

Child Q - Special Joint Scrutiny (Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission and Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission)

All Members of the Joint meeting of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission and Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission are requested to attend the meeting of the Commission to be held as follows

Monday 13 June 2022

7.00 pm

Council Chamber, Hackney Town Hall, Mare Street, London E8 1EA

This meeting can be viewed live (or replayed) via the following link:

<https://youtu.be/TvyF1O1bH7c>

A back up link is provided below in the event of technical difficulties:

<https://youtu.be/zvQsrJXu8uk>

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Mark Carroll

Chief Executive, London Borough of Hackney

Members: Cllr Soraya Adejare (Chair), Cllr Alastair Binnie-Lubbock, Cllr Sophie Conway (Chair), Cllr Zoe Garbett, Cllr Margaret Gordon (Vice-Chair), Cllr Clare Joseph (Vice-Chair), Cllr Lee Laudat-Scott, Cllr Joseph Ogundemuren, Cllr M Can Ozsen, Cllr Sam Pallis, Cllr Ian Rathbone, Cllr Midnight Ross, Cllr Ali Sadek, Cllr Caroline Selman, Cllr Anya Sizer, Cllr Sheila Suso-Runge, Cllr Lynne Troughton, Cllr Claudia Turbet-Delof, Cllr Penny Wrout and Cllr Sarah Young

Co-optees: Salmah Kansara, Michael Lobenstein, Jo Macleod, Steven Olalere and Ernell Watson

Agenda

ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- 7 Strategic Response of Statutory Partners to Child Q (19.35)** (Pages 9 - 18)

Key statutory bodies have been requested to provide a written briefing in relation to Child Q SCR:



- Initial response and actions taken;
- Identify lessons learnt and identified priorities for change;
- Those actions taken (or planned) to engage, involve and reassure the local community and other local stakeholders.

Speakers:

- Metropolitan Police – report attached
- London Borough of Hackney – report attached
- The Mayor’s Office for Policing & Crime (MOPAC)
– **REPORT TO FOLLOW**

(60 mins: 5 min summary presentation for each partner,
45 min Q & A)

Access and Information

Public Involvement and Recording

Public Attendance at the Town Hall for Meetings

Scrutiny meetings are held in public, rather than being public meetings. This means that whilst residents and press are welcome to attend, they can only ask questions at the discretion of the Chair. For further information relating to public access to information, please see Part 4 of the council's constitution, available at <https://hackney.gov.uk/council-business> or by contacting Governance Services (020 8356 3503)

Following the lifting of all Covid-19 restrictions by the Government and the Council updating its assessment of access to its buildings, the Town Hall is now open to the public and members of the public may attend meetings of the Council.

We recognise, however, that you may find it more convenient to observe the meeting via the live-stream facility, the link for which appears on the agenda front sheet.

We would ask that if you have either tested positive for Covid-19 or have any symptoms that you do not attend the meeting, but rather use the livestream facility. If this applies and you are attending the meeting to ask a question, make a deputation or present a petition then you may contact the Officer named at the beginning of the agenda and they will be able to make arrangements for the Chair of the meeting to ask the question, make the deputation or present the petition on your behalf.

The Council will continue to ensure that access to our meetings is in line with any Covid-19 restrictions that may be in force from time to time and also in line with public health advice. The latest general advice can be found here - <https://hackney.gov.uk/coronavirus-support>

Rights of Press and Public to Report on Meetings

Where a meeting of the Council and its committees are open to the public, the press and public are welcome to report on meetings of the Council and its committees, through any audio, visual or written methods and may use digital and social media providing they do not disturb the conduct of the meeting and providing that the person reporting or providing the commentary is present at the meeting.

Those wishing to film, photograph or audio record a meeting are asked to notify the Council's Monitoring Officer by noon on the day of the meeting, if possible, or any time prior to the start of the meeting or notify the Chair at the start of the meeting.

The Monitoring Officer, or the Chair of the meeting, may designate a set area from which all recording must take place at a meeting.

The Council will endeavour to provide reasonable space and seating to view, hear and record the meeting. If those intending to record a meeting require any other reasonable facilities, notice should be given to the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting and will only be provided if practicable to do so.

