LiiA Together for London's Children
LONDON INNOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT ALLIANCE

ALDCS
The Association of London Directors of Children's Services

LONDON ADOLESCENT SAFEGUARDING AND YOUTH JUSTICE NEWSLETTER

November 2026 ISSUE



Dear colleagues,

I'm grateful for the opportunity to introduce this edition of the ASYJ newsletter and to share the news about the development of **London's Regional Care Cooperative (LRCC).**

Providing a stable home and loving care is a critical component of keeping all young people safe and this is our number one priority as local authorities when it comes to the children in our care. This is what the LRCC seeks to ensure for our children.

The LRCC was launched in July 2026 and exists to bring the individual local authorities together to make the lives of children in care better. The team is developing fast and we're working with all 33 London local authorities to strengthen how care is planned, commissioned, and delivered. This means that precious resources can be directed to where they are most needed - to improve the experiences of care and achieve better outcomes for some of the most vulnerable children in our society.

We're working together with Councils on a 'one customer' approach that will strengthen sufficiency and collectively give us a stronger position in the foster care market. We're also developing high-quality residential care, more loving family-based homes and striving to keep more children and young people closer to the communities where they feel they belong.

The LRCC is currently at the foundation stage of its development; arranging its structure and its governance whilst assessing the regional market and building partnerships across the city. And we're listening to the voices of young people as we progress. The next stage is the development phase which will get underway from 1st April next year - here we'll test new arrangements and processes working closely with our partners across the city. Finally, the delivery phase the following year will see the LRCC working alongside local authorities to commission care across London in an efficient and sustainable way that prioritises the experience of London's children and young people.

These are major policy and delivery changes for the children's social care sector, and with development and implementation well underway across the country and in London, we're starting to see the potential turn into reality. I hope that we will soon all start to see the potential for the LRCC to make a major contribution to our work to keep London's children and young people safe.

Read more about the London Regional Care Cooperative **here.**

Tim Aldridge
Director of Children's Services at Camden Council and Strategic Director of the LRCC

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THIS MONTH'S UPDATES

- **Updates from the London Adolescent Safeguarding Oversight Board (LASOB)**
- **Safeguarding Adolescents in London (SAIL)**
- **London Children's Services Practice Spotlight**
- **London Multi Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) and Harm Outside the Home Protocol**
- **Your Choice Framework**
- **London Child Remand Project (LCRP)**
- **Recommended Reading from the Alliance for Youth Justice**
- **Updates from Partners**
- **Trusted Youth Allies Training**
- **Improving Support for Girls and Young Women: Consultation Opportunity**
- **The Inquest: A New Production from The Big House**

UPDATES FROM THE LONDON ADOLESCENT SAFEGUARDING OVERSIGHT BOARD (LASOB)

LASOB Learning Spotlight

At its September meeting, LASOB explored learning from a recent Rapid Review, focusing on safeguarding children in care who move across borough boundaries. Discussions highlighted the importance of strong multi-agency working, effective information sharing, relationship-based practice and maintaining continuity of support for vulnerable children and young people. Partners identified opportunities to strengthen collaboration across London and agreed several actions to support ongoing improvement.

Next Steps

LASOB will continue to oversee work to strengthen multi-agency collaboration for children who move across borough boundaries. Partners explore opportunities to improve information sharing, support continuity of services, embed learning into local practice, and ensure safeguarding responses remain coordinated across agencies. Learning from the review will be shared through relevant partnership forums to inform future service development.

The presentation slides developed following the Rapid Review discussion can be accessed **here.**

SAFEGUARDING ADOLESCENTS IN LONDON (SAIL)

In October, the SAIL Community of Practice welcomed Dr Jahnine Davis, National Kinship Care Ambassador, member of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and leading safeguarding researcher to present findings from her research, Who's Protecting Us? Conditional Safeguarding and the Implications for Black Children Who Experience Harm In and Outside the Home.

Read Dr Davis's research, Who's Protecting Us? Conditional Safeguarding and the Implications for Black Children Who Experience Harm In and Outside the Home, **here.**



Drawing on the voices and experiences of Black children and young people, Dr Davis explored how safeguarding responses can be shaped by perceptions of vulnerability, credibility and risk.

The session examined themes including adultification, conditional safeguarding, the intersection of harm experienced within and outside the home, and the importance of listening to and acting upon children's lived experiences.

A key message from the session was the need to move beyond siloed responses to harm and adopt holistic approaches that recognise the complexity of children's lives and experiences. Participants were encouraged to reflect on how services can ensure safeguarding becomes an act of justice rather than a reproduction of harm.

The session generated thoughtful discussion among practitioners and partners across London, highlighting the importance of centring children's voices and challenging assumptions that may influence safeguarding decisions.

What's new?

