

Overview & Scrutiny

Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission

Date of meeting: 12th January 2021
Title of report: Post-meeting additional information
Report author: Chris Roberts, Head of Wellbeing & Education Safeguarding
Authorised by: Annie Gammon, Director of Education
Brief: In the Scrutiny Commission meeting on the 12th January 2021 officers undertook to provide the Commission with additional information in relation to a) the demographic profile of the elective home education cohort and b) an update on the Out of School Settings project. This report provides this additional information.

Report to the Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission

Report title: Post-meeting additional information

Meeting date: 12th January 2021

Report originator: Chris Roberts, Head of Wellbeing & Education Safeguarding

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. To provide the scrutiny commission with additional information in relation to a) the demographic profile of the electively home educated cohort in Hackney and b) an update on the Out of School Settings project.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Commission members are asked to note the additional information.

3. Demographic profile of electively home educated children in Hackney

- 3.1. At the time of writing this report there are 262 electively home educated children and young people known to Hackney Education.

- 3.2. Of these 125 (47.7%) are male and 137 (52.3%) are female.

- 3.3. The children and young people are in the following National Curriculum years:

■	Years R-2	38
■	Years 3-6	90
■	Years 7-9	78
■	Years 10-11	56

- 3.4. The children and young people are from the following ethnicities:

■	Asian	6	(2.2%)
■	Black	71	(27.0%)
●	Of these:		
○	Black Carribean	38	
○	Black African	26	
○	Black Other	7	
■	Mixed	25	(9.5%)
■	Other	7	(2.6%)
■	White	80	(30.5%)
●	Of these:		
○	White British/Irish	32	
○	Irish Traveller/Gypsy Roma	29	
○	White Other	19	
■	Not recorded	73	(27.8%)

- 3.5. There are 13 children and young people with EHCPs (4.9%)

4. Update on the wider work of the Out of School Settings project

- 4.1. Engaging with the Orthodox Jewish community in relation to safeguarding arrangements in unregistered education settings or Yeshivas is one strand of the work undertaken as part of the Out of School Settings project.
- 4.2. This piece of work is still at a preliminary stage where we are looking to develop a relationship with the leaders of Yeshivas. This will focus on ensuring each Yeshiva has an appropriately trained safeguarding lead and Hackney Education is able to assure itself as to the safety of the children who attend.
- 4.3. Interlink brokered an initial meeting between senior managers at Hackney Education and a representative from the Yeshivas, which took place early in January 2021. From that meeting a proposal is being developed and a further meeting will be arranged for February 2021.
- 4.4. The project also covers two other strands of work, which are underway and currently are the primary focus for the project. These currently form the majority of the project's work.
 - The first was to gain a better understanding of safeguarding arrangements in out of school settings by enabling them to undertake their own self-assessment, which would assist them in identifying areas for development.
 - The second was the development and launch of an online safeguarding portal for out of school settings which would provide free access to training, advice and guidance.
- 4.5. The focus of the projects work in the first phase was to develop, in partnership with the City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership (CHSCP), the online self-assessment tool. This was distributed to out of school settings by email or letter in early October, with a submission deadline of 30th November 2020.
- 4.6. The return rate by the deadline has been disappointing with only 6% of settings returning their self-assessment. Most of these self-assessed as either fully or partially meeting the strands within the tool.
- 4.7. However this is a new area of work and the project shows that some settings are willing to engage with the safeguarding self-assessment process and develop action plans.
- 4.8. The return rate settings the deadline for submission has been extended until the 31st January and a reminder email or letter has been sent to settings requesting that the self-assessment be completed and returned. Settings will also be contacted by phone.
- 4.9. An initial analysis of the returns and follow up work with settings has identified the following in respect of the return rate:
 - A few sectors/settings sought a more contextual and nuanced approach, for example Scouts and Girl Guiding organisations requesting returns done on a regional basis as opposed to group by group basis.
 - The impact of COVID 19 as some out of school settings have either closed down or remained closed since March 2020.
 - There has been no contact from the large denominational churches, and little contact from the smaller and independent churches.

- This is also the case for other types of out of school settings such as privately owned/run clubs

- 4.10. An interim report was presented to CHSCP in December 2020. Further follow up and analysis will take place over the Spring term with the next report scheduled to be presented to CHSCP in May 2021.
- 4.11. In parallel work is also underway to develop an online portal to act as a one stop shop for out of school settings. This will provide settings with access to safeguarding guidance, good practice and training, including pre recorded 'live' safeguarding training that settings can access.
- 4.12. The portal is being designed in collaboration with other safeguarding partners to ensure it is comprehensive and has had input from Children's Social Care, the Contextual Intervention Unit and the PREVENT Education Officer.

Report originator: Chris Roberts, Head of Wellbeing & Education Safeguarding

Date: 26th January 2021

Cleared by: Annie Gammon, Director of Education

