

LONDON ADOLESCENT SAFEGUARDING AND YOUTH JUSTICE NEWSLETTER

October 2025 ISSUE

Dear colleagues,

Having worked away for months, if not years, on key pieces of the London adolescent safeguarding jigsaw, I'm pleased to say we have a flurry of important projects coming to fruition this autumn.

Firstly, you will be receiving the official release of the **Safeguarding Adolescents in London (SAIL)** resource at the start of November.

SAIL has been a labour of love for so many in the sector in London. Through varied contributions we have drawn together a comprehensive resource, which captures in one place the practice that we want to promote to increase the safety and wellbeing of our children and young people in London.

You can access the pre-release version of SAIL to whet your appetite below.

Link to SAIL Pre-Release: **[Safeguarding Adolescents In London \(SAIL\) Digital Guidance](#)**

Password: SAIL2025 (capitals and all one word)

Hard on the heels of the release of SAIL in November will be the launch of the revised **Reducing Criminalisation of Children Looked After and Care Leavers Protocol for London**. Do join us for the launch of the protocol on 18th November by booking your place **[here](#)**.

Finally, December will see the launch of the **Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) protocol** which seeks to more effectively provide multi-agency oversight and intervention for the young people we are most concerned about in London.

All these projects are interdependent and all aim to improve the quality and consistency of our adolescent safeguarding practice. These are important milestones which I'm sure will help you in your work with and for our children and young people in London.

Florence Kroll (CBE)

DCS Royal Borough of Greenwich, ALDCS Adolescent Safeguarding policy lead, chair of the London Adolescent Safeguarding Oversight Board (LASOB) and chair of the ALDCS

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THIS MONTH'S UPDATES

- **Updates from the London Adolescent Safeguarding Oversight Board (LASOB)**
- **Safeguarding Adolescents in London (SAIL)**
- **HMIP Webinar - hosted by LIIA with LB Camden and Merton**
- **Camden YJS Podcast following 'Outstanding' HMI Probation rating under the new inspection framework**
- **London Children's Service - Practice Spotlight**
- **Reducing Criminalisation of Children Looked after and Care leavers - Protocol Launch**
- **MACE Protocol update**
- **The Alliance for Youth Justice (AYJ) Latest Briefing: "From Exploited to Exploiter?"**
- **London Assembly Police and Crime Committee: Letter on neighbourhood policing and young people**
- **Barnet Youth Justice Service Mixer - Strengthening Partnerships for a Child First Approach**
- **Opportunity to Join Camden's Centre for Relational Practice Webinar Series**
- **Recommended Listening:**
- **BBC Radio 4 - The Project Keeping Young Offenders Out of Custody**
- **Research in practice: Online workshops for the London region**
- **The effectiveness of diverting children from the criminal justice system - HM Inspectorate of Probation**
- **Updates from Partners**

UPDATES FROM THE LONDON ADOLESCENT SAFEGUARDING OVERSIGHT BOARD (LASOB)

The September LASOB meeting focused on a range of ongoing work to strengthen local and regional adolescent safeguarding responses, with updates including:

👉 Education Safeguarding Subgroup

Annabel Bates shared progress on formalising the subgroup, now co-chaired with John Needham. Key themes included:

- Barriers to multi-agency working, especially for DSLs.
- The need for better information sharing on emerging risks.
- Improving connectivity between education and safeguarding systems.

👉 SAIL (Safeguarding Adolescents in London)

LASOB members were shown a demo of the new SAIL platform - a digital resource to support adolescent safeguarding across London. It brings together guidance, data, and examples of good practice. The full release of SAIL will follow in November.

👉 Pan-London Updates

- **Reducing Criminalisation of Children in Care:** Final draft of the updated protocol (now including care leavers up to 25) sign-off, has been signed off by the Deputy Mayor and the London Safeguarding Children's Partnership. Launch will follow in November (see below) with a London-wide monitoring group to be established.
- **New Met for London 2:** Phase 2 includes trauma-informed policing, ending use of police stations for children under protection, and relaunching Operation Compass.
- **REAL Programme:** Florence introduced this new race equity initiative for aspiring leaders, replacing Leadership in Colour.
- **Youth Futures & Prevention Panels:** VRU pilot underway in four boroughs, building on MACE and youth justice models, funded until March 2026. You can read about more updates from the VRU on page 12.