Effective Information Sharing: Section 16LA of the Children Act 2004 introduces a new statutory duty to share information, which came into effect on the 30th September. Understanding what this means in practice is essential for professionals working with children and young people.

We've updated SAIL with guidance to help practitioners understand the new duty and its implications for day-to-day safeguarding practice.

→ Click **here** to check out the new update.

Accessing the SAIL Restricted Area:

- **New users:** Register via the **Members Area**, select "SAIL Restricted Area" and submit your request.
- **Existing Members Area users:** **Log in** and request access to the SAIL Restricted Area from the list of restricted areas.

Help shape SAIL

We're delighted to have welcomed our first SAIL Champion and look forward to building a network of champions across London. Champions play a key role in helping to strengthen the platform, promote resources locally and ensure SAIL continues to meet the needs of practitioners and partners.

IIf you'd like to contribute to Community of Practice events, help shape SAIL guidance, share resources, participate in our Talking Head Series or become a SAIL Champion, we'd love to hear from you.
Contact **HelloSAIL@liia.london** to find out more.

CLICK HERE TO EXPLORE THE SAIL GUIDANCE

Visit liia.london to learn more

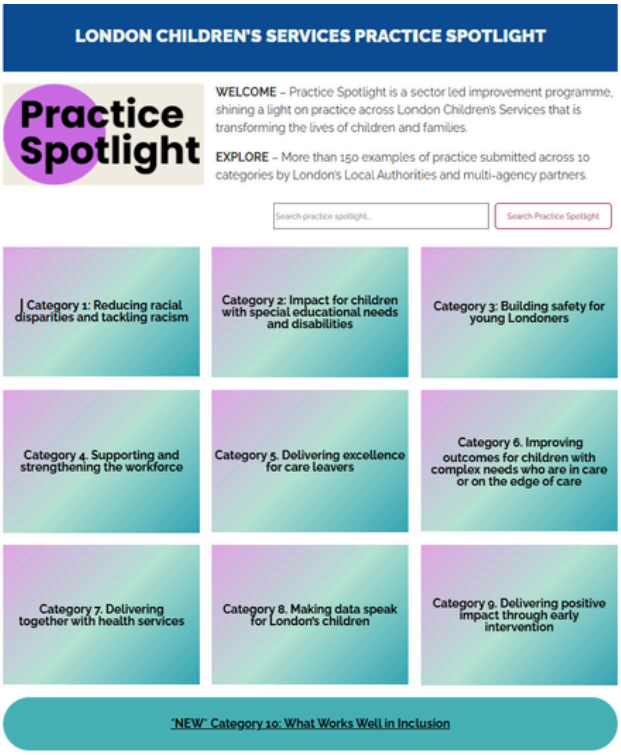
LONDON CHILDREN'S SERVICES PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT



Practice Spotlight 2026 Digital Area Launch

The Practice Spotlight Digital Area has been updated with 65 new submissions from local authorities and partner organisations, showcasing innovative and emerging practice from across London.

Created to shine a light on work making a difference for children and families, Practice Spotlight now brings together more than 150 examples of practice across the programme. The latest additions highlight both the breadth of work taking place across children's services and the sector's commitment to sharing learning and collaborating around common challenges.



The update also includes 35 Inclusion Practice Spotlight submissions across six themes, further expanding the range of resources and learning available.

As Practice Spotlight continues to grow, the focus is shifting from sharing practice to connecting around it, creating opportunities for peer learning, collaboration and direct connections between organisations developing and implementing innovative approaches.

Explore the Practice Spotlight Digital Area **here.**

Of particular interest to safeguarding partners is **Category 3: Building Safety for Young Londoners, sponsored by the London Adolescent Safeguarding Oversight Board (LASOB).**

This category includes examples of practice that are making a positive difference to outcomes for children and young people through early support initiatives with those at risk of poor outcomes.

Visit liia.london to learn more

LONDON MULTI AGENCY CHILD EXPLOITATION (MACE) AND HARM OUTSIDE THE HOME PROTOCOL

The fifth edition of the London Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) and Harm Outside the Home Protocol has now been published, providing an updated framework to support partnership responses to child exploitation and extra-familial harm across London.

To mark the launch, LIIA brought together representatives from Children's Services and the Metropolitan Police on 30 September to explore how MACE, Strategic Risk Outside the Home (STROTH) meetings and Multi-Agency Child Protection Teams (MACPTs) can be used to move from protocol to protection



The event featured a keynote from Professor Carlene Firmin, who shared insights from the recent Prioritising Protection report and challenged partners to consider how London can continue to develop a welfare-led pathway that responds to all forms of extra-familial harm.

The new protocol aims to support effective multi-agency working, strengthen information sharing and improve coordinated responses to children and young people experiencing harm outside the home.

Together with STROTH, MACPTs and other safeguarding arrangements, it forms part of a wider approach focused on creating the relationships, places and conditions that young people need to be safe and flourish.

