

Overview & Scrutiny

Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission

All Members of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission are requested to attend the meeting of the Commission to be held as follows:

Thursday 30 November 2023

7.00 pm

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

The press and members of the public are welcome to join this meeting in person (noting the guidance below) or remotely via the following link:

<https://youtube.com/live/vIW4hPasE3Y>

A back up link is provided below in case of technical difficulties.

https://youtube.com/live/m_IUu6-QU40

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Dawn Carter-McDonald

Interim Chief Executive, London Borough of Hackney

Members: Cllr Sophie Conway (Chair), Cllr Margaret Gordon (Vice-Chair), Cllr Alastair Binnie-Lubbock, Cllr Eluzer Goldberg, Cllr Lee Laudat-Scott, Cllr Midnight Ross, Cllr Ifraax Samatar, Cllr Anya Sizer, Cllr Sheila Suso-Runge, Cllr Lynne Troughton and Cllr Sarah Young

Co-optees: Andy English, Jo Macleod, Chanelle Paul, Mariya Bham and Marianne Chiromo.

Agenda

ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- 1 Apologies for Absence**
- 2 Urgent Items / Order of Business**
- 3 Declarations of Interest**
- 4 Pupil Movement (19.05)** (Pages 9 - 24)
To review the report on all pupil movement in Hackney 2022/23.
- 5 Outcome of School Exclusions (Recommendation Update) (19.55)** (Pages 25 - 40)
To note and assess:
 - The update report on the Commission's Scrutiny Review of '*The Outcome of School Exclusions*';
 - Progress in the development of a local School Inclusion Charter.
- 6 Alternative Provision Strategy (20.40)** (Pages 41 - 50)
To update the Commission on plans to develop a new Alternative Provision Strategy for Hackney.
- 7 Work Programme (21.10)** (Pages 51 - 64)
To review the Commission's work programme for the remainder of 2023/24 and to note roll-over items to 2024/25.
- 8 Minutes of the Previous Meeting** (Pages 65 - 82)
- 9 Any Other Business**
To include updates on children and young people related issues from other scrutiny commissions

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')

<http://www.hackney.gov.uk/individual-scrutiny-commissions-children-and-young-people.htm>



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| Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission November 30th 2023 Item 4 - Pupil Movement | Item No 4 |
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Outline

Following the completion of the review of the [Outcome of School Exclusions](#) in December 2021, the Commission recommended that all pupil movement data is submitted annually to the Commission. This helps the Commission to retain oversight of why pupils may be moving to or from mainstream education, their characteristics and subsequent education destination.

The Commission also reviewed the possible 'off-rolling' of pupils from local mainstream schools in 2019/20, and this annual report also helps to identify local trends and the actions taken by the local authority to address this.

Members are invited to review the report and question officers present.

Reports

- Pupil Movement

Attending for this item:

- Paul Senior, Director of Education and Inclusion
- Donna Thomas, Head of Early Years, Early Help & Wellbeing
- David Court, Interim Assistant Director, School Estate Strategy
- Kate Cracknell, Head of Wellbeing and Education Safeguarding
- Debra Robison, Diversity and Inclusion Systems Leader
- Billy Baker, Lead Officer Pupils Out of School

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Overview & Scrutiny

Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission

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| Date of meeting: 30 November 2023 |
| Title of report: Pupil Movement (2022/23) |
| Report author: Katherine Cracknell, Head of Wellbeing and Education, and David Court, Assistant Director School Estates |
| Authorised by: Paul Senior, Director of Education & Inclusion |
| Brief: <p>This report is to provide the commission with an update on pupil movement.</p> <p>All schools experience pupil movement as children and young people change schools, either as a result of moving into or out of Hackney or a change of school is requested due to parental preference. Hackney Education monitors roll movement and where schools are considered to have above average movement this is explored with the individual school.</p> <p>There is a specific focus on pupils who have left their school for one of the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In-year transfers via admissions and SEND• To elective home education• Been permanently excluded• Been subject to a managed move• As well as those who are classified as children missing education <p>The report will consider those categories and consider those alongside the much greater levels of pupil movement that exists.</p> <p>Finally the report also covers pupils who attend alternative provision. The report covers the period from September 2022 to August 2023.</p> |

Report to the Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission

Report title: Pupil Movement

Meeting date: 30 November 2023

Report originator: David Court and Katherine Cracknell

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. This report will provide Councillors with an overview of pupil movement in Hackney
- 1.2. There is a specific focus on pupils who have left their school for one of the following reasons:
 - 1.2.1. In-year transfers via admissions and SEND
 - 1.2.2. To elective home education
 - 1.2.3. Been permanently excluded
 - 1.2.4. Been subject to a managed move
 - 1.2.5. Are absent from school
 - 1.2.6. As well as those who are classified as children missing education
- 1.3. The report will consider those categories, which are a relatively small cohort of pupils and consider those alongside the much greater levels of pupil movement that exists.
- 1.4. The report will look at the available locally reported data from September 2022 to August 2023. This will provide the commission with an overview of the picture of pupil movement for that academic year.

2. Recommendations

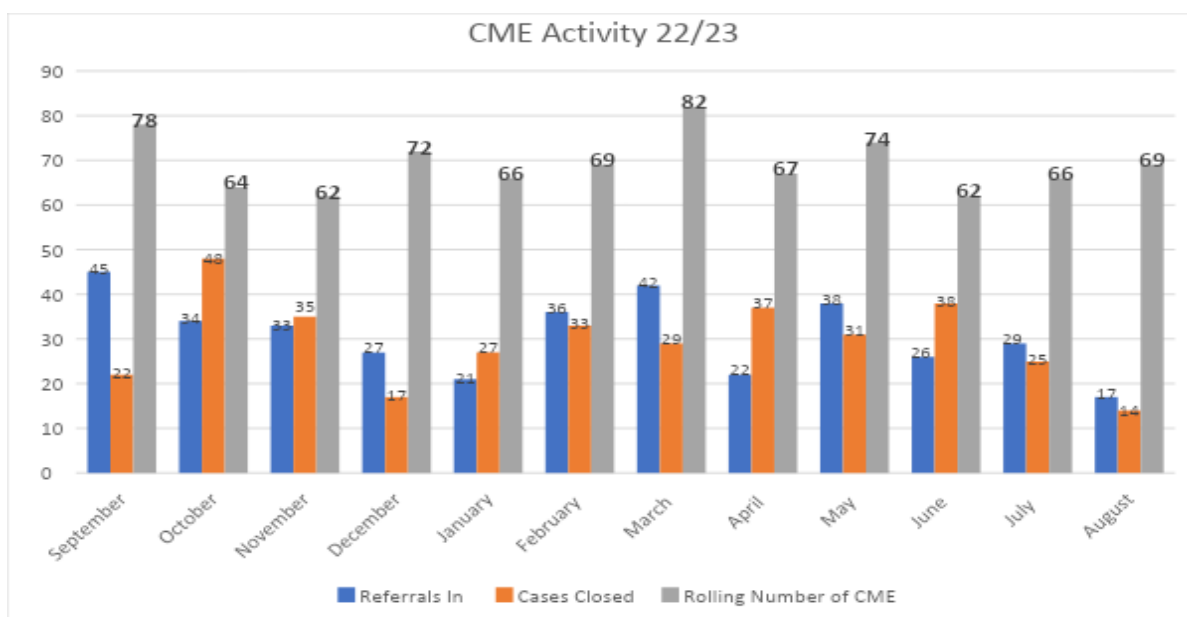
- 2.1. Commission members are asked to note the contents of this report.

3. Pupil movement

- 3.1. All schools in Hackney experience some level of pupil movement during the period under consideration with pupils joining and leaving the school.
- 3.2. The majority of pupil movement relates to pupils:
 - 3.2.1. Moving into Hackney and needing a local school place;
 - 3.2.2. Moving out of Hackney and no longer needing a local school place; or
 - 3.2.3. Parents applying to move from one local school to another.
- 3.3. Within this wider picture of pupil movement it is not always possible to identify a new school for the pupil (i.e. because they have moved abroad) and these children are recorded as Children Missing Education (CME).
- 3.4. In addition there is a small cohort of children and young people who are moving from one school either because they are moving into elective home education, have been permanently excluded or have been subject to a managed move.

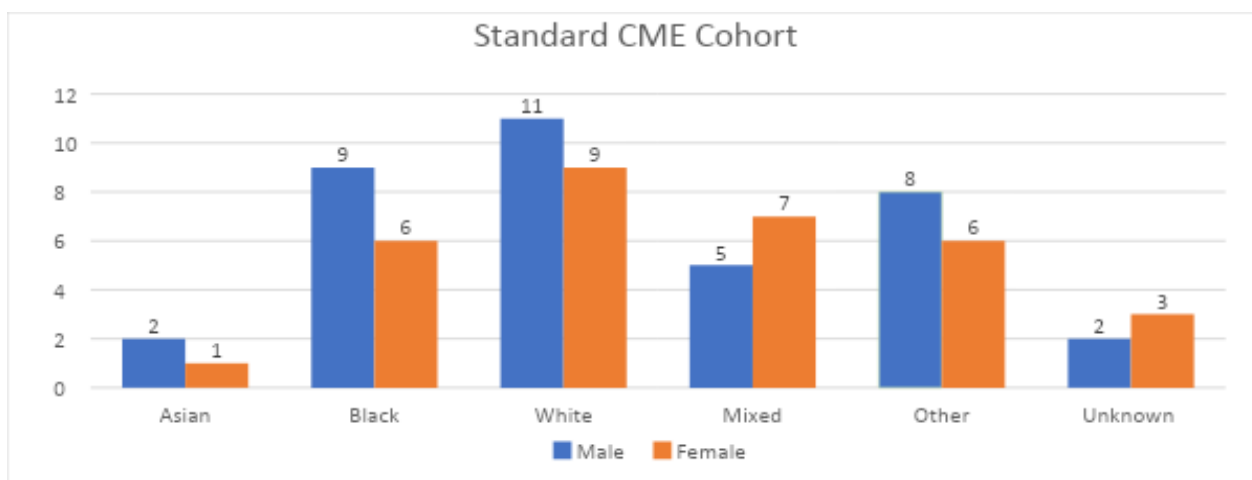
4. Additions/removals from school admission registers and Children Missing Education

- 4.1. Since September 2016, all schools, including academies and independent schools, have been legally required to notify their local authority the details of all pupils who have been either added to or removed from their admission register (this is also known colloquially as the school roll).
- 4.2. Schools are required to notify the local authority within five school days of an addition to the admission register and within one school day of a removal.
- 4.3. Pupils can only lawfully be removed from the admission register on one of the grounds set out in the regulations.
- 4.4. Once a school has added or removed a pupil from the admission register they are required to submit a joiner/leaver report to Hackney School Admissions.
- 4.5. In 2022/23 Hackney school admissions were notified of 4520 children (NC Year R to Year 11) who were deleted from their school admission register via the statutory on/off roll reporting process. This was from all schools, including independent schools. The majority of these were on the grounds that the child was now registered at another school.
- 4.6. If, having undertaken reasonable enquiries, the school does not have a confirmed new school for that pupil they should also submit a Children Missing Education (CME) referral to Hackney’s Pupils Out of School team.
- 4.7. A Child Missing Education is a child of compulsory school age who is not on the admission register of a state funded or independent school and who is also not receiving a suitable education otherwise than at a school.
- 4.8. CME cases typically come into two categories. Those that are open for a relatively short period of time and are closed once the child has been located and a school place confirmed, and those that are long term cases. The latter are typically cases where the child is believed to have gone abroad but we are unable to confirm education arrangements. These are subject to periodic review.
- 4.9. In Hackney we record two categories of children missing education. The first category covers our standard children missing education cohort and the second relates to those from the Charedi community.
- 4.10. The month by month children registered as standard CME cohort is as follows:

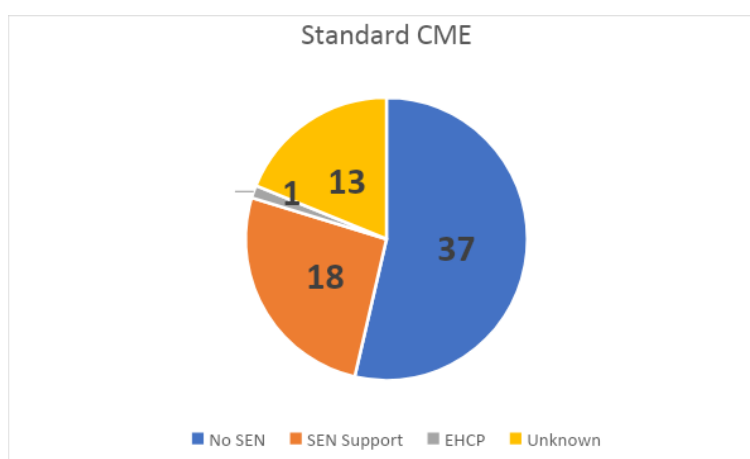


4.11. In August 2023 we had 69 children registered as CME in our standard cohort.

4.12. When broken down by gender and ethnicity this cohort is as follows:



4.13. When the cohort is broken down by SEND status it is as follows:

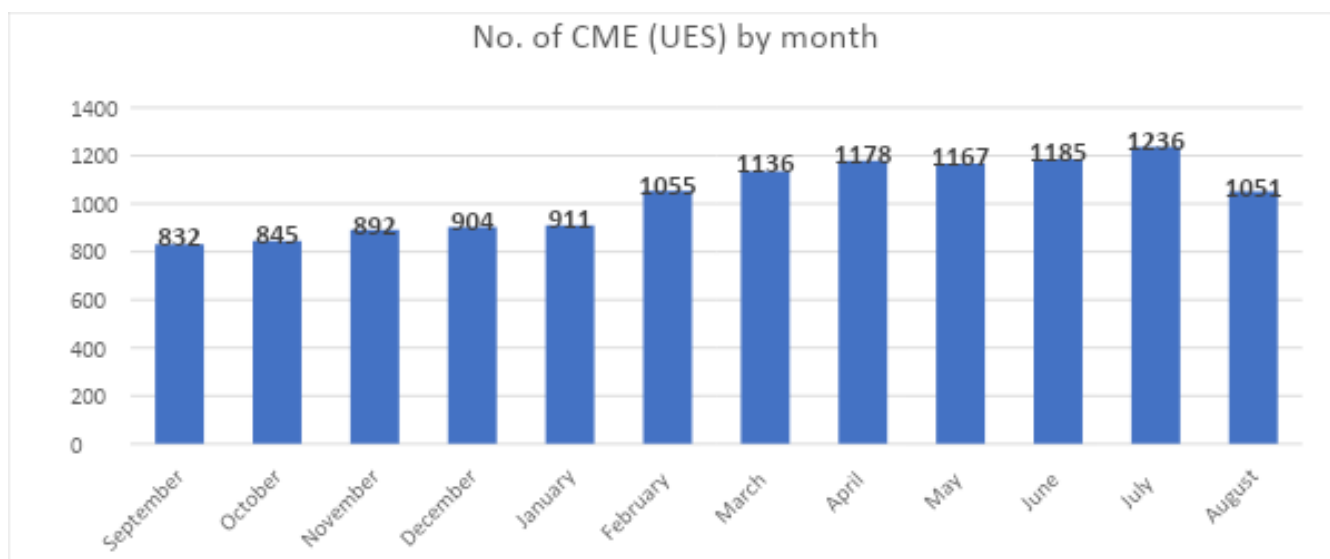


4.14. In addition to regular CME referrals, which relate to children and young people moving into or out of Hackney without a known new school, there is also a sizable cohort of teenage boys from the Charedi community in Hackney who are educated at Yeshivas/Unregistered Settings. These boys leave their registered independent schools at around twelve years old and then attend a setting that has a curriculum that is deemed too narrow to allow classification as a school.

