



London Borough of Hackney
Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission
Municipal Year 2018/19
Date of Meeting Monday, 18th June, 2018

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

Chair	Cllr Sophie Conway
Councillors in Attendance	Cllr Margaret Gordon (Vice-Chair), Cllr Katie Hanson, Cllr Ajay Chauhan, Cllr Humaira Garasia, Cllr James Peters, Cllr Clare Potter and Cllr Caroline Woodley
Apologies:	Cllr Soraya Adejare, Cllr Clare Joseph and Cllr Alex Kuye, Jane Heffernan, Jo Macleod.
Co-optees	Graham Hunter, Michael Lobenstein, Liz Bosanquet, Ernell Watson, Shuja Shaikh and Sevdie Sali Ali
Officers In Attendance	Anne Canning (Group Director, Children, Adults and Community Health), Marian Lavelle (Head of Admissions and School Place Planning), Angela Scattergood (Head of Early Years Services) and Tim Wooldridge (Early Years Strategy Manager)
Other People in Attendance	1 parent representatives from a Hackney school and 1 representatives from Hackney Independent Forum for Parents/Carers of Children with Disabilities
Members of the Public	1 member of the public
Officer Contact:	Sanna Melling  0208 356 3661  sanna.melling@hackney.gov.uk

Councillor Sophie Conway in the Chair

1 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

- 1.1 The Scrutiny Officer opened the meeting. Councillor Conway was nominated for the position of Chair by Councillor Peters, was seconded by Councillor Hanson and was duly elected.
- 1.2 Cllr Conway took the Chair. Cllr Gordon was nominated for the position of Vice Chair by Councillor Conway, was seconded by Councillor Potter and was duly elected.

1 Apologies for Absence

2.1 Apologies for absence were received from the following Members of the Commission:

- Clare Joseph (Councillor)
- Alex Kuye (Councillor)
- Soraya Adejare (Councillor)
- Jane Heffernan (Co-optee)
- Jo Macleod (Co-Optee)

3 Urgent Items / Order of Business

3.1 The Chair explained to the new Members of the Commission and the members of the public that;

- i) this is a meeting held in public not a public meeting;
- ii) Scrutiny Commissions do not discuss individual cases, case work is dealt with by the individual service areas;
- iii) Questions are asked at the discretion of the Chair;
- iv) The Council's Constitution allows members of the public to ask questions, present petitions or present a deputation at Full Council meetings but not at overview and scrutiny meetings.

3.2 There were no new or urgent items and the agenda was as published.

4 Declarations of Interest

4.1 Cllr James Peters declared that he was a Governor at the Garden School but this was not a prejudicial interest.

4.2 Cllr Ajay Chauhan declared that he worked as a teacher and was a member of the National Union of Teachers but this was not a prejudicial interest.

4.3 Cllr Humaira Garasia declared that she worked as a youth worker at the North London Muslim Community Centre but this was not a prejudicial interest.

4.4 Cllr Clare Potter declared that she was a Governor at Ambler Primary School in Islington and that she also holds the role as Speaker. As speaker she has selected two charities working with children and young people to support, both by fundraising and by attendance at events but this was not a prejudicial interest.

4.5 Co-optee Graham Hunter declared that he was a Foundation Governor at St. John the Baptist Primary School and explained that the school was part of Primary Advantage Federation. This was not a prejudicial interest.

4.6 Cllr Sophie Conway declared that she was a Parent Governor at the City Academy Hackney. This was not a prejudicial interest.

5 School Admissions

- 5.1 The Chair informed the Commission that School Admissions was a standing item presented annually within the Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission's work programme. The School Admissions report includes admissions data at two points of entry: reception (for primary) and at secondary transfer. The last update was received in July 2017.
- 5.2 The Chair welcomed Marian Lavelle, Head of Admissions, School Place Planning, Travellers' Education Team at Hackney Learning Trust, to the meeting. The Head of School Admissions made the following substantive points:

- Hackney Learning Trust has a duty to co-ordinate and secure a sufficient number of places for Hackney resident pupils. Primary projections are provided by the Greater London Authority (GLA) annually and are based upon a number of factors, including birth- and death rates, migration data, housing data and school roll data.

