

Work of Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission and Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission which aligns to the outcomes and recommendations of the Child Q Serious Case Review.

Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission: work in relation to the MPS rebuilding Trust and Confidence with the local community in Hackney.

Concern about the growing distance between the community and the local police (especially with young people) led to the Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission (LiH) requesting for the local Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) to talk about disproportionate use of stop and search and the work by the MPS to build trust and confidence with the local communities in Hackney. Following the meeting in June LiH remained concerned about the following:

1. Impact of stop and search on community relations with the police service
2. The increasing use of handcuffs and use of handcuffs on young children aged 10-14
3. Concern about the treatment of young children like adults for stop and search activity
4. Information about the training police officers receive in relation to carrying out a stop and search
5. The threshold of a police officer's complaint record before investigation of any trend
6. The use of Territorial Support Group (TSG) officers in the borough and the impact of their work on community relations locally
7. Explanation about the intelligence and how links are made between different crime types to inform stop and search activity
8. An explanation about why stop and account is not used first instead of stop and search
9. An explanation about accountability and the complaints system in the MPS
10. An overview about the stop and search monitoring data and the insight it provides the MPS.

The Commission was mindful that the work of the local MPS in Hackney is guided by the Police and Crime Plan which reflects the Mayor of London's manifesto and priorities for making London a safer city for all Londoners. Recognising a significant proportion of the decision making related to corporate plans and objectives for the MPS in London is directed by Metropolitan Police HeadQuarters (MET HQ) and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC). A broader discussion involving the local MPS, MET HQ, MOPAC and the IOPC followed. A further meeting was held in November 2020.

The aim of this discussion was to hear how MET HQ, MOPAC and our local MPS were working to build trust and confidence in the police and their plans to address public concern about the disproportionate use of stop and search. This meeting also gave Hackney the opportunity to share the wealth of community insight from its community engagement on this topic and highlight the impact this is having on the local community, cohesion and police relations with the local community they serve.

The key themes that emerged for follow up were:

1. **MPS complaint system** - The system was not trusted and seldom used by the community groups most impacted by stop and search activity.
2. **Accountability of police officers for behaviour and appropriate use of police tools.** The wider public perception is that the MPS does not have robust systems in place for police officers to be held to account.
3. **No set monitoring targets for stop and search and outcome success rates.** Having on average a 20-25% success rate from the volume of stops and searches conducted is not a good demonstration of success or a good use of resources.
4. **Reducing the disproportionality among ethnic minority groups being stopped and searched.** There were no reports of current work to address this, or reassurance given on how the MPS plan to address this wider than the BCU review work.
5. **Representation of Hackney's diverse community in MPS / MOPAC community engagement and scrutiny structures.** We learned the MPS are working to improve dialogue and engagement with the public, but this is not widely known by the local community.

A further meeting was held in June 2021 to discuss the themes above, The Commission remained concerned that community tension between the community and the police remained high and about the progress of the work by the MPS to address this. The concerns raised by the scrutiny commission about the treatment of young people like adults related to handcuffing and the impact of this trauma was not satisfactorily resolved. The scrutiny commission decided to continue to monitor the progress and get a more detailed update from MPS, IOPC and ask MOPAC about the progress of its review for local community engagement structures and the impact the new Mayor's Action Plan was having on building trust and confidence with local communities and the MPS.

Link to the minutes of the meeting are below:

[June 2020](#)

[November 2020](#)

[June 2021](#)

Links to correspondence from the Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission

[Letter from LiH to IOPC April 2021](#)

[Letter to MOPAC April 2021](#)

[Letter from LiH to MPS April 2021](#)

The Commission planned to review this in 9-12 months following the meeting in June 2021.

Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission: Work in relation to the issues and outcomes of the Child Q Serious Case Review.

Scrutiny Review of School Exclusions - December 2021

The CYP Scrutiny Commission completed an in-depth review of school exclusions in December 2021. The [final report](#) formed a number of conclusions and recommendations which align with the outcomes of the Child Q Serious Case Review.

