
A Review of Commissioning Arrangements for Looked After Children in London

The Association of London Directors of Children's Services (ALDCS) through London Councils has asked the [Institute of Public Care](#) (IPC) at Oxford Brookes University to conduct a review of the arrangements for commissioning fostering and residential care placements operating in London. The purpose of the review is to explore ways of improving the current system and practices.

Local authorities in London have developed various collaborative arrangements to commission placements for children in their care. ALDCS is seeking a better understanding of the different arrangements in London. They are particularly interested in how the different arrangements operate, the links between them, benefits and challenges, and the cumulative impact those arrangements have on effective commissioning and market development.

The review will address the following questions:

- What is the role and function of all commissioning arrangements in London?
- What are the links between the different commissioning arrangements?
- Are they operating in a complementary or competing way?
- What are the gaps between the arrangements and opportunities for potential alignments?
- How do the different arrangements achieve effective commissioning and best value for local government in London?
- What recommendations and advice can be provided to support the work of consortia in delivering effective commissioning?

IPC will work with colleagues in all authorities and commissioning consortia in London as well as service providers to undertake the review. This work will start in February through to March 2018 with a request for information, followed by interviews with commissioners and providers, then co-producing and testing recommendations in April. A questionnaire will be sent out to enable the widest possible level of feedback and reflections on the key issues that we need to consider. This will be supplemented by interviews and focus groups with a range of stakeholders to enable a more in-depth understanding of the systems used to identify and match placements tailored to the needs of a child.

How can I get involved?

- **Respond to our request for information** and/or volunteer to be interviewed. We will contact authorities and consortia to ask for information. We will also want to talk to a sample of officers, including commissioners and front line staff. Please let us know *who* in your authority or consortia is the best person for us to contact initially; please contact [Fiona Richardson](#) at IPC.

-
- **Take part in our survey** and/or volunteer to be interviewed. If you are a provider registered with London Care Services (LCS) we will ask you to take part in an online survey. In the survey we will ask you if you would be willing to talk to us.
 - **Attend the LCS Borough Officer Meetings.** We will be using these meetings, in February and April, to discuss the review questions above.

We hope that you will support this key piece of work. We recognise that you are busy, but would ask that you invest the time needed to help us understand the context within which you work and to identify ways to make improvements.

If you have any questions about the review please contact [Fiona Richardson](mailto:frichardson@brookes.ac.uk) (frichardson@brookes.ac.uk or 01225 484088) or [Cristina de Paiva-Brooker](mailto:cristina.depaiva-brooker@londoncouncils.gov.uk) (cristina.depaiva-brooker@londoncouncils.gov.uk or 020 7934 9676).