



The Association of London Directors of Children's Services (ALDCS) & the London Innovation and Improvement Alliance (Liia) Children's Summit 2023

'Together for London's Children'



Thank You & Event Resources

13th February 2022

Dear Colleague,

Thank you for coming to the LIIA / ALDCS 'Together for London's Children' Summit 2023 last week. It was great to have you with us and have the opportunity to meet the leaders of London's children's services. Enclosed is a short synopsis of the event plus a few key points and messages that came from the main talks and workshops – if you have anything you'd like to share with us then please do get in touch with one of the team (you'll find all contact details on the last page of this document), we'd love to hear from you!

A special thanks to our brilliant speakers and panel members who informed and inspired us across the range of topics we had the opportunity to address together. Your presence and contributions were integral to making it a successful day, and all reflections and suggestions will be incorporated into our development of next steps.

The Summit heard from national government, from partners and different parts of our local authorities. In setting out the government's Care Review Implementation plans, Susan Acland-Hood, Permanent Secretary, Department for Education reminded us that **"leaders are dealers in hope"** who need to come together to deliver the plan for children: **"it's just a piece of paper, now we have to make it happen."**

In speaking of this collective responsibility, our key note speaker Martin Griffith's Consultant Trauma Surgeon and National Lead for NHS Violence Reduction Programme reminded us all that **"we are here to be humble, to listen [...] and to remember when we were younger, we had passion, we asked questions and we listened to the answers."**

We hope you found the event valuable and were able to cement both existing and new relationships across the morning to further support and drive our collaborative efforts for London's children. We would be incredibly grateful if you could share your event feedback with us if you have not already done so – you can do this by scanning the QR code printed at the end of this pack, which will take you straight to our online feedback form.

Thanks again for a great summit; I look forward to seeing you all again very soon!

Kind regards,

Ben Byrne
Strategic Lead - LIIA



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Reflections from Speakers



“Hope is not enough - we must use all of our learning to make things better.”

CLlr Ian Edwards – Leader London Borough of Hillingdon and London Councils Executive Lead for Schools and Children’s Services

“We all carry the responsibility of joy for the young people of this city. Let’s dig in and change London.”

Martin Griffiths – Consultant Trauma Surgeon and National Lead for NHS Violence Reduction Programme

“Our political context drives success and allows innovation.”

Martin Pratt - Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director for Families LB Camden and ALDCS Chair

“The power of education remains the catalyst for the change we need.”

Ade Adetosoye - Chief Executive of the London Borough Bromley, Chief Executive Lead Adviser for Children Services

[Click here to view the main event slides](#)



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Workshop 1 Summary: Young People



“Wisdom comes with experience, not age.”

- Louise Foyle, Development Officer with the Children in Care Council

Key Messages:

- ***Equity is an issue – we need to think about all care leavers from London. Or indeed, all care leavers in London.***
- ***Broaden Corporate Parenting Boards to include our partners.***
- ***How do we deal with the exploiters? So much focus on the child, we need a whole system approach to exploiters.***
- ***Can we create a child-friendly London? A mechanism to draw partners in. A framework to amplify childhood.***
- ***Great to see a pan-London offer, we need to keep building this!***

[Click here to view the workshop slides](#)

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Workshop 2 Summary: Resources & Commissioning



“Risk sharing and a brave redirection of resources are critical.”

- Chris Munday, ALDCS Lead for Resources and Sustainability and DCS, London Borough of Barnet

Key Messages:

- Address children’s needs earlier through brave re-direction of resources to improve value for money and deliver better outcomes
- Risk sharing and political ownership are key to success, across local authorities and with partners
- Strong relationships with shared understanding and language is the foundation for success
- Strengthen understanding through data sharing, aligned commissioning cycles and joint outcomes
- Market development and new local authority/partner provision across London to address gaps

[Click here to view the workshop slides](#)

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Workshop 3 Summary: Workforce



“Nothing happens without our workforce.”

- Cllr Ian Edwards – Leader London Borough of Hillingdon and London Councils Executive Lead for Schools and Children’s Services

Key Messages:

- Young people coming into the workforce are not looking for the same things that previous generations did, we must be creative in attracting and retaining talent.
- Can we develop a collaborative ‘London Offer’ that goes further, a ‘Workforce Compact’ for staff?
- Our reliance on agency staff is a symptom and not a cause. We must address the root cause issues together. Children need a permanent and stable workforce.
- Racism is real. We must walk the difficult path, be authentic, credible and intentional about inclusion and equity. ‘Not shoes for all, but shoes that fit for all’.
- How do we use London’s collective buying power to address housing and travel pressures for our workforce? We want people to work in London, but we also want them to stay.
- Can we achieve true consistency? Our different structures, job titles, pay and benefits for permanent staff weakens recruiting power and incites competition between us.
- Great to see London’s voice influencing national progress, how do we keep doing this across other priorities?

[Click here to view the workshop slides](#)

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Thanks for coming to our event; we welcome your feedback!

ALDCS Summit Feedback and
Comment Form (Anonymous)



Get in touch: LIATeam@londoncouncils.gov.uk

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