Higher ongoing rates of permanent and fixed term exclusions

The investigation undertaken by the Commission highlighted an established trend of significantly higher levels of permanent and fixed term exclusion across Hackney schools when compared to national and regional averages.

- In 2018/19 the permanent exclusion rate of pupils in Hackney was 0.13 compared to 0.1 of pupils nationally and 0.07 pupils across inner London.
- In 2018/19 the fixed term exclusion rate among pupils in Hackney was 7.06 compared to 5.36 of pupils nationally and 4.45 across pupils in London.

Disproportionality within school exclusions

The research also noted that there were also significant disproportionalities within the local exclusion data in relation to gender, ethnicity and special educational needs.

- Almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of all permanent exclusions in Hackney in 2018/19 were among boys;
- Although fewer girls were permanently excluded than boys, the rate of permanent exclusion of girls in Hackney (0.09) was almost twice that of girls nationally (0.05) or across inner London (0.04).
- Whilst the rate of permanent school exclusion among Black Caribbean pupils declined both nationally and across London from 2015/16-2018/19, corresponding figures for Hackney show an increase in the rate of exclusions from 0.29 to 0.37.
- Nationally, pupils with a special educational need (but without an EHCP or statement) were over five times more likely to be permanently excluded than those without and identify SEND. Locally, $\frac{2}{3}$ of all pupils who were permanently excluded had a special educational need.

In light of this data, the Commission recommended improved public oversight and scrutiny of school exclusion is necessary to ensure that this important metric remains at the forefront of local education policy, planning and decision making. Hackney Education is now required to report annually to the Commission where data publication will not only improve monitoring of school exclusions, but will also ensure that there is improved transparency and accountability for those policies and practices aimed to prevent them.

Behaviour Management in Schools

From focus groups conducted with both young people, local parent groups and other stakeholders, the Commission found that some schools' behaviour policies were excessively punitive and failed to make proper adjustments for pupils with additional

needs. The application of some schools' behaviour policies were also felt to have a disproportionate impact on certain groups of young people.

The Commission recommended that Council should encourage more positive behaviour management strategies across schools, which help to identify and address children's unmet needs and create a more supportive and inclusive school environment.

More inclusive schools

The Commission noted research which indicates the positive role school attendance plays not only in terms of a child's educational, social and emotional development, but also in helping to keep children safe and protected. Regular adult engagement and oversight ensures that children have daily supervision where they feel safe to learn, and protected from antisocial or criminal exploitation. Schools are an important setting for children and young people to safely explore and to build social and emotional support networks with other young people and other adults which are essential which not only help to keep them safe, but also help to maintain their wellbeing and assist them on their journey to adulthood.

The Commission recommended that Hackney reaffirms its commitment to the principle of the inclusive school, and that local schools offer a broad and balanced curriculum which keeps children and young people engaged and motivated with learning, and school life and culture, and which recognise the needs of those children with SEND and or other learning challenges. The Commission also recognises that schools need a broad programme of wraparound behavioural, emotional and wellbeing support, linked to local statutory (CAMHS, SEND) and other providers (e.g. Young Hackney, WAMHS and other early help services).

Improved safeguarding in schools

Given the protective influence that schools have on young people, and the increased risks that young people face from permanent exclusion (e.g. reduced adult oversight, susceptibility to criminal exploitation) the Commission recommended that improved safeguarding processes should be established in local schools:

- That specific guidance and information for local schools is developed to help them assess safeguarding risks within school exclusion decisions;
- That schools are encouraged to undertake an independent multidisciplinary safeguarding assessment prior to any final decision to permanently exclude a child;
- That training is developed and implemented for school governors and other school leaders about the safeguarding risks and implications of permanent exclusion from school;
- 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;

- 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;
- 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;
- At the point of exclusion, Children and Families Service are notified for Children in Need or other Family Support.

In its other work the Commission has:

Reviewed efforts of Children and Families and Hackney Education to develop a joint anti-racist action plan across both directorates. [CYP Scrutiny Commission 28th February 2022](#)