Colleagues are encouraged to access the protocol through SAIL (Safeguarding Adolescents in London), which brings together the protocols, policies and statutory guidance that underpin adolescent safeguarding practice across London.

In addition to MACE, SAIL includes resources on STROTH meetings, information sharing, strategy discussions, peer assessments and safeguarding children who move across local authority boundaries.

To explore the full SAIL Guidance **here.**

Visit liia.london to learn more

YOUR CHOICE FRAMEWORK

London's collective effort in delivering and evaluating the Youth Endowment Fund (YEF)-funded Your Choice framework has led to a major milestone: the award of the British Psychological Society (BPS) Quality Mark for its training.

This recognition highlights the framework as a high-quality, evidence-led CPD offer, grounded in cognitive behavioural approaches and designed for those working with children and young people.

Developed by LIIA on behalf of the Association of London Directors of Children's Services, and supported by the Mayor's Violence Reduction Unit (VRU), the accredited training equips practitioners with practical, evidence-informed approaches to strengthen relationship-based practice and support meaningful engagement with children, young people and families. It may be particularly relevant for services developing adolescent safeguarding and Family Help offers as part of the Families First reforms.

Building on this momentum, the first VRU-funded Train the Trainer sessions took place on 17 and 20 July at London Councils.

Feedback from previous participants has been positive, with colleagues highlighting the opportunity to connect with peers across London and explore how the framework can be embedded within local services.



These in-person sessions are designed to build local capacity, equipping eligible participants with the skills and confidence to deliver the training and embed the approach more widely across services, such as those services who were unable to access Your Choice in the Your Choice RCT due to their important contribution as the Control arm. supported by ongoing clinical networks.

To find out more about Your Choice, including ongoing clinical networks and trainer prerequisites, **by clicking here.**

Your Choice Train the Trainer: New dates announced!

Successful completion of the programme enables participants to become licensed Your Choice trainers, supporting wider local delivery of the framework.

Training dates:
20 November 2026 and 24 November 2026 (10am - 3.30pm)
Venue: **London Councils, 12 Arthur Street, London EC4R 9AB**

Places are limited and available free of charge to eligible colleagues across London. Interested practitioners are encouraged to book early and share the opportunity with relevant colleagues and partners.

Book your place here.

the british psychological society CPD QUALITY MARK 2026

VRU | MAYOR OF LONDON VIOLENCE REDUCTION UNIT

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LONDON CHILD REMAND PROJECT

The London Child Remand Project (LCRP) continues to support efforts to reduce the number of children entering custody through investment in community-based alternatives and targeted support for those most at risk.

Following the Government's announcement of additional funding for the Community Alternatives to Youth Custody programme, London is expected to receive further investment to expand our activity over the next few years. Subject to final allocations, funding will be available to support Youth Justice Services to scale up existing interventions for children at risk of entering custody, including those at risk through further offending or breach, as well as children returning to the community following a custodial sentence.

An application process will be launched shortly, with opportunities for Youth Justice Services to apply for funding to expand effective local provision into cluster or sub-regional partnerships. Areas of focus may include education, employment and training (EET), therapeutic interventions and lived-experience mentoring.

Further information on the funding opportunity, eligibility criteria and application process will be shared with Youth Justice Services very soon.

Click here to read more about the project.

RECOMMENDED READING FROM THE ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH JUSTICE

The Alliance for Youth Justice (AYJ) recently highlighted the Children's Commissioner for England's report, The Childhood Lottery, which explores how children's experiences and opportunities vary depending on where they live. Drawing on more than 160 measures, the report examines inequalities across poverty, education, health, housing, community safety, youth services and children's participation in decision-making.

The report provides valuable insight for professionals working across safeguarding, youth justice and early intervention, and highlights the importance of addressing place-based inequalities to improve outcomes for children and young people.

Read the report here.

For further youth justice news, research, events and policy updates, colleagues may also wish to subscribe to the Alliance for Youth Justice monthly bulletin.



Visit liia.london to learn more

UPDATES FROM PARTNERS

VRU Update - September 2026

This edition shares the latest updates from London's Violence Reduction Unit, including new investment in community safety, education, youth services and online harms prevention, alongside evidence of the continuing impact of violence reduction programmes across London

Highlights include:

- The VRU's Digital Safety Programme continues to expand, with new training, local authority pilots and digital youth work initiatives designed to strengthen responses to online harms affecting children and young people.
- New community safety initiatives are underway, including the Reducing Robbery Programme in 14 boroughs, continued investment through MyEnds partnerships, and pilots testing responses to online harms and technology-facilitated abuse.
- New education and prevention programmes include a Harmful Sexual Behaviour in Schools pilot, expanded mentoring support for young people in alternative provision and pupil referral units, and the development of a new service focused on identity, belonging and healthy relationships.