Reception admissions

- 2514 Hackney parents were notified on the 17th April 2018 of the outcome of their applications for admission to reception class in September 2018.
- The vast majority of parents applied online. It was noted that the online system was optimised for mobile devices therefore fully accessible on smart phones and tablets.
- There were 48 fewer applications this year. A drop in applications had been reported across the London boroughs.
- 90.9% of parents expressed a first preference for a Hackney school.
- 87.63% got their first preference and 96.82% got either their first, second or third preference both these categories of met preference for 2018 was noted to be higher than the pan London average.
- The number of cross borough movement of pupils remain more or less the same each year. The Commission heard that this makes it easier for those schools on the border to plan their roll.
- It was noted that there were no children without a school place.

Secondary Transfer 2018

- 96.7% of parents applied for secondary transfer online and they were notified on the 1 March 2018 of the outcome of their applications.
- There were a slight increase of children in this year's transfer cohort compared to last year even though London boroughs are currently experiencing a downward trend in school places.
- This year 85.5% of parents expressed a first preference for a Hackney school. This is marginally lower than in 2017.
- 63.25% of first preferences were met. This was lower than the average Pan-London percentage (66.01%). In comparison 88.41% got either their first, second or third preference and this was higher than the Pan-London average of 87.3%.
- It was noted that it was difficult to pinpoint why Hackney come in slightly lower than the Pan-London average in regards to 'met first preference'. The Commission heard that two schools in the borough uses a random allocation process. This might have an impact on preference met because they attract more applications since parents are not bound to a geographical area and in that sense all children in the borough stand the same chance of a place.
- The number of children going in and out of the borough remain broadly the same and there are no children without a school place.

Preferences and In-year Admissions

Monday, 18th June, 2018

- The majority of the primary and secondary children who did not get offered a place at one of their preferred schools on National Offer days for reception admission and secondary transfer did not make use of the 6 preferences.
- Parents can apply for a school place at any time to any school outside the normal admission round. If a school has a vacancy, a place must normally be offered. It was noted that since September 2017 there had been 2458 primary in-year preferences resulting in 1,106 offers and 1249 secondary school applications resulting in 169 offers. Parents are able to express up to four preferences via the in-year application process and have the option to remain on a waiting list for their preferred school.
- It was noted that there are no legal requirement on local authorities to co-ordinate in-year admissions however, local authorities are legally required to publish online, with hard copies available for those who need, a composite prospectus each year which explains the admission process in a way that is clear and accessible to all parents. However, Hackney Learning Trust do co-ordinate this process for most of the schools in the borough. As a part of this parents received a leaflet explaining the transfer process and the procedures for applying online. There are plans to further expand the information leaflet to include further information in regards to the importance making use of the 6 preferences.

School Place Projections

- Hackney has seen a steady increase in the demand for reception places, since 2008, with very high rolls between 2014 and January 2016. However, demand for reception places started to fall in October 2016 and this trend has continued overall. It was noted that in September 2019 the number was expected to have fallen to 2539.
- School rolls across London have continued to fall and it was unclear why. However, GLA have done some research into this issue and it was thought to be a combination of different reasons including changes to the benefits system, rising rents and the possible effects of Brexit.

5.3 The Commission wanted to know if Hackney Learning Trust had monitored the number of visits to the online prospectus, whether the numbers of visits to the webpage appeared to be within the expected volume and further had given them an idea of how parents might have found the online application process. In response the Head of Admissions, School Place Planning, Travellers' Education Team at Hackney Learning Trust explained that visits to the prospectus are monitored however, the officer did not have this data at hand at the meeting.

ACTION: The Head of Admissions, School Place Planning, Travellers' Education Team at Hackney Learning Trust to provide data and a brief narrative around the number of visits to the online prospectus.