4.15. When asked, parents of children who attend these settings state that they are educating their children otherwise than at school. However the nature of the settings means we are unable to assess the suitability of the child’s education. Department for Education guidance states that in order for education otherwise than at school to be deemed suitable it must contain sufficient secular education. Given we know that Yeshiva’s only provide a narrow faith based education the children attending these settings are therefore classified as children missing education.

4.16. In August 2023 there were 1051 children registered as CME within the Charedi community. These are teenage boys who attend Yeshivas. We do not have information on their SEND status.

4.17. The month by month number of children registered in our UES CME cohort is as follows:



4.18. In addition to the children in this cohort that are known to the Hackney Council there are believed to be further children whose details are not known.

4.19. The commission has previously been updated on unregistered education settings and this cohort continues to present a significant challenge for Hackney Education.

4.20. The school admissions team reminds all schools annually of arrangements for reporting additions and removals to their admissions register and the process for doing so. The most recent occasion was September 2023.

4.21. Hackney Council does not currently have the legal powers to inspect the attendance and admission registers of academies and independent schools, though the Department for Education has proposed changes in this regard.

5. Hackney Education's response to schools with above average roll movement

5.1. The commission has previously recommended that follow up action continues to be taken in respect of schools that have above average levels of roll movement. Roll movement between Years 10 and 11 has previously been highlighted as an area the commission was particularly concerned about.

5.2. Data on Year 10 to 11 roll movement is analysed annually in the Autumn term and schools that have 5% or more roll movement between Year 10 and 11 are subject to further scrutiny by School Improvement Partners in the form of focused meetings with headteachers. In 2022/23 6 schools had roll movement of over 5%.

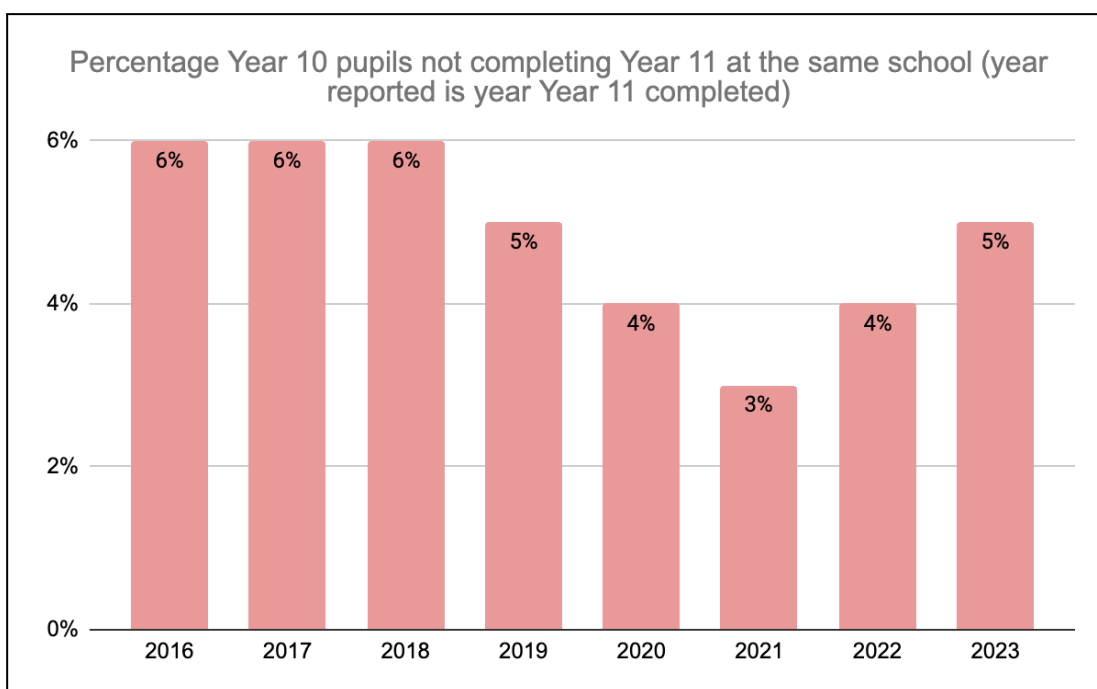
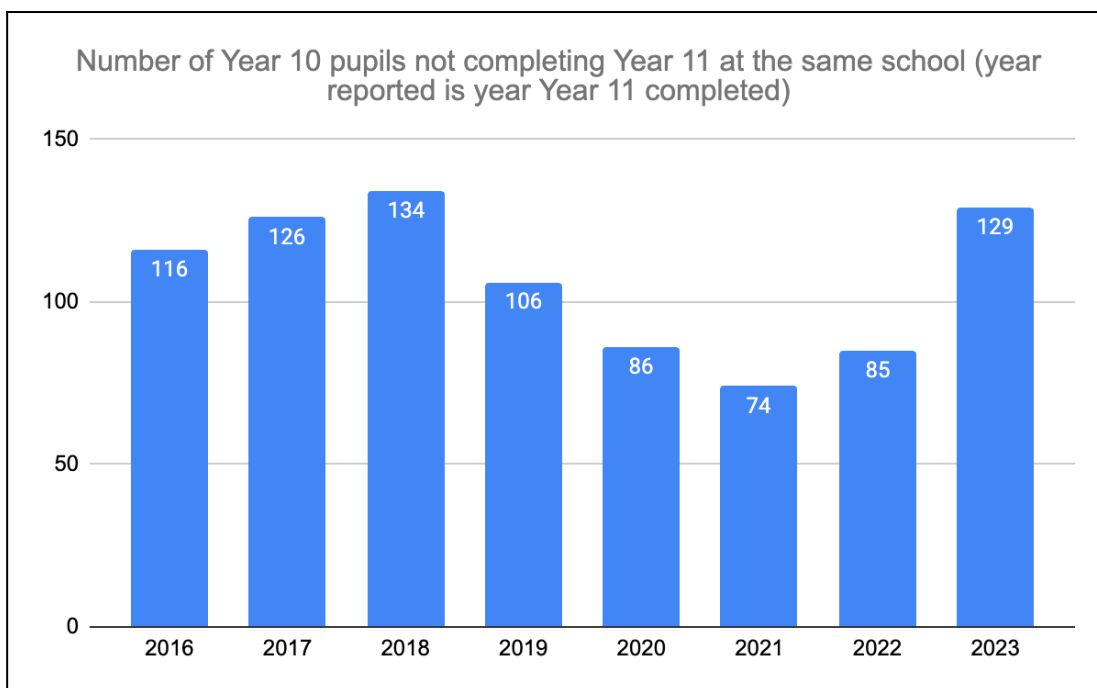
5.3. Similar meetings have been held in previous years with headteachers of schools where roll movement is 5% or more.

5.4. A total 129 children left secondary school admission registers between Year 10 and Year 11, giving a borough wide rate of 5%. Movement varied between schools with the range between 2% and 7%, with one school an outlier with 15%.

5.5. The pupil profile of these 129 children is as follows:

| Characteristic | No. of Y10/11 leavers | % of cohort |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Female | 67 | 52% |
| Male | 62 | 48% |
| Bangladeshi | 1 | 1% |
| Black Caribbean | 10 | 8% |
| Black African | 18 | 14% |
| White British | 14 | 11% |
| Indian | 2 | 2% |
| Mixed | 14 | 11% |
| Turkish/Kurdish | 11 | 9% |
| Other | 27 | 21% |
| Unknown/refused | 32 | 25% |
| EHCP | 14 | 11% |
| SEN Support | 18 | 14% |
| No SEND | 97 | 75% |

5.6. There has been an overall increase in the rates of roll movement since 2021, rising from 3% of pupils finishing year 11 in 2021, to 4% at the end of 2022 and 5% at the end of 2023. The rate of 5% is a return to the pre-pandemic level of 2019 but below the 6% level in 2018, 2017 and 2016. It is worth noting that the reporting represents pupils not remaining in the same school through Y10 and Y11; these pupils may move to another school in Hackney.



5.7. An analysis of the data relating to roll movement between Years 10 and 11 has shown the following:

5.7.1. There was a fall in the level of Year 10 to 11 roll movement from 6% in 2016, 2017 and 2018, to 5% in 2019, 4% in 2020 and 3% in 2021. This proportion rose in 2022, back to 4%, and again in 2023 to 5%. This gives a borough wide five year (2019 to 2023) average of 5%.

5.7.2. This data appears to show an impact of Covid 19 and the disruption to schooling in the 2019/20 and 2020/21 school years, in particular. During these two school years,

the number of pupils moving schools declined, and therefore the proportion of Year 10 pupils moving fell to 3% and 4%.

- 5.7.3. The borough wide two year average currently stands at 4%, with all bar two schools 5% or lower.
- 5.7.4. 32% (41 pupils) moved to another maintained school in Hackney while the remaining 68% (88 pupils) no longer appeared on the role of a Hackney school at the end of Year 11.
- 5.8. In previous years headteachers have been able to provide clear and convincing reasons why pupils had been removed from their admission register. They were able to provide information as to the circumstances (e.g. changed schools; moved away from London; etc.).
- 5.9. All schools viewed removal from the admission register as a potential safeguarding issue.
- 5.10. In secondary schools it is now practice for headteachers to authorise all removals from the admission register and to report information on pupil movement to their governing body.

6. In-year school admissions & Fair Access

- 6.1. Any parent can apply for a school place for their child at any time to any school outside the normal admissions round (admission to reception and transfer from primary to secondary school) and admission authorities must comply with that preference unless it would prejudice the provision of education or the efficient use of resources.
- 6.2. A total of 1763 children were offered places at Hackney schools through the in-year admissions process between September 2022 to August 2023. Of this number:
 - 6.2.1. 1318 were offers for primary school places; and
 - 6.2.2. 445 were offers for secondary school places.
- 6.3. The reasons given by parents on their application for in year admission for primary schools was as follows:

| Application Reason | Total |
|---|-------------|
| Home educated currently and wish to return to school | 41 |
| Moving from another part of the UK to Hackney | 99 |
| New arrival to the UK from abroad | 206 |
| Other reason | 124 |
| Out-borough resident applying for a school in Hackney | 39 |
| Returning to the UK from abroad | 72 |
| Transfer from nursery setting | 27 |
| Transfer from one Hackney school to another | 339 |
| Transfer from out-borough school to a Hackney school | 115 |
| Grand Total | 1062 |

- 6.4. The reasons given by parents on their application for in year admission for secondary schools was as follows:

| Application Reason | Total |
|---|------------|
| Home educated currently and wish to return to school | 47 |
| Moving from another part of the UK to Hackney | 80 |
| New arrival to the UK from abroad | 141 |
| Other reason | 127 |
| Out-borough resident applying for a school in Hackney | 31 |
| Returning to the UK from abroad | 58 |
| Transfer from one Hackney school to another | 257 |
| Transfer from out-borough school to a Hackney school | 90 |
| Grand Total | 831 |

- 6.5. Not every application will result in an offer of a school place. Some parents of children who already have a school place within a reasonable travel distance make applications so they remain on the waiting lists for oversubscribed schools in the hope of a place becoming available.
- 6.6. Admissions do not hold data on the SEND status of children applying through in-year admissions, though none of these children would have an education, health and care plan (EHCP) as they would utilise a different admission process.
- 6.7. Each local authority must have a Fair Access Protocol, agreed with the majority of schools in its area to ensure that – outside the normal admissions round - unplaced children, especially the most vulnerable, are offered a place at a suitable school as quickly as possible.
- 6.8. The majority of pupils considered under the Fair Access Protocol are pupils who have been out of school for two months or more; have challenging behaviour; are being reintegrated from an Alternative Provision setting or could not be offered a place because schools applied to were full.
- 6.9. Between September 2022 and August 2023, a total of 48 children have been offered places under the protocol. Of these, 2 were for a primary school place and 46 were for secondary school places. 6 were reintegrations of previously permanently excluded children from New Regent's College.

7. In-year transfers (EHCPs)

- 7.1. Children with an EHCP do not utilise the same process for changing school or setting as children without one. These transfers are coordinated by the child's plan EHCP coordinator.
- 7.2. During 2022/23 there were 132 in-year transfers of pupils with an EHCP.
- 7.3. The largest single cohort, with 55.3% of transfers were from one mainstream school to another mainstream school. The breakdown of the various types of move can be found here:

Mainstream to Mainstream - 55.3%

Mainstream to Special - 15.9%

Mainstream to Alternative Provision - 9.84%

Mainstream to ARP - 0.75%

Mainstream to Independent - 3.03%

Mainstream to Home - 3.03%

Special to Special - 2.27%

Special to Mainstream - 0.75%

Special to Independent - 0.75%

Special to Home - 3.03%

Special to Alternative Provision - 1.51%

Home to Mainstream - 0.75%

Home to Special - 1.51%

Alternative Provision to Mainstream - 0.75%

Alternative Provision to Special - 0.75%

- 7.4. Of these, 45 were children in Key Stage 1; 22 were children in Key Stage 2; and 41 were children in Key Stage 3.

- 7.5. This cohort, when broken down by ethnicity is as follows:

- 27 - White/English/Irish/European/Other/Other White British
- 3 - Traveller of Irish Heritage
- 75 - Black African/White & Black African/Black Caribbean/Other
- 1 - Afghan
- 1 - Albanian
- 5 - Turkish

- 1 - Vietnamese
- 4 - Bangladeshi
- 2 - Indian
- 1 - Kurdish
- 12 - Other Background

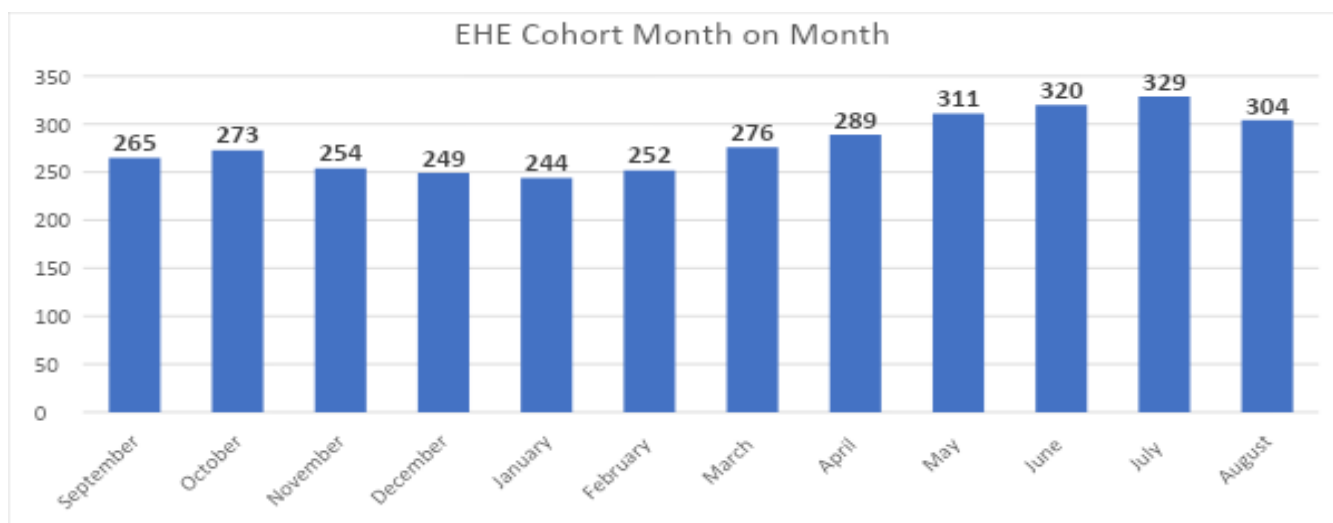
8. Permanent exclusions

- 8.1. In 2021/22 there were 30 recorded exclusions in Hackney
- 8.2. Hackney primary schools (this data is local and remains subject to change and numbers may reduce; they will not increase).
- 8.3. 14 of the 37 children excluded were female, and 23 were male.
- 8.4. 10 of the 37 excluded children were from a Black Caribbean background, and 5 more were from a mixed white and Black Caribbean background. Within those fifteen children, 11 were male and 4 were female. Together they represent 40% of the total exclusions.
- 8.5. 4 of the 37 exclusions were from children from another Black background (such as Black Ghanaian or In 22/23 there were 37 exclusions from Hackney secondary schools and no exclusions from Black Congolese), 4 were children from a white background

