

Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission 16th March 2026 Item 6 - Cabinet Q & A (Deputy Cabinet Member Cllr Sizer)	Item No 6
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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.

The three service areas selected by CYP Scrutiny Commission for scrutiny from Cllr Sizer's portfolio¹ as Deputy Cabinet Member for Families, Early Years & SEND are as follows:

1. Children & Family Hubs
2. Specialist SEND places in Hackney
3. Wraparound Childcare

1. Children & Family Hubs

Children & Family Hubs aim to give children the best start in life by providing joined-up, 'one-stop' access to health, education and social care support. The Council operates 4 Children and Family Hubs across Hackney (full service offer [here](#)).

- a) Can Cllr Sizer set out how Children & Family Hubs provision have been evaluated to date?
 - What is the overall activity and trends for the number of family contacts across the four Family Hub settings?
 - Are Family Hubs reaching local families most in need; those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage, have special educational needs or experiencing exclusion (from being from a minority group)?
 - Are Family Hubs delivering services which local families need - are parents' views and experiences routinely assessed?
- b) Can Cllr Sizer set out how Family Hubs provide a fully integrated 'one-stop' offer to local families in need?
 - How are local Community and Voluntary Sector groups fully integrated into the local Family Hub model?

¹ Supporting Families, Early Years, Children & Family Hubs, Children Centres, Nurseries, Childminders and SEND.

- How are Family Hubs linked to local housing services?
 - Are there regular meetings with partners and stakeholders to ensure effective governance and oversight of Family Hub provision?
 - How will Family Hubs integrate with the new Families First Partnership approach which is being developed for children's social care?
- c) Can Cllr Sizer set out current and future funding arrangements for Family Hubs to ensure that provision is fully integrated and sustainable.

2. **Specialist SEND Provision in Hackney**

As the number of children and young people with an EHCP in Hackney is projected to grow by almost by 19% by 2032, can Cllr Sizer update the Commission on current and future plans for developing additional in-borough specialist placements for children with SEND?

- a) In addition to the current offer of 529 places across Stormont, Ickburgh and The Garden, how many new placements in special schools are planned to be provided in Hackney in the medium term (next 3 years)?
- b) How many additional special school places will the repurposing of a vacant school site bring to Hackney? Will the site be operated by an existing specialist school? When will the new places become available?
- c) There are currently 10 Additional Resource Provisions (ARP) in local primary schools and 3 in local secondary schools. How many new ARPs are planned for the medium (3 year) period and how is the imbalance between primary and secondary ARP provision being addressed?
- d) How many new in-borough specialist places are planned for children with SEND from the Charedi community? Will any of these be in maintained provision?

3. **Wraparound Childcare Provision**

LB Hackney received £913,638 funding (2023/24-2025/26) to develop wraparound childcare provision in schools, nurseries and other childcare settings. Can Cllr Sizer update the Commission on how this funding has been used to improve the capacity and sustainability of wraparound childcare provision to parents across Hackney?

- a) How has funding been used to ensure that wraparound provision has been effectively targeted to support those families in greatest need?
- b) How has funding been used to support wraparound provision in local special schools and more broadly to those families of children with SEND?
- c) Cost is a significant barrier to the take up of wraparound childcare provision, how has the programme addressed affordability for local parents?
- d) Has funding been used to test or pilot new models of wraparound care which offer high quality, affordable and sustainable placements/opportunities for local families?