SAFEGUARDING ADOLESCENTS IN LONDON (SAIL)

SAIL is a new digital guidance resource developed to support consistently high-quality adolescent safeguarding practice across London.

It brings together theory, policy and practice to equip professionals with the tools they need to work effectively with young people.

It includes contributions from respected voices from the sector and contains a range of original material and links to materials and authoritative sources of adolescent safeguarding guidance.

The pre-launch engagement event held on 10 September was well-attended and generated valuable feedback from across the sector. Attendees welcomed the strengths-based approach, praised the breadth of content, and highlighted the importance of making the resource practical and accessible for frontline use.

Suggestions included expanding content on domestic abuse, digital safety, and special educational needs, as well as improving navigation and search functionality.

You can continue exploring the SAIL Digital Guidance via the pre-release platform – just click on the image to the right ➡

Password: SAIL2025 (all caps, no spaces)



As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting high-quality adolescent safeguarding practice across London, we'll be launching a series of SAIL Communities of Practice events.

These events will provide a space for cross-sector networking, thematic spotlights, and shared learning.

We'll be in touch soon with:

- Booking links for the first event
- Monthly themes and spotlight topics
- Opportunities to contribute and share practice examples

Keep an eye on the SAIL Notice Board for the latest updates, and join us in building a vibrant community of practitioners working together to safeguard adolescents across London.



HMIP WEBINAR - WITH LB CAMDEN AND MERTON

In September, LIAA hosted a London-wide webinar focused on sharing learning and good practice around the HMIP inspection framework.

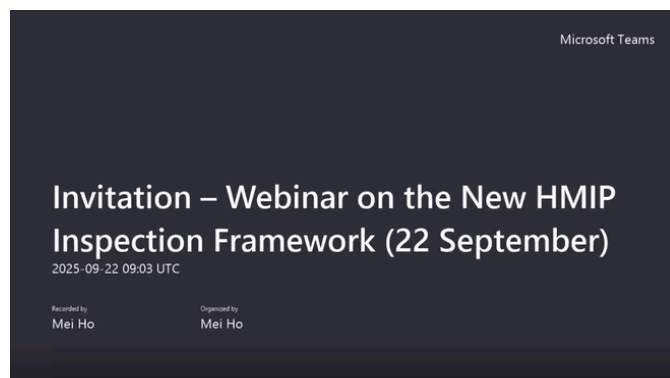
👉 Click on the image below to watch the webinar

Colleagues from Camden and Merton shared their experiences of recent inspections, offering valuable insights into both strategic and operational preparation.

This session provides a rich overview of how services can approach inspection readiness, with practical examples and reflections from across the system.

Key points include:

- The importance of early and strategic multi-agency preparation
- How to support staff through the inspection process
- Tips for managing the showcase and final feedback sessions
- Reflections on the victim strand and how it's assessed
- Lessons from Camden's and Merton's inspection outcomes



CAMDEN YJS PODCAST FOLLOWING 'OUTSTANDING' HMI PROBATION RATING UNDER THE NEW INSPECTION FRAMEWORK

Camden podcast: how to prepare for an inspection

Camden Youth Justice Service (YJS) has released a podcast to share its learning from a recent inspection. Under HM Inspectorate of Probation's new framework, Camden YJS achieved an 'Outstanding' rating.

The podcast offers Camden YJS's reflections on the inspection process, including the development of a strong narrative, preparatory work across the service and with partners, and key elements of good practice highlighted by the inspectorate.

This is a valuable opportunity for services to gain insights into effective strategies and approaches recognised during the inspection. It offers a more complimentary and in-depth perspective, particularly around organisational requirements and preparation, making it especially valuable for services aiming to strengthen their inspection readiness.