9. Elective Home Education

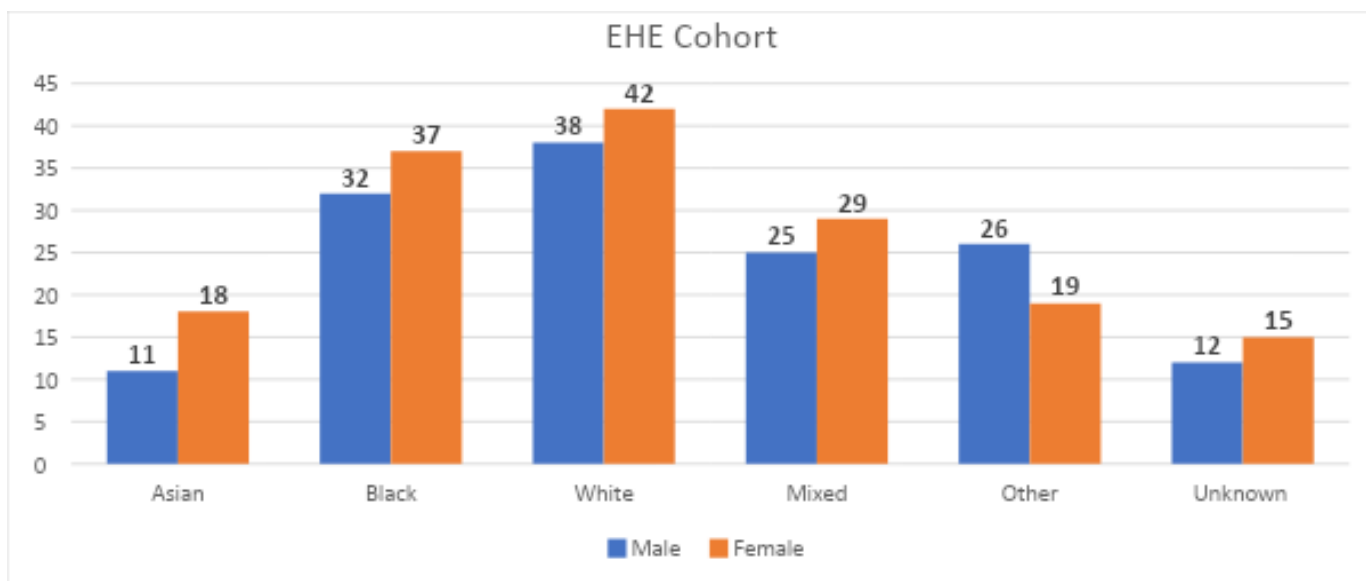
- 9.1. Parents/carers have a legal responsibility to ensure that their school age children receive an education that is suitable for their age, ability and aptitude as well as any special educational needs they may have. This can be done through regular attendance at school or by educating them otherwise than at school. Education otherwise includes elective home education (EHE).
- 9.2. In August 2023 we had 304 children registered as CME in our standard cohort. This is a 35% increase from the previous year and a 64% increase from the pre-Covid academic year 18/19.

9.3. The month by month children registered as elective home education is as follows:

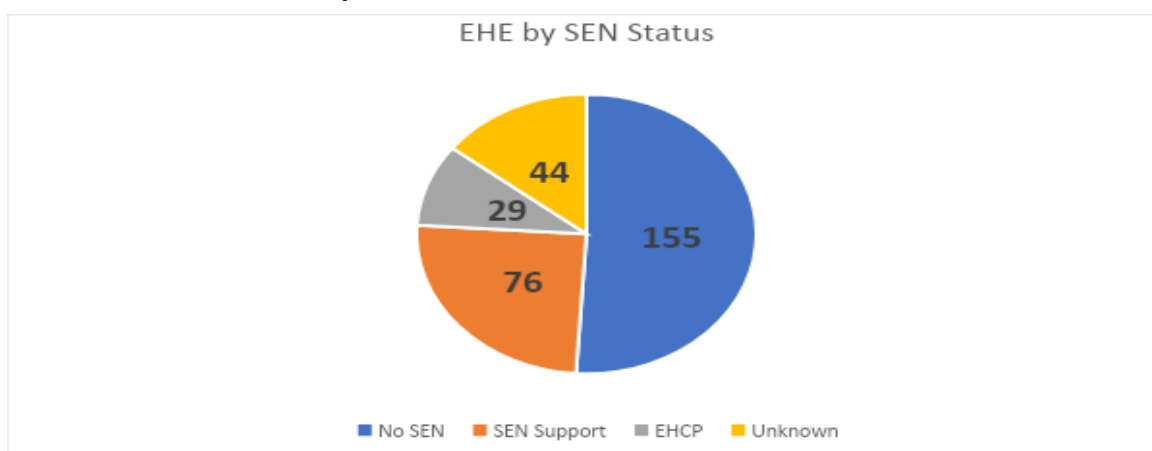


9.4. All new EHE referrals receive an education suitability assessment within 12 weeks and, if deemed suitable, will then receive an annual assessment.

9.5. When broken down by ethnicity and gender the profile of this cohort is:



9.6. And when broken down by SEND status:



9.7. Parents who opt to electively home educate their children assume full responsibility for provision of their child’s education. This includes providing any resources to support that education.

10. Managed moves

10.1. Managed moves are a voluntary arrangement between two schools when it is felt that a pupil would benefit from a fresh start in a new school. This could be because of a serious breach of the schools behaviour policy, which has meant the pupil is at risk of permanent exclusion or it may be for some other reason. It is an alternative to permanent exclusion.

10.2. A managed move should only take place with the agreement of both schools and the pupil’s parents/carers.

- 10.3. When a managed move is agreed, the pupil will have a trial period at the new school. During the trial period the pupil will remain on the admission register of both schools. This is known as dual registration. At the end of the trial period, if it is successful, the pupil transfers permanently to the new school. If it is unsuccessful the pupil returns to their former school.
- 10.4. The Department for Education has recently published guidance on the use of managed moves within the updated 'suspension and exclusion from school' guidance. This emphasises that managed moves should only occur when it is in the best interests of the child, it should be part of a planned intervention and that parents should not be pressured into a managed move.
- 10.5. In Hackney most managed moves are agreed at a school level and are not centrally coordinated by the local authority. Therefore when a headteacher wishes to arrange a managed move they arrange this directly with another head teacher either in their geographical vicinity or within multi-academy trust. Sometimes the Exclusion Officer within Hackney's Pupils Out of School team will be involved and assist in brokering a managed move as an alternative to permanent exclusions.
- 10.6. Schools can report successful managed moves, where the child was at risk of permanent exclusion, between Hackney schools to the Fair Access Panel in order to obtain 'weighting credit' under the protocol. Between September 2022 and August 2023 there were 5 successful managed moves reported to the Fair Access Panel for credit.
- 10.7. As with exclusions, pupils from black and global majority backgrounds are more likely to undergo a managed move. Pupils from a black ethnic background made up 60% of our known managed moves. Work on equalities has been reported to scrutiny in the last year.

2x Black and white caribbean

1x Black caribbean

1x Turkish

1x unknown

11. Alternative Provision

- 11.1. Hackney has a statutory duty under section 19 of the Education Act 1996 to '*make arrangements for the suitable education at school or otherwise than at school for those children of compulsory school age who, by reason of illness, exclusion from school or otherwise, may not for any period receive suitable education unless such arrangements are made for them*'.
- 11.2. This duty is discharged by New Regent's College, which is our pupil referral unit (PRU). These arrangements are overseen by a Service Level Agreement between Hackney Council and New Regent's College.
- 11.3. Pupils may attend New Regent's College for a range of reasons. Around 50% of the cohort is those who have been permanently excluded from school, although there are other reasons why a pupil may be on roll. These include short term partnership placements, where the pupil attends on a dual registration basis with their home school and new arrivals from overseas in Year 11 for whom ESOL provision is considered more appropriate.

- 11.4. Not all pupils attend the New Regent's College site itself. Arrangements are made for some pupils to be educated at independent sector alternative provision or colleges in Hackney and the neighbouring boroughs.
- 11.5. At the beginning of July 2023 there were 134 pupils on roll at New Regent's College
- 11.5.1. 6 of these children are primary aged children, and they are educated full time onsite
 - 11.5.2. 39 of these children are KS3 aged children, and they are educated full time onsite
 - 11.5.3. 89 of these children are KS4 aged children, and 42 of these are educated full time onsite, 7 in full time mainstream placements and 40 in full time, off site, Ofsted registered alternative provision placements
- 11.6. The pupil cohort at New Regent's College is reflective of Hackney as a whole and reflects the already known disproportionality in exclusions, where Black and Global Majority children are more likely to be excluded from school than their white peers. As stated above there are efforts across the education system in Hackney to address this.

12. Conclusion

- 12.1. Hackney Education has oversight of pupil movement in the borough through various teams who are responsible for their cohorts of pupils
- 12.2. The number of parents opting to educate their children at home has returned to pre-pandemic levels.
- 12.3. The number of teenage boys leaving Orthodox Jewish registered independent schools to be educated in Yeshivas, which are unregistered education settings, continues to be a sizable flow of pupil movement. We remain unable to assess the suitability of the education these children receive.
- 12.4. Hackney Education continues to monitor pupil movement locally. There are systems in place to monitor pupil movement between schools and for identifying pupils who are missing from education or at risk of becoming so.
- 12.5. Reducing exclusions is a priority for Hackney Council and is taking a number of steps to support inclusion in schools.

Report originator: Katherine Cracknell, Acting Head of Wellbeing & Education
Safeguarding

Other contributors: David Court, Head of School Organisation & Commissioning
Billy Baker, Principal Officer, Pupils Out of School team
Richard Collins, Operations Manager, SEND Service

Date: 17 November 2023

Cleared by: Paul Senior, Director of Education & Inclusion



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| <p>Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission</p> <p>November 30th 2023</p> <p>Item 5 - Outcome from School Exclusions (Recommendations Update)</p> | <p>Item No</p> <p>5</p> |
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Outline

The Commission completed a review of [‘The Outcome of School Exclusions’ in December 2021](#). The review made 18 recommendations to the Council. Responses to the recommendations were approved by [Cabinet in March 2022](#)

The Commission reviewed progress in the implementation of the recommendations in 2023, and agreed a further follow up within 12 months of that date.

Members are invited to review the update report, including plans to develop an Inclusion Charter, and question officers present.

Reports

- Outcome of School Exclusions: Review Update

Attending for this item:

- Paul Senior, Director of Education and Inclusion
- Donna Thomas, Head of Early Years, Early Help & Wellbeing
- David Court, Interim Assistant Director, School Estate Strategy
- Kate Cracknell, Head of Wellbeing and Education Safeguarding
- Debra Robison, Diversity and Inclusion Systems Leader
- Billy Baker, Lead Officer Pupils Out of School

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Overview & Scrutiny

Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission

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| Date of meeting: 30 November 2023 |
| Title of report: School Exclusions Update (including progress against Commission recommendations) |
| Report author: Multiple officers - Head of Wellbeing and Safeguarding, the Alternative Provision Commissioner, System Leader for Diversity and Inclusion, Strategy and Governance Manager. |
| Authorised by: Paul Senior, Director of Education and Inclusion |
| Report Summary: This report provides an update on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• progress on the work of the Inclusion Charter;• the recent Reducing Exclusions Summit hosted by the Local Authority;• progress against each of the recommendations set out following the Commission's review of school exclusions in Hackney in December 2021. |

Report to the Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission

Report title: School Exclusions Update
Meeting date: 30 November 2023
Report author: Multiple officers - Head of Wellbeing and Safeguarding, the Alternative Provision Commissioner, System Leader for Diversity and Inclusion, Strategy and Governance Manager.

1. The Hackney School Inclusion Charter: Tackling racism and barriers faced by children with additional needs

- 1.1. At the end of the Autumn Term, Hackney Education will be finalising the work of the Hackney School Inclusion Charter, which is aimed at addressing inequalities and promoting inclusivity across our schools and settings, with a focus on anti-racism and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.
- 1.2. The Charter recognises the importance of inequalities that continue to negatively impact children and young people with SEND, Black Caribbean children and other groups within the Black and global majority community.
- 1.3. At the heart of the work of the Charter is a focus on the Equality Duty, that requires public authorities and schools to promote equality and eliminate discrimination. Embedding this commitment within School Development Plans, ensures that it becomes an integral part of the institution's mission and actions.
- 1.4. The creation of this Charter has involved working with Professor Paul Miller from the Institute for Educational and Social Equity, school leaders, young people, parent groups and community organisations, all having fed in at various stages
- 1.5. Overall, the Charter aims to reflect a sustained commitment to our collective endeavours across local Hackney schools and settings in dismantling inequality in education amongst key groups.
- 1.6. Regular reporting on progress will help build trust and ensure that actions align with stated goals.
- 1.7. Debra Robinson, Hackney Education's Diversity and Inclusions Systems Leader, has been leading this work.

2. Reducing Exclusions Summit

- 2.1. Hackney Education hosted a Reducing Exclusions Summit on 10 July 2023. The aim of the Summit was to facilitate a whole system conversation on the issue of

- exclusions and approach it as a shared challenge across schools, settings and services.
- 2.2. Key partners across Schools and settings, Education, Children's and Family Services, Health and the voluntary sector were invited to take part in the summit as a panel members, to start the conversation about what was working well and making a difference; what the challenges or barriers are to preventing exclusions, and what do we need to do as a system to support reducing exclusions.
 - 2.3. Panel members included:
 - Amy Wilkinson - Integrated Commissioning Workstream Director, Hackney Council
 - Brendan Finegan - Service Manager, Youth Justice Service, Hackney Council
 - Diane Benjamin - Director of Children's Social Care, Hackney Council
 - Geraldine Fitzmaurice - Executive Headteacher, Sir Thomas Abney and Harrington Hill Schools
 - Richard Brown - Executive Head of New Regent's College and The Urswick Secondary School
 - Shereka James - Principal, Skinners' Academy
 - 2.4. In addition, partners across the system (Headteachers, Education, Children and Family Services (CFS), Strategy, Health, Governors, and Voluntary Sector Organisations) were invited to not just attend the session but to contribute to the discussion by sharing their experiences and thinking about how a cross cutting integrated partnership approach could be developed to further help reduce exclusions.
 - 2.5. The various challenges faced by schools and settings in supporting children at risk of exclusion were discussed. Some stand out points included:
 - 2.5.1. The challenge of how to approach possession of weapon related incidents, and balancing the support required for an individual child with the pressure on Headteachers and leaders to provide a safe and secure environment for other students and staff;
 - 2.5.2. The difficulty in navigating other support, interventions and alternatives to exclusion;
 - 2.5.3. The need to ensure pupils' voices are heard and their behaviour is understood.
 - 2.6. Some key outcomes of these discussions included:
 - 2.6.1. A shared commitment to continue discussions as a collective system. The local authority (LA) will host another summit in the summer of 2024;
 - 2.6.2. The need to change the negative narrative regarding exclusions and focus more on developing an integrated system approach to behaviour, inclusion and wellbeing;
 - 2.6.3. The value of a multi-agency approach to supporting the Headteachers' statutory duty;
 - 2.6.4. Greater transparency and clarity about alternatives to permanent exclusion - perhaps through a formal process and framework for schools to access.

