

Title of Report	Hackney Thinking Spaces
For Consideration By	Health and Wellbeing Board
Meeting Date	19 March 2026
Classification	Public
<u>Ward(s) Affected</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hackney North and Stoke Newington • Hackney South and Shoreditch
Report Author	Sophie McElroy Senior Programme Manager, City & Hackney Children & Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing Partnership

Is this report for:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Information to note	<input type="checkbox"/>	For actions to be allocated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For Discussion & input	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For escalation (if issue is outwith Remit of HWB)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Decision		

Why is the report being brought to the board?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To update the Health and Wellbeing Board on Hackney Thinking Spaces Phase 2 and the implementation of Community Advisory Board (CAB) recommendations. • To seek cross-system support and clarity of ownership to progress priority actions. • To align delivery with Health & Wellbeing Strategy priorities and neighbourhood partnership working.
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Provide a succinct summary of the issue here:

<p>Hackney Thinking Spaces (HTS) is a partnership programme between Hackney Council and I Found Me Therapeutic Counselling, established to create safe, reflective spaces for Black and Global Majority residents to explore the emotional and mental health impacts of systemic racism.</p>
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Phase 1 generated a set of Community Advisory Board recommendations aimed at improving emotional wellbeing, strengthening community voice, and enhancing system responsiveness.

Phase 2 shifts the focus from consultation to implementation. Progressing these recommendations now requires clear cross-Council ownership, alignment with existing strategies, and coordinated system leadership to ensure impact is sustained and embedded.

Has the report been considered at any other committee meeting of the Council or other stakeholders?

Yes – the recommendations were developed and reviewed through the Hackney Thinking Spaces Community Advisory Board (Phase 1) and shared with internal officers across Public Health and Children & Young People’s Emotional Health and Wellbeing partners. It has also been shared with the Hackney Health & Care Board.

1. **Background**

- 1.1. Hackney Thinking Spaces (HTS) was initially commissioned as a 12-month community-led programme in response to the impact of systemic racism on the mental health and wellbeing of Black and Global Majority children, young people and families in Hackney.
- 1.2. The programme provided facilitated therapeutic spaces and collective learning opportunities, alongside structured community voice mechanisms. A Community Advisory Board (CAB) was established to shape the programme and develop system-facing recommendations.
- 1.3. Phase 2 (2026–2028) builds on this foundation, with a renewed focus on embedding recommendations within mainstream delivery and strengthening partnership accountability.

2. **Current position**

- 2.1. Phase 2 has commenced delivery.
- 2.2. CAB recommendations have been grouped under four strategic themes (Commissioning & System Accountability; Access to Community Spaces; Emotional Health & Wellbeing; Black History & Education).
- 2.3. Officers have drafted a structured implementation framework to align actions with existing delivery plans.
- 2.4. Governance and cross-directorate clarity are required to progress recommendations at pace.

3. **Key facts and/or data**

- 3.1. Phase 1 engaged Black and Global Majority residents through facilitated reflective spaces.

- 3.2. Feedback highlighted the need for sustained, system-level change rather than short-term project-based responses.
- 3.3. Recommendations cut across children’s services, public health, education, community safety and commissioning functions.

4. Conclusions

- 4.1. Hackney Thinking Spaces represents a strong example of community-informed programme development. However, without structured cross-system ownership, there is a risk that recommendations remain advisory rather than transformative.
- 4.2. Health and Wellbeing Board oversight provides an opportunity to embed accountability, maintain credibility with communities, and ensure alignment with strategic priorities.

5. Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- Note progress of Hackney Thinking Spaces Phase 2.
- Endorse the structured implementation approach to CAB recommendations.
- Agree cross-system ownership and appropriate governance oversight arrangements.

6. Policy Context

Please detail which, if any, of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy priorities this report relates to?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Improving mental health
<input type="checkbox"/>	Increasing social connection
<input type="checkbox"/>	Supporting greater financial security
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All of the above

Please detail which, if any, of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy ‘Ways of Working’ this report relates to?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Strengthening our communities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Creating, supporting and working with volunteer and peer roles
<input type="checkbox"/>	Collaborations and partnerships: including at a neighbourhood level

<input type="checkbox"/>	Making the best of community resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All of the above

7. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

Has an EIA been conducted for this work?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No

8. Consultation

Has public, service user, patient feedback/consultation informed the recommendations of this report?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

Have the relevant members/ organisations and officers been consulted on the recommendations in this report?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

9. Risk Assessment

9.1. Risk of reputational impact if recommendations are not progressed following community engagement.

9.2. Risk of duplication or fragmentation without clear ownership.

9.3. Financial and workforce pressures may limit the pace of implementation.

10. Sustainability

10.1. Phase 2 has been designed to align with existing delivery structures and neighbourhood partnerships to ensure recommendations are embedded within mainstream services rather than remaining project-based.

10.2. Continued partnership working and governance oversight will be key to long-term sustainability.

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Appendices	P Hackney Thinking Spaces Board Presentati...