Alongside the podcast, Camden YJS have shared a number of documents on the Youth Justice Resource Hub that may be of interest:

[Listen to the podcast >>](#)

Visit liaa.london to learn more

LONDON CHILDREN'S SERVICES PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Launched in November 2024, **Practice Spotlight** has quickly become ALDCS's platform for recognising and sharing the most innovative and effective examples of practice across London's children's services.



'NEW & EMERGING PRACTICE' THEME

With over 100 examples of practice shared in 2024, we are now preparing to open submissions for **Practice Spotlight in 2025 with this year's theme of *New & Emerging Practice*** generating excitement about the opportunities for shared learning and improvement during a period of significant change.

Whilst you consider which examples of practice you may wish to share to represent your Local Authority, **we encourage you to think closely about this year's theme and consider the role of effective partnership working and multi-agency collaboration in all submissions.** Partnership bids, on local, sub-regional or other regional footprints are encouraged!

PURPOSE

- To **discover the practice that is making a difference**, often around very complex and challenging areas of work
- To **boost engagement 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 delivered this work and raise awareness with broader audiences

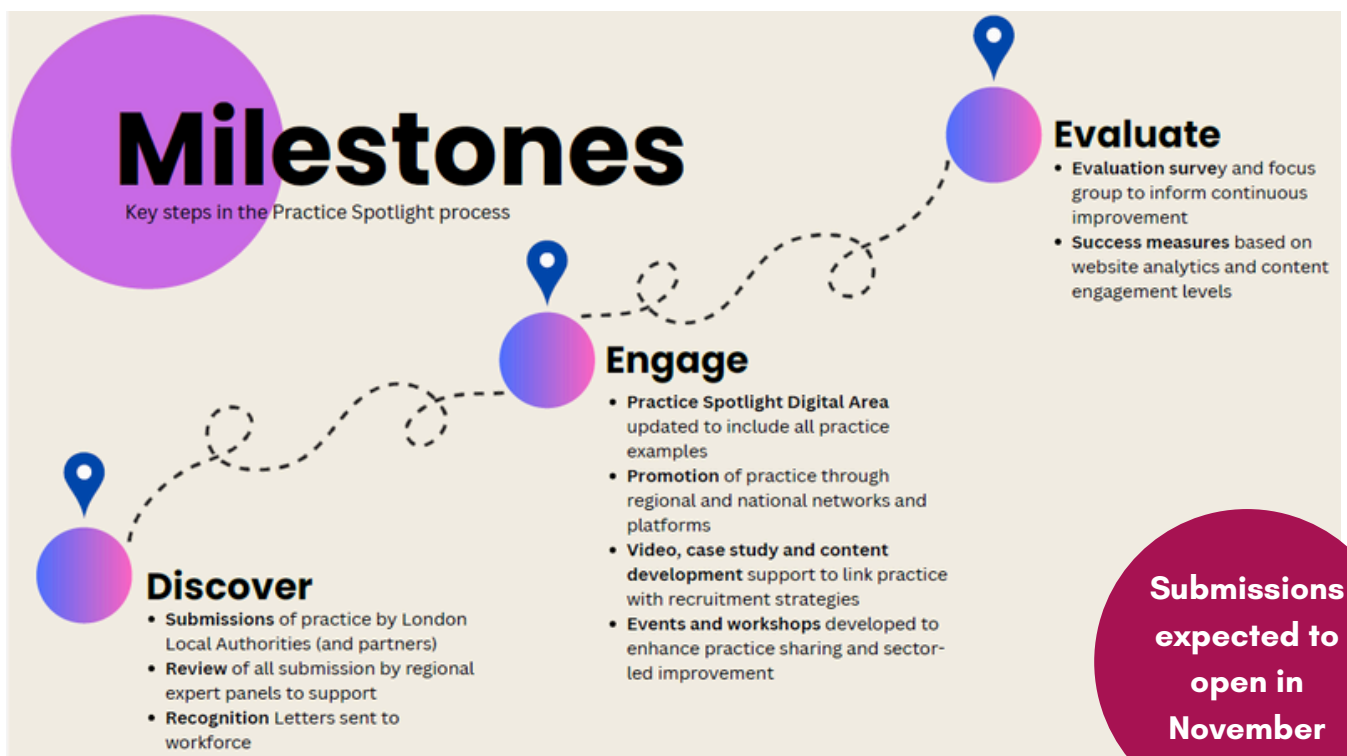
WHY IT MATTERS

Practice Spotlight is more than a showcase — it's a catalyst for change across London's children's services.