Update on Recommendations from Scrutiny Commission Report on School Exclusions

| Recommendation | November 2023 progress update |
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| <p>1) That school exclusion data is published and reviewed annually by the Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission. This annual review will require Hackney Education Service to publish demographic data (age, gender, ethnicity) on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the number of permanent and fixed term school exclusions; b) the number of 'managed moves' to other schools; c) the number of children moving to (and totals within) Elective Home Education; and d) the number of children receiving education through Alternative Provision e) Other unexplained pupil exits from School. <p>Hackney Education Service should continue to monitor and review the level of all exclusions and 'unexplained' pupil exits, and to provide challenge to school leaders where this exceeds locally agreed thresholds.</p> | <p>Recommendation completed - see update provided in last Scrutiny report, summarised below.</p> <p>An annual report is now produced for the Children and Young People (CYP) Scrutiny Commission every Autumn to monitor pupil movement and exclusion data.</p> <p>Data is produced and provided externally in alignment with reporting timelines set by the Department for Education (DfE).</p> <p>Additionally, school-level exclusion reports are provided to schools annually, along with the Risk of NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training) report that includes exclusion data alongside a range of other contextual information, and which goes to secondary schools annually.</p> <p>This area of focus came under scrutiny during the recent LA annual SEND engagement meeting with Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) during which the LA were held to account regarding the quality and impact of local practice, systems and processes. We are currently awaiting the outcome letter from the inspection team following this session.</p> |
| <p>2) It is recommended that the Council reaffirms commitment to the principles, purpose and value of the 'inclusive school' in which schools are actively supported to help maintain children's placements in mainstream education particularly in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The maintenance of a broad and balanced curriculum which keeps children and young people engaged and motivated with learning and school life and culture, and which recognises the needs of those children with SEND and or other learning challenges. B. The maintenance of a positive and inclusive Behaviour Management Policy which is reflective, and which aims to identify and address young people's | <p>The principles of the inclusive school are commonplace across Hackney schools and are consistently reiterated through the work of partnership forums, head teacher and SENCO forum meetings, through the work of the Hackney Schools Group Board and also targeted communications.</p> <p>The Systems Leader for Diversity and Inclusion has been working on a Hackney Schools Inclusion Charter which focuses on anti-racism and SEND. This is close to being released.</p> <p>Ensuring inclusive mainstream schools is a key priority of the Hackney Education 2030 Strategy currently under development.</p> <p>An Integrated SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy is also being developed, with the aim of ensuring an</p> |

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| <p>unmet needs (as detailed in Rec 3)</p> <p>C. A broad programme of behavioural, emotional and wellbeing support is provided as a wraparound service provided in tandem with other statutory (CAMHS, SEND) and other providers (e.g. Young Hackney, WAMHS and other early help services).</p> <p>D. A local education system which rightly celebrates inclusion alongside educational achievement and progress;</p> <p>E. Ensure that inclusion is reflected in the training and support provided to Governors.</p> <p>2) It is recommended that a conference for schools, colleges and alternative provision to support policies and practices which promote inclusivity.</p> | <p>inclusive education system with effective early intervention and a workforce able to deliver relational based inclusion approaches.</p> <p>Wellbeing & Mental Health in Schools All schools have now been invited to join WAMHS (Wellbeing and Mental Health in Schools). We provide an audit framework which sets out pathways to best practice and covers a number of different areas/fields of delivery e.g. pupil voice, working with parents/carers, ethos and environment. All but four of the maintained schools are actively engaged in this process.</p> <p>There is a WAMHS pilot running in 7 of the Charedi independent schools. 54 schools also have a Mental Health Support Team embedded. This offers early intervention directly to children and parent/carers.</p> <p>All schools (regardless of engagement or status) are invited to take up the universal offer (termly forums, WAMHS newsletter, universal training).</p> <p>The WAMHS framework asks schools to consider all policies that may impact on young people's mental health and wellbeing. This may include; behaviour policies, assessment policies, equality policies. Different schools will have chosen to review identified policies. We are now monitoring the numbers looking particularly at devising or reviewing a wellbeing policy and reviewing behaviour policies., in order to help us focus with the school where necessary.</p> |
| <p>3) To help identify and extend best practice in positive behaviour management it is recommended that:</p> <p>A. Hackney Education Service establishes a conference for schools, colleges and alternative provision which can explore the principles and best practice applications of positive behaviour management strategies and the benefits this confers for an inclusive school.</p> <p>B. That Hackney Education Service works with local schools in auditing local</p> | <p>The Behaviour and Wellbeing Partnership of secondary schools meets regularly to develop and share best practice in understanding young people's behaviour and supporting their wellbeing.</p> <p>WAMHS forums and universal training continue to be offered to all schools to share best practice in understanding young people's behaviour.</p> |

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| <p>school policies in particular school behaviour policies to ensure that these are inclusive, comply with equalities duties, do not disproportionately impact on certain groups and make necessary adjustments for young people with SEND</p> | |
| <p>4) a) It is recommended that Hackney Education Service continue to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure that Schools leaders and Governing Bodies continue to be aware of their equalities duties and that necessary adjustments are put in place for young people with SEND; ● Should review the support available to local SENCO's and ensure that there is supporting infrastructure linking them to local SEND and CAMHS services; ● Ensure that there are appropriate systems for reviewing and keeping EHCPs up to date <p>b) It is recommended that additional advice, information and guidance is provided for parents of children with SEND who are seeking alternative or specialist provision for their child.</p> | <p>The Integrated SEND Service provides strong, effective and comprehensive support to SENCOs/Inclusion Leaders in schools by running a SENCO Forum Network. These events are used for training opportunities, to report and share good practice, to raise any localised concerns, familiarising schools with the Local Offer and resources available to schools both as part of the TAS and MAP processes, as well as guidance for EHCP and Annual Review purposes.</p> <p>This ensures SENCOs are equipped with the right knowledge and confidence through good information sharing and knowledge of services available.</p> <p>100% of Sencos reported that attending /being part of the SENCO Neighbourhood or SENCO Forum Network meetings/ events had a positive impact on their professional practice. 90% rated the Senco forum 'good' or 'excellent'. (Survey - 10/03/23)</p> <p>Substantial corporate investment has led to the creation of additional posts within vital services such as Educational Psychology and EHCP coordination and quality assurance.</p> |
| <p>5) It is recommended that Hackney Education Service should support the development of a third party intervention in secondary schools similar to the Re-Engagement Unit which is already established to support primary settings.</p> <p>This intervention could be piloted with a number of participating secondary schools:</p> <p>A. To assess the efficacy of this approach in providing coordinated early intervention support to children at risk of exclusion to reduce the risk and</p> | <p>Recommendation completed</p> <p>The Re-engagement Unit (REU) now delivers a universal offer to schools to support children, schools and families in a systemic way when a child is at risk of exclusion. So far the unit has worked directly with over 300 children, and over 97% of these children have resettled in their existing school context.</p> <p>The unit has delivered over 30 hours of training to schools in evidence based inclusive practices, reaching over 500 teaching staff.</p> <p>The REU commissions two CAMHS clinicians who</p> |

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| <p>incidence of school exclusion;</p> <p>B. To link with Young Hackney and other early help support;</p> <p>C. To assess how such service can be financially viable as either directly commissioned service (via the high needs budget) or as a traded service to schools.</p> | <p>support oversight and supervision within the team, helping to foster a systemic and safe way of working with our most pushed out and complex families and their professional and extra-familial networks.</p> |
| <p>6)</p> <p>It is recommended that the Education Service and wider Council places a trauma-based approach at the centre of its approach to tackling school exclusions.</p> <p>As part of this approach, it is suggested that:</p> <p>A. School leaders, teaching staff and Governors are provided with training to further understand adverse childhood experiences and vulnerability to develop and support trauma informed practice.</p> <p>B. School leaders (including those within alternative provision) should be encouraged to share learning in supporting vulnerable young people to help develop and extend good practice in a trauma informed approach.</p> | <p>The REU is focussed on supporting children and schools in a systemic and trauma-informed way.</p> <p>The WAMHS programme includes training on Trauma.</p> <p>A new Systemic, Trauma informed and Anti-Racist (STAR) way of working is being rolled out across the Children and Education Directorate. The STAR approach encourages staff to build a holistic picture of the people they work with and prioritise intersectional approaches.</p> |
| <p>7)</p> <p>It is recommended that Hackney Education Service, with City & Hackney Safeguarding partners, ensure that there are robust systems in place to coordinate effective support and risk mitigation for all pupils at the point of permanent exclusion and/ or at the point of repeat fixed term exclusion. This should include:</p> <p>A. That specific guidance and information for local schools is developed to help them assess safeguarding risks within school exclusion decisions;</p> | <p>The work being undertaken in relation to the Hackney alternative provision transformation strategy will deliver a complete version of this recommendation.</p> <p>Currently, exclusion notifications are shared with partners immediately, enabling us to draw a professional network together to inform planning and risk assessment led by New Regents College (NRC). Any risks of significant harm will be identified in the NRC planning meetings and will result in a referral to MASH and a co-ordinated multi agency response.</p> <p>Exclusions officers contact families as part of our established processes, and are now able to signpost them to the Early Help Hub for consent-based family support should they feel that they would benefit from that. Where appropriate, requests are made to the Early Help Hub to make contact with families for an initial</p> |

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| <p>B. That schools are encouraged to undertake an independent multidisciplinary safeguarding assessment prior to any final decision to permanently exclude a child;</p> <p>C. That training is developed and implemented for school governors and other school leaders about the safeguarding risks and implications of permanent exclusion from school;</p> <p>D. That City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership (or appropriate subgroup) is notified of any permanent school exclusion 'in real time' to enable a full safeguarding assessment of the child/young person, and the ability of parents to effectively safeguard that young person at home;</p> <p>E. That systems are developed to support effective and timely sharing of safeguarding and other welfare information for excluded children moving from school to alternative provision;</p> <p>F. That all alternative provision at which young people are in attendance (both internal and external to the borough) is routinely included in safeguarding information distributed by Hackney Education Service, CHSCP, Gangs Unit or other relevant bodies;</p> <p>G. At point of exclusion Children and Families Service are notified for Children in Need or other Family Support.</p> | <p>discussion around what sort of support might be available.</p> <p>Further and more robust pupil level education, health and social care information has been identified by our schools as an area for improvement for excluded pupils and or pupils out of education. A framework/set of expectations for the type and scope of information and data required per pupil has been developed by the alternative provision (AP) strategy lead working with our education safeguarding and data team.</p> |
| <p>8) It is recommended that Hackney Education Service, Children and Families Service and Young Hackney and other welfare support services should improve information sharing and coordination to help identify and support children at risk of exclusion and to create and deliver effective preventative interventions.</p> <p>Partners should work collaboratively to identify those risk factors which place local young people at risk of exclusion and target</p> | <p>The REU delivers a universal offer to schools to support children, schools and families in a systemic/ multi agency way when a child is at risk of exclusion. There is no cap on this resource to individual schools, which ensure equitable access to early help support services for those vulnerable to exclusions.</p> <p>There are strong lines of communication between the REU and the Early Help (EH) Hub to ensure a joined up and responsive package of support for local families.</p> |

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| <p>preventative services accordingly.</p> | <p>As noted above, exclusion notifications are shared with partners immediately, enabling us to draw a professional network together to inform planning and risk assessment.</p> |
| <p>9)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hackney Education Service should ensure that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. There is adequate infrastructure in place to enable educational settings to meet, collaborate and share good practice to support young people across the local education system. b. In particular, HES should consider how best alternative provision can engage and be involved in local systems to ensure that their expertise and learning is shared more widely. c. There is effective communication across local education systems to ensure that the transfer of pupil information in supporting excluded children moving to AP. d. The engagement and involvement of alternative provision is supported locally, given their relative size and operational capacity. 2. It is also recommended that Hackney Schools Group Board should actively engage and involve alternative provision to further bring these settings into the wider family of schools. 3. Hackney Education Service should consider how it can improve links between individual alternative providers and other local schools and share best practice from both schools and AP in supporting children at risk of exclusion. | <p>A revised and integrated alternative provision strategy is under development.</p> <p>It is intended that NRC becomes part and a centrepiece of a transformed AP ecosystem of local authority-led Hubs and spokes. Centres designed to enable multi-agency work at point of need and locally as well as curriculum/behaviour delivery models reflective of national best practice for alternative provision.</p> <p>The integrated alternative provision strategy is due to be fully considered internally this month by Hackney’s senior leadership team, with a full launch, consultation process planned for early 2024.</p> |
| <p>10)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is recommended that Hackney Education Service review local commissioning strategy of AP to ensure | <p>An Alternative Provision Commissioner and strategy lead commenced work with Hackney Education in Summer-2023 to develop a revised and integrated AP/SEND Strategy based upon new national</p> |

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| <p>that there is sufficient provision (capacity, quality, and diversity) to meet the needs of young people not in mainstream education. This role should be developed alongside:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The local SEND team who share similar strategic objectives to develop local service options for AP; b. Other local authorities who share commissioning need for AP in the sub-region. <p>2. To help maintain the stability and sustainability of the local AP sector, it is recommended that Hackney Education Service should explore how additional business support can be made available to local alternative providers to assist with business modelling and financial planning. HES might consider options for utilising the skills and experience of the Business Support Function (used to support Early Years sector) as either a direct or traded service.</p> | <p>benchmarks for alternative provision and the revised 2023 SEND AP national improvement plan. This role reports into the Assistant Director of SEND and Inclusion to ensure strategic objectives are aligned and enable an integrated SEND and AP strategy.</p> <p>A key element of the AP Strategy currently under development is a revised AP commissioning quality framework, informed by local needs, best practice quality benchmarks and developing best value. This will be integrated with a revised SEND commissioning framework.</p> |
| <p>11) It is recommended that Hackney Education Service reviews the Service Level Agreement with New Regents College to ensure that the following standards underpin the sub-Commissioning of Alternative Provision, in which young people are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provided with education, training and learning support in a therapeutic environment which seeks to recognise and address learning needs and maximize their opportunities; ● Have access to a varied and accessible curriculum; ● Have access to qualified teachers in all settings and explicitly for the teaching of Maths and English; ● Supported in educational settings which are of a high standard, safe and have access to learning resources comparable to young people in mainstream settings; ● Given equal access to other | <p>Revisions to the Hackney framework for AP and associated Service Level Agreements/contracts/sub commissioning agreements with AP providers have been proposed to ensure we capture new requirements/expectations related to curriculum, relational approaches, assessment SEND, sustainable and fair funding and the need for a wider set of AP services/interventions locally required by schools, families and agencies.</p> |

