

APPENDIX B Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission

Work Programme Development

Suggestions from members of the public, local stakeholders and members of the Commission

No.	Source	Suggestion	Comment
1	Public	‘The policing in Hackney has been shown to be discriminatory towards black people, and black children. What happened with Child Q was an unacceptable breach of her rights and dignity. I often witness stop and search for no reason on black children. I once witnessed a police van purposefully hit a black man riding a bicycle, after which up to six police officers got out and violently arrested him. The fact that it took over two years for the police to apologise for Child Q publicly is unacceptable. Hackney council needs to figure out a way to hold the police to account for their egregiously racist and violent actions. The safety of black people and black children, in particular, should be absolutely paramount. It should be self-evident also that when the police use their powers in violent and disproportionate ways that community trust is eroded or destroyed. The police are meant to protect, but they don't. How are we meant to tackle our social issues if we can't rely on the police to act appropriately?’	
2	Public	Childrens and families safeguarding. Families are being failed. A new structure and staff training is required	
3a	Public	More services for children and young people to tackle racism / discrimination.	
3b	Public	Improving the quality of schools in Hackney with fairer distribution of funding according to needs/size of different communities.	
3c	Public	More funding for provision of activities for physical health for children.	
3d	Public	More effective advocacy for children.	
4	Public	How to get activities for young people in our community halls.	

5.	Public	<p>Lack of adequate support and training in identifying and helping Autistic children and young people engage in both mainstream and specialist education within Hackney. In particular- lack of targeted provision for the increasing number of anxious, late-diagnosis autistic girls (without LDs) who often have a very different presentation and needs from ASD boys. Many of these girls are now seriously isolated out of school and in need of mental health support In particular many autistic girls are diagnosed late and not until after secondary transfer. There are increasing numbers of girls in the borough who have quietly dropped out of school due to high levels of social anxiety & sensory issues associated with Autism. The staff at my daughter's 1st school, including the SENCO, we're inadequately trained and did not recognise or understand her condition.</p> <p>My daughter is academically able but dropped out of school in 2019 at age 12-13. She has had no education for 3 years now. She was diagnosed just before the first lockdown in Feb 2020 & it took until July 2020 to get an EHCP in place- by which time she had become extremely withdrawn under lockdowns. She was offered no mental health support from CAMHS. She had a tiny amount of 'medical needs' tuition which ended when her EHCP came into place- even though she did not start school. She was meant to transfer to a new school in Sept 2020 but they would not allow her to start with the other children as the school said they had to 'bed in pandemic measures'. My daughter's anxiety increased & she was left sitting at home without education for another year. She managed to get into the school in Sept 2021 but, as she had missed so much education, she became very anxious about being behind and dropped out again in February 2022 when exam preparation was underway. Also CAMHS said they could not offer help with her anxiety so this just got worse. The school refused to provide any home tuition to help her catch up. Recently (along with 2 other girls who also had a late diagnosis of Autism under the pandemic) the school said they 'cannot meet her needs' and we are now forced to look for specialist provision outside the borough. My daughter has had no social contact with peers or education for 3 years now and her mental health is seriously suffering. She</p>	
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		refuses to leave the house even to go into the garden. I gave up my job to try and help my daughter so we are now also financially challenged.	
5a	Public	A programme to support activities for young/juniors with a disability/Autism to help protect them from loneliness.	
6.	Hackney Youth Parliament	Cost of living crisis: children and their families were feeling the impact of this locally (rent, council tax, food costs). It was suggested that eligibility and access to free school meals could be looked at.	
7.	Hackney Youth Parliament	School behaviour policies: Members felt that restrictive school behaviour policies were having a negative impact on students - there were problems getting students to talk openly and freely with each other (student forum) and that some students would find it difficult to transfer to other - more open settings with more relaxed behaviour codes. What is the role of student forums - are these effective?	
8.	Hackney Youth Parliament	PSHE: There was broad agreement that this aspect of the curriculum was not diverse or inclusive or well taught in local schools. There was very little discussion of LGBT issues or broader relationship aspects to PSHE. Message was of tolerance rather than a positive choice.	
9.	Hackney Youth Parliament	CAMHS: Waiting lists for mental health services were too long - young people experienced many issues through the pandemic which resulted in the need for more support. Some people who were not actually in school (but in Elective Home Education) were waiting a long time to be seen by CAMHS.	
10.	Hackney Youth Parliament	Sexual assault /harassment; members noted that there had been a number of sexual assault cases in local education settings which young people felt had not been dealt with effectively by the school, police or other authorities. Other sexual harraassment incidents were dealth with inappropriately by schools, with both vicitim and perpretrator being placed in isolation (together) and very little after care or support for young people exposed to such incidents. It was noted that in some instances, young people leave school as the situation was too difficult/ embarrassing to deal with.	

