

Overview & Scrutiny

Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission

Date of Meeting: 15 January 2020

Title of Report: Hackney Young Futures Commission - Background and Initial Analysis Findings Report (April - September 2019)

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Report Summary

This report provides a background to the Hackney Young Futures Commission and the consultation undertaken, to date, with young people in Hackney.

The report also includes the initial findings from the analysis of the data collected from young people between April - September 2019.

Report Brief:

1. Background

1.2 Hackney Young Futures Commission (HYFC) is the largest consultation undertaken with young young people, aged between 10-25 years.

1.3. The Commission was established to amplify the voices of young people in the borough and is made up of young people, community representatives, academic and voluntary sector partners and Members.

1.4. The Commission aims to gather evidence of the lived experiences of young people in Hackney aged between 10-25 and to understand how they view the borough, what challenges they face and how they feel about local services.

1.5. The Commission will make recommendations to the Council and other agencies in order to improve the lives and life chances of young people in the borough and enable Members to listen to and learn from young people's experiences of growing up in Hackney.

1.6 Between April and September 2019, the Commission collected data, which was analysed to produce the initial findings. This report is the first thematic analysis of the

data and describes common experiences and emerging themes. The report was co-produced by an independent researcher at Loughborough University London and Hackney Young Futures Commission.

1.7 The thematic analysis creates a picture of what it is like for young people between 10-25 to live in Hackney. Some of the young people's experiences are consistent with previous research, though stories also point to the need for further data collection and investigation.

2. First Phase - "I've Been Heard"

2.1. The Commission successfully completed its first phase of major youth engagement, listening to views from thousands of local young people during April-September. The Commission spoke directly to over 2,400 young people between the ages of 10-25 years, from a range of backgrounds. This figure exceeds its original target of 1,500.

2.2 Consultation was led by trained, young peer researchers and the data was collected through a variety of methods e.g. focus groups, 1:1 interviews, online surveys, launch events, Board meetings, filmed interviews, street-based outreach and teacher-led school classroom surveys and discussions.

2.3 Peer Researchers directly engaged with young people in schools, youth clubs, adventure playgrounds, libraries, sports facilities, youth offending, Alternative Provision and with specific community groups e.g. Haredi, LBGTQ and Traveller communities.

3. Data Collection

3.1. The 'fact-finding mission' involved consultations with young people in the North, East, South and West of the Borough, where experiences were recorded from young people in three distinct age groups:

- Older children (ages 10 to 12)
- Teenagers (ages 13 to 18)
- Young adults (ages 19 to 25)

3.2 Young People Were Asked Four Questions:

1. *What is your favourite thing or place in Hackney and why?*
2. *What is the main issue affecting your life in Hackney today and how does this issue affect you?*

3. *If you were the Mayor, what would be the main thing you would change for young people in Hackney? What would you do and how would you change it?*
4. *Any Other Comments?*

3.3 Answers to these questions were recorded by Peer Researchers and transcribed verbatim and in total, 4493 data points (individual quotes from young people) were recorded.

4. Data Analysis

4.1 Raw data from all the youth engagement sessions conducted between April and September 2019 was cleaned by data inputters, ready for analysis in October 2019.

4.2 Quotes were independently coded and assigned to first order and second order themes and then inputted into Nvivo software in order to generate and produce a thematic analysis word report.

4.3 First Order Themes:

1. Activities and Events - Young people reported they like a range of activities
2. Community - How young people feel about the Hackney community
3. Crime - A broad range of experience or perceptions of crime
4. Education, Employment and Training - Lack of opportunities to find work
5. The Physical Environment - Issues around pollution, litter and traffic
6. Health and Wellbeing - Mental health and stress
7. Housing- Lack of affordable and adequate housing
8. Inequality - Poverty, racism, stereotypes and discrimination by the Police
9. Places and Spaces - Specific places young people like in Hackney
10. Safety - Linked to crime and traveling around the Borough

5. Second Phase - “Have We Heard You Right?”

5.1 In October, the Chairs of the Commission were trained to identify, analyse and report patterns (themes) within the data, using thematic analysis. This training will support the second phase of the Commissions work, namely; the “*Have We Heard You Right?*” feedback sessions to young people.

5.2 The Chairs intend to use the thematic analysis report to check-in with young people and in this phase of the Commission’s work they will look at young people’s experiences in more detail and work with young people to agree the solutions they wish to be considered are viable.

5.3 The “*Have We Got It Right?*” feedback event/sessions with young people will be delivered between January and February 2020, supported by Members and key strategic leads. The events will be organised as an opportunity to share the findings

with young people directly and for them to prioritise the themes identified. Also, to allow them to start thinking about solutions to the issues raised. It is envisaged that these solutions will be “co-produced” with Members, Officers and Voluntary Sector Partners.

5.4 The consultation will formally close on 31st December 2019, with identified gaps in the data being met and analysed by March 2020 and the Commission’s final report to be produced for Cabinet by May 2020.