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| <p>educational and statutory health and welfare support services to young people in mainstream settings.</p> <p>It is also recommended that HES should consider whether School Improvement Partners can also work with AP settings to provide quality assurance, including independent challenge, and to agree and support the development of improvement priorities for individual settings.</p> | |
| <p>12)</p> <p>It is recommended that HES review and assess the longer-term destination and outcomes of those young people leaving alternative provision and consider whether additional transitional support is necessary to help AP students adjust to new learning environments.</p> | <p>Long term destinations and preparation for adulthood are key to ensuring Inclusion for young people leaving alternative provision. This is a key element of the AP Strategy under development, which includes a dedicated task and finish group for AP SEND preparation for post 16 and adulthood.</p> <p>The Hackney quality assurance framework for alternative provision is also being currently adapted by the AP strategy lead in line with best practice to include specific consideration of how all AP providers manage transitions and adjustments to new/varying learning environments.</p> <p>There is also the intention to develop a wider and more detailed referral, information and data sharing protocol to enable informed transitions for AP students/families.</p> |
| <p>13</p> <p>It is recommended that Hackney Education Service, in partnership with other agencies, should ensure that there are robust systems in place to plan, coordinate and deliver effective welfare support equally to all children in AP irrespective of its location.</p> | <p>Within the AP strategy being co-designed, views of all agencies are being fully scoped and considered to inform strategy and policy.</p> <p>The AP Commissioner and strategy lead has been working closely with public health in relation to the wider health and welfare needs of children with AP/SEND.</p> <p>Plans are in place to extend this work in the coming academic year to parents and social care - with a focus upon AP developments being coordinated and integrated with key welfare and support services.</p> <p>As part of the AP strategy development, the principles, terms and membership of various panels relating to placement and progress of children in alternative provision is being reconsidered.</p> <p>The aim is to co-create a suite of multi agency placement, referral and reintegration panels/touch points which can work more cohesively together, so that all</p> |

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| | <p>needs of AP children and families are fully considered at point of need whatever their location or needs profile.</p> |
| <p>14) It is recommended that Hackney Education Service should explore what support (either through national or local schemes) can be provided to assist AP settings to develop their physical estate and or amenities.</p> | <p>The AP strategy is now being integrated fully with SEND and the SEND estates development plan. This is to enable a continuum based approach to additional needs with a wider suite of smaller local AP options (a hub and spoke model of alternative provision).</p> <p>The AP commissioner/strategy lead is working closely with the Education Sufficiency and Estates programme team to identify appropriately located physical estate in line with the need for a greater sufficiency locally for alternative provision centres/options.</p> |
| <p>15) It is recommended that Hackney Education Service should lead on recognising and sharing best practice in the Alternative Provision sector among other education providers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Making sure that alternative provision is seen and recognised as an integral part of the local education system and has a valued contribution to education to young people, and that best practice in the sector is highlighted and shared amongst other education providers; ● That the attendance, progress and success of young people attending alternative provision is rightly celebrated alongside those young people in mainstream settings; ● Facilitate an AP fair each year which provides an opportunity for alternative provision to showcase their education and support offers and to enable young people to make a positive and informed choice when their needs are unlikely to be met in mainstream education. | <p>A revised quality assurance framework that reflects national best practice is currently being co produced and piloted as part of the AP strategy.</p> <p>This revised framework will consider in greater depth the attendance, success and engagement of young people attending AP.</p> <p>The revised framework will feed into a re-developed AP directory (part of the AP strategy also) which will be shared upon the Hackney SEND AP new local offer website.</p> <p>Alternative provision has now become a standing item on the Hackney Secondary Behaviour and Wellbeing Group of mainstream deputy Headteachers.</p> <p>Further engagement with headteachers on the development of the AP strategy is planned in the new year.</p> |

16)

It is recommended that the Education Service set out details for the further development and implementation of an Anti Racist Action Plan and how local education policies and practice will address local inequalities.

It is recommended that Hackney Education Service should continue to work with schools, AP and other educational settings to provide:

- Training on unconscious bias, diversity and inclusion to all staff;
- Support the development of improvement plans for local schools which encompass equality and inclusion aims;
- Monitor and review school behaviour and policies;
- Audit and monitor and cultural representation of the workforce in HES and wider school network;
- Promotion and uptake of the Black Curriculum

A joint Children and Education Anti-Racism Action Plan has been signed off by the directorate's senior leadership team.

The Action Plan derives from the strategic approach that is being undertaken by the whole council.

Training on 'Conscious Inclusion' is currently delivered.

Hackney Education's Systems Leader for Diversity and Inclusion is currently co-writing some anti-racist practice training along with a Racial Literacy Expert, Orlene Badu, and a small group of school leaders. This will be ready as an offer soon.

The Inclusion Charter will support the development of improvement plans for local schools which encompass equality and inclusion aims.

| | |
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| <p>17) It is recommended that Hackney Education Service develop opportunities for the voice of children and young people, particularly in relation to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● When children and young people have been identified as at risk of exclusion; ● When children are going through the exclusion process; ● Where children have been excluded from school and in identifying an AP that best suits their needs and aspirations; ● In assessing and monitoring the quality of AP/ | <p>The REU uses pupil voice at the centre of their work. Children will often be part of support plans and their voices help co-construct what their support looks like. For example, when writing a safety plan, the REU will (if appropriate) ask for the input from the child on how teachers and professionals can keep them safe.</p> <p>A multi agency piece of research was led by Hackney Education on 10 exclusions that happened in 2022/23, which included the voice of the child and their view of the process and their experience within it. This research has been shared with partners and has informed practice revisions moving forward.</p> <p>The plan is to continue to undertake multi agency deep dives into a sample of exclusions on a regular basis, to inform processes across Children, Families and Education.</p> |
| <p>18) It is recommended that Hackney Education Service should:</p> <p>a) Commission and/or develop access to independent advice, guidance and support for parents who have experienced exclusion (or other school move) which is available to them at the points of critical need;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - liaising with the school at the point at which a child has been identified as at risk of exclusion; - liaison and advocacy to support parents when the child has been excluded and wishes to appeal or challenge the decision; - finding the right alternative provision for their child. <p>b) That families experiencing permanent school exclusion are sign-posted and offered family support to manage experiences of trauma and family disruption.</p> <p>c) Work with local parent groups and other voluntary sector organisations to help develop and maintain peer networks that can engage and support parents and families of children excluded from school.</p> | <p>The HE Parent and Carer Engagement System Lead is working with colleagues to look at support before, during and after exclusions and suspensions. As part of reviewing the different support available at each stage, HE is considering how to feature the voice of parents/ carers who have experienced exclusions and suspensions. The System Lead is working with the Re-Engagement Unit around transition, and working with YJ to plan parent support groups/ workshops, parenting programmes and training for staff.</p> <p>Progress to date has included key documents and signposting materials for parents and carers, before, during and after an exclusion.</p> <p>The YJ team have been supported to run monthly drop in evenings for parents and carers on a range of topics that supports the inclusion of all pupils. The system Leader is running Emotion Coaching training for a range of colleagues and services (police, diversity and inclusion, YJ, REU, APs, family coaches, etc.) to support families in managing emotions effectively.</p> |



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| Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission November 30th 2023 Item 6 - Alternative Provision Strategy | Item No 6 |
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Outline

Hackney Education is developing a new Alternative Provision Strategy for children who are unable to receive education in mainstream schools. The attached presentation sets out the principles, plans and timelines for the development of the strategy.

Members are invited to review the strategy development process and plans and question officers present.

Attending for this item:

Paul Senior, Director of Education

Karen Thomson, Alternative Provision Commissioner

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Integrated Alternative Provision Strategy - Update

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Karen Thomson
**Alternative Provision Commissioner and strategy
lead**

What is Alternative Provision and where are we in Hackney

A statutory system wide and moral responsibility

- 1) A group of providers/schools delivering education for excluded children and children missing education
- 2) A multi-site service of collaborative providers integrated with schools with children and families - Team around the child
- 3) An Inclusion driver - Intensive care; Hub and spokes
- 4) Centres of excellence, research and training hubs operating as a key part of an inclusive education, health and social care community

Why change : Context, Challenges, opportunities

National picture

- New legislation and research in relation to the purpose and expectations of alternative provision as part of the system
- Policy changes due to overwhelming evidence regarding the need for more options and different approaches
- Suspensions for **physical assault, threatening behaviour and verbal abuse** increasing exponentially.
- But -The most common reason and a worrying additional trend for temporary suspension is **persistent disruptive behaviour**. Increased 2021-23 by 20%
- **Profound impact on families, systems, Headteachers, teachers**, system wide staff teams - impacting retention and the health and wellbeing of education staff.
- Spiralling mental health issues SEND -and the need for new ideas, strategies locally and nationally

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The Hackney picture

- A clear appetite for a revised AP hub and spoke service locally: led by the LA -utilising current opportunities and good quality providers within the local area
- **High level of permanent exclusions and EHCPs** compared to similar Local Authorities
- With a **limited number of flexible, affordable clear options** currently open to families. Children and schools
- A costly commissioning strategy with an over use of independent providers.
-
- Clear potential for a revised AP policy and commissioning strategy which builds upon local expertise across the education and voluntary sectors
- An appetite and need for a revised quality framework for AP which captures expectations and the latest related to good practice models

7 Fast facts - what headteachers, families and young people are saying (1)

1. Schools, parents and agencies require **more accessible and affordable support/provision** for children and families who may otherwise be pushed out of the education system
2. Expectations clarified by **new legislation** in the form of a SEND AP national improvement plan and a revised LA SEND AP OFSTED framework - We need to utilise this vehicle to harness improvement cohesion and change. (OFSTED - due in Hackney early 2024)
3. An exponentially growing number of children in schools and alternative provision have complex and or diagnosed **SEND** (81%- 95%). AP has to be more flexible, agile and sophisticated. (Responsible Inclusion)
4. Across the UK, the main areas of SEND identified in Alternative Provision includes complex **SEMH** (social and emotional mental health) and/or **Autism** (communication and interaction needs). This pattern is reflected in Hackney.



7 Fast facts - what headteachers, families and young people are saying (2)

5. A significant rise in the number of **children missing education** (CME) in mainstream and/or requiring alternative provision. A continued rise in the number of children in Hackney with emotionally based school avoidance and requiring alternative provision schooling.

6. Only 4% of excluded children attending PRUs/AP achieve a GCSE in both English and Maths. This compares to 64% (2022) in Mainstream secondary schools. **Local and national appetite for AP/PRU service transformation and redesign.**

7. There is the opportunity to integrate the latest teacher training/research via a new alternative provision tool kit into our schools to ease inclusion and enable social inclusion during challenging times. (Children's mental health hub funding).

Alternative Provision Strategy - Principles and ideas

VISION

All children have access to high quality, suitable full time education that supports them to reach their full potential

GOAL

A cohesive & graduated AP system

VALUE

'Inclusion First'

Estates Strategy

SEND Strategy

Education 2030 Strategy

Inclusion Charter

Delivering Better Value

Improved quality, performance and value for money

Revised policy and effective governance

Enabling systems, data and communications

Redesigned AP Commissioning Framework and funding model

A redesigned AP "Hub and Spoke" service

Remodelled Fair Access Panel & AP Panel

Redesigned AP Quality Assurance and Performance Framework

AP Directory/Ladder of Interventions

Clear AP dataset

Revised Service Level Agreements

AP/SEND pathways (tier 1 - 3)

AP consultative forum for parents/carers and young people

Remodelled High Needs AP funding & distribution

Clear leadership & oversight over AP & its commissioning

Extended Local Offer Website

An integrated 3 tiered system

Reduced dependency on permanent exclusion

Working for every child

Hackney

Draft timelines for implementation

Oct - Dec 2023
Internal governance

Dec - April 2024
Wider engagement
events & workshops

Pre- April 2024
Strategy & Funding
Model Consultation

May - Sept 2024
Implementation
Phase 1

September 2024
Implementation
Phase 2

Governance

- Page 49
- Fortnightly Working Group established
 - Weekly review meetings with AD SEND & Head of Safeguarding
 - Monthly check ins with Director of Education & AD School Improvement
 - SEND AP partnership group now reconfigured into Inclusion partnership (Oct 23)

Consultation

- Working with Parent & Carer System Lead (**Oct 23**)
- Behaviour & Wellbeing Group (**Oct 23**)
- SLT (**Nov 23**)
- Primary Headteacher briefing (**Nov 23**)
- Secondary Headteacher briefings (**Nov 23 & Jan 24**)
- Scrutiny Commission (**Nov 23**)
- Health & Social Care
- Strategy Workshops (**Jan - March 24**)

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| Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission November 30th 2023 Item 7 - Work Programme | Item No 7 |
|---|---------------------|

Outline

The Chair and Vice Chair have continued meeting with Senior Officers and Cabinet members to scope and agree topics prioritised by the Commission. The outline work programme for the Commission for the remainder of the municipal year 2023/24 is attached for members to note.

Noting that the 30th October 2023 had to be cancelled due to the pre-election period and further pre-election periods expected in 2024/25 (London Mayor and General Election) the Commission has also developed a rolling work programme which continues into 2024/25 municipal year. This will help provide continuity for the Commission and provide officers with sufficient notice for report planning and preparation.

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Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission Work Programme 2023/24 (rolling to 2024/25)

FORWARD PLAN ON A PAGE - Confirmed - **To be Confirmed and prioritised (some to be carried over to next municipal year)**

Municipal Year 2023/24

| | |
|---|---|
| June 27th 2023 | September 14th 2023 |
| School Estates Strategy - School Closures and Mergers (HE) | Sexual Health Services for CYP (PH) |
| Childcare Sufficiency Strategy (HE) | Recruitment & Retention of Foster Carers - draft report |
| Work Programme - Consultation Reporting 2022/23 | Work Programme |
| November 30th 2023 | December 18th 2023 |
| Pupil movement report (EHE, AP, Exclusions and SchoolMoves) (HE) | Children and Families Annual Report (CSC) |
| Update on School Exclusions report recommendations? (HE) | Joint Budget Monitoring Session - Children & Families and Hackney Education |
| Alternative provision strategy (Confirmed, checking format/content with K Thompson) | School Behaviour Policies - Scoping Report |
| January 15th 2024 | 19th February 2024 |
| CHSCP Annual Report | Future of Children's Centres - to link in with consultation - (To confirm) |
| Update: Unregistered Educational Settings (brief) | School Absence and Emotional Based School Avoidance (EBSA) - CAMHS/SEND/CSC (move to March 2024) |
| Cllr Antionnette Bramble - Cabinet Q & A (Poss topics to confirm: FSM and Childhood food poverty, School Estates Strategy - support for children, parents and staff at closing schools) | Super Youth Hub |
| March 11th 2024 | May 27th 2024 TBC |
| Disabled Children Service - with DCS, ASC, NHS (Move to May 2024) | |
| Attainment - Attainment Gap | SEND Joint Area Action Plan |

To Confirm 23/24: To Cllr Caroline Woodley - Cabinet Q & A (Childcare Commission, Family Hubs, Graduated response)

Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission Work Programme 2023/24 (rolling to 2024/25)

Municipal Year 2024/25

| | |
|---|---|
| June 2024 (TBC) | July 2024 (TBC) |
| Housing Support for Care Leavers (f/u with Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission) | School Places and School Place Planning / School Admissions |
| Youth Justice Strategy (with Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission) | Childcare Sufficiency Report (wraparound childcare funding /provision / school breakfast clubs after school clubs - Hackney to receive £913k in 2024/25) |
| Vaping (and Substance) among CYP <u>or</u> Access to Sports and Physical Activity (support 10 by 10 pledge inc teamsport, swim and bike) | |
| September 2024 (TBC) | October/ November 2024 (TBC) |
| Health of Looked after children ?? | Autistic Spectrum Disorder |
| Extended HV Service young parents (will be operational for a year) | Pupil Movement |
| November/ December 2024 (TBC) | January 2025 (TBC) |
| Children's Social Care Annual Report | Sexual Health Services for Young People - follow up |
| Joint Budget Monitoring Session - Children & Families and Hackney Education | CHSCP Annual Report |
| February /March 2025 (TBC) | March / April 2025(TBC) |
| Early Help Strategy -: integrated partnership offer (other statutory providers and CVS) single-point of access (CSC/SEND/CAMHS) - Data monitoring - evaluation of impact, | Pupil Attainment |
| | |
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Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission Work Programme 2023/24 (rolling to 2024/25)

| For consideration / to schedule | |
|---|---|
| Outcomes of Ofsted inspection of Children’s Social Care (ILACS) - Spring 24? | School Estates: increasing in borough SEND provision: graduated response, ARP provision (links to AP strategy) |
| Outcomes of Ofsted/ Care Quality Commission Area SEND inspection spring/summer 2024? | Childhood Immunisations |
| Kinship Carers | Foetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASDs) |
| School Nursing Service (key decision in March 2024) | Integrated commissioning CYP services - CSC and SEND |

Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission Work Programme 2023/24 (rolling to 2024/25)

| Meeting 1 | Item title and scrutiny objective | Directorate – Division – Officer Responsibility | Preparatory work to support item |
|---|--|---|---|
| <p>Meeting Date: Tuesday 27th June</p> <p>Deadline for reports: 16th June 2023</p> <p>Publication 19th June 2023</p> | <p><u>School Estates Strategy</u> To review the School Estates Strategy proposal to informally consult on the closure of two primary schools (De Beauvoir and Randal Cremer) and the merger of a further four primary schools (Baden Powell with Nightingale and Colvestone with Princess May). To inform a response to the informal consultation which closes on the 16th July 2023.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Paul Senior, Director of Education and Inclusion ● David Court, Head of School Organisation and Commissioning ● Laura Stagg, Parent Carer Engagement System Leader ● Parents Groups - to be confirmed ● Hackney NEU - to be confirmed | - |
| | <p><u>Childcare Sufficiency</u> It is a statutory requirement for members to review local childcare sufficiency reports which are produced bi-annually. The Commission reviewed the full assessment report in 2022 and will therefore review an update in 2023.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Donna Thomas, Head of Early Years, Early Help & Well-being ● Tim Wooldridge, Early Years Strategy Manager ● Paul Senior, Interim Director of Education and Inclusion | |
| | <p>Development of new CYP Work Programme for 2022/23</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Commission/ Scrutiny officer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To consult local stakeholders ● Meet with service Directors ● Collate topic suggestions ● Informal meeting with Commission |

Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission Work Programme 2023/24 (rolling to 2024/25)

| Meeting 2 | Item title and scrutiny objective | Directorate – Division – Officer Responsibility | Preparatory work to support item |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p>Meeting Date: Thursday 14th September 2023</p> <p>Papers deadline: 4th September 2023</p> <p>Agenda dispatch: 6th September 2023</p> | <p><u>Sexual and Reproductive Health of Children & Young People</u> To review sexual and reproductive health provision in context of draft sexual health strategy and the discontinuation of CHYPs Plus service.</p> | Public Health as service commissioners with contributions from: Homerton Hospital, Young Hackney, British Association of Sexual Health & HIV, Healthwatch. | Focus groups with children and young people: -Hackney Youth Parliament -Care Council -Young Futures |
| | <p><u>Recruitment and Retention of Foster Carers</u> Update on Commissions report - draft report with draft recommendations and proposals for consultation.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Commission ● Scrutiny Officer | |
| | <p><u>School Estates Strategy</u> To note the Commission's consultation response to proposals to close 2 schools and merge 4 others.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Commission ● Scrutiny Officer | |
| | <p>To note responses to the Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FSM and Childhood Food Poverty (LBH) - Unregistered Settings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Commission ● Scrutiny Officer | |
| | <p><u>Work programme 2023/24</u> To continue discussions on future work programme items for 2023/24</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Commission ● Scrutiny Officer | |

Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission Work Programme 2023/24 (rolling to 2024/25)

| Meeting 3 | Item title and scrutiny objective | Directorate – Division – Officer Responsibility | Preparatory work to support item |
|---|--|--|----------------------------------|
| | <p><u>Pupil Movement (45)</u> Standing item; To review pupil movement year 10 movement rates (off-rolling), School Moves, Elective Home Education, Exclusions numbers of children in Alternative Provision.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Paul Senior, Director of Education ● Katherine Cracknell, Head of Wellbeing & Education Safeguarding ● David Court, AD School Estates Strategy ● Billy Baker, Pupils Out of School ● Donna Thomas, Head of Early Years, Early Help & Wellbeing | |
| <p><u>Meeting Date:</u> 30th November 2023</p> <p>Papers deadline: 20th November 2023</p> <p>Agenda dispatch: 22nd November 2023</p> | <p><u>Outcome of School Exclusions (45)</u> Review follow up of recommendations made from 2021 review. Last update was received 10 months ago (January 2023).</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Paul Senior, Director of Education ● Katherine Cracknell, Head of Wellbeing & Education Safeguarding ● Donna Thomas, Head of Early Years, Early Help & Wellbeing | |
| | <p><u>Alternative Provision Strategy (30)</u> In view of recent updated guidance, to receive an update on plans to develop a new Alternative Provision Strategy. (May be taken within Outcome of School Exclusions as recs cover this area).</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Paul Senior, Director of Education ● Karen Thompson, Alternative Provision Commissioner | |
| | <p><u>Work programme 2023/24</u> To continue discussions on future work programme items for 2023/24</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Commission ● Scrutiny Officer | |

Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission Work Programme 2023/24 (rolling to 2024/25)

| Meeting 4 | Item title and scrutiny objective | Directorate – Division – Officer Responsibility | Preparatory work to support item |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p>Meeting Date: 18th December 2023</p> <p>Papers deadline: 5th December 2023</p> <p>Agenda dispatch: 8th December 2023</p> | <p><u>Children’s Social Care Annual Report (45)</u> Standing Item: to review children’s social care activity for the period April 2022 to March 2023.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Diane Benjamin, Director of Children's Social Care | |
| | <p><u>Budget Monitoring (45)</u> To further support the alignment of these directorates, the Commission will review in-year budgets for both Hackney Education and Children’s Social Care. These have previously been taken separately.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vernon Strowbridge, Interim Director of Finance ● Sajeed Patni, Head of Finance Children & Families | |
| | <p><u>School Behaviour Policy - Scoping report (30)</u> To agree to the terms of reference for the Commission's review of school behaviour policies.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Commission ● Scrutiny Officer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus group with external informants for policy context and to help shape focus of the review. |
| | <p><u>Work programme 2023/24</u> To continue discussions on future work programme items for 2023/24</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Commission ● Scrutiny Officer | |

Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission Work Programme 2023/24 (rolling to 2024/25)

| Meeting 5 | Item title and scrutiny objective | Directorate – Division – Officer Responsibility | Preparatory work to support item |
|---|---|--|----------------------------------|
| <p>Meeting Date: 15th January 2024</p> | <p><u>City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report (45)</u> Standing item: to review CHSCP Annual Report 2022/23</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jim Gamble, Independent Safeguarding Commissioner, CHSCP ● Rory McCallum, Senior Professional Adviser | |
| <p>Papers deadline: 3rd January 2024</p> | <p><u>Unregistered Educational Settings(15)</u> An update on the Commission's recommendations - review progress in regulatory oversight.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jim Gamble, Independent Safeguarding Commissioner, CHSCP ● Rory McCallum, Senior Professional Adviser ● Paul Senior, Director of Education | |
| <p>Agenda dispatch: 5th January 2024</p> | <p><u>Cabinet Q & A (45)</u> (PROVISIONAL) Possible topics for questioning - a) School Closures implementation (primary school places apps close 15/1) - support to children, families, schools b) FSM and childhood food poverty - preparations post July 2024 end of Mayoral FSM provision)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cllr Anntionette Bramble, Cabinet member for Children, Education and Children's Social Care | |
| | <p><u>Work programme 2023/24</u> To continue discussions on future work programme items for 2023/24</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Commission ● Scrutiny Officer | |

Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission Work Programme 2023/24 (rolling to 2024/25)

| Meeting 6 | Item title and scrutiny objective | Directorate – Division – Officer Responsibility | Preparatory work to support item |
|--|---|--|---|
| <p>Meeting Date: 19th February 2024</p> <p>Papers deadline: 6th February 2024</p> <p>Agenda dispatch: 9th February 2024</p> | <p><u>Future of Children’s Centres (90) (PROVISIONAL)</u> - To review future plans for Children’s Centres</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Paul Senior, Director of Education ● Donna Thomas, Head of Early Years, Early Help & Wellbeing | <p>To link with any agreed public consultation - date to be agreed.</p> |
| | <p><u>Pupil Absence & Emotional Based School Avoidance (75) (TBC Move to March 24)</u> To review persistent (10%) and severe (50%) absence rates in schools, and assess how the local partnership (schools, HE, SEND, CAMHS and CSC) is supporting children and families to reduce EBSA. Also to review how local services are performing in context of new guidance (Sep 2023).</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Paul Senior, Director of Education ● Joe Wilson, AD for SEND, Inclusion ● CAMHS ● CSC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To consult/ involve school heads ahead of/ or at the meeting - Anna Freud Centre |
| | <p><u>Super Youth Hub (30)</u> To scrutinise plans for a proposed development of a health and wellbeing hub. (Pilot 24/24 subject to funding confirmation).</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Amy Wilkinson ● Nancy Bending-Becket ● Sophie Mcelroy | |
| | <p><u>Work programme 2023/24</u> To continue discussions on future work programme items for 2023/24</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Commission ● Scrutiny Officer | |

Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission Work Programme 2023/24 (rolling to 2024/25)

| Meeting 7 | Item title and scrutiny objective | Directorate – Division – Officer Responsibility | Preparatory work to support item |
|---|---|---|----------------------------------|
| <p>Meeting Date: 11th March 2024</p> <p>Papers deadline: 27th February 2024</p> <p>Agenda dispatch: 1st March 2024</p> | <p><u>Pupil Attainment - Attainment Gap (45)</u> The Commission reviews pupil attainment annually - with a specific focus on the attainment gap between cohorts of young people. The Commission has requested details of actions taken by schools and local authorities to address the local attainment gap.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Paul Senior, Director of Education ● Jason Marantz, Assistant Director, School Standards and Improvement | <p>- Agree external input.</p> |
| | <p><u>Disabled Children Service (75m) (Poss move to May 24)</u> To review service provision with a focus on transitional preparation and support - noting the number of children who do not reach the threshold for adult social care. Also noting this is a high spend service.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Diane Benjamin, Director of Children’s Social Care ● Steve Jahoda, Head of Disabled Children Service ● Nadia Sica ● Sarah Darcy ● Georgina Diba | |
| | <p><u>Work programme 2023/24</u> To continue discussions on future work programme items for 2023/24</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Commission ● Scrutiny Officer | |

Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission Work Programme 2023/24 (rolling to 2024/25)

| Meeting 8 | Item title and scrutiny objective | Directorate – Division – Officer Responsibility | Preparatory work to support item |
|--|---|--|----------------------------------|
| <p>Meeting Date: May 29/30th 2024</p> <p>Papers deadline: 30th April</p> <p>Agenda dispatch: 3rd May 2024</p> | <p><u>SEND Area Action Plan (60m)</u> (Standing item) Implementation of SEND Strategy - agreed to follow up from 22/23. This is a partnership strategy and action plan for which all bodies are accountable via the SEND partnership board.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paul Senior, Director of Education - Joe Wilson, AD SEND & Inclusion - Sarah Darcy, NHS - Diane Benjamin/Steve Jahoda, CSC/ Disabled Children Service | |
| | <p><u>Vaping among children and young people</u> Explore the uptake and impact (health and otherwise) of vaping on young people and how local services are supporting prevention (illegal use). Young people have reported</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public Health Team - Young Hackney HWB - Licensing representative - efforts to prevent illegal sales - test purchase data - External | |
| | <p><u>Access to Physical Activity Sport</u> To assess young people's access to sport/ physical activity in relation to the Mayoral pledge of '10 by 10' (inc teamsport, swim and bike). Including possible links to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Possible decline of PE in school curriculum and after school clubs; - Accessibility and range of sports clubs; - Possible inequalities in access; - Local childhood obesity data. | | |
| | <p>Work programme 2023/24 To continue discussions on future work programme items for 2023/24</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Commission ● Scrutiny Officer | |

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| Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission November 30th 2023 Item 8 - Minutes | Item No 8 |
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Outline

To note and agree the minutes of the meeting of the Commission held on 14th September 2023.

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London Borough of Hackney
Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission
Municipal Year 2023/24
Date of Meeting Thursday 14 September 2023

Minutes of the proceedings of the
Children and Young People
Scrutiny Commission held at
Hackney Town Hall, Mare Street,
London E8 1EA

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| Chair | Councillor Sophie Conway |
| Councillors in Attendance | Cllr Margaret Gordon (Vice-Chair), Cllr Alastair Binnie-Lubbock, Cllr Eluzer Goldberg, Cllr Sheila Suso-Runge and Cllr Lynne Troughton. |
| Apologies: | Cllr Lee Laudat-Scott |
| Co-optees Attending: | Andy English, Chanelle Paul and Mariya Bham |
| Members Connecting Virtually | <u>Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission:</u> Cllr Anya Sizer, Cllr Sarah Young and Jo Macleod. <u>Health in Hackney Scrutiny Commission:</u> Cllr Ben Hayhurst, Cllr Sharon Patrick and Cllr Claudia Turbet-Delof. |
| Others in Attendance | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Anntionette Bramble, Statutory Deputy Mayor & Cabinet Member for Education, Young People and Children's Social Care• Cllr Caroline Woodley, Cabinet Member for Families, Early Years, Parks & Play• Paul Senior, Director of Education and Inclusion• Sandra Husbands, DPH, City & London Public Health• Chris Lovitt, Deputy Director of PH, City & London Public Health.• Carolyn Sharpe, Consultant in Public Health, City & London Public Health.• Skye Joseph, Young Peer Researcher, Hackney Super Youth Hub.• Sophie Mcelroy, Senior Programme Manager, CAMHS Alliance/Hackney Education.• Mags Shaughnessy, Interim Divisional Director of Operations CCS Division, Homerton Hospital:• Dr Sarah Creighton, Consultant in Sexual Health and HIV, Homerton Hospital.• David Wright, Health & Wellbeing Team Leader, Young Hackney.• Sally Beaven, Executive Director, Hackney Healthwatch• Kanariya Yuseinova, Enter and View and Volunteer Manager, Hackney Healthwatch.• Darren Tippets, British Association of Sexual Health & HIV, Adolescent Sexual Health Interest Group. |

- **Jarlath O'Connell, Scrutiny Officer.**

Members of the Public Two members of the public were present.

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Councillor Sophie Conway in the Chair

1 Apologies for Absence

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from the following members of the Commission:

- Cllr Lee Laudat-Scott.

Apologies for absence were received from the following officers:

- Jacquie Burke, Group Director for Children & Education;
- Paul Senior, Director of Education.

Apologies for lateness were received from:

- Deputy Mayor Bramble.

1.2 The following members connected virtually:

- Cllr Anya Sizer;
- Cllr Sarah Young;
- Jo Macleod - (Co-opted Member);
- Cllr Ben Hayhurst (Health in Hackney);
- Cllr Sharon Patrick (Health in Hackney);
- Cllr Claudia Turbet-Delof (Health in Hackney).

2 Declarations of Interest

2.1 The following declarations were received:

- Jo Macleod was a governor at a local primary school.

3 Urgent Items / Order of Business

3.1 The Chair requested an urgent update in relation to safety concerns associated with Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in schools in Hackney. This was taken after item 3 (Declarations) and recorded under item 11 (Urgent items).

4 Sexual & Reproductive Health of Children and Young People (19.05)

4.1 The chair noted that the focus for this meeting was to assess future sexual and reproductive health service provision for young people in the context of:

- The decision to discontinue the CHYPs Plus service;
- The Draft Sexual Health Strategy (2023-28) and
- The Director of Public Health Annual Report 2022-23 which sets out priorities for sexual and reproductive health needs of young people.