5.4 The Commission sought to better understand the relationship between the falling reception rolls and the growing population. Further, the Commission wanted to know how the schools are supported in dealing with the financial implications of a decrease in admissions. In response the Head of Admissions, School Place Planning, Travellers' Education Team at Hackney Learning Trust made the following substantive points:

- The drop in school admissions in the borough were believed to be due a number of different reasons including birth rate plateauing, a rise in cost of accommodation in regards to both homeownership and rented properties and as consequence of Brexit, the Welfare Reform and Benefit changes and increasing migration rates.
- All inner-London boroughs are grappling with the same issue and were trying to mitigate the impact this has on the individual schools while also remaining prepared for a sudden increase in school rolls. It was noted that the School Admission Forum meets regularly and continues to play a crucial role in monitoring the impact of admissions across the borough.
- Some schools had reduced their roll in response to the decrease in numbers.

- 5.5 At this point the Group Director of Children, Adults & Community Health added that the reduction in the school roll was not a straight forward solution for schools and did not provide them with much reassurance. There was also an added uncertainty felt around free schools opening or suddenly not opening and the impact this has had on the nearby schools. These schools fall outside the school place planning.
- 5.6 The Commission sought clarification to why only some of the statistics for children on Education, Health and Care plans (EHCP) were included in the report and whether the officer were able to expand on the admission process for these children including how many of this cohort of children applied to Hackney schools and how many secured a school place in Hackney. Further, whether there has been a similar drop in admissions for this cohort. In response the Head of Admissions, School Place Planning, Travellers' Education Team at Hackney Learning Trust made the following substantive point:
- The two processes are legally different and therefore separate. EHCP admissions data and the reporting structure sit under the Special Educational Need team's remit and was not available to the officer at the meeting. It was noted that the process for this cohort included an option for parents to express their preferences much earlier in the year as well as receive their outcomes of applications earlier.

ACTION: HLT to provide an update on children on EHC plans admission and to include this in the annual update on School Admissions 2019 and onwards.

- 5.7 The Commission wanted to know what support HLT provide to parents around understanding the school admission process, the importance of making use of all their 6 preferences as well as in regards to in-year admissions. In response the Head of Admissions, School Place Planning, Travellers' Education Team at Hackney Learning Trust made the following substantive points:
- During the summer term Hackney Learning Trust run 5-6 events for Year 5 parents across the borough. At these events the school admission process was explained and the importance of making use of the 6 preferences as well as the possible outcomes of their application based on last year's information were explained and discussed.
 - Hackney Learning Trust also raise awareness amongst primary school Head teachers and liaise with nursery settings around explaining the process to parents and supporting them with their online application.
 - In addition, it was noted that Hackney Learning Trust supply nursery settings with a list of all those children that are due to start school in September in their setting with the expectation that the nursery need to ensure that by the cut-off date parents of these children has had the opportunity to submit their applications.
 - Further, Hackney Learning Trust liaise with all Head teachers in regards to those parents that have failed to submit their application by the deadline to ensure that this was followed up by the head teacher and where the lateness was considered to be 'for a good reason' an extended deadline apply and the applications were accepted.
 - The support parents were offered around in-year admissions include a conversation with the school and Hackney Learning Trust often find that at this point the reason why parents want to change school is resolved. Further, it was noted that parents have a legal right to change school and if there is a vacancy at the preferred school a move was in most cases facilitated. However, the support provided varies depending on the individual circumstances of the case.

- 5.8 At this point the Chair sought clarification around in-years admissions and challenging behaviour and whether there might be a need to do a bit more investigation into the reasons to why parents wish to complete an in-year admission. It was noted that an

Monday, 18th June, 2018

issue around in-year admissions often being used in regards to children that displayed the most challenging behaviour had been highlighted to the Commission during their review into Exclusions. In response the Head of Admissions, School Place Planning, Travellers' Education Team at Hackney Learning Trust made the following substantive point:

- To ensure that the in-year application was in the best interest of the child the process requests information from the previous school. In addition, the fair access protocol was also applied to ensure that a schools do not refuse a child on the grounds of their behaviour and to ensure that the children with challenging behaviour are evenly distributed amongst the schools.

5.9 Further, a Member of the Commission wanted to know whether schools still apply the banding process. In response the Head of Admissions, School Place Planning, Travellers' Education Team at Hackney Learning Trust explained that some schools still operate banding process. Where this apply Hackney Learning Trust help coordinate the process to ensure children only have to take test once. It was noted that parents are made aware that banding is not a guarantee for a school place at a certain school as these are also subject to change throughout the application process.

