

Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission March 20th 2023 Item 4 - Support for Young Parents	Item No 4
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Outline

Following on from work on the disproportionalities in perinatal mental health and emotional wellbeing from the 2021/22 work programme, the Commission agreed to review the support available to young parents (under age of 25) in Hackney. The aim of this session is to:

- Review the range of support available to young parents;
- Assess how services work together to support young parents;
- Identify ways in which the local offer to young parents might be improved.

A paper is enclosed from Public Health (who commission a number of services) and Children and Families which documents the range of support which is provided to young parents, including those who are experienced.

To support this scrutiny session the Commission has invited Cathy Ashley, Chief Executive of [Family Rights Group, a national](#) charity supporting children and families and which has provided dedicated support for young parents.

Ahead of this meeting, the Chair and Vice Chair have held two focus groups with young parents in Hackney to understand more about nature and the level of support they have received. The key findings from these focus groups will be distributed ahead of the meeting.

Reports

Support for Young Parents - Public Health and Children and Families

Support for Young Parents - focus group ***To Follow***

Attending

- Jacquie Burke, Group Director Children and Education
- Diane Benjamin, Director of Children's Social Care
- Laura Bleaney, Head of Corporate Parenting
- Carolyn Sharpe, Consultant in Public Health
- Swati Vyas, Senior Public Health Specialist
- Cathy Ashley, Chief Executive, Family Rights Group

Background Reports/ reading

Family Rights Group (webpage) - [working with young parents.](#)

Family Lives (webpage) - [where young parents can get support.](#)

Mental Health Foundation (webpage) - [Young Mums Connect](#) (emotional and

wellbeing support for young parents)

[Young parents' involvement In the child welfare system](#) Caroline Lynch & Cathy Ashley (Ed) (2016)

[A framework for supporting teenage mothers and young fathers.](#) Public Health England and Local Government Association (2016)

[Vulnerable Birth Mothers and Recurrent Care Proceedings](#), Centre for Family & Justice Research and Lancaster University, (2017)

'It's [the way they look at you](#)': [Why discrimination towards young parents is a policy and practice issue](#). Racael Owens, University of Durham (2022)

[Supporting young parents to reach their full potential](#). Local Government Association (2019)