By shining a light on effective local practice, it:

- **Accelerates improvement** through shared learning and replication
- **Breaks down silos** between SEND, social care, health and education
- **Celebrates frontline innovation**, bringing unseen work to wider attention
- **Strengthens professional networks** and builds confidence to innovate

PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT MILESTONES



If you'd like to discuss this project further, please contact [Rula Tripolitaki](#) or [Matthew Raleigh](#).

Visit liia.london to learn more

REDUCING CRIMINALISATION OF CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND CARE LEAVERS – PROTOCOL LAUNCH

MAYOR OF LONDON
OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME



Join us for the official launch of the updated Pan-London Protocol for Reducing the Criminalisation of Children Looked After and Care Leavers, hosted by the **Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC)** in partnership with **London Innovation and Improvement Alliance (LIIA)**.

This revised protocol marks a significant step forward in safeguarding vulnerable young people. It now includes:





- Care leavers aged 18–25
- Stronger accountability mechanisms
- Enhanced health components

The launch will hear from **Kaya Comer-Schwartz, the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC)**, as well as members of **Drive Forward's Policy Forum of care-experienced young adults**.

The event will also bring together attendees from across policing, social care, health, and youth justice to explore the protocol's key updates and implementation strategies.

Whether you're a practitioner, policymaker, or advocate working with children in care, this event will provide valuable insights and practical guidance.

Event Details:

-  Date: Tuesday, 18 November 2025
-  Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
-  Location: Online via Microsoft Teams
-  Book your place [here](#)

MACE PROTOCOL UPDATE

The updated London MACE Protocol (fifth edition) will be published in December 2025.

It strengthens our focus on joined-up oversight, helping us see the whole child and their circumstances, not just one part of their story, so that no child is missed or left without the right support.

During the consultation, we heard fantastic feedback about how we can work better together and support implementation across London. In the new year, we'll be working with our communities of practice and offering training and continued learning opportunities to move the Protocol from paper to practice.

THE ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH JUSTICE (AYJ) LATEST BRIEFING:

“FROM EXPLOITED TO EXPLOITER?”

The Alliance for Youth Justice (AYJ) has released a compelling new briefing, *From Exploited to Exploiter?*, which explores the critical challenges faced by young people as they transition into adulthood after experiencing criminal exploitation.

The report highlights the urgent need for a justice and safeguarding system that recognises the ongoing vulnerabilities of young adults and responds with care, not criminalisation.

Key insights include:

Support ends, but exploitation doesn't. Many young people continue to face significant risks after turning 18, yet statutory protections often fall away.

From victim to suspect. The justice system can overlook the context of exploitation, leading to further harm through criminalisation.

Disproportionate impact. Young people from care-experienced backgrounds, those with special educational needs, and Black and mixed heritage communities are particularly affected.

This important publication calls for a developmentally appropriate, trauma-informed approach to supporting young people beyond childhood.

[Read the full article below](#) 📖



LONDON ASSEMBLY POLICE AND CRIME COMMITTEE:

LETTER ON NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Neighbourhood Policing and the Experience of Young People



The London Assembly Police and Crime Committee is currently investigating neighbourhood policing in London, with a particular focus on the experiences of young people.

This inquiry seeks to understand how effectively the Metropolitan Police Service is engaging with young Londoners and ensuring their safety in local communities.

The Committee is exploring key questions such as:

- How well is the Met keeping young people safe?
- What can be done to build trust between young people and neighbourhood policing teams?
- Is the Met's new Children's Strategy making a meaningful impact?
- What should be the priorities of the new Designated Ward Officer (Children and Young People) role?

Although the public survey has now closed, the investigation remains ongoing, and the Committee continues to gather insights to inform its work.