Early Years – Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA)

5.10 The Commission was informed that January when the Commission received the Executive Response to the *Childcare: the introduction of extended (30-hour) free childcare in Hackney* review , it was agreed that going forward the annual School Admissions update would also include the full Childcare sufficiency assessment.

5.11 Hard copies of the assessment report were available at the meeting.

5.12 The Chair welcomed Angela Scattergood, Head of Early Years, Hackney Learning Trust and Tim Woolridge, Early Years Strategy Manager, Hackney Learning Trust to the meeting and asked them to go through the Childcare sufficiency assessment report before moving on to Item 6 (the review update). The Early Years Strategy Manager made the following substantive points:

- It is a legal requirement for the local authority to secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying, or in training or employment, for children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for disabled children).
- In September 2017 this duty was extended to include a legal requirement to provide childcare free of charge, for qualifying children of working parents, for a period equivalent to 30 hours in each of 38 weeks in any year.
- It was noted that the extended free childcare requirement was in addition to the duty to ensure sufficient places to effectively deliver free targeted and universal entitlement for two, three and four year olds.
- The Commission were informed that despite an increased uptake of childcare places the assessment of the availability of childcare places shows that Hackney has sufficient capacity for 0-5 year olds. It was noted that the picture of childcare overall in Hackney was healthy: with sufficient places and the majority of settings offering good to outstanding quality of childcare.
- The cost of childcare in the borough can generally viewed as favourable compared to both the London average London and national average cost of childcare.
- It was noted that the childcare offer needed to be more flexible by providing more places for those requiring childcare outside 8am to 6pm and on weekends. However, the Commission heard that with the growing number of Childminders the Early Years service, HLT are confident in gradually meeting the need.
- The Early Years service continues to support childcare providers to open settings in the north of the borough where the population was growing the fastest and where therefore there was also a greater need for childcare.

- 5.13 At this point the Head of Early Years added that:
- Hackney Learning Trust were actively involved in the development of GLA's childcare sufficiency assessment framework for London and informed the Commission that the report was based on that newly developed framework for assessing childcare sufficiency.
- 5.14 The Commission sought clarification to whether with a vacancy rate of 19% there was anything Hackney Learning Trust can do to try to alleviate the long waiting times for full time nursery places at the Children Centres where parents are reporting waiting list to be between one to two years. In addition, they also wanted to understand whether the extended offer and the different funding models has led to an increased disparity in the quality of childcare on offer. In response the Head of Early Years and the Early Years Strategy Manager made the following substantive points:
- The variation in waiting lists and popularity was due to and dependent on the market i.e. parents' preference in the same way as some schools attract more applicants than other schools. Children Centres, offering good quality childcare, tend to be the settings with long waiting lists. Families often attend Children Centres pre nursery activities and therefore have an attachment to these settings. However, there are also other providers that are offering good and excellent care that have vacancies.
 - To help manage the waiting lists the Children Centres are working with other local providers to develop partnerships, support and encourage parents to look at other nurseries as well as raise awareness of how the quality of childcare has improved across the board as a part of the brokering service offered by Hackney Learning Trust. Whilst also offering active support to the local nurseries in the form of training, support visits and inset days.
 - It was noted that most subsidies have been replaced by the national funding formula and Hackney Learning Trust are continuing to monitor the impact of this, so far they have found that funding rates are more homogenous now than previously and the average costs for childcare are below the London average of £350 for 50 hours despite some nurseries charging more. The highest rate charged in Hackney was £430 for 50 hours.
 - Private nurseries have the ability to charge parents more and to deliver services accordingly but this does not deter from the fact that there are also community nurseries offering high quality childcare.

6 Review update - Childcare: the introduction of extended (30-hour) free childcare in Hackney.

- 6.1 The Chair explained to the new Members of the Commission that the report in the agenda pack was the 6 months update on the recommendations from the review carried out in April 2016 and a follow up on the initial executive response.
- 6.2 The Chair asked the Early Years Strategy Manager to take the Commission through the update.
- 6.3 In addition to going through the recommendation tracker on page 11 to 25 in the agenda pack the Early Years Strategy Manager made the following substantive points:
- The percentage of eligible two year olds taking up the 15 hours free entitlement has continued to increase and now stand at 61%. This was noted to be higher than the statistical neighbour and the inner-London averages.
 - As a result of the brokering service, the marketing as well as the hard work put in by providers there are now more settings and more schools providing places for this cohort.

