9. Youth Facilities

Background
Young Hackney Early Help and Prevention Services, provide access to universal play and youth work programmes alongside high quality early intervention and specialist services for children and young people aged 6-19 years.

Our purpose is to have a positive impact on young people’s development and transition to adulthood; improving their life chances through accessible services for all whilst targeting the most vulnerable. Young Hackney Services are embedded in throughout the borough and delivered through a network of youth hubs, community settings and school interventions. Our projects and interventions enable young people to build positive relationships with their peers, families, schools and the wider community; raising aspirations, encouraging active citizenship and leadership and supporting the prevention of youth crime.

Hackney aspires to support all children and young people:
• To build on their strengths and potential
• To increase their life chances
• To enable them to contribute to and benefit from Hackney becoming a borough renowned for diversity, tolerance, inclusivity and vibrancy.

Hackney has pledged that all young people will have fair and equal access to services, and Hackney will aim to give all young people:
• Access to a range of activities within half a mile of their home;
• Access to two hours a week of activities in clubs, groups or classes;
• Opportunities to acquire knowledge and skills, recognised where possible through accreditation;
• Access to two hours a week of cultural activities including music, dance, drama, through local clubs and after school programmes;
• Information about the services and activities available to young people in Hackney available through a range of media;
• Information, advice and guidance on education, employment and training, either in school, or community venues;
• A guaranteed education or training opportunity for school leavers;
• The opportunity to apply for support for youth led activities through funds that are managed by young people – Youth Opportunity Fund;
• A chance to influence and participate in decision making – including the Hackney Youth Parliament, Children in Care Council, ambassador programmes and youth forums;
• A chance to become involved in helping the community through volunteering opportunities;
• Access to confidential advice and help for problems and concerns; and,
• Personalised support for those not in education, employment or training.

The “local youth offer” in Hackney is very broad and is delivered by the Council’s Young Hackney Service in partnership with other agencies; including the voluntary sector, uniformed organisations, tenants groups, and Housing Associations.
As part of its commitment to deliver the Youth Offer, Hackney Council obtained Government grant funding called Myplace, and invested £7m in five new youth hubs - one in each of the Borough’s operational neighborhoods’ connected by a central hub in Dalston.

This network of community facilities is run by Young Hackney and services commissioned by them, which provides a focal point for young people to access the full range of integrated youth services. This concept mirrors the Borough’s neighbourhood delivery model and creates support and informal learning programmes to complement strategies on reducing both first time entrants into the criminal justice system and numbers of young people not in education, employment and training.

The network of youth hubs primarily benefit Hackney’s young people aged between 6 - 19 years. However services also support disabled young people up to 25 years of age. The facilities aim to attract a broad range of young people including those that currently do not access youth services.

In addition to the 5 dedicated youth hubs, services for children and young people aged 6-19 years are delivered in a variety of settings including adventure playgrounds, on estates plus smaller satellite locations such as community halls.

Services provided through Young Hackney direct delivery or commissioned organisations operate at varying times and periods throughout the year (including weekends and holidays), with traditional term-time ‘after-school’ activities tending to operate between the hours of 3:00 pm and 9.00pm.

The Councils website for young people (younghackney.org) captures the picture of youth provision in Hackney. This shows that in addition to Council and commissioned voluntary sector delivery there are around 240+ voluntary sector organisations working with young people and providing a range of services and opportunities.

In general services delivered by the Council are free, but within the voluntary sector a nominal fee can sometimes apply for membership or for more significant activities such as trips and residential.

Across all agencies Youth Services are delivered from a variety of buildings; however the key established sites for youth and play provision are listed below:

**Table 9.1 Established Youth and Play Provision**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Young Hackney Hubs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Young Hackney Managed:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Road Youth Hub (Corner Forest Rd and Beechwood Road)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Edge (Woodberry Grove)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Young Hackney Commissioned:</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Concorde Youth Hub (Kingsmead Estate)  
Hoxton Hall Youth Hub (Hoxton Street)  
Stoke Newington Youth Hub (Shakespeare Walk)  

**Young Hackney satellite delivery sites:**  
Guinness Trust Estate, Stamford Hill  
Fellows Court Community Centre, Haggerston  

**Young Hackney Adventure Playgrounds**  
Hackney Marsh Adventure Playground  
Shoreditch Park Adventure Playground  

**Other Commissioned Youth Projects – additional delivery sites**  
Mouth That Roars  
Blue Hut  
Laburnum Boat Club  
Hackney Quest – Well Street  
Hackney Quest – Frampton Park  
Leaside Boat Club  
Pembury Estate Youth Club  
Hackney Empire  
Day-mer  
Youth of Haggerston  
Interlink  
Prospects  
NLMCC  
LGTU  

**Wider Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) play and youth projects**  
Apples and Pears Adventure Playground  
Shakespeare Walk Adventure Playground  
Evergreen Adventure Playground  
Homerton Grove Adventure Playground  
Hackney Playbus  
Albion Kids Show
Current Demand and Performance Youth Population

Young Hackney, play and youth organisations within Hackney work predominantly with 6-19 year olds. Latest data sets below:

Table 9.2: Hackney Population Age Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Pop</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Pop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-4</td>
<td>20,449</td>
<td>50-54</td>
<td>13,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-9</td>
<td>16,955</td>
<td>55-59</td>
<td>10,153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-14</td>
<td>14,341</td>
<td>60-64</td>
<td>7,606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-19</td>
<td>13,370</td>
<td>65-69</td>
<td>6,048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-24</td>
<td>17,473</td>
<td>70-74</td>
<td>4,391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-29</td>
<td>35,528</td>
<td>75-79</td>
<td>3,702</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-34</td>
<td>36,237</td>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>2,484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-39</td>
<td>24,686</td>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>1,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-44</td>
<td>18,263</td>
<td>90+</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-49</td>
<td>16,004</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>263,150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2014/15 more than 7980 individual young people participated in Young Hackney opportunities and attended 106,097 times. This figure does not include those attending play provisions, which is not routinely captured. However the number of children accessing adventure playgrounds during the summer holidays was estimated at 180+ per day.