11.	Hackney Youth Parliament	Public Health: There were concerns around the level of vaping and alcohol use among young people locally. Concerns around the level of nicotine in the former and how this was being addressed in PSHE - an absolutist approach: one cigarette leads to drink and addiction rather than harm reduction.	
12.	Member of the Commission (ABL)	CYP mental and physical health, especially in the wake of pandemic measures and other contributory factors (including social media and advertising)	
13.	Member of the Commission (ABL)	Youth centre provision and opportunities across the borough.	
14.	Member of the Commission (ABL)	Measures to address the root causes of school exclusions, inequality and child poverty	
15.	Member of the Commission (ABL)	The council's approach to foster care and the financial and quality of life costs of outsourced services.	
16.	Member of the Commission (ABL)	Community based and community led solutions to youth violence.	
17.	Member of the Commission (ABL)	Situation of youth workers nursery staff and teachers in challenging financial circumstances and with declining school admissions.	
18.	Member of the Commission (CTD)	Review the impact of Stop & Search on children and young people's mental health including but not limited to: a. Conducting a borough-wide consultation on young people's development and future prospects post stop & search (es) b. Conducting a consultation on family members, siblings, carers, and parents on the emotional impact on themselves post stop & search on their child/sibling/family member	
19.	Member of the Commission (CTD)	Review the need for the presence of blue officers in Hackney schools, including: a. Understanding the rationale for blue officers allocation per school in the borough	

20.	Member of the Commission (CTD)	<p>Stress at school - Is the curriculum and standards of education in Hackney offering a safe, secure and thriving space for young people and one that supports healthy mental health and builds confidence in their skills and future prospects?</p> <p>a. Conduct a Hackney school-wide consultation to ask students to give their opinion on the teaching methods, share their views on what stresses students and their idea of solutions for these problems</p> <p>b. Ask students across Hackney, say biannually, on their views on what they would like to see added to their school curriculum as life skills, sexual education, decolonisation, politics, workers rights, housing, credit rating etc</p>	
21.	Member of the Commission (AS)	<p>Focus on adoption and implementation of Adoption UK recommendations for a personalised pathway of care for each adoptive family based on the report Adoption Barometer: Adoption Stocktake 2022. Which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide an assessment of need and support plan for every child - A full therapeutic assessment for every child with a permanence plan, to be carried out before placement. - The assessment should inform a clear and specific written support plan, distinct from the placement plan, anticipating future as well as current support needs, agreed with the adopters before placement and linked to a commitment to provide the support that is needed. 	
22.	Member of the Commission (SSR)	Continuation of work on looked after children (and matters relating to fostering).	
23.	Member of the Commission (SSR)	Provision for homeless young people in Hackney - in particular the extent of hidden homeless in Hackney where young people sofa surf with friends and family and which increases vulnerability.	
24.	Member of the Commission (SSR)	Mental health of young people (to consult with Members Champion for Mental Health)	
25.	Member of the	Provision for young people within the LGBTQ community.	