Monday, 18th June, 2018

- Since the introduction of the extended offer 2 nurseries have closed and 3 have opened, a further three are due to open in 2018. There are more nurseries than expected opting to offer the extended free entitlement instead of charging parents higher rates. This would indicate that their businesses are coping despite the funding rates being lower than the market rate.
- 93% of the private, voluntary and independent nursery sector offer additional hours along with 100% of nursery classes in the maintained setting and 23% of childminders.
- Hackney Learning Trust continues to provide business support through the 30 Hours Delivery Support Fund (a successful bid for a Department of Education (DfE) grant) which has been partly been used to provide bespoke support to providers to deliver sufficient 30 hours places.
- Hackney Learning Trust continues to recognise the need to ensure school, nursery settings and childminders work together in partnership to maximise the effectiveness of the childcare offer to parents. While continuing to deliver the Professional Development Network Meetings schools have responded to this need as well by establishing their own wrap-around care including breakfast and after-school clubs for children accessing the 30 hours extended offer.
- The sufficiency assessment shows there to be sufficient capacity to meet current levels of demand. It was noted that prior to children taking up a 30 hour place, parents need to generate an 11 digit eligibility code using the HMRC online checker and then they need to have that code validated firstly by a provider and then by the local authority. This has established a picture of relative take up and identified, in part, whether there are sufficient places to meet demand. By March this year, 93% of codes nationally had been validated and in Hackney 97% of codes issued were validated. This would indicate that parents who want to take up their 30 hours entitlement are going so successfully.
- Whilst the stated intention of the implementation of 30 hours was to reduce the cost of childcare and encourage parents to increase the number of working hours, one possible unintended impact could be a widening of the attainment gap between children from working families and those from non-working families. This possibility was highlighted by the Scrutiny review and has been shared with childcare providers and schools who, as a part of their ongoing assessment processes, are monitoring the impact within their provision with the support of Hackney Learning Trust. However, only after children that are now 2 years old have been assessed using the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile in June in 2020, when they are 5 years old, can a national dataset be available for a comparative measure.
- It was noted that there are currently 68 children between birth and school age that have an Education, Health and Care plan and the average time taken to complete the assessment was 20 weeks. This was within the statutory time scales set.
- The reconfigured Early Support Team and the Portage service continue to support all early years settings with the early identification of children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) as well as provide support throughout the statutory assessment process.
- One strand of the DfE grant has been used to provide bespoke training for SENCOs in early years settings to ensure that assessments are completed to a higher standard and in a timely manner.
- Alongside the bespoke training the grant has also been used to continue to provide business support alongside marketing and advertising the free 2, 3 and 4 old free entitlements.
- Hackney Learning Trust continues to work closely with Hackney Homes, the Community Halls team as well as potential providers in identify suitable premises for new childcare settings.

6.4 The Commission wanted to know what support there has been for specials schools extending their provision to include early years settings, what the projections for the

Monday, 18th June, 2018

funding arrangements beyond 2019 are and what provision there are for those that do not meet the SEND threshold but nonetheless require more support. In response the Head of Early Years and the Early Years Strategy Manager made the following substantive points:

- In the past there were some capital grants funding available for special schools however, this funding was no longer available. This means that there was no funding available to make any adjustments to existing buildings or to cover the cost for setting up a new nursery of any kind. The cost of setting up a new provision unfortunately rests with the provider.
- Along with Ickburgh, a special school offering early years provision, there are a couple of Children's Centres focusing on providing activities for children on the autistic spectrum and across the borough early years provision can access the Area Inclusion Grant as a part of the overall responsibility to provide for children with SEND. In addition, every child in an early years setting has an individual plan.
- Better early identification means that there has been an increase of children on Education, Care and Health plans before they start school. The Early Years Inclusion fund has been provided targeted support for 118 children and for specialist SEND workers to support approximately 34 children across eight settings.
- It was noted that there has been no indication that the early Years Inclusion Fund will change.

