

Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission
London Borough of Hackney
Room 118, Hackney Town Hall
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E8 1AE

5th March 2026

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Jim Gamble
Independent Child Safeguarding Commissioner
City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership

Dear Jim,

Child Safeguarding Practice Review - Mossbourne Victoria Park Academy

The Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission would like to thank the City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership (CHSCP) for attending its meeting on the 12th January 2026. The Commission greatly appreciated the candour and insight that both yourself and Sir Alan Wood brought to the discussion of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) of Mossbourne Victoria Park Academy (MVPA). A full public record (draft minutes and meet recording) of the meeting can be viewed [here](#).

Overview and scrutiny is a key component to support public accountability of local services and regularly reviews regulatory and inspection reports to assess the impact for the Council and its partners. Such reviews not only help to drive wider service improvement, but as these are held in public, also help to promote transparency and help reassure the community that any required actions are being taken by respective agencies.

The CSPR raised a number of concerns in relation to the application of the school behaviour policy at MVPA, which included the failure to make adequate adjustments for pupils with additional needs, the disproportionate impact it has on Black Caribbean and Black African pupils as well as the use of informal exclusion processes such as 'desking'. These are important issues to local children and families, and the Commission notes and supports the commitment of the CHSCP to maintain active oversight of the CSPR process and to ensure the recommendations are acted upon quickly by MVPA.

It was of concern to the Commission however, that the CHCSP was of the view that MVPA had not engaged with the CSPR process in a spirit of genuine cooperation. It is particularly worrying that CHSCP encountered problems with information sharing by MVPA, a central requirement of any safeguarding investigation, and that engagement was conducted in an adversarial manner through legal representatives

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appointed by the school. More significantly, MVPA chose to commission an alternative 'review', at significant public expense, which can only be interpreted as a challenge to the expert and independent review authorised by the local Safeguarding Children Partnership and confirmed by the National Child Safeguarding Review Panel.

The response of MVPA to the published CSPR has also been disappointing. It has been over 8 weeks since the CSPR was first published (9th December), and yet to date there has been no detailed public response by the school to the recommendations. Furthermore, in [correspondence](#) to this Commission, MVPA has indicated that it would '*test its conclusions against the evidence*' which would suggest that the CSPR recommendations are contested and that the adversarial manner in which MVPA has engaged with this process to date may continue.

Transparency and open reflection are central to effective safeguarding practice reviews to fully ensure learning is acknowledged and embedded into future practice. The response of MVPA would seem to be inconsistent with how the local families and the wider community might expect a local public service to respond to a statutory child safeguarding learning process.

To support public scrutiny and further public confidence in the implementation of the CSPR recommendations, the Commission would like to invite CHSCP to a follow-up meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission on **Wednesday 8 July 2026 at 7pm**. We anticipate that this will be an important opportunity to receive an update from the CHSCP and to discuss the demonstrable changes made by the school and partners in response to the CSPR and to support wider transparency and public assurance that change is taking place. As regulator of academies, the Commission will also request that the Department of Education attend, and as for the initial meeting, representatives from the MVPA will also be invited to attend and contribute to this discussion.

Once again, thank you for attending the meeting of the Commission and for discussing this issue with such candour.

Yours faithfully

Cllr Sophie Conway
Chair, Children and Young People
Scrutiny Commission

Cllr Margaret Gordon
Vice Chair, Children and Young People
Scrutiny Commission

CC: - *DM Bramble, Cabinet member for Children's Services and Young People*
- *Jacque Burke, Group Director Children & Education & Adult Social Care*
- *Jason Marantz, Director of Education*
- *Alan Parnham, Interim Regional Director, Department for Education*
- *Peter Hughes, CEO, Mossbourne Federation*