

Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission  
London Borough of Hackney  
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To: Alan Parnham, Interim Regional Director  
Department of Education

Dear Alan,

## **Mossbourne Victoria Park Academy - Child Safeguarding Practice Review**

At its meeting on Monday 12 January 2026, the Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission reviewed the conclusions and recommendations of the City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership (CHSCP) Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) of Mossbourne Victoria Park Academy (MVPA), led by Sir Alan Wood.

The Commission would like to thank the Department of Education (DfE) for its [submission](#) to support this scrutiny process, and which contributed to a rich and robust discussion of the recommendations to improve the safeguarding and wellbeing of children attending 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 great concern to the Commission however, that the CHSCP assessed 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

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engagement was conducted in an adversarial manner through legal representatives appointed by the school. Most 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 and 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 request that a representative of the London Region Department of Education attend a follow-up meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission on **Wednesday 8 July 2026 at 7pm**. It is anticipated that this will be an important opportunity for the DfE to clarify its regulatory and oversight responsibilities of academies in light of the issues raised by the CSPR report, and 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 public assurance that change is taking place at MVPA. As was the case for the initial meeting, representatives from the MVPA will also be invited to attend and contribute to this discussion.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing support for the work of the Commission in Hackney.

Yours faithfully

**Cllr Sophie Conway**  
Chair, Children and Young People  
Scrutiny Commission

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