

London Children's Services Practice Spotlight

Introduction to the Practice Spotlight

Local Authority Children's Services across London are working to transform the lives of children and families across the capital, both locally and through regional collaboration. This motivation binds us together and cements our connection to one another and the children, young people and families we serve.

London Innovation and Improvement Alliance (LiiA) are delighted to bring the Practice Spotlight to life, shining a light on London Children's Services most innovative and impactful practice. All London Local Authorities are invited to submit examples of work that is making the biggest difference to children and families.

The purpose of the Practice Spotlight is:

To identify the practice that is making a difference, often around very complex and challenging areas of work

To boost opportunities for sharing and learning across all of London's LAs, which underpins the positive culture of collaboration

To recognise and celebrate the individuals and teams who have done this work and raise awareness of the amazing work in London with broader audiences.

Championed by London's Practice Leaders

The Practice Spotlight initiative is championed by the Social Care Practice Leaders Network, endorsed by the Association of London Directors of Children's Services (ALDCS) and delivered by London Innovation and Improvement Alliance (LiiA).

"We are very proud to be launching the Practice Spotlight initiative. We look forward to exploring all of the great practice happening in London and the people who make it possible.

Not only is the Practice Spotlight intended to recognise the impact of local initiatives and innovations, but to also fuel our appetite for collaboration through shared learning. Collecting excellent examples of practice and strengthening our networks is essential to ensure our shared ambitions for London's children and their families can be realised."

Social Care Practice Leaders Network

Sharing your best practice examples

We will invite Local Authorities to submit examples of their most innovative and impactful practice against nine categories. The categories, which are covered in more detail below, reflect ALDCS/LIIA's five strategic priorities, as well as key regional values and activity.

Key benefits to sharing your work:

Share best practice across the London children's services community: promoting and disseminating your work to help improve services and outcomes for children and families

Showcase your people and practice: gain recognition for the innovative and excellent people and practice that you and your team are delivering together

Promote your Local Authority: the London Social Work for Children team will work with you to promote and share your best practice and the culture of your LA to strengthen local recruitment and retention campaigns to reach those considering their next career move in children's services

Network with your London peers: meet with a range of colleagues from across the children's services community in London and expand your network of contacts

Keep the sharing going: the London Innovation & Improvement Alliance (LIIA) will work with you to make sure your examples of best practice reach all the relevant networks across London and beyond, so that London can keep learning and sharing beyond the event

What comes next?

For each category, we will ask the oversight board or a key group of stakeholders to review the submissions. They will be looking to identify innovative and impactful work, with a particular eye to where there is value and interest in regional promotion and sharing.

The submissions will be the basis for the following activities:

Collation of submissions within a resource pack for sharing, enabling other LA's to see the breadth of practice in one place and follow up based on their specific interests and needs. This will include a digital resource pack.

A 'market-place' embedded within the London Children's Services Annual Summit that will bring together conference delegates with teams who have designed and deliver the practice. Inevitably only a certain amount of practice examples will be able to feature on the day, which will be selected based on innovation, impact, and delegate interest.

Follow up workshops will enable specific topics to be looked at in greater detail and by a wider children's services audiences. These will be open to all interested London LA's, with those LA's who have submitted practice playing a lead role in designing and running the workshops with LIIA's support.

Practice Spotlight Categories

Each of the following categories will recognise a Local Authority or group of Local Authorities that has shown best practice through innovative and impactful approaches within the area outlined.

The 9 categories are:

1. Reducing racial disparities and tackling racism, sponsored by the Leadership in Colour Reference Group

- Practice that tackles racism and disproportionality. Best practice examples may relate to innovations or improvements undertaken in recruitment and retention of the workforce, or directly related to practice with children and families. It is important to show how the initiative has had an impact for the workforce and/or children and families.

2. Impact for children with special educational needs and disabilities, sponsored by the London SEND Steering Group

- Practice that has a positive impact for children and families with special educational needs and disabilities. Best practice examples may relate to innovations or improvements in practice with children and their families and/or effective partnership working with schools, colleges, parents/carers, health bodies and other organisations. It is important to show how the initiative has had an impact for children and young people.

3. Building safety for young Londoners, sponsored by the London Adolescent Safeguarding Oversight Board

- Practice that has a positive impact in safeguarding children and young people from harm. Best practice examples may relate to building safety for children and young people and/or effective partnership working through multi-agency safeguarding practices. It is important to show how the initiative has had an impact for the safety of young Londoners.

4. Supporting and strengthening the workforce, sponsored by the Workforce Steering Group

- Practice that positively impacts recruitment, retention and the experience of their workforce. Best practice examples may relate to innovations or improvements in equitable recruitment practices, commitment to understanding and responding to the feedback and experience of staff, or enhanced training and development opportunities. It is important to show how the initiative has had a positive impact to the workforce and therefore their ability to support children and young people.

5. Delivering excellence for care leavers, sponsored by the Care Leavers Trust Board

- Practice that makes a positive difference to London's care leavers. Best practice examples may relate to the development of new support offers, innovative practice with care leavers, or partnership working. It is important to show how the initiative has improved services and experiences for care leavers.

6. Improving outcomes for children with complex needs who are in care or on the edge of care, sponsored by the Pan-London Placements Commissioning Panel

- Practice that improves outcomes and value for money for children who have complex needs and/or would have been in high cost placements. Best practice examples may relate to improvements in the experience, quality and stability for children in residential care, and/or improvements in placement sufficiency, quality and value for money. It is important to show how the initiative has improved outcomes for children and young people.

7. Delivering together with health services, sponsored by the Children's Social Care Practice Leaders

- Practice that is developing positive integration and collaboration between Local Authorities and health organisations. Best practice examples that show effective engagement and partnership working, improved collective responsibility for planning services, improved health for children and young people, and reduced inequalities. It is important to show how the initiative improves health outcomes and experiences for children and young people.

8. Making data speak for London's children, sponsored by the Intelligence & Data Research Steering Group

- Practice that uses data and intelligence as the catalyst to make a positive difference to outcomes for children. Best practice examples that show a creative use of data to provide fresh insights, build a robust picture and enable effective practice. Practice that demonstrates increased engagement levels through the introduction of data products, reports or visualisations. It is important to show how the initiative is supporting improved outcomes for children and young people.

9. Delivering positive impact through early intervention, sponsored by the London Early Help Network

- Practice that makes a positive difference to outcomes for children and young people through early support initiatives with those at risk of poor outcomes. Best practice around the identification of need and the provision of preventative interventions. It is important to show how the initiative has improved outcomes for children and families, enabling them to thrive and reach their full potential.

Resources

[Practice Spotlight Website Area](#)

[Practice Spotlight Introduction Pack](#)

[Link to Submission Guidance & Expectations](#)

[Link to Submission Template](#)