

Hackney Education
Hackney Council
1 Reading Lane
Hackney
London
E8 1GQ

Cllrs Conway and Gordon
Chair & Vice Chair, Children and Young
People Scrutiny Commission

23 February 2022

Dear Cllr Conway and Cllr Gordon,

Post 16 Scrutiny Commission Recommendations Letter

Thank you for your letter of the 22nd April 2021 informing me of the recommendations made by the scrutiny committee following the Post 16 scrutiny investigation which took place in March 2020.

Having thoroughly read the report and associated recommendations, firstly I would like to thank the members of the scrutiny committee for the time and effort they committed to undertaking a detailed investigation and subsequent helpful recommendations.

I hope that committee members are assured that Post 16 is a priority area of work across Council and Health services. Much work is currently ongoing to ensure that agencies across education, health and care work together to ensure that young people make good outcomes towards adult life.

I detail below responses to the recommendations made by the Commission:



<p>Recommendation One</p> <p>A comprehensive needs assessment is needed to underpin the refresh of the Post 16 SEND Strategy as this will help to establish current and future needs. This needs assessment should be undertaken alongside a comprehensive mapping of current service provision to help identify current and future service gaps, and help SEND services identify future service priorities and goals. The Post 16 Strategy should also reflect a cumulative forward assessment of local EHCPs in respect of the volume, nature and range of future options needed for children with SEND.</p>	<p>Response</p> <p>Hackney Education has developed a local needs analysis which is designed to aid the local area in reviewing, developing and planning future post 16 Strategy. This exercise has been extremely useful in analysing current data and trends so that services can be responsive to local needs.</p> <p>This document has now been affirmed by the local area's SEND Partnership Board.</p>
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<p>Recommendation Two</p> <p>That the <u>voice of young people (and their parents)</u> is at the fore and centre in the planning, design and evaluation of education and training options and pathways;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Opportunities to <u>move away from institutional or home support</u> into more meaningful and gainful activities which promote young people's independence are maximised. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - That early, coordinated <u>transitional support</u> is provided to both children and parents to provide them with advice, information and guidance to plan and prepare for post 16 options and pathways; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ That commissioning seeks to encourage <u>local</u> post 16 education and 	<p>Response</p> <p>Much work has happened recently to ensure that the voice of young people and their parents is central to planning and developing individual support and wider systems. A progress update is detailed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A new young person's forum has been launched and is facilitated by Hackney Education. ● New Pathways are being developed in order to provide opportunities for different types of support for young people so that services across education, health and care are integrated and pathways clear. ● An audit on specialist careers advice is currently underway and planned work to strengthen this offer across Hackney
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training options and pathways (to help improve service accessibility, support local coordination and wrap around service care);

- That mechanisms are created that allow for the effective transfer of information between providers and which both informs best practice and develops an effective base for future commissioning;
- That improved infrastructure is provided to help improve engagement and involvement of local stakeholders with the SEND team in the planning, delivery and evaluation of local Post 16 opportunities.

In addition to the above, the local area has recently launched a new multi agency panel process (known as the Joint Agency Panel “JAP”). This panel is chaired jointly by Directors from education and Social Care and also has representation from senior leaders from Health and Adult services. The purpose of this panel is to allocate resources and agree placements for the most vulnerable children and young people in Hackney.

Colleagues across the partnership are currently working on strengthening the post 16 offer to young people with SEND.

A key part of this work is ensuring that staff in settings are aware of the various options available when young people are preparing for adulthood. We have recently commissioned new supported internship programmes and are working with settings in Hackney and beyond to ensure that varied and meaningful post 16 options are in place.

Following the helpful recommendation from the Commission we now have processes in place to ensure that key information is passed between settings.

A restructure of SEND Services within Hackney Education is due to be in place by the Summer Term, 2022. One of the central aims of this service redesign is to ensure sufficient capacity to meet the needs of pupils at Post-16. A new Post 16 team will have oversight of all Post 16 young people.

<p>Recommendation Three</p> <p>It also recommended that the refreshed post 16 SEND Strategy also makes additional provisions for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increasing number, scope and accessibility of supported internships (or other routes into supported employment) available to young people with SEND (both with and without an EHCP) ● Additional information, guidance and support to help parents navigate post 16 options and support decision making with their child; ● An annual Post 16 SEND Fair in which children and parents may assess and discuss possible options in a positive, informative and open environment. 	<p>Response</p> <p>Please see the response to recommendation two.</p> <p>An annual Post 16 fair is now in place. This did not take place fully in the previous two years due to Covid Restrictions.</p>
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<p>Recommendation Four</p> <p>Given the pivotal role that they play in supporting the needs of children with SEND, it is recommended that additional investment is made to ensure that the local administration systems, together with those processes which both compile and review of EHCPs are assessed and conform to best practice (particularly in relation to maintaining up to date plans). Practitioners completing EHCPs should also be trained to ensure that outcomes are stated in terms of the Preparing for Adulthood outcome areas, so that commissioners can assess and plan for provision that will allow the learner to achieve appropriate goals (as detailed in</p>	<p>Response</p> <p>We welcome this recommendation from the Commission. We have taken account of this when looking at service redesign. As detailed above, a restructure of SEND Services and a new SEND Strategy is in process. Part of this work will be to ensure that all staff (including settings) receive a comprehensive training offer focusing on key elements of practice.</p> <p>In addition a formal review of SEND operations is also planned by an external expert so that we can benchmark and further improve our practice in comparison to other local</p>
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Post 16 London Review).	areas.
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<p>Recommendation Five</p> <p>The SEND team and Hackney Education Service should continue to work with local secondary schools and Hackney based colleges to help create additional 6th Form capacity and options to enable more young people with SEND to continue their education in mainstream schools. This approach should aim to identify and extend local best practice and seek innovative ways (e.g. cluster provision) to help extend local 6th Form offer.</p>	<p>Response</p> <p>The Commission will be aware of the Hackney School Estates Strategy. One of the central aspects of this strategy is the creation of sufficient local placements for children and young people with SEND.</p> <p>Currently, there is a gap in provision for young people who do not always reach the required grades for admission into 6th Forms. We are currently working with Secondary settings and 6th Forms to consider how we can create sufficient placements that meet various levels of need and ability.</p>
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<p>Recommendation Six</p> <p>In line with the Mayoral reports on Post 16 education, it is recommended that the local authority actively contributes to the process of establishing sub-regional hubs to coordinate training and share resources between specialist and mainstream providers to upskill the mainstream sector to help them support young people with SEND.</p>	<p>Response</p> <p>The Council is currently developing a new role focused on preparing for Adulthood. This will be a strategic position designed to drive the implementation of the SEND Strategy. This will be an area of focus.</p>
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<p>Recommendation Seven</p> <p>It is recommended that there is improved public scrutiny and accountability for implementation and monitoring of the Post 16 Send Strategy and that targets</p>	<p>Response</p> <p>The SEND Strategy that is currently in development has Preparing for Adulthood as one its four key priorities.</p>
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and ambitions set out in the strategy are regularly reviewed by CYP Scrutiny Commission.

Updates on progress are regularly reported to this Board. Officers welcome the opportunity to update the Commission on progress and suitable intervals.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Caroline Woodley

Cabinet Member for Families, Early Years, Parks and Play

