

<b>Children &amp; Young People Scrutiny Commission</b> <b>10th February 2026</b> <b>Item 4 - Housing Support for Families of Children with SEND</b>	Item No  <b>4</b>
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#### Outline

In January 2025, families of children with SEND made a deputation to Full Council setting out their concerns in relation to accessing local housing support. Key issues identified by parents included:

- A more developed understanding of the needs of families with SEND and how this impacts on housing needs and requirements;
- Greater clarity as to how the needs of families of children with SEND are assessed in relation to accessing the housing register and related support;

Following meetings between the Chairs/Vice Chairs of both CYP Scrutiny Commission and Living in Hackney Commission (as this issue spans the remit of both) with Cabinet members, senior council officers and local parent representatives, it was agreed to undertake a joint scrutiny of this issue with a focus on:

- *LA housing duties and responsibilities for families with children with SEND;*
- *Nature /scale of the housing challenge supporting families of children with SEND;*
- *Medical needs assessment process;*
- *Available housing help to support families move into alternative suitable accommodation (swaps, PRS and out of borough);*
- *Coordinated council wide offer in the absence of local housing options (e.g. adaptations, Family Hubs, Disabled Children Service, Respite, Early Help CVS).*

To support the scrutiny of this item, members of the Commission have undertaken a number of engagement sessions with local impacted families:

- Site visit to 3 families;
- Focus group with 5 families.

#### Reports:

- (Officers) Housing Support for Families of Children with SEND **(to follow)**
- Commission's report back from engagement with local families
- *Lived Realities* - Housing Inclusion Hackney - testimonies from Hackney's SEND families.

#### In attendance:

- Deputy Mayor Anntionette Bramble, Cabinet member for Children's Services & Young People:
- Cllr Anya Sizer, Deputy Cabinet Member for Families, Early Years & SEND
- Cllr Sade Etti, Cabinet Member for Homelessness Prevention, Rough Sleeping and Temporary Accommodation
- Jacquie Burke, Group Director Children & Education;
- Jason Marantz, Director of Education & Inclusion;
- Diane Benjamin, Director of Children's Social Care
- Yvonne Wade, Head of SEND
- Rickardo Hyatt, Group Director Housing, Climate & Economy
- Alex Clarke, Director of Housing Strategy & Homelessness
- James Goddard, Assistant Director Strategy, Assurance & Private Sector Housing
- Lee Georgiou, Assistant Director, Benefits and Homeless Prevention
- Marcia Facey, Strategic Lead Benefits and Homeless Prevention
- Michael Walker-Roberts, Housing Strategy & Policy Manager
- Alice Clay, Housing Project Manager
- Niki Lampaski, Parent Representative
- Rachel Nkiessu-Guifo, Parent Representative

#### Item outline

19.05	Introduction (5m)	Chair, Cllr Sophie Conway
19.10	Report summary (10m)	Cabinet members & officers
19.20	Parents (10m)	Niki Lampaski Rachel Nkiessu-Guifo
19.30	Q & A with Commission (50m)	Members of CYP and living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission
20.20	Summary	Chair, Cllr Sophie Conway

#### **Background information**

[Housing Allocations Policy LB Hackney](#) (May 2024)

[Medical assessments for housing applications](#) Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (July 2024)

#### **Commentary**

[Temporary accommodation is even worse for neurodivergent children, but councils can do better](#) - [Inside Housing](#) 26th January 2026

[Temporary accommodation in England is 'torture' for neurodivergent children](#) [The Guardian](#) 27th January 2026