The Chair shall have discretion to regulate the behaviour of all those present recording a meeting in the interests of the efficient conduct of the meeting. Anyone acting in a disruptive manner may be required by the Chair to cease recording or may be excluded from the meeting.

Disruptive behaviour may include moving from any designated recording area; causing excessive noise; intrusive lighting; interrupting the meeting; or filming members of the public who have asked not to be filmed.

All those visually recording a meeting are requested to only focus on recording Councillors, officers and the public who are directly involved in the conduct of the meeting. The Chair of the meeting will ask any members of the public present if they have objections to being visually recorded. Those visually recording a meeting are asked to respect the wishes of those who do not wish to be filmed or photographed. Failure by someone recording a meeting to respect the wishes of those who do not wish to be filmed and photographed may result in the Chair instructing them to cease recording or in their exclusion from the meeting.

If a meeting passes a motion to exclude the press and public then in order to consider confidential or exempt information, all recording must cease, and all recording equipment must be removed from the meeting. The press and public are not permitted to use any means which might enable them to see or hear the proceedings whilst they are excluded from a meeting and confidential or exempt information is under consideration.

Providing oral commentary during a meeting is not permitted.

Advice to Members on Declaring Interests

Advice to Members on Declaring Interests

Hackney Council's Code of Conduct applies to all Members of the Council, the Mayor and co-opted Members.

This note is intended to provide general guidance for Members on declaring interests. However, you may need to obtain specific advice on whether you have an interest in a particular matter. If you need advice, you can contact:

- Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services
- the Legal Adviser to the Committee; or
- Governance Services.

If at all possible, you should try to identify any potential interest you may have before the meeting so that you and the person you ask for advice can fully consider all the circumstances before reaching a conclusion on what action you should take.

You will have a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter if it:

- i. relates to an interest that you have already registered in Parts A and C of the Register of Pecuniary Interests of you or your spouse/civil partner, or anyone living with you as if they were your spouse/civil partner;
- ii. relates to an interest that should be registered in Parts A and C of the Register of Pecuniary Interests of your spouse/civil partner, or anyone living with you as if they were your spouse/civil partner, but you have not yet done so; or
- iii. affects your well-being or financial position or that of your spouse/civil partner, or anyone living with you as if they were your spouse/civil partner.

If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest in an item on the agenda you must:

- i. Declare the existence and nature of the interest (in relation to the relevant agenda item) as soon as it becomes apparent to you (subject to the rules regarding sensitive interests).
- ii. You must leave the meeting when the item in which you have an interest is being discussed. You cannot stay in the meeting whilst discussion of the item takes place, and you cannot vote on the matter. In addition, you must not seek to improperly influence the decision.
- iii. If you have, however, obtained dispensation from the Monitoring Officer or Standards Committee you may remain in the meeting and participate in the meeting. If dispensation has been granted it will stipulate the extent of your involvement, such as whether you can only be present to make

representations, provide evidence or whether you are able to fully participate and vote on the matter in which you have a pecuniary interest.

Do you have any other non-pecuniary interest on any matter on the agenda which is being considered at the meeting?

You will have 'other non-pecuniary interest' in a matter if:

- i. It relates to an external body that you have been appointed to as a Member or in another capacity; or
- ii. It relates to an organisation or individual which you have actively engaged in supporting.

If you have other non-pecuniary interest in an item on the agenda you must:

- i. Declare the existence and nature of the interest (in relation to the relevant agenda item) as soon as it becomes apparent to you.
- ii. You may remain in the meeting, participate in any discussion or vote provided that contractual, financial, consent, permission or licence matters are not under consideration relating to the item in which you have an interest.
- iii. If you have an interest in a contractual, financial, consent, permission, or licence matter under consideration, you must leave the meeting unless you have obtained a dispensation from the Monitoring Officer or Standards Committee. You cannot stay in the meeting whilst discussion of the item takes place, and you cannot vote on the matter. In addition, you must not seek to improperly influence the decision. Where members of the public are allowed to make representations, or to give evidence or answer questions about the matter you may, with the permission of the meeting, speak on a matter then leave the meeting. Once you have finished making your representation, you must leave the meeting whilst the matter is being discussed.
- iv. If you have been granted dispensation, in accordance with the Council's dispensation procedure you may remain in the meeting. If dispensation has been granted it will stipulate the extent of your involvement, such as whether you can only be present to make representations, provide evidence or whether you are able to fully participate and vote on the matter in which you have a non-pecuniary interest.

