constructive resettlement.](#)

SAFEGUARDING SHORT FILMS - PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR NETWORKS

Two videos regarding contextual safeguarding have recently been shared with LIIA. The first video which is part of an initiative called '[Operation Makesafe](#)' by the Met Police, has been developed in partnership with London boroughs to raise awareness of child exploitation in the business community. The second video, a short film called '[Save Me](#)', written and directed by [Amani Simpson](#), was commissioned by Enfield Council to highlight extra-familial harm in schools, peer friendship groups and in local communities. As part of this, [a series of resources have been produced to accompany the film](#) designed to be used by professionals who work directly with children, families, carers and community leaders to explore and start challenging conversations around issues of extra familial harm.

These are both great resources and pieces of work which we would thoroughly recommend you share with your networks.

[Click the images below to watch:](#)



AYJ NEWSLETTER UPDATES



In the [July edition](#) of the Alliance for Youth Justice newsletter, you can find information about upcoming events, the AYJ's recent engagement and appeals.

The Alliance for Youth Justice's monthly newsletter can be accessed [on their website](#). You can also sign up to receive their newsletter [here](#).

VRU UPDATES



[Our last newsletter](#) was curated by MOPAC colleagues who gave a comprehensive account of the work which the Mayor's Office is supporting across London.

The VRU's September update contains a similar account of work supported by the VRU to reduce violence in every London borough, including the latest developments from the [Your Choice](#) violence reduction programme (see below).

[You can find the VRU's September updates here.](#)

Your Choice Updates

Pilot Report - The LYPS Pilot report, which details findings from the Pilot phase of the study, will be published by the Youth Endowment Fund in late October.

We are very pleased to confirm that the London Young People Study Full Efficacy Trial received go ahead from the Youth Endowment Fund (YEF). Some updates include:

- 30 Local Authorities are involved in the trial
- The LAs have formed 150 teams made up of 521 practitioners (this number is expected to grow)
- Those practitioners have been undergoing training and are being given access to the new LYPS online portal
- Across the duration of the Efficacy phase, which will last until December 2024, 1,500 Children and young people will be supported.

The LYPS Portal - In preparation for Efficacy, the evaluation team developed a new portal to streamline the data collection process and make it easier to manage. The portal acts as a 'onestop-shop' for the Your Choice practitioners to submit all questionnaires and access all the resources they need. SPOCS and clinical leads now have an overview of what data has been submitted

The first study participants have been signed up to the LYPS Portal, making it a significant milestone in the efficacy trial

NEW POLICY BRIEFING: CARE EXPERIENCE, ETHNICITY AND YOUTH JUSTICE INVOLVEMENT

A new policy briefing, which focuses on understanding the links between care experience, ethnicity, and involvement with the youth justice system in England has been published. This brief is based on the descriptive findings from Dr Katie Hunter's [ADR UK Research Fellowship project](#).

You can read a summary of the brief's key findings below or access the full policy briefing on the [ADR website](#).



RESEARCH SHINES LIGHT ON THE USE OF DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY (DOLS) ORDERS

Research by the [Nuffield Family Justice Observatory](#) on children subject to Deprivation of Liberty orders has identified a steep increase in the use of DoLs orders with the majority of children living in unregistered care settings.

The briefing paper summarises key findings and outlines five principles of care – you can [read it here](#).

CUSTODY NUMBERS FOR JULY

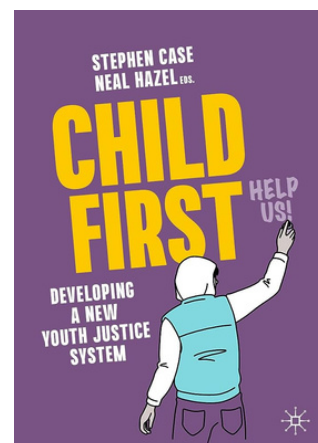
At the end of July 2023 there were 443 children in custody in England and Wales, compared to 457 in July 2022.

Currently, 155 children and young people from London are in youth secure estates (including some 18 year olds). This compares to 107 at the same time last year.

SPECIAL 20% DISCOUNT ON CHILD FIRST: DEVELOPING A NEW YOUTH JUSTICE SYSTEM

Exciting news for all those interested in purchasing a copy of [Child First: Developing a New Youth Justice System](#)! You can now get a 20% discount on both the printed book and eBook versions.

Enter the following coupon code at checkout on link.springer.com to apply discount: **H5DoMQW47RT2HD** (valid Sep 7, 2023 – Oct 5, 2023).



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.

If you would like to be added to the main LIAA newsletter circulation list please contact: liiateam@londoncouncils.gov.uk

THANKS FOR READING!

FOLLOW LIAA

 **Linkedin**

 **Twitter**