 [Click here to read the full letter from the Police and Crime Committee](#)
 Learn more about the investigation on the [London Assembly website](#)

LONDONASSEMBLY

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Marina Ahmad AM
Chair of the Police and Crime Committee

(Sent by email)

31 July 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

Investigation into neighbourhood policing: the experience of young people

The London Assembly Police and Crime Committee is currently investigating [neighbourhood policing in London, with a focus on the experience of young people](#). Further information about the Committee can be found [here](#).

BARNET YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE MIXER – STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS FOR A CHILD FIRST APPROACH

The Your Choice team was delighted to attend LB Barnet's Youth Justice Service (YJS) Mixer Tea Party this month.

This event brought together partners from across services, including the police and social care, in an informal setting to strengthen collaborative efforts.

A key highlight was the presentation "Embracing Child First Principles in the Youth Justice and Partner Agencies", which demonstrated how Barnet YJS embeds these principles in practice.

We also heard about their innovative integration of the Your Choice programme with Barnet Council's Duke of Edinburgh Award delivery – enabling young people on the programme to successfully achieve their Bronze certificates.

Events like this showcase the power of partnership working to create positive outcomes and ensure that children and young people remain at the centre of everything we do.



OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN CAMDEN'S CENTRE FOR RELATIONAL PRACTICE WEBINAR SERIES

Camden's Centre for Relational Practice is hosting a monthly webinar series exploring "Lessons from the Field" in building relational cultures across public services.

These sessions offer practical insights and examples of how relational approaches can transform leadership, service design, and community engagement.

Upcoming themes include:

20 November 2025: Relational Leadership – Leveraging whole-system leadership to drive a relational culture.

11 December 2025: Relational People Practices – Embedding everyday relational practice in unexpected public service places.

27 January 2026: Relational Infrastructure and Design – Creating conditions for relationships to thrive in public services.

👉 [Click on the flyer for full details and registration information.](#)



The flyer for the Camden Centre for Relational Practice webinar series features a blue header with the center's logo and a QR code. The title "JOIN OUR WEBINAR SERIES" is prominently displayed. Below the title, a short paragraph encourages participation. A table lists the upcoming sessions with columns for date, theme, description, and featured speakers.

WHEN	THEME	ABOUT	FEATURING
Nov 20, 2025	Relational Leadership	Leveraging whole system leadership to drive a relational culture	Children & Learning People & Inclusion Strategy & Insight
Dec 11, 2025	Relational People Practices	Embedding everyday relational practice in unexpected public service places	Contact Centre Youth Justice Money Advice
Jan 27, 2026	Relational Infrastructure and Design	Using service design to create the conditions for relationships in public services to thrive	Service Design Inclusive Economy Libraries Adult Social Care
Feb 25, 2026	Relational Culture Building in Complex Policy Spaces	Addressing the relational component of complex policy including Missions, Housing and Integrated Neighbourhoods	Investment, Place & Opportunity Housing Public Health Education & Inclusion Strategy and Change
Mar 24, 2026	Relational Participation and Power Sharing	Stories of public services and communities participating together and sharing power	Community Wealth Fund Camden's VCS Integrated Youth Services
Apr 2026	Relational Culture Building Question Time	Panel session of speakers from across the webinar series answering questions submitted in advance on anything related to relational culture building	

RECOMMENDED LISTENING: BBC RADIO 4 – THE PROJECT KEEPING YOUNG OFFENDERS OUT OF CUSTODY

This insightful documentary explores how the youth justice system has bucked the adult trend of increased incarceration – in a period in which the adult prison population has doubled the youth custody sector has gone from accommodating 3000 children to now just 400. Questions are asked about what has worked in the youth justice system and what could be learned by the adult system. Swindon's Youth Justice Service's "Child First" approach is used as an example of what is working in youth justice.

The programme highlights practical, community-based interventions that are helping reduce reoffending and keep young people out of custody.

It's a compelling listen for anyone working in safeguarding, youth justice, or care.

