

Hackney Education

Hackney Council
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Parents and carers of children,
attending Fernbank and Hillside
Children's Centres

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Dear parent/carer,

We are writing to tell you that we've decided to pause our proposals to close Fernbank and Hillside following the recent public consultation.

We know how important these high quality centres are to you and your family. We also recognise that you are likely to have responded to the consultation we have just been running. We will be reviewing and summarising the feedback we have received.

We have, during the past weeks, heard points made by parents, carers, staff and others who have responded about the value of the centres to them and have raised concerns about the consultation process.

We write to inform you that taking all these points into account, and having listened carefully to the concerns raised by parents and others at meetings, the council has decided to delay a decision about any closures. This will be until a wider review of borough-wide provision – including further public engagement – can take place next year.

Our excellent staff – who so many of you have told us provide brilliant support and care to your children – have been told this directly today and will receive a letter today also.

We will be meeting again with staff over the coming weeks and months to talk further with them about potential developments of children's centre provision.

We do know that a future review will have to consider how the Council meets its duty to provide sufficient childcare places, provides vital child and family support through children's centres, and manages the impact of falling numbers of children accessing childcare and early



education. With government funding continuing to be reduced, any alternative proposals will still require some difficult decisions.

I hope this letter gives you reassurance. We'll be back in touch in the coming months about that engagement process next year, and I look forward to working with many of you to understand how we can continue to deliver quality services to Hackney's children.

Yours sincerely



Annie Gammon
Director of Education, Hackney Education



Donna Thomas
Head of Early Years, Early Help & Well-being