6.5 The Commission sought to understand how Hackney Learning Trust have been working with the Orthodox Jewish Community to better support them to access the extended childcare offer. In response the Early Years Strategy Manager made the following substantive points:

- The barriers to accessing the free childcare entitlements within the Orthodox Jewish Community were around the each step of the application process being exclusively online. The lack of internet access would make it hard for these parents and providers to take up their entitlement.
- Hackney Learning Trust knew that some schools had a 40% take up whilst others had none, soon they became aware that some schools had set aside time to take parents through the process step by step, offering them an opportunity to complete the online application with their support. Consequently, Hackney Learning Trust worked with each of the schools that did not have any take up and promoted it within the school and gave them the tools they needed in order to support the parents with their applications. This was noted to have resulted in a rapid increase in the take up of the extended free entitlement.

6.6 The Commission requested a further follow up on the recommendations from the 'Childcare: the introduction of extended (30-hour) free childcare in Hackney' review in twelve months.

ACTION: Hackney Learning Trust to provide a further review update in June 2019 on the recommendations from the 'Childcare: the introduction of extended (30-hour) free childcare in Hackney'.

7 Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission - 2018/19 Work Programme Discussion

7.1 The Chair informed the new Members of the Commission that a new work programme for the Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission was discussed and agreed each municipal year. It was noted that the work programme was made up of a range of items including:

Monday, 18th June, 2018

- Standing items which are presented to the Commission annually for example school places;
- Follow up reports on work previously completed by the Commission;
- One-off items (e.g. performance reports, updates);
- Evidence gathering to support in-depth review or to support 'scrutiny in a day' review

7.2 The Chair explained that the Commission was requested to identify one topic for in-depth review or one topic for 'scrutiny in a day' as well as the one off items to be incorporated into the work programme.

7.3 At this point the Chair and Cllr Gordon (the Vice Chair) briefly outline background to the three most popular suggestions;

- Outcomes of Exclusions
- CAMHS early intervention and support to schools
- Gangs and youth violence

7.4 The Chair informed the Members of the Commission that exclusions had been put forward by a number of stakeholders. It was noted that the Commission carried out a review of exclusions in 2016. Nonetheless there was a sense that there might be a need for the Commission to further explore this area of work again due to the continued high levels of both fix term and permanent exclusions in the borough, and also to review the issue around disproportionality in regards to the Black and Black British cohort. Further, there was a sense that there was a link between exclusions and number of poorer outcomes both in education and later in life and possibly even to the criminal justice system. It was suggested that the focus of the review would look at what happens after a child has been excluded while bearing in mind what the Council can do to address the disparities in the outcomes of those children that are excluded and the peers. The review would build on the work of the previous review around disproportionality as well as draw on the learning from other cross cutting programmes such as the Young Black Men Programme to help implement policy changes more broadly while looking at issues around safeguarding, vulnerability, disproportionality, commonalities as well as alternative provision.

7.5 The Chair handed over to Cllr Gordon to outline the background to the second proposal *CAMHS early intervention and support to schools*. This suggestion had been put forward by the outgoing Commission as well as a number of key stakeholders. Cllr Gordon explained that the Commission had reviewed this in 2010 and since then a lot of has changed and developed in terms of service provision and the Commission has been made aware of, by young people including the Hackney Youth Parliament, that there was a crisis in young people's mental health and wellbeing. It was noted that in one of the schools in the borough tragically a number of children took their own lives. There is currently a review of the CAMHS transformation plan and a Government Green Paper on the topic. The previous Commission Members heard from a range of partners, including schools, in February, and had concluded that it was a rather complex picture in relations to schools whereby they have the duty of care and need to not only be able to provide a service for those in need, such as specialist referrals, but also need to be able to identify early signs of mental health issues. The proposal would be to look at how schools are equipped to provide a host of wellbeing support as a preventative measure, identification and referral pathways and what services are provided in a changing commissioning climate.

7.6 The Chair recommended, following a couple of meetings with Council officers and in liaison with the Chair of Living in Hackney, that a review of gangs would be more suitable for Living in Hackney due to the age profile (the majority of gang members are older young adults and young adults) and to avoid duplication of efforts.