🔗 [Listen to the programme here](#)

Visit liia.london to learn more



The image shows a screenshot of the BBC Radio 4 website. At the top, there are navigation links: Home, Episodes, Clips, Galleries, Podcast, and Contact Us. Below this is a large image of a young man in a blue hoodie standing in front of a blue and white striped structure. The BBC logo is visible in the top right corner of the image. Below the image, there is a "Listen now" button with a speaker icon. The title "Youth Justice: The project keeping young offenders out of custody" is displayed in bold. At the bottom, there is a short description: "Chris Marston explores why the number of under-18s in custody in England and Wales has dropped from 3000 to just over 400 in the last twenty years." and the availability information: "Available now" and "38 minutes".

RESEARCH IN PRACTICE: ONLINE WORKSHOPS FOR THE LONDON REGION



Research in Practice are pleased to share an enhanced offer for the London region to support engagement in training opportunities.

Below is a summary of the available online workshops with booking links provided. This programme is specifically for local authorities in the London region and has been made available to all LAs, including non-RIP members for this limited enhanced offer.

London Regional Programme: Workshops

This programme is for Children's Services practitioners and management across all local authorities in the London region, including local authorities who do not have a membership with Research in Practice.

Delivered by experienced facilitators, our online learning workshops use a range of methods to engage participants in active learning. This includes PowerPoint presentations, breakout room discussions, practice scenario examples, videos, individual exercises, and group discussion all aimed at addressing learning objectives.

There are 30 places available on each workshop. These are made available on a first come first served basis with the sessions running from 09:30 until 15:30. *Please right click the title of the workshop and open the link to book your place.*

[Click here to explore the online workshops and book your place](#)

NEW PUBLICATION: THE EFFECTIVENESS OF DIVERTING CHILDREN FROM THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM – HM INSPECTORATE OF PROBATION

A joint inspection by HM Inspectorate of Probation and HMICFRS highlights that the current system for diverting children from the criminal justice system is fragmented and inconsistent, creating a 'postcode lottery' for outcomes.

While out-of-court disposals (OoCDs) are intended to prevent unnecessary criminalisation and reduce reoffending, inspectors found gaps in national oversight, inconsistent policing practices, and limited access to vital support such as education and mental health services.

The report calls for stronger governance, clearer guidance, and better partnership working to ensure fairness and improve outcomes for children.

Read the full report **[here](#)**

UPDATES FROM PARTNERS

Take a look at these standout newsletters from our partners – a great way to stay informed and inspired by what's happening across the sector.

VRU Update – September 2025

This edition shares updates on violence reduction efforts across London, including early intervention, youth leadership, and new research shaping future delivery.

Highlights include:

- Launch of Prevention Partnership Panels in four boroughs to support young people at risk
- Progress from Year 2 of the MyEnds community-led programme, reaching over 17,000 participants
- Updates from the Young People's Action Group (YPAG), including new partnerships and cohort recruitment
- News from the Inclusion Charter, with the next Inclusive London event in Lewisham this November
- New research on trauma-informed practice, social media and violence, and sports-based interventions



MOPAC Update – September 2025

This edition shares updates on crime prevention, victim support, and partnership work across London.

Highlights include:

- Key dates and guidance for London Crime Prevention Fund (LCPF) 2025-29 monitoring and review
- Launch of Call 6 of the Shared Endeavour Fund, supporting 21 new projects tackling extremism and hate
- Details of the new Pan-London Sexual Violence Support Service launching 1 October
- Updates on the Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation (DASA) programme and upcoming workshops
- Expansion of the London Victim and Witness Service (LVWS) with new domestic abuse and hate crime support
- Insights from the London Victim Attrition Review, exploring why victims disengage from the justice system
- Partnership activity including the Reducing Robbery Board, London Drugs Forum, and Business Crime Roundtable



MEMBERS AREA ACCESS

As always, [you can click here to register for access](#) to our dedicated Members Areas.

GET IN TOUCH

Please visit our website: lila.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 LIIA newsletter circulation list please contact: liiateam@londoncouncils.gov.uk

THANKS FOR READING!

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