

London Adolescent Safeguarding Oversight Board

Date & Time: Friday 14 February 2025 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Venue: Microsoft Teams

Chair: Florence Kroll

Date & Time:		16 May 2025 (14:00 – 16:00)
Venue:		Online
Attendees:		Florence Kroll, Ben Byrne, Karla Goodman, Jess Mullen, Bev Hendricks, Bas Dickson Leach, Annabel Bates, Tamsyn Basson, Jeanne King, Daniel Phelps, David Dare, Henry Smithers, David Pennington, Valentin Danciu, Luke Billingham, Gary Connors, Adetola (Tola) Masha, Victoria Hilliard, Lisa Kunwar-Deer, Kudakwashe Kurashwa, Stephanie Royston-Mitchell, Dean Nevill, Roberta Evans, Sarah Ayodele
Apologies:		Pinaki Ghosal, Katie Mitchell, Nicky Hill, Roisin Madden, Chris Miller, Jenny Goodridge
Item	Time	
1.	14.00 to 14.05 (5 min)	Welcome and matters arising – Florence Kroll Actions from the last meeting
2.	14.05 to 14.25 (20 min)	Children missing from residential homes and foster care and the Philomena Protocol – Florence Kroll <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greenwich case study
	14.25 to 14.35 (10 min)	Stop & Search Pilot – Bev Hendricks
3.	14.35 to 15.35 (60 min)	Getting things done in London - Local implementation of Pan-London arrangements Overview and updates of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing the Criminalisation of Children in Care – Ben Byrne Violence Exploitation Support Service – Ben Byrne and Dean Nevill Multi Agency Child Exploitation protocol – Jeanne King and James Dickson Leach Safeguarding Adolescents in London handbook – Ben Byrne and Karla Goodman <p>Discussion - how can we best use these pan-London initiatives to improve quality and consistency of adolescent safeguarding locally? From plan to practice.</p>
4.	15.35 to 15.45 (10 mins)	Education Safeguarding Subgroup – Annabel Bates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update and questions
6.	15.45 to 15.55 (10 min)	Policy updates

7.	15.55 to 16.00 (5 min)	AOB
8.		Forward plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adolescent safeguarding dataset refresh / review • Youth Futures Prevention Partnerships / Panels / Hubs • Next meeting – originally scheduled for 15 August, will be moved to September (date TBC).

Welcome and matters arising – Florence Kroll

Florence Kroll welcomed attendees and noted apologies. Brief reflections were shared on the success of the recent ALDCS Summit.

- Actions from the last meeting were confirmed as completed.

Children missing from residential homes and foster care and the Philomena Protocol – Florence Kroll

Florence introduced a case study from Greenwich, highlighting the Philomena Protocol's role in reducing unnecessary police involvement and improving relational safeguarding responses. You can access the slide deck [here](#).

Key points from discussion:

- Social workers and care homes often feel compelled to call police even when a child is known to be safe, due to regulatory pressures (e.g. Ofsted expectations).
- Workshop in Greenwich was positively received and highlighted systemic challenges in how "missing" vs "absent" is understood and acted upon.
- Strong interest in wider rollout of the model and developing better multi-agency training.
- The need for clear guidance around definitions of "missing" and better risk assessments was raised by Bev Hendricks and echoed by others.
- Kuda Kurashwa (LB Hillingdon) and David Dare (LB Bromley) flagged the need for strategic engagement with Ofsted regarding how inspection frameworks impact local practice.
- There was also support for embedding this work within local Corporate Parenting Boards, not just safeguarding partnerships.

Action:

- Florence and the LiiA team to explore convening a follow-up meeting with Ofsted, potentially inviting LASOB members with direct experience to attend.

Stop & Search Pilot – Bev Hendricks

Bev Hendricks presented reflections on the Haringey Stop and Search pilot, including insights gained from body-worn video analysis, young people's testimonies, and the role of safeguarding. You can access the slide deck [here](#).

Highlights:

- Evidence of disproportionate and harmful practice, especially toward children with SEND.
- The project has moved to Phase 4: analysis of 300 randomly selected cases across London, with Carlene Firmin supporting review.