Further Information

Advice can be obtained from Dawn Carter-McDonald, Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services via email dawn.carter-mcdonald@hackney.gov.uk

Getting to the Town Hall

For a map of how to find the Town Hall, please visit the council's website <http://www.hackney.gov.uk/contact-us.htm> or contact the Overview and Scrutiny Officer using the details provided on the front cover of this agenda.

Accessibility

There are public toilets available, with wheelchair access, on the ground floor of the Town Hall.

Induction loop facilities are available in the Assembly Halls and the Council Chamber. Access for people with mobility difficulties can be obtained through the ramp on the side to the main Town Hall entrance.

Further Information about the Commission

If you would like any more information about the Scrutiny Commission, including the membership details, meeting dates and previous reviews, please visit the website or use this QR Code (accessible via phone or tablet 'app')

[Child Q - Special Joint Scrutiny](#)



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<p>Special Joint Scrutiny of Child Q</p> <p>June 13th 2022</p> <p>Item 7 - Strategic Response to Child Q Serious Case Review</p>	<p>Item No</p> <p>7</p>
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Outline

Key statutory bodies (Metropolitan Police, London Borough of Hackney, Mayors Office for Policing and Crime) have been requested to set out their response to the Child Q Serious Case Review in relation to:

- The Initial response and actions taken;
- Lessons learnt and identified priorities for future
- Actions taken (or planned) to engage, involve and reassure the local community and other stakeholders.

Attachments

- Briefings from:
 - (i) Metropolitan Police
 - (ii) London Borough of Hackney and
 - (iii) Mayors Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) (***ATTACHED***)

Representing Metropolitan Police - Met HQ & Central East Borough Command Unit

- Borough Commander Marcus Barnett CE-CU
- Area Commander Paul Brogden - Frontline Policing MET Headquarters
- Detective Superintendent Adam Ghaboos - CE-CU
- Chief Inspector Singh Lucky L - CE-CU

Representing London Borough of Hackney

- Mark Carroll, Chief Executive, Hackney Council
- Jacquie Burke, Group Director Children and Education
- Annie Gammon, Director of Education
- Sonia Khan, Head of Policy & Strategic Delivery
- Mayor Phillp Glanville
- Cllr Susan Fajana Thomas, Cabinet Lead for Community Safety
- Cllr Anntionette Bramble, Cabinet Lead for Education & Children's Social Care

Attending Mayors Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC)

- Kenny Bowie, Director of Strategy & MPS Oversight

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Joint Living in Hackney and Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission Meeting Monday 13th June 2022

Introduction

This document provides background material for the Scrutiny Commission meeting taking place on 13th June 2022. It sets out the role of the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) in overseeing the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and details our response to the Local Safeguarding Practice Review - Child Q.

Role of MOPAC

Oversight of police services in the United Kingdom is delivered through a system of elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC). In London the Office of the PCC is held by the Mayor of London.

The Mayor of London is required by law to produce a plan that explains how the police, community safety partners and other criminal justice agencies will work together to reduce crime.

The Police and Crime Plan reflects the Mayor's manifesto and priorities for making London a safer city for all Londoners and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) is the strategic oversight body tasked with devising the Police and Crime Plan and ensuring that it is delivered over the Mayor's term in office. (*Three years - due to COVID delaying the election the term was reduced to three years*).

<https://www.london.gov.uk/publications/building-safer-london>

MOPAC is led on a day-to-day basis by a Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC), Sophie Linden, who is accountable to the Mayor for:

- the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan;
- for ensuring oversight of the police; and
- driving effective criminal justice and crime reduction services across London.

Operational policing decisions remain the responsibility of the police, not the Mayor. This is an important principle of the UK system of policing.

Oversight of the MPS

The Mayor, through MOPAC, oversees the work of the MPS and holds the Commissioner to account on behalf of Londoners. This means ensuring the MPS is effective in its work, has the confidence of Londoners and that it is efficient in the use of its budget.

This is achieved through formalised oversight meetings that allow the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime to hold the MPS to account.

