

APPENDIX C

Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission

Work Programme - Horizon Scanning (National & Local)

Chair and Vice Chair Meetings with Cabinet Members, Group Director and Directors

Issues emerging from discussions with Meetings with Cabinet Members, Group Director and Directors			
No.	Issue	Details	Comment
1.	Behaviour Management in Schools	<p>The Commission's review of school exclusions highlighted the disproportionate impact that behaviour management strategies were having on children, particularly children from Black and Global Majority communities and those with SEND. These concerns have also been raised in relation to the outcomes of the Child Q Safeguarding Practice Review.</p> <p>Further work needs to be undertaken around how these are developed (in consultation with parents and children), how these are overseen (by governing bodies) and assessed in relation to equalities impact.</p>	
2.	Race, racism and children's social care	<p>Building on the work of the Commission and Children Families Service in relation to anti-racist practice, it may be beneficial to undertake work to assess the demographic profile of children on a Child Protection Plan, Children in Need and those who become looked after - where there are known disparities (ethnicity, gender). This work may help to understand the social work principles and practices which underpin such social care assessments and contribute to local disparities.</p>	
3.	Uptake of EHCP and demographic analysis	<p>(Related to above) The number of children with SEND and in need of an EHCP has continued to increase both locally and nationally. EHCP data shows that there has been a 25% increase in the 12 months to 2021.</p> <p>Whilst these may be increasing, the work of the Commission in relation to</p>	

		<p>exclusions indicated that the additional or special educational needs of some groups of children may be being missed or diagnosed late (at secondary). In relation to (2) it might be helpful to undertake a further analysis of EHCP Plans - which children are being assessed and in receipt of educational support - and those young people that may be missing out (or incorrectly diagnosed).</p>	
4.	SEND Restructure and Better Value Review	<p>Also in relation to the above (3) local SEND services in Hackney and across London continue to face acute demand which is generating significant local authority cost pressures (in Hackney £7m 2021/22).</p> <p>A SEND Restructure and Better Value review is forthcoming locally and it was suggested that it might be helpful if the Commission has oversight of this. (The emerging SEND strategy is expected at Cabinet for approval by autumn).</p>	
5.	Children missing education	<p>Following the pandemic, there are national and local concerns about the number of children who may be missing education (persistent non attendance). It was not clear if there were local disproportionalities and the degree to which these linked to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mental Health needs - Links to specific communities (e.g. Roma /Traveller communities - SEND <p>Data does suggest that persistent absence is much greater amongst vulnerable children which may be contributing to a growing attainment gap (education lab).</p>	
6.	Young Parents Offer	<p>Given that the outcomes of young parents are much lower than for other parent groups (postnatal depression, mental health) and the</p>	

		<p>disproportionalities that exist further work should be considered on what role local authority can play in better supporting this parent group and their children.</p> <p>The Local Government Association and Public Health England have produced supporting guidance on the role of local authorities in supporting young parents.</p>	
7.	Attainment Gap	<p>2022 will be the first year that GCSE /A Level exams have been sat formally in person since 2019. Assessments at Early Years (Good Level of Development) and KS2 will continue to not take place / be published.</p> <p>Given data around the unequal impact of lockdown and disproportionality of those who have missed education, it is expected that analysis of this years results will result in the widening attainment gap for different cohorts of children and young people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - role of catch up progs - tutoring scheme locally? 	
8.	Independent Provision of SEND	<p>In 2021/22 the Commission assessed how Independent SEND provision was commissioned. The Commission has indicated that it would like to follow up this work particularly in relation to the quality of provision, location of provision and value for money provided from these services.</p>	

