

London Adolescent Safeguarding Oversight Board

Date & Time: Friday 21 November 2025 14:00 – 16:00

Venue: Microsoft Teams

Chair: Ben Byrne

Date & Time:		21 November 2025 (14:00 – 16:00)
Venue:		Microsoft Teams
Invited:		Florence Kroll, Ben Byrne, Luke Billingham, Pippa Goodfellow, Chris Miller, Bas Dickson Leach, Will Balakrishnan, Mark Staples, Stephanie Royston-Mitchell, Shaun Flook, Henry Smithers, Kuda Kurashwa, Jess Mullen, Gary Connors, Tamsyn Basson, Nicky Hill, Daniel Phelps, Millie Harris, Roisin Madden, Victoria Hilliard, Valentin Danciu, Dan Moynihan, Tola Masha, Katie Mitchell, Iain Keating, David Dare, Caroline Tredwell, David Pennington, Clair L Kelland, Lydia Best, Karla Goodman, Jeanne King, Roberta Evans, Lisa Kunwar-Deer, Pinaki Ghoshal, Shaun Flook, Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, Mary Jarrett, Jane Corrigan, Paul Olaitan, Jo Clarke, Lisa Dhanjal, David Pennington, Shumailla Dar, Matt Cray, Davina Smith, Jo Clark, Abi Billinghurst, Jane Corrigan, Rula Tripolitaki
Apologies:		Florence Kroll, Shaun Flook, Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, Jon Coles, Iain Keating, David Pennington, Pinaki Ghoshal, Shumailla Dar, Jess Mullen, Jenny Goodridge
Chair:		Ben Byrne
Item	Time	
1.	14.00 to 14.10 (10 mins)	Welcome and matters arising – Ben Byrne Actions from the last meeting
2.	14.10 to 14.30 (20 mins)	Girls and Young Women Affected by Gangs, Violence and Exploitation – Isabelle Kennedy, MOPAC • Programme Overview • Questions
3.	14.30 to 15.00 (30 mins)	Building Shared Understanding and Approaches to Missing Children - Paul Olaitan, AKANI Collaborative Solutions and Jo Clarke, Met Police • Responses to Children Missing from Care
4.	15.00 to 15.15 (15 mins)	Prevent update, working with Children with a violence fixation – Karla Goodman, LiiA and Jane Corrigan, Detective Superintendent, Met Police • Updates and discussion
5.	15.15 to 15.30 (15 mins)	Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) – Bas Dickson Leach, Detective Superintendent, Met Police • Updates and discussion

6.	15.30 to 15.50 (20 mins)	Updates on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing Criminalisation of Looked after Children Launch – Ben Byrne, LiiA SAIL (Safeguarding Adolescents In London) – Rula Tripolitaki, LiiA Race equity – Ben Byrne, LiiA VRU update - Gary Connors, VRU London Children's Services Practice Spotlight – Rula Tripolitaki, LiiA Partner updates - All
7.	15.50 to 16.00 (10 mins)	AOB

Welcome and matters arising – Ben Byrne

Mary Jarrett introduced as the new Strategic Education Leader representative (SELL) for LASOB, replacing Annabel Bates. She joins as Corporate Director for Education, Waltham Forest.

Jo Clark (Met Police, Operation Aegis), who is presenting on the missing children item.

Previous minutes agreed as accurate.

Girls and Young Women Affected by Gangs, Violence and Exploitation - MOPAC, with Social Finance, Abianda, Agenda Alliance

- Mayor's priority since 2016; recent research highlights gaps in understanding and support for girls affected by group-based offending and exploitation.
- Girls often experience harm through relationships, sexual violence, and coercion, yet remain underrepresented in policy and practice.
- Multi-strand approach: improving gendered risk assessments, data analysis, and commissioning.
- Launch of **Girls & Young Women Local Groups Fund** to strengthen grassroots responses.
- £610k total; grants of £25k–£80k for one-year delivery.
- Supports safe spaces, peer-led sessions, trauma-informed co-production, and capacity building.
- Applications open 2 Jan – 6 Feb 2026; decisions by mid-March.

You can read more here: [Social Finance – Girls and Young Women Local Groups Fund](#)
You can access the full slide deck [here](#).

