

Hackney Council
Alan Wood
Corporate Director Children and Young
People's Services
Hackney Service Centre
London E8 1DY

020 8356 4573

Alan.wood@hackney.gov.uk

To all Directors of Children's Services
(via email)

31 March 2015

Dear Director of Children's Services,

Re: Services available to out of borough Looked After Children placed in the London Borough of Hackney

There are a number of looked after children placed in Hackney from other local authorities under their corporate parenting responsibilities. I am writing to inform you of the resources and facilities available to children and young people who may be placed in Hackney as looked after children.

Hackney Children and Young People's Service (CYPS) is comprised of Children's Social Care, Young Hackney and Hackney Learning Trust. This letter details the process for notifying CYPS of the placement of a child in Hackney, information about accessing universal services and contact information for our Children in Care Council 'Hackney Gets Heard'.

I hope that this information will help your professional staff to access the diverse universal services that are available to children residing in Hackney. Please pass this letter on to any of your foster carers based in Hackney so they are aware of the services available for children and young people in the borough.

It would be useful to receive similar information and contact details about services and opportunities available to out of borough looked after children placed in your local authority area by other local authorities. Please share this with our Placement Management Unit by emailing PMU@hackney.gov.uk.cjism.net



Notifications

All notifications of looked after children placed in Hackney should be sent via secure email to: cscreferrals@hackney.gcsx.gov.uk

Changes of address and notifications of looked after children leaving Hackney should also be sent to this address so we can update our records. Notifications must highlight any particular risks or vulnerabilities to assist the professional network within Hackney in responding effectively to any issues that might arise. If you need to contact Hackney Children's Social Care please call **020 8356 5500** or for emergencies outside office hours, please call our Emergency Duty Team on **020 8356 2710**.

If you are unsure if a placement is based in Hackney, please use the following tool for clarification: <http://www.map.hackney.gov.uk/Find-My-Nearest/>

Consultation before placing children in Hackney

In line with the revised regulations, please contact our Placement Management Unit by emailing PMU@hackney.gov.uk.cjism.net to discuss potential distant placements in Hackney.

This team will be able to offer a professional view about the benefits of a planned placement, the benefits of living in the neighbourhood where the placement is located and the potential for local services to respond appropriately to the needs of the child concerned. In particular this team will be able to provide advice on whether a potential placement is appropriate in relation to any specific vulnerabilities, for example if a young person is at risk of sexual exploitation or going missing.

Details about contacting Hackney's Virtual School to discuss education provision in Hackney is available below.

Children's Social Care

Missing Children

Hackney CYPS expects that social workers from the placing authority complete and maintain a risk assessment and actions to be taken in the event that children placed in Hackney are absent or missing. It is the responsibility of the placing authority to complete independent return interviews following missing episodes. Missing children notifications and relevant information will be shared with home local authorities.

Child Sexual Exploitation

Hackney's Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation Group (MASE) is co-chaired by Children's Social Care and Hackney Borough Police. The MASE meets monthly to track the highest risk cases to ensure that young people who are at risk (or may pose a risk to



others) are receiving the right level of intervention. If you are concerned that a child placed in Hackney is at risk of sexual exploitation or potentially poses a risk to others, please contact the MASE: MASE@hackney.gov.uk.cjism.net

Education

Hackney Learning Trust (HLT) is responsible for Hackney's children's centres, schools and early years education. Details about Hackney's primary, secondary and special schools, term dates, admissions, special educational needs and 14-19 provision is available on the HLT website: www.learningtrust.co.uk

Virtual School

Hackney's Virtual School is available to provide advice and guidance about education provision for all looked after and adopted children placed in Hackney. The offer includes a detailed knowledge of individual schools, the admissions process and how to access additional support within the wider network. The Virtual School can be contacted on **020 8356 5016** or via email: nick.corker@hackney.gov.uk

Admission to School

Each school has an identified LAC Designated Teacher to promote the educational achievement of looked after children who are on the school roll. Looked after children are awarded priority admission to Hackney's maintained schools and academies, assuming there is a vacancy at the preferred school.

For looked after children moving into Hackney please contact the Admissions Team as soon as possible to discuss the application process. They can be contacted on **020 8820 7397 / 7398 / 7489 / 7197**.

