

London Adolescent Safeguarding Oversight Board

Date & Time: Friday 13 February 2026 13:00 – 15:00

Venue: Microsoft Teams

Chair: Florence Kroll

Date & Time:		13 February 2026 13:00 – 15:00
Venue:		London Councils, 12 Arthur Street, London EC4R 9AB
Invited:		Florence Kroll, Ben Byrne, Karla Goodman, Jeanne King, Bev Hendricks, Chris Miller, Daniel Phelps, David Dare, David Pennington, Davina Smith, Gary Connors, Henry Smithers, Iain Keating, James Dickson-Leach, Jenny Goodridge, Jess Mullen, Katie Mitchell, Kuda Kurashwa, Lisa Dhanjal, Lisa Kunwar-Deer, Luke Billingham, Lydia A. Best, Mary Jarrett, Matt Cray, Nicky Hill, Pippa Goodfellow, Rangan Momen, Roberta Evans, Roisin Madden, Shaun Flook, Stephanie Royston-Mitchell, Tamsyn Basson, Valentin Danciu, Victoria Hilliard, Will Balakrishnan, Stuart Collins, Tola Masha, Abi Billinghamurst
Apologies:		Luke Billingham, David Dare, Stephanie Royston-Mitchell, David Pennington, Roisin Madden, Gary Connors, Daniel Phelps, Pippa Goodfellow, Matt Cray, Shumaila Dar, David Michael, Jess Mullen, Tamsyn Basson, Mary Jarrett, Jeanne King
Chair:		Florence Kroll
Item	Time	
1.	14.00 – 14.05 (5 mins)	Welcome and matters arising – Florence Kroll
2.	14.05 – 15.05 (60 mins)	<p>Thematic discussion: Is London seeing the benefits of a public health approach to violence reduction?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the data telling us? • How are our services responding? • VRU – Davina Smith • Vanguard – Claire Ruiz • Your Choice – Karla Goodman
3.	15.05 – 15.20 (15 mins)	<p>London Child Remand Project – Ben Byrne</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the proposed project and discussion on partner involvement
4.	15.20 – 15.40 (15 mins)	<p>Partner updates – ALL Updates from partners on key developments, emerging issues, or areas requiring cross-borough collaboration.</p>
7.	15.40 – 15.55 (15 mins)	<p>Updates on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAIL (Safeguarding Adolescents In London) • Race equity - All • London Children’s Services Practice Spotlight • MACE Protocol – Jeanne King
8.	15.55 – 16.00 (5 mins)	AOB

Welcome and matters arising – Florence Kroll

Florence welcomed attendees and noted introductions, including new members such as Stuart Collins (DCS at LB Croydon), as the new Adolescent Safeguarding Lead for ALDCS.

Thematic discussion: Is London seeing the benefits of a public health approach to violence reduction?

Karla Goodman (Your Choice/ LIA) - key points from presentation

- The RCT showed small positive impacts on conduct problems and more noticeable improvements in emotional regulation, social connection and wellbeing.
- Qualitative findings highlighted the importance of trusted relationships, structured interventions, and practitioners gaining confidence and skills.
- Workforce learning and system adoption are crucial for the next phase.
- Harrow has begun delivering Your Choice through Turnaround funding.

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

You can read the summary briefing report [here](#).

Davina Smith and Tom Davies (VRU) - key points from presentation

- Significant reductions reported in homicides (especially among under-25s), hospital admissions for knife injuries, and violence with injury.
- Increases noted in sexual offences and harassment, partly linked to reporting practices.
- Focus on capacity building, consistent outcomes frameworks, improved data, and shared learning through the Evidence Hub.
- Highlighted ongoing data-sharing barriers and work on the pan-London Strategic Needs Assessment.

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

Claire Ruiz, Claire Bingham, Martin Griffith (Vanguard Programme)

- The Vanguard model includes prevention, intervention and case management underpinned by multi-disciplinary collaboration.
- Over 1,300 young people have received direct support; strong improvements observed in mental health, safety, education engagement and family relationships.
- Evaluation nearing completion (Anna Freud Centre).

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

Discussion themes summary

- Gap in early help (ages 5–11): The group noted that support for children in early primary years is often missing, even though this stage is crucial for long-term prevention.
- Sustainability and system buy-in: There were concerns about “initiative fatigue,” how do we build on existing practices that demonstrate impact instead of repeatedly re-inventing the wheel.
- Practitioner role: There was clear agreement that it will be important to build on the learning from the Your Choice RCT and that ongoing investment in upskilled workforce, their continuing development, and reflective practice are key to achieving meaningful individual and systemic change.
- Housing, deprivation and violence: The group highlighted how unstable housing and wider inequalities shape young people’s risk of violence.

- Data: Attendees expressed a need for more detailed under-18 data to better target support and understand impact.
- Joining up initiatives: There is a need to align VRU, Vanguard, Your Choice, Turnaround and local programmes into a more coherent offer for young people.
- Link with education: The group emphasised the importance of connecting school-led inclusion work with London-wide frameworks to ensure consistent support.

London Child Remand Project – Ben Byrne

Ben shared the proposal for a London-wide Child Remand Project and highlighted several key issues in the current system.

- London accounts for one-third of all children on remand nationally.
- 63% of London children in custody are on remand, compared with 43% across England.
- Around two-thirds don't go on to receive a custodial sentence, even though they were remanded.
- There is significant racial disproportionality, with most children on remand being black or from the global majority.
- London is spending more on remand bed nights than is covered by the MoJ grant.
- The Greater Manchester model offers helpful learning.

Discussion themes summary

- Interest in remand fostering, but recruitment remains a challenge.
- The project must be outcome-led, not cost-driven.
- Work needs to align with the Regional Care Cooperative.
- Past learning from earlier remand fostering models should be revisited.
- Alternatives to remand should link with health, education and community safety.

Actions

- Ben Byrne to refine the business case with a stronger child-centred focus.
- Engage borough fostering leads on specialist remand fostering capacity.
- Hold a follow-up session to embed learning from Greater Manchester. You can access the full slide deck [here](#).

Partner updates – ALL

This agenda item was not discussed due to time constraints. Please see below some updates that may be helpful to note:

Practice Spotlight 2026 – Now Live

Practice Spotlight 2026 is open, and we're inviting you to share the new and emerging practice taking shape across London.

Every day, teams and partners across the region are improving outcomes for children, young people and families. This year's Spotlight focuses on early ideas and innovations - the work that's developing now and deserves to be shared, celebrated and grown.

You can choose from nine categories, including racial equity, early intervention, SEND, care leavers, multi-agency safeguarding and placement innovation. Multiple submissions are welcome.

Learn more about Practice Spotlight 2026 and start your submission [here](#).

Submission deadline: Friday 24 April 2026

Category 3 (*Building safety for young Londoners*) is sponsored by LASOB. We are now looking for colleagues who would like to volunteer to join the regional review panel for this category. This will involve reviewing submissions and contributing to the peer-assessment process. If you're interested in supporting this work, please let us know [here](#) we'll follow up with further details on timings and expectations.

AOB

Next LASOB Meeting: Friday 08 May 2026, 1-3pm. This meeting will be held online.