	Commission (SSR)		
26.	Member of the Commission (SSR)	Support available for young carers.	
27.	Member of the Commission (SSR)	Support for migrant children.	
28.	Member of the Commission (JM)	SEND service restructure. What are the new accountability lines within the new structure? It would be good to evaluate the impact.	
29.	Member of the Commission (JM)	New educational provision for SEND children in schools. What is planned for ARP units and will these meet local needs? What work has been done to properly evaluate what is needed - has there been any consultation with parents about what they feel is needed (school's themselves don't always have the same views or as full a picture as parents). At the moment there is much more provision at primary level versus secondary level. This is a particular issue as social and emotional needs often come to a head after transition to secondary and there is currently a gap in provision for much of this cohort.	
30.	Member of the Commission (JM)	Connected to the above would be a look at the extent of 'Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA) across Hackney. Much is being made of new policies relating to school attendance by the Secretary of State for Education and we know that this is a problem that is growing nationally, as well as in Hackney. There doesn't seem to be accurate data collection by Hackney Education on the number of children missing in the education system. They are often 'hidden' by being on roll, but are not being provided with any, or a vastly reduced education. What is HE's strategy to deal with this in a joined up way? Where is the early help for this group of vulnerable students?	
31.	Member of the Commission (SK)	The take up of healthy start vouchers by families with young children in Hackney (improving nutrition, reducing health inequalities).	

32.	Member of the Commission (SK)	Child food poverty in Hackney - take up of holiday lunch clubs, household support fund, how accessible the information is (especially for those with ESOL needs). Raising awareness of cultural needs when providing food provisions through some of these services.	
33.	Member of the Commission (SK)	Meeting with youth workers and young people at their youth clubs outside of the meetings.	
34.	Member of the Commission (AE)	How to improve education services for disadvantaged school children, in particular those children with SEND. Why are children with SEND accessing secondary provision without this being formally diagnosed and /or without an EHCP?	
35.	Member of the Commission (MR)	Ensuring effective safeguarding children from sexual abuse and or exploitation particularly where oversight may not be as robust such as sports clubs and other out of school settings. Do all such settings have clear safeguarding policies and practices and how is assurance determined.	
34.	Hackney Independent Forum Parents	Graduated Response to SEND. This strategy is the cornerstone of the SEND Restructure and therefore central to the provision of services and support to SEND children and their families. The effectiveness or otherwise of the Graduated Response will impact on the experience and outcomes of all within the SEND community; therefore it is imperative it meets the actual needs of families effectively and efficiently. The attention of the CYP Scrutiny Committee would enable families and professionals to review this strategy and explore its strengths and weaknesses, building a better service for future families.	
35.	Hackney Independent Forum Parents	The SEND Restructure: Implementation and effects. Both families and professionals report that the current state of SEND at HE is chaotic. It is therefore imperative that the restructure in its entirety is examined by an external body able to make assessments and recommendations, evaluating elements that are having a positive and effective impact on the SEND community compared to those aspects that need review and improvement.	
36.	Hackney Independent	Increased Education Provision for SEND children. The promise of increased SEND educational provision has been a constant element of HE's SEND planning. Whilst	

	Forum Parents	we welcome the increased post 16 provision at The Garden and additional primary units, there remain outstanding areas of need. There is a serious discrepancy between the levels of specialist provision available between primary and secondary, which is exacerbated as many of social and emotional needs become apparent as children enter the teenage years, currently this area in particular is being failed by Hackney Schools. Therefore the promised increase in SEND provision needs to be mapped out, presented and reviewed to ensure that it meets the most urgent needs of the SEND community.	
37.	Director of Public Health	The health of looked after children in Hackney.	
38	Director of Public Health	Youth justice health provision.	
39.	Director of Public Health	To review the Joint Children and Families Health and Wellbeing Framework for City and Hackney (the working group is putting further detail on the framework so it would be better if this came later in the calendar).	
40.	Director of Public Health	Young people's substance misuse services.	
41.	Director of Public Health	Childhood immunisations.	
42.	CYP Commission end of year review	A youth-led scrutiny session.	
43.	CYP Commission end of year review	The provision of SEND services should remain a focus.	
44.	CYP Commission end of year review	School exclusions should remain a focus for the Commission.	