Early Years, Childcare and Nursery Provision

Hackney Family Information Service (FIS) provides a range of information about services for children, young people and their parents. A copy of the Hackney Active Kids Guide can be downloaded from the website:

<https://www.learningtrust.co.uk/ChildcarePlay/Documents/Hackney%20Active%20Kids%20Guide.pdf>

If a looked after child is aged 2, 3 or 4 years they are entitled to 15 hours free childcare. FIS can offer advice and guidance about finding childcare and a nursery placement. Please contact them by email: fis@learningtrust.co.uk or on **020 8820 7590**.

Children's Centres

Hackney has 21 children's centres that deliver a range of services, working closely with schools, health visitors, GPs, and other local service providers to ensure continuous support to children and their families. More information on children's centres is available on the HLT website or telephone **020 8820 7590**.



Special Educational Needs (SEN)

The Hackney Local Offer sets out information about services available for children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities aged 0 to 25, including education, health, leisure and social care. Information is available on the website: <http://www.hackneylocaloffer.co.uk/>

Education Health & Care Plans (EHCPs) replaced the Statement of Special Educational Needs and Learning Difficulties Assessments on 1st September 2014. All SEN Statements will be replaced by EHCPs by 1st April 2018.

Where a child has a Statement of SEN or EHCP, Hackney Learning Trust will coordinate formal assessment and review processes and maintain the Statement or ECHP on behalf of the placing authority. Please contact the Inclusion Planning and Assessment Team on **020 8820 7326** to discuss the child or young person's needs and to identify the most appropriate local provision.

Young Hackney

Young Hackney is a universal service and works with children and young people aged 8 - 18 years. It brings together our youth service and youth support skills and expertise. Young Hackney offers *"opportunities for all, support for those who need it"*.

Young Hackney Hubs

A network of five Young Hackney hubs provide access to high-quality provision at youth centres in the borough. A wide range of open access youth activities and opportunities are also offered in partnership with the voluntary and community sector. Further information about the wide range of youth activities available in Hackney can be found at: www.younghackney.org

Youth Justice

The Youth Justice team provides statutory supervision for young people in the youth justice system. It works with young people on community sentences, those on bail or remanded to custody and those serving custodial sentences. A duty service (Monday to Friday 9- 5pm) offers information, advice and guidance on youth justice matters related to young people living in Hackney. The Youth Justice Triage service for young people who have been arrested aims to divert them away from any further contact with the youth justice system.

The Youth Justice service works closely with other local authorities in line with the *National Protocol for Case Responsibility* (2013) to ensure looked after young people living in Hackney receive 1:1 supervision and group work designed to help them



address the problems contributing to their offending and prevent any further offending. The Youth Justice team can be contacted on: **020 8356 3872**.

Health Services

All children and young people living in the borough have access to universal services provided by Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and GPs in Hackney.

Children and young people in the City and Hackney areas can access health support and advice through the CHYPS Plus young people's health service (for 11-19 year olds) which offers general health, sexual health, stop smoking and long term condition support as well as referrals to CAMHS and dietetics services. CHYPS Plus can be accessed at their 2 sites as well as from four of the Young Hackney Hubs across the borough. For details see www.chypsplus.nhs.uk or contact on: **020 7683 4070**.

Hackney Ark provides a range of integrated services for children and young people with disabilities. Contact: **020 7014 7000** or for further details see the website: www.hackney.gov.uk/children-with-disabilities

'Hackney Gets Heard' - our Children in Care Council

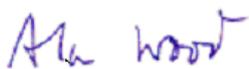
Hackney Gets Heard (HGH) represents the views of children and young people in care. Hackney Gets Heard holds events and fun activities that all of Hackney's looked after children and all looked after children living in Hackney are invited to attend. Further details can be found at <http://www.younghackney.org/getinvolved/get-involved/hackney-gets-heard.php> or contact HGH@Hackney.gov.uk for more information.

The Hackney Council website is also a useful route for more information about general services available in Hackney: www.hackney.gov.uk

We hope this information proves to be a helpful resource to professional colleagues from outside the borough who are working with looked after children placed in Hackney.

We welcome any feedback you may have.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Alan Wood'.

Alan Wood
Corporate Director - Children & Young People's Services

