

London Adolescent Safeguarding Oversight Board - a subgroup of The London Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP)

The LSCP Executive has established the London Adolescent Safeguarding Oversight Board (LASOB) to coordinate and draw together the range of partner activity in this sphere.

The LSCP executive is updated on LASOB's work on a six-monthly basis (at minimum).

LASOB's work can overlap with other governance bodies (such as the Reducing Re-offending Board, Criminal Justice Board and VRU Partnership Reference Group) and links to these structures and recognition of the relationship between violence, exploitation and the safety of adolescents is important in the LASOB remit.



ALDCS

The Association of London
Directors of Children's Services

ALDCS Adolescent Safeguarding – A priority for London

- Adolescent Safeguarding includes the range of individual, familial and community risks and safeguarding concerns that children experience in terms of risks to themselves, risk from others and risks to others.
- It is a complex dynamic that requires a system wide focus that includes disproportionality and discrimination all of which necessitate multi-layered and systemic solutions.
- There is an abundance of activity across London to enhance adolescent safeguarding and some common themes and approaches.
- We want to promote consistent practice from partners that prioritises experience and outcomes for children and young people.
- Activity in this realm can be poorly coordinated and risks dissipating the energy and resources which are being applied

ALDCS

The Association of London
Directors of Children's Services

LASOB – Purpose and Focus

The board's particular focus will be on work which has a multi-borough or pan-London focus.

- Provide coordination and oversight to the range of partner initiatives and where possible draw this into a shared programme of sequenced activity.
- Learn from effective local LSCP and violence and vulnerability work but not duplicate local activity and governance.
- Identify and promote effective practice in safeguarding adolescents and reducing disproportionality.

Within this scope also comes support for work to promote a consistent safeguarding response to adolescent extra-familial harm. We know legislation, statutory guidance and child protection procedures are poorly framed to respond to adolescent risk outside of the home and as a result a variety of approaches and thresholds are applied.

Partners, particularly the police, find LA's diverse responses hard to navigate in their work between boroughs. The LASOB work plan will address these issues with the overall aim to improve the quality and consistency of practice to achieve better outcomes for young people.

ALDCS

The Association of London
Directors of Children's Services

Current activity within the LASOB work programme

- Go Live of **Safeguarding Adolescents in London (SAIL)** guidance brings together theory, practice, and policy to provide practical tools and information for those working with young people.
- The revision and implementation of the **London MACE Protocol** (fifth edition), this update 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. The Protocol will be published in January 2026.
- **Innovative Your Choice programme** has been developed and rolled out across 32 London LAs. Colleagues in a wide range of adolescent safeguarding services continue to report improvements in safety and wellbeing. The evaluation report is due in early 2026.
- Launch of the **Pan-London Protocol for Reducing Criminalisation of Children Looked After and Care Leavers**, in partnership with the **Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC)**.

ALDCS

The Association of London
Directors of Children's Services

Forward plan

- **Pan-London Protocol for Reducing Criminalisation of Children Looked After and Care Leavers:** Following the November 2025 launch of the Pan-London Protocol, MOPAC and LiiA will continue this work by sharing resources, training materials, and plans for local and London-wide monitoring. The implementation and monitoring group and Care Leavers group are in place.
- **The central Your Choice team:** Will continue to support local authorities across London in their delivery of Your Choice in different service areas and look forward to implementing the learning from the evaluation.
- **Data & Intelligence:** We will continue to maintain and develop dashboards for LASOB and the London Safeguarding Partnership Executive, expand analytical products based on CiN census data, and enhance tools supporting violence and exploitation work. LIIA will also strengthen strategic data analysis and VESS dashboards, ensuring local authorities have access to referral, County Lines, knife crime, and stop & search data.
- **SAIL:** In January 2026, we will launch the SAIL Community of Practice - a cross-sector network designed to connect professionals, foster collaboration, and drive improvements in practice around shared priorities and challenges. This initiative will build on existing work and create new opportunities for learning and innovation.
- **The London MACE Protocol:** Will be launched in January 2026 and will be supported by our Communities of Practice, offering training and continued learning opportunities to move the Protocol from paper to practice.

ALDCS

The Association of London
Directors of Children's Services

LASOB membership – accountable to LSCP Executive and will report into ALDCS

LASOB brings together a diverse membership of partners, ensuring strategic alignment and shared responsibility for safeguarding adolescents across London.

The Met Police

LA Children's Services

LA Community Safety
and Housing

Health

VCS and Independent

Education

YJB, YOT Network and
Probation

LiiA and London Councils

VRU

MOPAC

ALDCS

The Association of London
Directors of Children's Services

Ben Byrne – Director of LiiA

Ben.byrne@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Dr Karla Goodman (DForenPsych) - Director of Practice

karla.goodman@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Mei Ho – Programme Administrator

mei.ho@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Please visit our website: liia.london for more detailed information on each of the ALDCS priorities.

ALDCS

The Association of London
Directors of Children's Services