Attendance during 2014/2015 at the hubs was recorded as follows and demonstrates ongoing growth in attendance:

Table 9.3: Attendance at the hubs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Delivery Centre</th>
<th>Total attendance 2013/14</th>
<th>Total attendance 2014/15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forest Road Youth Hub</td>
<td>1480</td>
<td>3801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concorde</td>
<td>2718</td>
<td>3718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoxton Hall</td>
<td>1495</td>
<td>1075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stoke Newington</td>
<td>2668</td>
<td>535</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Edge | 1355 | 4490  
Total | 9716 | 12,804

**Future supply and demand**
Hackney’s population has grown significantly in the last ten years, with the 2011 Census estimate showing a 20% increase. Whilst the population of Hackney is growing it is also getting younger. Projected trends in population for Hackney are predicted up to 2041. Over this time period a growth of around 70,000 persons is expected. Overall, growth is projected in all age groups. However, it is the working age population (16-64 year olds) who are projected to grow most significantly. The young population (0-15s) is also predicted to grow over the next ten year period, flattening after 2021.

As detailed in the education chapter, additional primary and secondary school places will be required to 2018. This need for additional primary and secondary school places is echoed by the need to provide safe places in which children and young people can play, socialise and participate in a range of informal learning opportunities which can improve their health and life chances.

The growth pattern across the Borough varies significantly at ward level; with Dalston, Hoxton, and Leabridge all estimated to have experienced growth of more than 40% over the last ten years (linked to housing developments in these wards). Other areas such as Queensbridge, Haggerston and De Beauvoir have also experienced notable growth. The growth in population in Dalston, Hoxton, Queensbridge, Haggerston and De Beauvoir is supported by the building of the new hub for Dalston Central and the refurbishment of Hoxton Hall as the hub for the Shoreditch neighbourhood.

Brownswood ward is currently the only ward estimated to have experienced a drop in the population. However this is likely to be linked to decanting of housing linked to regeneration schemes in and around Woodberry Down/ Manor House. As the phases of the regeneration plan are realised it is likely that the population will grow, especially given the proximity of transport links.

This growth is also predicted to vary significantly by ward, with Haggerston, Hoxton and Brownswood expected to experience the most growth in the medium term. Again this growth can be accommodated through the new youth hub at Woodberry Down (The Edge).

**Gaps in curriculum and unmet need**
Despite the significant investment into these five facilities (£7.1m) the capital programme was unable to deliver all desired outcomes for young people. Some aspects of the curriculum are thus not able to be delivered at present.

For example although sufficient space exists at both the central hub (Dalston) and The Edge (Woodberry Down), additional investment is required to create music studios at each site (including facility for radio broadcast from the Forest Road central hub).
At the Edge the budget did not stretch to improvements to the outside area. The garden needs landscaping to make it useable across the age groups and the exterior wall and fencing needs replacing as it presents a risk in terms of security. The rear wall also presents a health and safety concern although responsibility for this lies with Hackney’s Housing Service, whose boundary wall it is.

Similarly at Concorde, the outside hard court area and floodlighting were unable to be replaced within budget. The outside area is uneven and is not able to be used for ball games as the surface is hazardous. However given the location of this hub in an area of high need and in proximity of the Lea Valley and Olympic Parks it is well placed to deliver outcomes to improve the health and physical activity of younger residents.

It should also be noted that Hackney experiences higher levels of deprivation in the east of the Borough. Concorde (the Youth hub for Homerton) is sited on the Kingsmead estate. It is well placed to serve residents in Kings Park, and Chatham wards and is also drawing young people across other ward boundaries, however children and young people living in Wick ward are considered to be less likely to travel across Mably Green to access provision. For this reason and because there are fewer VCS organisations operating in this part of the Borough they are considered to be more isolated from existing youth provision.

The Stoke Newington hub, now commissioned and managed by Hackney Marsh Partnership, benefits from additional storage and a bicycle rack.

Lastly, uniformed organisations such as the Scouts, Guides and Cadets have come together under the umbrella of Youth United and have prioritised Hackney as an area for growth in delivery. Support for greater local participation in uniformed youth activities is a key priority for the Council. Whilst these uniformed youth organisations have some budget to support growth in the number of units in Hackney, they lack access to appropriate accommodation. All five hubs and both Adventure Playgrounds have been identified as potential sites for new units to be established, however additional storage for camping and other equipment would be required.

**Conclusion**

Additional investment in the infrastructure for service delivery for young people is required given the expected rise in population of the next 10-15 years. Priority should be given to maximising the capacity at the new youth hubs to accommodate this growth in demand. However it is acknowledged that some young people may still be unwilling to cross perceived territorial boundaries, and for this reason it is important that the breadth of the offer through the wider VCS and satellite Young Hackney offer be maintained.

The recent growth in the population of Leabridge ward should also be considered if there is potential for additional investment. Similarly Wick ward should also be considered depending on the proximity of any additional community infrastructure on the site of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.