

Title of Report	Hackney Schools Group Board - New Remit	
Key Decision No	Non Key Decision	
For Consideration By	Cabinet	
Meeting Date	24 October 2022	
Cabinet Member	Cllr Bramble, Cabinet Member for Education, Young People and Children's Social Care	
Classification	Open	
Ward(s) Affected	N/A	
Key Decision & Reason	No	For Cabinet endorsement only.
Implementation Date if Not Called In	1 November 2022	
Group Director	Jacquie Burke, Group Director for Children and Education	

1. **Cabinet Member's introduction**

- 1.1. The Hackney Schools Group Board was established in April 2019 at a time when the academisation agenda was a top priority for the Central Government. Cabinet members and senior Council officers in Hackney recognised that it was beneficial for Hackney schools to work closely together as a network of schools under the Local Authority's guidance rather than separate academies. In addition, during our Hackney Council Schools For Everyone consultation, residents gave us a clear message that they prioritised local accountability within the education system. Thus, the Board was established to champion educational excellence in the local school system and enhance ways the schools could work closely with Hackney Education and Hackney Council.
- 1.2. As a newly established board with a very broad remit and an advisory capacity, it was exciting to imagine what the board would accomplish. In the three years that it has been in existence, the Board has surpassed expectations. Not only has it carried out valuable pieces of work on belonging and reading through its panels, but established new connections, new ways of working and successful ways of engaging with the parent community which has been so beneficial for many schools.
- 1.3. The Board has had an opportunity to reflect on its work and impact, and how else it could work further to affect positive changes. The Board has decided

that a change in remit will help the board focus on key emerging issues within education. As such, the new remit was drafted which reflects this thinking.

- 1.4. As a member of Hackney Schools Group Board, I agree to the new remit of the Board as highlighted in Appendix 1, and I commend this report to the Cabinet.

2. Group Director's introduction

- 2.1. The Hackney Schools Group Board (HSGB) plays an important role in enabling the Hackney family of schools to work together to shape aspects of the strategic direction of education in the borough.
- 2.2. The Board brings together representatives from schools across the borough, as well as independent experts, to provide a long term steer to system and school improvement in Hackney. It has facilitated schools and professionals working closely together to grow expertise.
- 2.3. The HSGB formed in 2019 and has revised its remit in the light of achievements over the past 3 years and the work that needs to be prioritised following the Child Q report.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. **That Cabinet notes the change in remit of Hackney Schools Group Board (HSGB) as agreed by its members at the Board meeting of 14 July 2022. Please see Appendix 1 for the report that was presented to HSG Board members**
- 3.2. **That Cabinet endorses the new remit of the HSG Board set out in Appendix 1.**

4. Reason(s) for decision

- 4.1. A formal endorsement from the Cabinet is required for the operation of the Board.

5. Details of alternative options considered and rejected

- 5.1. N/A

6. Background

- 6.1. The Hackney Schools Group Board (HSGB) was established by Hackney's Cabinet in April 2019 following extensive research carried into what makes good school systems better - collaboration and evidence-led practice.
- 6.2. HSGB was established as an independent advisory board to champion educational excellence in the local school system, promote improvement and high standards, and underpin inclusion and wellbeing for all young people a sense of belonging among parents, pupils, and staff.
- 6.3. The Board's remit was to act in an advisory capacity, to engage all Hackney schools

in the leadership and oversight of the local school system. The HSG Board was designed not only to provide strategic insight to schools in Hackney, through working with Hackney Education, but also to champion the voices of school leaders within Hackney and the value they brought to shaping the local education system.

- 6.4. The members of the HSGB were appointed for a term of three years with the understanding that they may be reappointed for an additional three-year term.
- 6.5. The primary work of the Board was carried out through the three panels it established at its inception: Reading for All, Belonging, Curriculum. More information on the successful achievements of the panels can be found in Background Paper 1.
- 6.6. Following the first three year term of HSGB and the work carried out on behalf of the board, HSGB members expressed a strong view on having a more targeted impact on change for children and their families. The intention was not to duplicate work carried out by Hackney Education and other Council Services, but to bring together the voice of the community, both parents and children, as well as headteachers, through a board that is a system leader and challenger of schools and of the Council.
- 6.7. The proposed new remit of the Board is to act as a challenge and system leader for the education system to make sure all Hackney children do as well as they possibly can throughout their journey through the education system and are well prepared for adult life. It is also to make sure action is taken on the issues the Board agrees as a priority.

Equality impact assessment

- 6.8. The Board recognises that the issue of Belonging is an important one especially for a borough as diverse as Hackney.
- 6.9. The idea of Belonging has been a key driver for most of the programmes carried out by the Board. The Board's most impactful programme, Talking to Parents about Race, instigated meaningful conversation between parents and schools on race and the importance of belonging for children. The findings from these conversations were shared widely with the education community.
- 6.10. Furthermore, the Board commissioned external researchers to work with schools in Hackney on a project that will give teachers and pupils the skills to carry out research about belonging in the classroom.
- 6.11. The new remit highlights race and SEND as key priorities for the Board, to ensure that barriers are not created for children based on these characteristics and children have the opportunity to thrive in the education system.

Sustainability and climate change

- 6.12. Not Applicable

7. **Comments of the Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources.**

- 7.1. This report is seeking endorsement of the changes in the remit of the Hackney Schools Group Board. The budget to facilitate the board is £20k per annum, and any additional costs from expanding the remit will be met from this existing budget and will not result in a budget pressure for the Council.

8. **VAT implications on land and property transactions**

- 8.1. N/A

9. **Comments of the Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services**

- 9.1. Changes have been agreed to update and focus the remit of the Board. Some of the changes strengthen the response to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), imposed by s149 of the Equalities Act 2010, which requires the Local Authority to have "due regard" to:
- The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the EqA 2010.
 - The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. This involves having due regard to the needs to:
 - remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
 - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it; and
 - encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.Compliance with the PSED may involve treating some people more favourably than others, but this does not mean that conduct that would otherwise be prohibited by or under the EqA 2010 is permitted.
 - The need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This includes having due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and to promote understanding.

In taking decisions the Council must act lawfully, including acting within its powers, following its own procedures as well as those required by law. Cabinet endorsement is required to alter the remit of the Board.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - [Hackney Schools Group Board - New Remit](#)

Exempt

N/A

Background documents

1. [HSGB Annual Report 2021](#)

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