MOPAC Update - September 2026

The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) has published its latest partner update, highlighting a range of developments across violence reduction, victim support, policing and safeguarding. Key updates include the launch of the refreshed Mayor's Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2026-2029, alongside new investment and programmes designed to strengthen support for victims and survivors across London.

Highlights include:

- Launch of the refreshed Mayor's Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2026-2029, setting out London's approach to preventing violence against women and girls and improving support for victims and survivors.
- Development of a new London-wide service to tackle technology-facilitated violence against women and girls, including dedicated support pathways for children and young people and the professionals who work with them.
- Continued work to strengthen a 'child first' approach within policing, focusing on safeguarding, collaboration, diversion from the criminal justice system and reducing stigma for children and young people. The approach was informed by engagement with statutory and voluntary sector partners and more than 100 young Londoners



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TRUSTED YOUTH ALLIES TRAINING

MOPAC | MAYOR OF LONDON OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME

London Youth

London Youth is currently delivering Trusted Youth Allies, a new programme commissioned by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) .

As part of MOPAC's statutory responsibility to ensure support is available for victims of crime in London. This initiative is designed to train trusted adults, those who may receive disclosures from young people affected by crime, particularly when those young people choose not to report incidents to the police. Helping them gain confidence, knowledge, and tools to support young victims of crime (aged 7-25) in a trauma-informed and empathetic way.

The programme offer is a free, 3.5-hour workshops and digital resources aimed at enhancing the way professionals and volunteers engage with young people who may be at risk or have been affected by crime.
Click here to book your place.

Key elements include:

- **Skills development** - Practical training to strengthen communication, relationships, and trauma-informed responses.
- **Community connection** - Opportunities to engage with a wider network of youth groups, and local ground root services.
- **Ongoing support** - Access to digital resources and tools to use in day-to-day practice as well as signposting agencies within the Young Londoners Victim Service.

Individuals can sign up for a range of open training opportunities or tailored in-house training where it can be delivered to your networks at a date and location that works best for you - this can be booked on this **form**, or directly with Victoria at **Victoria.Ebun@londonyouth.org.**

IMPROVING SUPPORT FOR GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN: CONSULTATION OPPORTUNITY

Research in Practice is inviting London-based professionals to take part in Round 2 of a MOPAC-commissioned project exploring how systems identify and respond to girls and young women affected by violence, exploitation and groups / 'gangs'.

Building on research evidence, the experiences of girls and young women, and insights gathered from professionals in Round 1, Research in Practice has developed proposed outputs to support improved identification and response. This second round of consultation will help test and refine these outputs, exploring whether they are accessible, practical and useful across different professional contexts.

Research in Practice welcomes contributions from professionals working across social care, policing, youth justice, health, education and the voluntary and community sector, including those in delivery, operational and strategic roles. Previous participation in Round 1 is not required.

Date and Time: 24th November 2026
Time: 10:00am to 12:00 noon

Click here to register.

Find out more about the project here: **Improving support for girls and young women impacted by gangs, violence and exploitation: Risk and Needs Framework**

MOPAC | MAYOR OF LONDON OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME

research in practice

Visit liia.london to learn more

THE INQUEST: A NEW PRODUCTION FROM THE BIG HOUSE

The Big House is an arts charity working with care-affected and justice-involved young people in London.

The Big House is staging The Inquest, which is about the systemic fractures which occur when a young person turns 18. The work has been created in dialogue with INQUEST, the UK's leading charity specialising in state-related deaths, and developed and performed by the young people of our Open House Project 2026.

This brand-new play asks: how do young people fall through the gaps between services at the moment they need them most? And who is held to account when they do?

The Inquest
25th November - 19th December 2026 | 7.00 pm (Doors open 6pm)
The Big House
151 Englefield Road
N1 3LH

Tickets:
https://www.ticketsource.com/thebighouse/the-inquest/e-zpgkyp

David is a foster father fighting for accountability. Three years ago, his son Jordan took his own life shortly after aging out of care. Now, in the Coroner's Court, David discovers that a father's love carries no authority against the hurdles of judicial procedure. In a promenade staging, the audience moves from room to room as the case unfolds around them.

The Inquest runs for 140 minutes, including an interval. It deals with suicide, mental health and bereavement, and is suitable for ages 16+. Please wear comfortable shoes, as the audience moves through the building.



Visit liia.london to learn more

MEMBERS AREA ACCESS

As always, you can click here to register for access to our dedicated Members Areas.

GET IN TOUCH

Please visit our website: liia.london for more detailed information on each of the ALDCS priorities, or contact the team directly to discuss anything in greater detail.

Please let us know your feedback on this newsletter via email so we can keep improving future editions.

If you would like to be added to the main LIIA newsletter circulation list please contact: liiateam@londoncouncils.gov.uk

THANKS FOR READING!

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