Building Shared Understanding and Approaches to Missing Children - Paul Olaitan, AKANI Collaborative Solutions and Jo Clarke, Met Police

Paul introduced the “Who Works!” methodology and presented slides on improving responses to children missing from care homes through Collaborative Knowledge Networks.

Jo contributed insights from the Met Police perspective, reinforcing HMIC findings and the need for consistent application of the Philomena Protocol.

Key points:

- The problem: Children still go missing too often; reports are overused or underused; Philomena Protocol inconsistently applied; care homes, police, and LAs often work from different assumptions.
- HMIC findings: Two causes for concern (Missing & Exploitation); need better risk assessment and partnership working.
- Challenges: Over-reporting driven by fear of blame; fragmented leadership; unclear strategy; misaligned structures; practitioners carrying emotional and procedural burdens.
- Emerging commitments: Clarity on what “missing” means; consistency in tools (grab packs, RHIs); curiosity and connection across agencies; local Philomena compacts; trauma-informed training.
- Next steps: Support BCU-level compacts; align commissioning and inspection; develop shared training and reflection spaces; extend work to other boroughs.

You can access the full slide deck [here](#).

Prevent update, working with Children with a violence fixation – Karla Goodman, LiiA and Jane Corrigan, Detective Superintendent, Met Police

- Post-Southport murders, referrals of children with fascination with extreme violence or mass-casualty attacks have increased, often without clear ideology.
- HMIC thematic inspection on counter-terrorism safeguarding scheduled for December.

Key points:

- Individuals with this fascination are appropriate for Channel (per Lord Anderson review).
- Stronger connectivity needed between Channel panels and MACE; escalation routes clarified in new protocol.
- New MACE protocol (live Jan 2026) includes explicit link to Channel and STROTH processes.
- The Met now uses the term “fascination with extreme violence or mass-casualty attacks” as the preferred terminology.

You can access the full slide deck [here](#).

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) – Bas Dickson Leach, Detective Superintendent, Met Police

- Following the Casey Review and Home Office commissioned review, significant concerns remain about historic and current responses to group-based CSA/CSE.
- Operation Beaconsport is now public and represents a major national undertaking to review cases where multiple victims and suspects were involved but no action was taken.

Scope:

- Home Office review (early 2025) identified 1,300 cases nationally for audit; Met contributed 197 cases.
- Met has identified 9,000 cases potentially in scope; initial audit underway to confirm which meet criteria.
- Cases will undergo full case audits to identify missed investigative opportunities.

Timelines:

- No substantive case outcomes expected before April 2026.

Data Insights:

- Early analysis shows discrepancies between crime data and local authority assessments.
- Victim-led principle emphasised - many victims decline re-engagement, but those who want to reopen cases will be prioritised.
- The term “grooming gangs” is misleading - cases span multiple abuse models.

Next Steps:

- Clean and share borough-level data with ALDCS.

Updates and Partner Contributions

Reducing Criminalisation of Looked After Children Protocol:

- Launched on 18/11/25 and was a major step towards systems change, with multi-agency commitments to keep children in care and care leavers out of the criminal justice system. You can access the recording [here](#).

SAIL (Safeguarding Adolescents in London):

- Digital resource demo showcased enhanced search, interactive content, and practice tools.
- Members encouraged to share and contribute content regularly.
- You can access SAIL [here](#).

Race Equity:

- Standing item reminder; members invited to share initiatives for inclusion in SAIL and LASOB updates.

VRU Update (Gary Connors):

- VESS oversight transferred from MOPAC to VRU; transition work ongoing.
- Serious Violence Duty review underway; Young Futures panels piloted in four boroughs.
- Updated violence reduction action plans to be circulated.

Practice Spotlight

The London Children's Services Practice Spotlight will reopen for submissions in early 2026 inviting all London local authorities and partners to share their most innovative and impactful practice.

The 2025/26 theme is *New & Emerging Practice* which is generating excitement about the opportunities for shared learning and improvement during a period of significant change.

Look out for details on how to submit your examples of practice soon!

AOB

- Members encouraged to cascade information on funding opportunities and resources.
- Next LASOB Meeting: Friday 13 February 2026, 1-3pm.
This meeting will be held in-person at London Councils, 12 Arthur Street, London EC4R 9AB.