4.2 In respect of anticipated outcomes it was hoped that the Commission would:

- Provide feedback on the Draft Sexual Health Strategy;

- Assess the impact of the discontinuation of CHYPS Plus service
- Ensure remaining services can meet sexual and reproductive health needs of young people;
- Determining what future models of provision of sexual and reproductive health services might look like (for example, through plans for a super youth hub).

City & Hackney Public Health

4.3 Officers presented a short summary of the paper submitted to the Commission and also highlighted the following points:

- There are high levels of sexual health needs in Hackney, with the borough having some of the highest rates of STI infection and re-infection across London. There are also significant inequalities in the accessibility and uptake of local sexual health and reproductive health services.
- The Public Health Service have developed a draft sexual health strategy with 5 key priorities to address these needs:
 1. Priority 1- Healthy and fulfilling sexual relationships
 2. Priority 2 - Good reproductive health across the life course
 3. Priority 3 - STI prevention and treatment
 4. Priority 4 - Getting to Zero HIV
 5. Priority 5 - Vulnerable populations and those with complex needs
- The Annual Director of Public Health Report (2023) also focused on the sexual and reproductive health needs of young people.
- This was a complex area of service provision with services being commissioned and delivered at NHS level, Primary Care (GP and Pharmacy) and at local authority level (Young Hackney Health and Wellbeing team). This means that it can be hard for young people and other vulnerable cohorts to navigate and access local services.
- The CHYPs Plus service provides a holistic clinical and wellbeing service dedicated for young people, including dedicated sexual and reproductive health advice. The contract to provide this service with the Homerton Hospital ended August 2023, and although this had been extended to the end of November 2023, PH had taken the decision to let this contract expire. The contract was allowed to expire because the service was not reaching agreed service targets (attendance, reach and new clients). It was also not reaching broader wellbeing targets around smoking cessation, weight loss advice or onward referral to other services. The PH team did not want to rush into a new sub-optimal commissioning decision to replace CHYPs Plus as there were a number of new and transformational developments happening within young people's services (e.g. super youth hub) which it would like to reflect in new arrangements. It would also be important to hear from young people about what they want from sexual and reproductive health services locally.
- The above decision should also be considered in the context that the PH team have been asked to contribute to the substantial savings required by the Council within the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- Aside from CHYPs, there were a range of local services which would continue to meet the sexual and reproductive health needs of young people, and the local priorities should be on integration and improving reach of local provision.

Peer Research (Super Youth Hub)

4.4 This project involved 16 young peer researchers aged 14-19 years of age who conducted research with young people across City & Hackney to elicit their views on the shape of future health and wellbeing services, including sexual health. The project

spoke to 230 young people aged between 10 and 25 years of age. The premise of this research was to understand young peoples' views about a prospective super youth hub, where young people would access all their health and wellbeing through greater integration of services. There were 5 themes within the analysis: Connections, accessibility, quality, comfort and youth hubs.

4.5 The research identified a number of key issues for young people accessing sexual and reproductive health services:

- Young people were reluctant to engage and open up with staff due to cultural barriers (not seeing themselves reflected in the workforce), fear of the unknown or where there were no clear complaints process to address matters when things go wrong.
- Young people indicated that it was crucial to have well trained and informed staff who were able to give clear, consistent and open advice to young people. Staff should also be diverse reflecting the ethnical and cultural diversity of young people attending.
- There should also be more information on the nature of services available and how young people could expect to be treated (assurances around confidentiality, respect and openness). There should also be systems in place for young people to feed back their views.
- There were a number of key accessibility issues for sexual and reproductive health services which included lengthy waiting times for appointments and referrals and a lack of coordinated service information, especially that available online.
- What was needed was a) clearer communication between providers b) more online resources c) improved access routes through schools d) open and judgement free environment, allowing young people to bring companions and youth workers for support e) a more holistic view of health where sexual health is linked to wider wellbeing.

Homerton Hospital

4.6 Representatives noted that many of the issues highlighted by peer researchers in the super youth hub project aligned with experiences of sexual health services at Homerton. The CHYPs Plus service was difficult to access, so the service was brought back to the main site in the Clifden Centre. As a result, access to the service by young people aged under 20 has increased by 120% from April to August 2023. The service was looking at ways to improve communication and work across local providers. Whilst the service has absorbed much of what CHYPS did in terms of safeguarding, there were gaps in current provision in that the sexual health service could not provide additional work in relation to onward referrals, smoking cessation and mental health support.

4.7 The Homerton also highlighted a number of other gaps in relation to sexual and reproductive health provision locally:

- Delivery of sex and relationship education in schools, especially in local academies where there was a lack of clarity what was driving local curriculums;
- There was a gender gap in young people accessing services, with service predominantly attended by young women (though young men accounted for 25% of users of the CHYPS service);
- Delivering outreach services was of dubious value as this tended to engage a static population and there were challenges of delivering services confidentiality in these settings. It was also difficult to deliver sexual health service outreach through Youth Hubs;

- There was also a gap for men who have sex with men to obtain HIV prevention treatment (PrEP);
- Gender identify services, which is an area which particularly affected adolescents, was an area of under provision locally.

Young Hackney

4.8 Young Hackney delivers sex and relationship education to both primary and secondary schools across Hackney and has done so for 7 years. The team delivered 1,112 sessions in schools last year which was more than twice the target figure. Whilst PSHE was mandatory in schools, the depth in which this subject was covered and how it was taught was determined by individual schools. There were significant variations amongst local schools in the extent to which they used the services of the Wellbeing Team; whilst some schools invite the team in regularly to teach a wide range of issues, others appeared more reluctant, just using the team to support drop-down days once or twice a year. Some schools were teaching the bare minimum in terms of sex and relationship education to make sure these met Ofsted requirements.

Hackney Healthwatch

4.9 The organisation has recently completed two pieces of work which were relevant to this discussion: a mystery shopper exercise looking at availability of Emergency Hormonal Contraception at local pharmacies and the outcomes of an enter and view process of the Clifden Sexual Health Centre. Healthwatch was also part way through a piece of work with young girls on periods. From all these pieces of work it was felt that the organisation had some understanding of some of the key issues for young people in relation to accessing sexual and reproductive health advice.

- Firstly, young people said that it was so important to engage and involve them on plans to develop or change services for young people.
- Secondly, communication and publicity was important to young people so that they knew where services were and how they could access them - this was necessary to underpin service provision.
- Thirdly, young people did not want a cold clinical setting, but wanted to access a service in which they felt comfortable and were made to feel welcome.
- Staff attitudes were also important with many young people noting how important it was not to feel judged in such settings.
- The ability to walk-in to a service was also important to young people in terms of service accessibility.

Adolescent Special Interest Group (ASIG) - British Association of Sexual Health & HIV

4.10 From its research and work with young people, the ASIG presented a number of key findings which were relevant to this discussion:

- Firstly, ensuring that there were well trained staff who were experienced in working with and supporting the needs of young people was of paramount importance. A good service needed to have staff that could be open with young people, show empathy and who can communicate with them. Staff must also show a real interest in the lives of young people and their safety and this requires a broader understanding of young people's experiences beyond sexual health.
- Inclusivity was also important to local service provision to ensure that all young people felt welcome and that their needs would be met, particularly young people from LGBT community, or who were neuro-diverse.

- Confidentiality is very high on what young people expect from a sexual health service, though practitioners need to be clear on the circumstances when they might need to share information with others.
- The location of young people's clinics was also important as they needed to be adjacent to good public transport or where children and young people naturally congregated.
- Young men were not accessing clinics as much as young women, and there needed to be clear strategies to reach out and engage them in supporting their sexual health needs.
- Outreach needed careful planning to make sure services reached intended targets, particularly those who did not attend clinics (such as boys). It was important that such sessions were not over complicated and had clear messaging for young people.
- Services need to communicate with young people on the platforms which they use - so services should be ready to engage with young people via WhatsApp.
- Make booking appointments as easy as possible, make sure appointments were at times convenient to young people and that these were a mixture of walk-in and bookable appointments.
- Not all young people wanted to access dedicated young people's services, so it was important to ensure that mainstream services remained accessible and appropriate to young people.
- It was also important that there was sex positive messaging which underpinned service promotion and not focused on unintended pregnancies and STI's. Staff need to feel comfortable talking about sex positive issues.
- Commissioning of sexual health services was fragmented, so commissioners needed to ensure that there were ways in which services could communicate with each other and were working to the same priorities and had adopted the same approach.

Questions from the Commission

4.11 In the context of high levels of local need, it was important to understand to what degree was CHYPs Plus service not meeting local needs of young people, so it would help to have further data on this? What gap will the decommissioning of CHYPs lead to in meeting the sexual and reproductive health needs of local young people?

- (CS) CHYPs was commissioned for 2,000 contacts with young people per year but only 674 (33%). Decommissioning CHYPs will not leave a gap as more young people are already using alternative services such as the main sexual health clinic at the Homerton or Sexual Health London (SHL), an on-line STI testing and emergency contraception service. Data also shows that CHYPs did not have a broad reach and it was not attracting new young people to its service. Considering how many more young people accessed the main sexual health service (2,384 18-24 year olds and 140 u16's) and SHL CHYPs it was agreed that this service model was not working and was not considered the best use of resources. The service would then assess what young people wanted and reconfigure existing services and identify how to make these more young people friendly.

4.12 The best way of preventing STIs and HIV was the use of condoms, and the YH strategy indicates that these should be widely available in public buildings such as libraries and gyms and other similar spaces, yet these were not visible locally?

- (DW) The Health and Wellbeing Team of YH manage the condom distribution scheme in Hackney. The team ensures that condoms are available in all 10 halls of student residences and works within the night time economy to ensure that there are condoms available in local bars and clubs where young people attend. It was acknowledged that bar distribution may generate funding pressures as there was no way to effectively target under 25's (the intended age group for the condom distribution scheme). The scheme is supported by posters and leaflets, where young people can scan a QR code to identify outlets from where they can obtain free condoms (on confirmation of name and age). It was not clear how many condoms were being distributed to young people in Hackney however and whether local targets were being reached, as some key providers were not signed up to the distribution scheme (e.g. Homerton Sexual Health Clinic, African Network). Some schools will let the team register young people on the condom distribution scheme, though many prefer that condoms are not distributed on site.
- (KY) It was also noted that the mystery shopper exercise which looked into young people's access to emergency hormonal contraception at local pharmacists, also found that very few offered condoms, despite being signed up to a local scheme.
- (CL) The first part of the draft sexual health strategy focuses on education and ensuring that people feel positive about the sexual relationship that they have and feel confident to access sexual services when needed. It was acknowledged that having an extensive array of distribution sites does inhibit effective quality assurance, but this was a difficult balance to strike. The strategy also reinforces the role of schools in providing effective sex and relationship education to young people, and seeks to make sure schools recognise that responsibility. The Health & Wellbeing Board would be provided with regular updates on the strategy, including new planned developments. The decommissioning of CHYPs was an opportunity to assess how this contributed to local savings requirements but also to reflect how these resources might be reinvested in sexual and reproductive health services.

4.13 The Commission had heard from many contributors of the need to engage and involve more young men to help facilitate access to sexual and reproductive health services. What were local services doing locally to engage and involve young men around sexual health and HIV?

- No response received.

4.14 What does the Homerton Sexual Health Service attribute the 120% increase in attendances at CHYPs since this was moved to Clifden Sexual Health Centre? What assurances are there that this clinic continues to reach young people and have good outcomes?

- (SC) Quite simply, the service is now much more accessible in that it is easier for people to get to and there is much more consistency in day and times the service is open. In terms of service quality, the Clifden Sexual Health clinic uses exactly the same pro-formas and assessments for tests and treatments that young people accessing CHYPs would have had.

4.15 Will the mental health and emotional wellbeing support provided by CHYPs be continued after its been decommissioned?

- (CS) The mental health and emotional wellbeing element of the CHYPs contract will be discontinued along with all other aspects of this service. Analysis found that the provision of additional services to the sexual health aspect of the contract was poor performing also with few referrals being made from CHYPs.

Although there were other similar services, this might not preclude additional commissioning for mental health and emotional wellbeing in the future. The consultation with young people connected with the super youth hub would provide further guidance, particularly in how their health and wellbeing needs might be met in a more holistic way. It was emphasised that Public Health did not want to rush in to re-commission CHYPs, but wanted to reflect, reassess local provision and consult with young people (super youth hub) before further decisions were made.

- (SM) The research undertaken by peer researchers was not sexual and reproductive health specific but around their broader health and wellbeing. Commonly when young people need help and support it is for more than one issue or there may be other underlying issues which cause the reason for presentation (i.e. mental health concerns may be causing risky sexual health behaviour). The SYH researchers have asked what do young people want from services in this broader context.

4.16 How will the outcomes of the peer research from the Super Youth Hub (SYH) project shape and influence future sexual health service provision for young people?

- (SM) The SYH is looking to develop a number of pilots within local neighbourhood areas but is awaiting the outcomes of the action research to inform the model that might be used. The recommendations from this consultation are being developed and would be included in a final report. It should be remembered that young people are all different and have different expectations from services: in what they provide, how they are provided and from where. A draft model has been developed at this early stage and it is likely that it will have an outreach function, for example to engage young men at those settings where they congregate (e.g. at sports clubs). This might be accompanied by a more static offer for a youth service which might be open every day of the week.
- (Peer Researcher) Whatever is created, young people must be at the heart and centre of SYH development as young people know what young people need.

4.17 As there will be an interim period between decommissioning of CHYPs and the start of the Super Youth Hub, what actions will be taken to ensure that other services are youth friendly and recognise and respond to the needs of young people? For example, young people from the focus group noted that the layout of local sexual health services might be improved for young people and more information should be available about what to expect at an appointment in advance of attending. How long will the interim period be?

- (CS) There is no date for the commencement of the SYH as this is not only contingent on research and consultation with stakeholders, but also on receipt of NHS funding (yet to be confirmed). Whilst there will be an interim period without CHYPS, it was suggested that this would have limited impact on the sexual and reproductive health outcomes of young people as this service was poorly performing and there were other services which young people were already using and could continue to use. It was recognised that the closure of CHYPs would impact on existing users, so conversations have been had with Homerton to identify how generic sexual and reproductive health services can be more young people friendly and how it can integrate more with other local services (such as the health and wellbeing team). It was noted that preliminary conversations had already taken place about having some dedicated youth focussed outreach from the sexual health service. So whilst there were plans to mitigate the impact of the closure of CHYPs, nothing had yet been finalised.

- (CL) PH had asked Homerton Hospital to increase the capacity of the sexual health service and increase the number of appointments available. The service was again offering walk-in services which were known to be preferable to young people. When a young person enters the clinic they are also triaged and almost certainly seen on that day rather than be told to come back another time. The online service was also very successful and was available to under 16's. Consulting and coproducing with young people does take time however, and there would be an interim period after CHYPs with no immediate 'substitute'.

4.18 Is the PH team producing sufficient information in different community languages around sexual and reproductive health? Is there any provision for young people who may have some form of sight loss?

- (CL) Ensuring that people, not just young people, know about what services are available is a central part of the draft strategy. Details need to be online, in different languages and accessible in all the disability characteristics. In order to respond to high levels of infection and reinfection however, the local system did need to change.

4.19 It is now clear that there is an inconsistent PSHE offer to young people within local schools which meant that knowledge and understanding of sex and relationship issues was varied. This was a real concern to the commission and would welcome improvements across the public sector partnership. What feedback has been received from schools that don't take up the health and wellbeing team offer? Could the outcomes of those schools who do take up the offer be shared with other schools?

