

Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission March 20th 2023 Item 5 - Cabinet Q & A	Item No 5
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Outline

Cabinet members who have responsibility for children and young people's services are invited to the Commission annually, to enable members to scrutinise services within their portfolio. The Commission may identify up to three service or policy areas on which to focus its questioning which must be notified to the Cabinet member 6 weeks in advance of the meeting. The Cabinet member is required to give a verbal response at the meeting.

For this session, the Commission requested that the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Young People and Children's Social Care respond to questions on 3 policy areas:

1. Can the Cabinet member outline the key areas of the Young Hackney offer to local schools?

Questions that the Commission would like to follow up on:

- How does Young Hackney assess the quality and outcomes of this work with local schools?
- How does the Young Hackney offer interrelate with other school support services such as CAMHS, WAMHS and the Re-Engagement Unit? Are these services effectively coordinating provision to support children and local schools?
- Not all schools equally engage with the universal offer by Young Hackney, how does Young Hackney work with those schools which may be reluctant to engage and refer children for support?

2. Can the Cabinet member outline how many children are currently placed in temporary accommodation by Hackney Council and is there a *local* understanding of how this impacts on children's welfare?

Questions that the Commission would like to follow up on:

- How many children placed in temporary accommodation are being supported by Children and Families Service (children in need, on a child protection plan or supported by early help)?
- What are the social care, health and education accountability arrangements for those children that are placed in temporary accommodation *outside the borough*?
- Is there a clear and consistent welfare offer which is systematically presented to children and families living in temporary accommodation - so that they know what help is available and how they can access it (e.g. early help)?

- What standards and protocols are in place to ensure that families with children are not placed in inappropriate temporary accommodation (e.g. safeguards for shared facilities, childcare access, accommodation with stairs for families with buggies, wifi access, easy access to laundry facilities etc)?

3. Can the Cabinet member outline the scale of Children who go Missing From Care in Hackney and the associated safeguarding risks that children face when they go missing?

Questions that the Commission would like to follow up on:

- Does the Children and Families Service analyse (both individually and collectively) why children go missing from care - and how support is adapted in response (i.e. is CFS alert and responding to the circumstantial risks when children go missing?)
- What does the Children and Families Service know about disproportionalities within the cohort of children who are going missing from care?
- What support is provided to foster carers when children in their care go missing from care - both the in-house team and those working for independent foster carers?
- How many Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) go missing, are there any additional safeguards for this cohort?