Hackney

Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission	Item No
16th March 2026 Item 5 - Cabinet Q & A (Deputy Mayor Bramble)	**5**

Outline

Under the agreed protocol Cabinet members attend annually for a Question & Answer (Q & A) with respective Scrutiny Commission(s), where up to 3 areas of questioning can be selected. Cabinet members are required to provide a verbal response to questions set by the respective scrutiny Commission/Panel.

This Q & A is for Deputy Mayor Bramble, Cabinet member for Children's Services and Young People. The three policy areas selected for questioning by the Commission for the Deputy Mayor's children and young people portfolio[1] are as follows:

1. School Admissions
2. Restructure of Young Hackney
3. Update on the 10 x 10 commitment - access to extracurricular activities

1. **School Admissions**

a) Data presented to scrutiny in 2022[2] suggest rising numbers in-year school applications/admissions across both primary and secondary schools in Hackney through the [Hackney In Year Admissions Process](#). Can DM Bramble set out:

  i) The most recent full years data for in-year admissions for primary and secondary schools and confirm trend analysis?

  ii) What are the main drivers for rising in-year school applications/ admissions?

  iii) What is the impact on schools of increasing in-year admissions?

  iv) How many local secondary schools and primary schools do not participate in the in-year admissions process?

  v) If some schools choose not to be part of the in-year admissions process, what assurance can be provided that there is a level playing field and all children have fair and equal access to schools?

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[1] Hackney Education & Schools; Children's Social Care and Safeguarding; Reducing Exclusions and Promoting School Exclusion; Looked after Children & Fostering; Young Hackney; Supporting families*; Young Speakers and Youth Parliament; Delivery of the Mayor's Young Futures Commission recommendations; Delivering Hackney ' Ac child friendly borough'*; Chair of Corporate Parenting Board.

[2]

https://hackney.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s77821/Report%20to%20Scrutiny%20-%20School%20Places%20and%20Admissions%202022%20-%20Google%20Docs.pdf

b) Can DM Bramble set out to the Commission how local admissions systems operate to ensure that schools have a fair and equal responsibility in supporting children with additional learning needs or those who have 'challenging behaviour'?

    i) In the past year, how many times have local schools refused to accept children as agreed by the [Fair Access Protocol](#)?

    ii) In the past year, how many children on roll at New Regents College were successfully reintegrated back into mainstream schools?

    iii) Can DM Bramble set how the local Fair Access Protocol will be updated as part of the establishment of Hackney Education Alternative Learning Service (HEALS).

2. <u>Young Hackney</u>

Youth services provided through Young Hackney have been restructured to achieve £1m of savings to help reduce the Council's overall deficit. Can DM Bramble update the Commission:

- On how local youth services have been reconfigured to date and how services have been impacted?
- How were Young Hackney users engaged and involved in planning service changes?
- How will the new [National Youth Strategy](#) inform policies and priorities for supporting youth provision in Hackney going forward?

3. <u>10 (activities) x 10 (years old)</u>

Activities outside the classroom are important to help to build children's soft skills, develop networks and improve confidence and their sense of wellbeing, yet [research](#) shows that the type of school children attend and their socioeconomic background largely determines what activities are available to them. Can DM Bramble update the Commission on the [Council's 10 x 10 programme](#) which aimed to introduce 10 activities to children by the age of 10?

a) What formal evaluation has taken place of the 10 x 10 programme and what were the key outcomes?

b) Has the programme achieved good coverage/uptake across all local primary schools and early years settings? Do all primary schools have the resources and facilities to support children to access the 10 activities?

c) How has the programme <u>engaged</u> and been <u>received by</u> children and families from a range of different backgrounds?

    i) Socio-economically disadvantaged communities?

    ii) Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)?

    iii) Charedi community?