- (DW) The health and wellbeing verified this in that some schools invited the team to provide educational sessions on a wide range of subjects, whilst others would invite the team in for just one session per year for a drop-down day. It was confirmed that all schools, including academies, had to provide PSHE sessions, though the scope and quality of this curriculum varied across schools. The team also offers training to professionals, including teachers but take up has been inconsistent. Sometimes it depended on specific school leaders or other responsible staff on the nature and scope of PSHE provision with individual schools.
- (CL) Schools do have an important role to play, but increasingly, social media is playing an equal role in educating and developing awareness of issues such as sexual health and is a trusted source. In this context it was important to develop trusted local brands of information, such as the Homerton Hospital.

4.20 The Chair also asked one of the head teachers present to reflect on the councils PSHE offer? Was there more that could be done?

- (AE) At this school there was a comprehensive for PSHE which was delivered across a number of modules by a range of stakeholders, including Young Hackney. There was a dedicated PSHE coordinator who worked with other agencies, such as Stonewall to develop and deliver the curriculum. This was reviewed each year. The school also made sure that this offer was continued into 6th form provision also.

4.21 Could officers provide greater context on the budgetary and financial context for PH and the need to find savings and the discontinuation of CHYPs?

- (Cabinet member for Health) It was noted that evaluation of CHYPs had been under consideration for some time (in excess of 1 year) and was not a 'knee jerk' reaction to adverse performance figures. It was also noted that the procurement team reviewed early termination of contracts seriously, and a report was expected at Cabinet Procurement and Insourcing Committee in due course.

- (SH) It was noted that the CHYPs service would already have been decommissioned except for the extension given by PH to allow staff transitions. It might be that a combined and co-located service (CHYPs with generic sexual health) at the Clifden site, is part of the solution given the increase in attendances that this service has reported.
- (CS) It was also noted that the 674 figure related to physical attendances at CHYPs and not service users. The target for the service was 2,000 contacts and this had not been met for a number of years (even before the pandemic). The number of under 18 year olds attending CHYPs, the real target audience for this service, was also very low.
- (CL) This is a delicate situation in which a service is clearly not working which has been an issue for a number of years, illustrated by the number of young people not attending the service in expected numbers. This was not a savings related decision, but at the same time, the Council has made the decision to make savings. Whilst these two issues are not linked, this decision will contribute to savings required of the PH budget. The service was consulting on the new Sexual Health Strategy which will require further changes to the way that services are provided. Similar difficult decisions have also been taken around the decision to decommission Brook (as condom distributor) and to bring that service in-house to Young Hackney. The PH team is focused on delivering the best sexual and reproductive outcomes for young people. Given the data the PH team had, a view had to be taken and this was to take a different approach.

4.22 The Chair invited the BASH representative to give their views on dedicated sexual and reproductive health care provision from a comparative and best practice perspective.

- (DT) When sexual health services move, it takes a long time for both young people and local practitioners to know and recognise this and to change patterns of use or referrals. The idea of the one-stop shop might seem attractive, but from experience, other additional services tend to fall away (as services get re-commissioned or practitioners move) and what is left is a core sexual and reproductive health service. Whilst young people's sexual health services cover the range of 13-25 years, the real focus should be on the under 18s cohort in terms of service reach and prioritisation. Similar experiences of teaching PSHE were recorded elsewhere, where some schools were welcoming with numerous teaching sessions through the academic year. Academies however, tended to just invite external PSHE teaching on one day per year, with the expectation that the curriculum can be covered in a 3 hour session with large numbers of young people. In this context, this was a 'box ticking' exercise rather than real engagement with the PSHE curriculum. It was also noted that the landscape is complex, and really needs a coordinating role to ensure that all parts of the system are working in alignment to locally agreed priorities.

4.23 What analysis has been undertaken of the young people who were attending CHYPs? What are their characteristics and what were their needs? This is important to ensure that the needs of this cohort are met within the new configuration and service design?

- (CS) Some of the deficiencies in performance of CHYPs relate to quality and consistency of the data collected. This meant that it was really difficult to determine who was attending the CHYPs service and attendance data often did not tally. In reality, all that was available was the age group of people attending CHYPs. The PH team have requested a full data analysis of the young people using this service (demographic characteristics) and would welcome any further information that the Homerton can provide to learn more about this population of service users.

4.24 City and Hackney alongside other London boroughs commission Sexual Health London to provide an online access to STI testing and access to regular and emergency contraception. What assurance can be provided that young people are utilising this service? As SHL is just a testing service and all positive tests will require attendance at a sexual health clinic for treatment and support. Do we know where young people go for treatment who have received a positive result?

- (CL) It is only available to young people aged 16 and over and there is active safeguarding monitoring to ensure that under-age utilisation is identified. For the most part, the online service is for people who are asymptomatic, and that if young people have symptoms then they should go to the clinic. The SHL service is very popular with a return rate in excess of 80%. If a positive result is obtained, the young person would be encouraged to make an appointment at a clinic so they can receive treatment (noted that this was not necessary for Chlamydia as the treatment could be posted out). This service is highly effective and with good take up by young people across City and Hackney. As this service cannot support under 16's it is important to have open access services. The SHL model is a lot cheaper than other forms of provision, but this releases money for more outreach and other targeted work. There is a £7m budget for sexual and reproductive health services in City & Hackney of which CHYPs was just over £500k. It was acknowledged that this service was not for everyone, hence the need for diversification of provision.

4.25 What is understood about what constitutes a 'young person friendly service'? How, in the light of the decommissioning of CHYPs, is the PH team trying to make sexual and reproductive health services 'young people friendly' in Hackney? Generic Sexual Health Services? Pharmacies? General Practice?

- (DT) There is a government backed youth friendly accreditation process called 'You're welcome' which covers a number of criteria including engagement of young people in service planning, design and delivery, staff training and interconnection of services.

4.26 The dedicated clinic model has not worked within Hackney, but there is evidence that this model is still widely used in other boroughs. Do we know if this model of dedicated provision is effective where it is in operation?

- (DT) In the NCL NHS area which covers Camden, Barnet, Haringey and Islington a range of dedicated young people's clinics operate in each of the localities. In Islington the NCL in collaboration with Brook provides a dedicated young people's sexual and reproductive health clinic, and similar dedicated services are offered across the other boroughs. It is really important to focus on under 18's using these services, and there is a policy across all services that all under 18's can simply walk in at any time, regardless of whether it is a young person's service or not. Ensuring that staff are both comfortable and confident speaking with young people, and do not see young people accessing the service solely as a safeguarding concern (though services do need robust safeguarding policies). Young people understand the need for safeguarding as this demonstrates an interest in their welfare. It was also important to have consistency in the clinic offer and not to have too many different clinics running on different days and times.
- (Peer Researcher) It was noted that Camden operates an integrated drop-in health and wellbeing service for young people at one site which is called the Hive. This could offer guidance in the development of a local model.

4.27 There are numerous services involved in the provision of sexual and reproductive health services for young people in Hackney - education - primary care - pharmacy - specialist clinics. How are Commissioners ensuring that local services are working together in alignment to meet the needs of sexual and

reproductive health needs of young people. How are young people supported to navigate this system when the provider landscape is complex? Is there effective signposting across the system?

- (CL) There is a sexual health forum where a number of local providers meet to discuss local priorities. The strategy aims to ensure that providers are working to the same priorities, that there is no wrong door and they are consistent in the sexual and reproductive advice and support they provide to residents. The DPH report also noted that improved communication is needed around sexual and reproductive health and that requires us to reduce the stigma associated with these services, it is important to shift the conversation away from medical centred approaches of testing and contraception. The next stage of the strategy process was to develop an accompanying action plan and there will be further engagement with local providers to assess what can be done to make services better for young people, how services can be more prevention focused and more efficient and refocus on broader reproductive health needs of residents.

4.28 The Chair summed up key points from the session:

- Firstly, it was clear that there are a range of excellent services in the City and Hackney supporting the sexual and reproductive health needs of young people. Young people do need help to navigate the local offer as a wide range of local services are available through a range of sites and young people need to be made aware of the different pathways available to them and what services are most appropriate to meet their needs.
- Secondly, there needs to be more young people friendly services together with a clearer understanding of what constitutes a young person friendly service. Greater involvement of young people is central to this process to help shape and improve local sexual and reproductive health offer to young people.
- In the Commission's focus groups, young people indicated that dedicated young people's clinics had dealt with the needs of neuro-diverse young people better than other generic clinics. It was felt that there could be significant learning from this aspect of the service which may be replicated elsewhere.
- Integration and coordination of the local offer for sexual and reproductive health was important.
- A strong and consistent theme from the Commission's focus group was the inconsistent quality in which PSHE is taught in local schools. This provides the bedrock for young people's understanding of their physical, emotional and relationship needs for their sexual and reproductive health. This may warrant further investigation by local leaders.

4.29 The Chair thanked all those officers for attending and contributing to the session. The Commission will reflect on today's sessions discussion and make recommendations to Cabinet members.

5 Childhood Food Poverty and Free School Meals (20.45)

5.1 In October 2022, the Commission assessed Free School Meal provision and how schools were helping to address childhood food poverty in Hackney and agreed on a number of recommendations which were sent to the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Young People and Children's Social Care to inform the planned summit and task force to address childhood food poverty. On the 1st August 2023, the Council published the outcomes of the childhood food poverty summit, including the publication of a report which sets out recommendations to address this issue across Hackney.

5.2 The Mayor of London announced that £130m of funding would be provided to allow all primary school children in London to receive free school meals for a one year period from September 2024.

5.3 Members were asked to note the report, and identify ways in which this work should be carried forward into this year's work programme or next.

- Cllr Binnie-Lubbock - in the action plan notes that there will be a Cabinet member who will be responsible for poverty with oversight of tackling food poverty by September 2023, has this been agreed?
 - Cllr Bramble noted that Cllr Kennedy was the lead for food poverty and Cllr Woodley was the lead for childhood poverty, but a number of other Cabinet members (including the aforementioned) lead a task force to address wider poverty issues including Cllr Chapman, Cllr Williams and herself.
- Jo Macleod noted that auto-enrolment of FSM had been successful when introduced in other areas (such as Sheffield) and this might be an area which the Commission may wish to follow up on.
 - Cllr Bramble noted that the Director of Education was following up auto-enrolment with primary schools but had to be mindful that the number of parents who continued to sign up for FSM did not trail off.
- Cllr Suso-Runge noted how important the focus groups with head teachers had been in this process as they provided real insight into the challenges faced by local schools.

5.4 There were a number of key issues for the Commission to follow up:

- To ensure that there is a local system of learning and practice development so that as many schools as possible are able to continue the FSM entitlement after the Mayor of London's programme has ceased.
- To ensure that children in non-maintained schools - mainly children from the Orthodox Jewish Community - are able to access free school meal support.
- As an authority, to make sure Hackney is harnessing the support of the strong local voluntary sector in this area (e.g. Chefs in School).

5.5 Cllr Goldberg noted that 95% of children from the Orthodox Jewish community attend independent schools. A question arose around representation of the Orthodox Jewish community in assessing funding applications to the Household Support Fund, which, as was outside the scope of this item, Cllr Kennedy agreed he would respond to outside the meeting.

5.6 Members noted the report.

6 Unregistered Educational Settings (20.55)

6.1 Following further scrutiny of the Commission's review of unregistered educational settings in January 2023, members agreed to write to the Secretary of State setting out their ongoing education and safeguarding concerns around their operation in Hackney. A letter setting out these concerns was sent to the Secretary of State in March 2023.

6.2 The response from Claire Coutinho MP, Minister for Children, Families and Wellbeing was received on 26th June 2023 was enclosed for transparency, and for members to note.

6.3 In relation to the attached letter, the Chair asked if the Cabinet member had managed to meet with the Minister as offered?

- The Cabinet member noted that this meeting had yet to be arranged but would take place as soon as this could be scheduled. The Cabinet member has met the Children's Commissioners this year and urged her to take up the issue of unregistered schools. It was noted that the White Paper on Education had been shelved together with expected increase in regulatory powers over unregistered schools.

6.4 The Chair stated the Commission's disappointment with the letter as the Minister failed to understand that local authorities continue to lack the powers to take action against unregistered schools meant that not all children could be effectively safeguarded. In this context, the Chair noted that unregistered educational settings would remain on the Commission's work programme agenda for 2023/24.

6.5 Members noted the letter.

7 School Estates Strategy (Falling School Rolls) - Informal Consultation (21.00)

7.1 On June 26th 2023, the Commission scrutinised proposals from the School Estates Strategy to address falling school rolls in Hackney and specific proposals to close two schools and merge a further 4 schools. Hackney Education conducted an informal consultation on these proposals which closed on 16th July 2023. The Commission submitted a response to the consultation on the 15th July 2023 which is attached for transparency.

7.2 The outcome of the informal consultation and the decision to formally consult is being taken by Cabinet at the upcoming meeting on 25th September 2023. The Commission will be better able to identify its role in this process thereafter, however. In acknowledging that falling school rolls will be with the authority until 2029/30, the Chair noted that there would likely be an ongoing role for the scrutiny Commission particularly in relation to probable impact on local secondary schools.

7.3 In this context, falling school rolls is likely to remain on the agenda of the Commission to ensure that as an authority, we are doing all we can to minimise the impact this has on local schools. The Commission will continue to liaise with the Cabinet member and senior officers as to suitable and positive opportunities for scrutiny.

7.4 Cllr Binnie-Lubbock thanked the Chair and Vice Chair for the consultation response.

7.5 Members noted the response to the falling school rolls consultation.

8 Recruitment & Retention of Foster Carers (21.10)

8.1 The Commission received an update on its recommendations to improve the recruitment and retention of in-house foster carers in 2022. To supplement this session, the Commission undertook a survey of all in-house foster carers (mainstream and connected carers) and a focus group.

8.2 The Commission has produced an outline recommendations - which it will consult upon with children and families and of course, Hackney Foster Carers Council. The Scrutiny Officer presented the outline recommendations to the Commission (as attached)

8.3 The recommendations, together with the background report would be circulated for consultation and agreement prior to finalisation.

9 Work Programme (21.20)

9.1 Following the work programme consultation (full list of suggestions here) members were invited to prioritise those issues to take forward into the work programme for 2023/24. The Chair and Vice Chair have been meeting with Senior Officers and Cabinet members to scope and agree topics prioritised by the Commission - and the programme is still being finalised.

9.2 The Commission is mindful of the upcoming inspections of Children's Social Care and SEND, and will try and tailor the programme around when these are expected, to reduce pressures on officers. A draft programme is attached for members to review and to note:

- There will not be capacity to cover all these areas and that some items may need to be carried over;
- Some items will need to be scoped further;
- Cabinet Q & A topics have yet to be agreed - and these could reflect priorities in the work programme.

10 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

10.1 The minutes of the last meeting held on 27th June 2023 were noted and agreed by members of the Commission.

Agreed: Members agreed the minutes of the CYP Scrutiny Commission meeting held on 27th June 2023.

11 Any Other Business

RAAC in Schools

11.1 In their absence, the Chair read out a statement from the Director of Education t about Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete in schools in Hackney which was as follows:

“Nationally, all schools identified as being at risk of having Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) have been inspected following DfE guidance. No RAAC has been identified locally in Hackney. If any local school is contacted by the DfE we will immediately arrange to have a further survey carried out as a precaution.”

11.2 The Chair thanked the Director of Education for providing this statement. The Chair noted that whilst it was reassuring that no schools had to date been identified with RAAC, it was likely that a number of children who live in the borough were attending affected schools in neighbouring boroughs. The Chair also noted that RAAC may now also be of concern beyond school buildings which may have implications for wider estate management in Hackney (if it is identified in other settings). Scrutiny will want to retain oversight of this issue to provide assurance to members and the wider public.

Next Meeting

11.3 The next meeting of the Commission will be held on 30th October 2023.

11.4 There was no other business and the meeting concluded at 9.55pm.

Duration of the meeting: Times Not Specified