National Horizon Scanning			
No	Issue	Details	Comment
1.	Education and Schools White Paper.	- The Education White Paper, Opportunity for All was published in April 2022. Schools Bill currently going through parliament.	
2.	SEND Green paper	- SEND Green paper published in March 2022 entitled The Right Support Right Place Right Time	
3.	Unregistered schools	- Reports indicate that legislation is likely to be forthcoming which will tighten regulation around unregistered school settings. This will likely impact the ongoing review work of the Commission.	
4.	Family Hubs	- DfE announced that LB Hackney is among 78 Local Authorities which have been successful in securing additional funding to set up Family Hubs. - Funding of £302m to be divided among successful LA's, with £100m earmarked to roll out bespoke parent-infant relationship and perinatal mental health support. - The Family Hubs model may inform the redesign of local children's centres (expected 2022)	
5.	Independent (McAlister) Review of Children's Social Care	- Children's Social Care Review (McAlister review). The review of children's social care began in January 2021 and recently published its FINAL REPORT . The review will have implications for local children's social care which needs to be unpacked and addressed.	

Local Horizon Scanning - Ongoing work of the Commission from 2021/22

1.	Outcomes of Child Q Safeguarding Practice Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The City & Hackney Safeguarding Partnership undertook a serious case review (SCR) in respect of strip-search of Child Q which have implications for local CYP and safeguarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policing in schools - role of SSO - Expectations of the community in relation to outcomes of SR - Authentic voice of the child - ensuring that needs of the child comes first in decision making - Behaviour policies in schools - do these result in disproportionate outcomes for certain groups e.g. Black and global majority children/ children with SEND - Parental engagement - good models of parental involvement - The importance of an inclusive school. - The Joint LiH and CYP Commissions will also report recommendations which may impact on the work of individual commissions. 	
2.	Anti-racist Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Commission has maintained oversight of the development of a joint Anti-Racist Action in recent work programmes. It has indicated that it wishes to maintain this going forward. 	
3.	Ofsted Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children and Families were last inspected by Ofsted in July 2021. The Commission continues to monitor and track progress of the services in response to the suggested areas for improvement to ensure that the service reaches its stated ambition to be good or outstanding in future full inspections. 	
4.	Impact of the Cyber Attack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Cyber Attack on the Council precipitated the loss of the children's social care database (MOSAIC) and case records that it held. Given the practice and safeguarding risks, the Commission has maintained oversight of recovery and improvement plans. The interim database was assessed by Ofsted to be in need of improvement at the last inspection and a full systems restoration (to Mosaic) was expected on 4th April 2022. 	
5.	School Estates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Commission received a report on the planned School Estates Strategy 	

	Strategy	<p>during 2021/22 which sets out the Council's approach for the best use of school estate in relation to falling school rolls, growing SEND needs, and the need to provide more in borough and maintained SEND provision. The formal strategy and business case was approved by the Cabinet in early 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Areas of interest to the Commission were the Additional Resource Provisions (ARP) in schools and the introduction of the graduated response of schools to supporting children with SEND. 	
6.	Early Help Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The formative Early Help Strategy was presented to the Commission in 2020/21 and agreed by Cabinet in early 2022. The strategy to date is council focused which establishes corporate principles (e.g. early help is more effective, addressing disproportionality) and a single council-wide assessment framework. <p>The development of the Early Help Strategy is ongoing as this now needs to be rolled out to key partners (statutory and voluntary) to ensure that there is a consistent and coordinated early help offer across Hackney.</p>	
7.	Early Years Strategy	<p>Early years strategy implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How will Family Hubs will be incorporated into the children centre network of provision - childcare costs commission 	
8.	Sufficiency of children's Social Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local Authorities have a statutory duty to ensure that there is sufficient children's social care to meet local needs. The current strategy expires in 2022. - The Competition & Markets Authority has reviewed the children's social care market with a full report published with recommendations. - What Works in Social Care has also undertaken a review to assess whether local authorities are undertaking their stewardship of local children's social care services effectively. 	

9.	Hackney Youth Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Hackney Youth Justice Plan- The current Youth Justice Plan expires in 2022 and a new plan is being developed for the period 2022-2025.	
Future inspections			
1.	Inspections are expected in the next 12 months: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Children's Social Care - Focused Visit- SEND- Youth Offending Service		