The Oversight Board, chaired by the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, oversees the development of key strategies and the most significant issues which arise from them; those strategies being primarily:

- The Police and Crime Plan
- The budget and medium-term financial strategy
- The MPS's business plan to deliver service, including the transformation programme, as well as digital, workforce and estate plans.

The Oversight Board is responsible for:

- Oversight of efficiency and effectiveness
- Scrutinising MPS delivery against the Police and Crime Plan on behalf of the Mayor, and performance against agreed priorities
- Undertaking, at the request of the DMPC, assurance on key priorities and specific issues of concern to the public and Police and Crime Plan.

Any significant policing issues are discussed at the Board and extraordinary meetings can be called should there be a requirement. Police performance is considered at every meeting and some areas, such as use of force, are subject to an annual focussed 'deep dive' review. The MPS's use of strip searching and use of force were most recently considered by the Oversight Board in April 2022

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor meet regularly with the Commissioner and senior police officers to discuss policing in London. This includes any serious issues that are impacting communities. Through these meetings the Commissioner and MPS senior team can be held to account for matters relevant to Londoners.

More detail and minutes from each of the oversight meetings can be found through the following link. <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/governance-and-decision-making/oversight-board>

MOPAC also operates the largest Independent Custody Visiting (ICV) Scheme in the United Kingdom, which enables trained members of the public to visit detainees in police custody unannounced to ensure their welfare, rights and entitlements are being upheld. MOPAC ICVs pay particular attention to the use of force and strip searching, and to the experience of vulnerable detainees, including children. They report their findings and these are collated by MOPAC to inform our oversight of the MPS, concerns about the use of strip searching have been identified and escalated through this route.

MOPAC has a highly skilled and experienced Evidence and Insight team who conduct detailed data analysis, research and evaluations. MOPAC's formal oversight is underpinned by regular monitoring and examination of a variety of policing and crime data, which aids our understanding of police performance, service user satisfaction and public attitudes towards the MPS. This enables the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to hold the MPS to account on behalf of Londoners.

To aid transparency and accountability, a variety of data is published on the MOPAC website and can be found here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/data-and-statistics/policing/action-plan-dashboard-general-stats> - <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/data-and-statistics>

Strategic Response to Child Q Serious Case Review

Strip searching has been considered as part of our ongoing oversight of the MPS and more recently MOPAC has been working closely with the MPS to ensure the deep concerns arising from the case of Child Q are listened to and that appropriate action is taken. A recent inspection report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Constabulary Fire and Rescue Services had also raised concerns about the volume and disproportionality (in terms of ethnicity and age) of strip searches in custody making this work pertinent and relevant across policing at a national level.

As soon as the Mayor was made aware of the case of Child Q, a number of immediate steps were taken:

- The Mayor asked the Commissioner for a full account of what happened in this case and what actions the MPS have taken since to ensure officers are aware of their duties and responsibilities and are accountable for their actions. *The Mayor's full statement in response to Child Q can be found at Appendix A.*
- The Mayor wrote to the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) raising his concerns that they take the safeguarding report into account when considering whether to lay misconduct or gross misconduct charges against the officers. The IOPC have now confirmed that they will seek gross misconduct charges.
- The MPS's response to the outcome of the Child Q safeguarding review was put on the agenda for the April 2022 meeting of the MOPAC-MPS Oversight Board. This was to ensure the learning has been effectively captured and to provide assurance that the MPS is taking the necessary steps to ensure this cannot happen again and to rebuild trust that has been damaged right across London and not just in Hackney.
- The case of Child Q was also considered at the MOPAC Disproportionality Board that brings criminal justice (CJS) partner together to tackle disproportionality across the system. The purpose for doing so was to collectively consider good practice in dealing with children in the CJS, to

better understand how adultification bias might be presenting in other parts of the system and how organisations are/should respond to this particular concern. Partners also discussed what relevant data they are collecting that might be included in the MOPAC Action Plan Dashboard to maximise transparency and accountability to Londoners.