- Need to embed systemic learning, challenge cultural assumptions, and create better alignment with safeguarding principles.
- A key shift was the Met's willingness to share data and increase transparency.

Getting things done in London - Local implementation of Pan-London arrangements overview and updates of

- Reducing the Criminalisation of Children in Care – Ben Byrne
- Violence Exploitation Support Service – Ben Byrne and Dean Nevill
- Multi Agency Child Exploitation protocol – Jeanne King and James Dickson Leach
- Safeguarding Adolescents in London handbook – Ben Byrne and Karla Goodman

Discussion - how can we best use these pan-London initiatives to improve quality and consistency of adolescent safeguarding locally? From plan to practice.

a) Reducing the Criminalisation of Children in Care – Ben Byrne

- A near-final version of the revised protocol is complete (Sascha at MOPAC leading).
- New version extends scope to care leavers up to age 25.
- Strengthened role for Corporate Parenting Boards in monitoring and accountability.
- Health sector now actively engaged following feedback at previous LASOB meeting.

Actions:

- LiiA to share a revised draft with LASOB members in coming weeks for comment.

Kuda raised concern about safeguarding responses for children who go missing but are not looked-after. Bas Dickson-Leach (Met Police) confirmed tools exist but may be underused. Florence suggested this be better reflected in the *Safeguarding Adolescents in London* (SAIL)

Action:

- Bas (or colleague) to work with Ben and LiiA to add a section to SAIL on safeguarding responses and legal tools for non-looked-after missing children.

b) Violence Exploitation Support Service (VESS) – Dean Nevill and Ben Byrne

- Open-access service offering early intervention via a “single front door” approach.
- Supported by LIIA on design and capacity modelling.
- Currently funded for three years (potentially five).
- Team draws on AMBIT principles and includes “team around the worker” model.
- Click [here](#) to access the VESS Design Phase Report. Click [here](#) to access the VESS flyer.

c) Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Protocol – Jeanne King and James Dickson Leach

- All boroughs are required to have a data analyst supporting MACE functions.
- Discussion of over-optimism around what MACE can achieve – need for clearer practitioner training.

- Victoria Hilliard (London Councils) highlighted a theme from the Rapid Review Analysis, noting confusion among practitioners about the role of MACE and an over-optimism about what it could achieve for the children they were working with. She welcomed the idea of a more consistent approach and suggested that, once finalised, webinars could be offered through the London SCP training programme. These would provide a basic understanding for practitioners who do not attend MACE panels but work with children referred to them, to help clarify MACE's role and how it aligns with other safeguarding processes. Jeanne King agreed, emphasising that this was exactly the kind of support needed and acknowledged that more should have been done to explain the purpose and function of MACE.
- Tola Masha (NHS), Annabel Bates (LB Newham), and David Pennington (NHS North Central London) offered to review the protocol from a London wide health perspective and will involve relevant colleagues to draw on their expertise where appropriate.

Action:

- Jeanne/ LiiA to consider webinars for wider training and clarity around MACE.

d) Safeguarding Adolescents in London (SAIL) – Ben Byrne and Dr Karla Goodman

- A new feature, the “How to SAIL” guide, is currently in development, with initial content expected to be available by the end of June.
- The guide is intended to support practitioners in turning the “what” into the “how”– translating guidance into meaningful practice.
- Contributions from practitioners are welcome, and those interested in shaping the content are encouraged to contact the [LiiA team](#).

Education Safeguarding Subgroup – Annabel Bates

Due to time constraints, this item was not covered during the meeting. Annabel welcomes questions or contributions to be sent via email:
annabel.bates@newham.gov.uk

Policy updates

Due to time constraints, this item was not covered during the meeting.

AOB

Practice Spotlight - The Practice Spotlight digital resource area is now live, showcasing examples of effective practice from across London. You can explore the site and access the materials by clicking on the link [➡ ****Practice Spotlight Digital Area****](#)

Next LASOB Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Friday 5th September, 3-5pm, this is in-person at London Councils.