Monday, 18th June, 2018

- 7.7 Following a smaller group discussion the Commission **agreed** that Outcomes of Exclusions should be the in-depth review for 2018/19. It was agreed that further scoping will be necessary to further define the objectives of a planned review in this area and to ensure that this work compliments any planned work by the council, schools or other agencies. This would involve meeting with representatives from Children and Families Services and Hackney Learning Trust. This would then be presented to scrutiny panel on the 16th July 2017.
- 7.8 At this point the Group Director of Children, Adults & Community Health added that Hackney Learning Trust are carrying out a quality assurance review of wellbeing support in schools. Further, she drew attention to the risks of using language that criminalises children that have been excluded and making exclusions synonymous with criminality and advised that this needs to be carefully consider while the focus of the review was decided.
- 7.9 Further, the Commission put forward a list of suggestions for discussion topics, in addition to those included in the agenda pack, that they wished to look at as a part of the work programme (as below) and it was **agreed** that the Chair and the Scrutiny officer would populate the work programme accordingly and liaise with the other Commissions in regards to cross cutting items:
- Child abuse and domestic abuse
 - Children in care – the older cohort and interventions to improve their outcomes
 - Street School Programme – road safety and air quality
 - Voluntary youth provision
 - Play space and green space on Hackney Homes estates

8 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- 8.1 The Chair informed the Commission that in regards to the action 56, Social Work in School update, in agenda pack the Commission had received the following reply from Cllr Bramble:



Cllr Sophie Conway
Chair
CYP Scrutiny Commission
% Hackney Town Hall

Cllr Anntoinette Bramble
Deputy Mayor of Hackney
London Borough of Hackney
Hackney Town Hall
Mare Street
London
E8 1EA
020 8356 3211

15 June 2018

Dear Cllr. Conway,

Social Work in Schools Update

At the meeting of the Children and Young People's Commission in March 2018, Cllr Bramble was asked to comment on the possibility that some of the benefits the Social Work in Schools Project (SWIS) could be incorporated into current or future services for children and families.

The SWIS Project linked social work units to the participating schools. The consultant social workers from those social work units spent at least half a day in each of the schools that they were linked with, providing "soft consultations" (advice) about children and their families, formal consultations that were recorded by both the schools and social work units and took up child in need / child protection referrals from their linked schools that would be allocated to the social workers in their units. The benefits of the project included the ability for schools to raise concerns with a known and trusted professional, regular opportunities for consultation and the ability to make formal referrals to that same social work unit without having to go through the normal referral process. In some instances, this meant that concerns could be addressed at an early stage. Unfortunately the project could not be sustained financially in the long-term.

Consideration is currently being given to how the screening and referral managers from the First Access and Support Team (FAST) could provide a similar link to schools within Hackney. Consideration is also being given to various different ways in which the current social work units could be linked to specific

geographical areas within the borough or be allocated work on a different basis to that currently used. The primary learning from SWIS (that regular opportunities for both formal and informal discussions of concerns about specific children and their families is beneficial to both schools and social work units) will be one of the principles that will underpin the service evolution currently being developed.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr Anntoinette Bramble
Deputy Mayor of Hackney

- 8.2 The Chair also informed the Commission that the action on page 64 in agenda pack had been resolved:

HLT to provide the document showing each cohort's progress from Early Years through to Key Stage 4.

- 8.3 HLT has agreed to provide a document showing each cohort's progress from Early Years through to Key Stage 4 as well as HLT to provide a narrative outlining in more detail the progress in regards to the SEN and Education Health and Care plan cohorts as a part of the annual update as a part of the annual update on Achievement update.
- 8.4 The Commission noted the actions and agreed the minutes of the last meeting.

9 Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission work programme 2018/19

Monday, 18th June, 2018

- 9.1 The Members of the Commission noted the last version of the work programme for the municipal year 2017/18 subject to the work programme discussion (item 7 on the agenda).

10 Any Other Business

- 10.1 None received.

Duration of the meeting: 7.00 - 9.15 pm

This page is intentionally left blank