

London Kinship Care Project Consultancy

Background

The London Innovation and Improvement Alliance (LIIA) supports collaboration across London's local authorities to improve outcomes for children and young people. Through London's Regional Care Co-operative (RCC), boroughs are working together to strengthen family-based care and ensure that more children can remain within their family and community networks where this is safe and appropriate.

Kinship care plays a vital role within London's wider family-based care system. However, there is significant variation in local arrangements, support offers and the experience of kinship carers across the capital. There is also increasing recognition of the need to strengthen support for kinship carers to promote stability, improve outcomes for children and reduce escalation into care.

LIIA is seeking sector-led project consultancy to support on a time-limited programme of work focused on developing a stronger evidence base and a clear set of recommendations for future pan-London action.

This is a strategic, project-based consultancy role. The individual will not be expected to undertake primary research themselves but will provide leadership, oversight and subject matter expertise to ensure the work delivers practical and actionable recommendations for London's local authorities.

Purpose

The London Kinship Care Sector Led Project Consultancy role will oversee a review of kinship care arrangements across London and develop a set of practical recommendations to improve the experience of kinship carers and the outcomes achieved for children.

Working alongside an independent delivery partner, local authorities, kinship carers and other stakeholders, the individual will ensure the review generates a robust understanding of current practice, variation, strengths and opportunities for improvement.

The individual will translate this learning into a detailed set of options and recommendations, including assessment of costs, benefits, implementation requirements and potential impact.

Key Responsibilities

1. Oversight of the Pan-London Kinship Care Review

The individual will provide strategic oversight of an independent review of kinship care across London.

This will include:

- Supporting the development of the review specification and methodology.
- Acting as the key link between the independent review organisation and London's RCC.
- Providing subject matter expertise and strategic direction throughout the review process.
- Ensuring the review considers the full spectrum of kinship care arrangements.
- Supporting engagement with local authorities, partners and stakeholders.
- Ensuring the views and experiences of kinship carers are embedded throughout the review.
- Providing challenge and quality assurance to the review process and outputs.
- Supporting reporting into RCC governance arrangements.

Key Deliverable

- Completion of a robust pan-London review of kinship care provision, support and practice.

2. Engagement with Kinship Carers and Stakeholders

The individual will ensure that lived experience is reflected throughout the programme.

This will include:

- Supporting engagement with kinship carers across London.
- Ensuring the experiences of children and families inform the review.
- Working with local authorities and partner organisations to understand current practice and challenges.
- Identifying examples of effective and innovative practice.
- Capturing views from practitioners, managers and strategic leaders.
- Ensuring recommendations are grounded in both evidence and lived experience.

Key Deliverable

- A clear evidence base setting out the experiences, priorities and challenges facing kinship carers across London.

3. Development of Recommendations and Future Options

Building on the findings of the review, the individual will develop a detailed set of recommendations for London's local authorities and RCC.

This will include:

- Identifying opportunities to improve support for kinship carers.
- Identifying opportunities for greater consistency across London.
- Developing options for new or enhanced support offers.
- Exploring opportunities for collaboration or pan-London approaches.
- Assessing implementation requirements.

- Assessing potential benefits, costs and risks.
- Identifying opportunities for future investment and partnership working.
- Developing a prioritised roadmap for implementation.

Recommendations should be practical, evidence-based and capable of informing future policy, commissioning and service development activity.

Key Deliverable

- A comprehensive recommendations report setting out:
 - Recommended actions.
 - Expected benefits and outcomes.
 - Estimated costs and resource implications.
 - Delivery considerations.
 - Suggested implementation timescales.
 - Opportunities for pan-London collaboration.

4. Reporting and Dissemination

The individual will support the dissemination of learning and recommendations across London.

This will include:

- Presentation of findings to RCC governance groups.
- Preparation of reports, briefings and presentations.
- Facilitating discussions on future priorities.
- Supporting local authorities to consider findings and recommendations.
- Identifying opportunities for future RCC activity relating to kinship care.

Key Deliverable

- Final report and presentation of findings and recommendations to London's RCC and partner authorities.

Skills and Experience

Essential

The successful individual will demonstrate:

- Significant experience of children's social care and family-based care services.
- Strong understanding of kinship care policy, practice and legislation.
- Experience leading reviews, service improvement programmes or strategic developments.
- Experience working with local authorities and partnership arrangements.
- Strong stakeholder engagement and facilitation skills.
- Experience working with people with lived experience and co-production approaches.

- Strong analytical and report-writing skills.
- Ability to translate evidence and learning into practical recommendations.
- Experience presenting to senior leaders and decision-makers.

Desirable

- Experience of kinship care service development or commissioning.
- Knowledge of London's children's services landscape.
- Experience of regional collaboration programmes.
- Experience undertaking option appraisals, business cases or strategic reviews.
- Established relationships within the kinship care sector.

Working Arrangements

- It is anticipated that the assignment will be between 20-25 days.
- The work will need to have been completed by the end of March '27
- LIIA Lead Contact: Head of RCC Delivery.
- The total available budget is £15,000
- Operating model: Hybrid, with attendance at meetings across London as required.

Expected Outputs

By the conclusion of the consultancy, the RCC will have:

- A comprehensive review of kinship care arrangements
- A clear understanding of variation in support offers and practice.
- Evidence and insight from kinship carers and families.
- Identification of effective practice and innovation.
- A detailed and costed set of recommendations for future development.
- A prioritised implementation roadmap for London local authorities and the RCC.
- Recommendations for future pan-London collaboration and investment in kinship care.

Expressions of Interest

To express interest in the opportunity please send your CV and a Supporting Statement (maximum 1000 words) to jonny.woodthorpe@londoncouncils.gov.uk by 09:00 on **Monday 7th September 2026**.

The statement should set out your relevant skills/experience and an overview of how you would approach the work.

Shortlisted candidates will then be invited to interview (date tbc)