- The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime wrote to the Chief Executive of the London Safeguarding Children's Partnership seeking assurance that the learning from this case is recognised and effectively disseminated across the capital. The Partnership convened a meeting to discuss and confirmed their commitment to working together to ensure the learning is implemented across educational establishments.
- The role of the MOPAC's Independent Custody Visitors who visit police detainees in custody and monitor issues such as the use of strip searching, was reaffirmed to ensure they pay attention to the use of strip searching, particularly involving children, during their custody visits.

As a result of the above and a review by the MPS which looked specifically at this case and the wider impact it has across London, the following arrangements have been put in place:

- MOPAC will hold the MPS to account for delivery against their action plan in response to Child Q which examines not just this individual case but the how the MPS work to respond to the pan-London issues raised. This will take place through the Oversight Board and regular meetings with senior officers.
- London wide MPS data on strip searching will be routinely published to enable transparency and accountability.
- Strip searching will be the subject of an annual deep dive at MOPAC-MPS Oversight Board.
- The Intimate Searches Policy, which applies to all officers and governs the use of strip searching, has been reviewed and will include a requirement for more senior authority before one is conducted and the completion of a safeguarding report in each case.
- To ensure front-line officers understand their role and potential for bias, a new pilot training package on racial bias and adultification has been developed by Hackney Children's Safeguarding Partnership, as part of the compulsory training received by officers in Hackney. The MPS hope to roll out similar training to all frontline officers across the organisation in partnership with other public and community sector experts.

Mayor's Action Plan for Transparency, Accountability and Trust in Policing

[The Mayor's Action Plan](#) (the Action Plan) has been developed with communities to address community concerns, particularly from Black Londoners, about disproportionality in the use of certain police powers including stop and search, the use of force and taser. It contains real, measurable and practical steps for improving trust and confidence in our police, developed in partnership with communities.

The Action Plan predates the case of Child Q but focuses on the areas listed below, which are relevant to the concerns arising from the case of Child Q:

- better use of police powers
- Working together to make Black communities safer
- A police service that represents and understands Black communities
- Holding the Police to account for what they do.

Key areas of work within the Action Plan:

The Action Plan identified legitimate concerns about the impact of Safer Schools Officers on children, despite our survey work indicating that many parents and wider community members support their existence. These concerns have been amplified as a result of the case of Child Q and are already being addressed as part of the Mayor's Action Plan. The MPS has been tasked to conduct a review of the role of Safer Schools Officers to ensure their work has no disproportionate impact on Black students. The MPS is due to publish a report on this work shortly.

MOPAC is working with community leaders and young people across several pilot areas in London to develop a new scrutiny framework so that local communities – and especially those most affected by stop and search and policing - can effectively hold local police to account. A vital component of this work is that the outcomes of this scrutiny are transparent, accessible and meaningful. This work is built on months of consultation during which the ideas and experiences of young people and youth leaders directly informed the delivery of this work.

MOPAC have also commissioned a Black-led community organisation to undertake a much wider and more in-depth co-production programme with communities across London to determine what the future of local community-police engagement should look like. It will also examine how under-represented communities can take a more active role in leading this work to improve trust and confidence between communities and the police.

Learning and development are important factors in building positive culture and attitudes within the MPS. MOPAC has invested in community-led training and familiarisation programmes for officers, with expert community organisations and those with lived experience of over-policing embedded in officer training. A pilot is also underway with over 200 officers across different teams with a focus on delivering stop and search cultural equity workshops.

MOPAC has expanded the role of Independent Custody Visitors in London through a new process enabling ICVs to look through complete custody records. These records detail the detainee's full journey through custody, helping to reveal issues and challenges that previously were not identified.

For further information, updates and opportunities to get involved in our work to build trust and confidence in the MPS, please contact:
communityengagement@mopac.london.gov.uk

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Appendix A – Press Release in response to Child Q

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, said: “I am disgusted and angered by the account of what a 15 year old black schoolgirl from Hackney was subjected to. The investigation by City & Hackney safeguarding board found that racism likely played a part in the decision to conduct the strip search, which has understandably been extremely traumatic for the child and her family. Now we have this new report I have written to the IOPC asking them to look at it as a case of gross misconduct by the officers involved. At a time when confidence in our police is almost at an all time low, I lost confidence in the Commissioner and am determined that the next Commissioner must have a plan to tackle the serious cultural issues within the Met Police and regain the trust of Londoners.”

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