

Young People's Guide



Hackney Children
and Young People's
Strategic Plan

2008-2011

What is our plan?

Hackney's Children's Trust is a partnership which brings together different organisations and groups who work with children, young people and their families. We've written a Children and Young People's Plan which says what we're going to do over the next three years to make lives better for children, young people and their families in Hackney.

We've based our plan on information that young people and their families gave us. We've also spoken to people who work with, and support, them. These include education, health, social care services, the police and voluntary organisations.

How are young people involved?

We worked closely with a group of young people from local youth forums, the disability forum, the youth offending young people's board and the looked after children group. Over six months, we met to agree which areas should be given priority and then talked about what kind of language we should use to write a young person's version of the plan.

Thank you

We would like to thank all the young people who helped us produce this plan for their insight, their commitment and their hard work.

Your Feedback

We would like to hear your views about the eight priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan. To give your comments please:

- ▶ Email cyp@learningtrust.co.uk, or
- ▶ Go to www.younghackney.org and click on the link.

Priority 1

We want young people to be in education or training between the ages of 14-19 so that they have more opportunities in the future.

What young people say:

- ▶ Help us make the most of the opportunities that are out there, and make education and training top priorities.
- ▶ Work together more to publicise what's available in education and training.
- ▶ Give us more careers advice and make sure we can understand and relate to it.
- ▶ Have staff that we can relate to who know about the different career options open to us when we leave school, college or university.

What we will do:

- ▶ Work with schools and other councils to make sure that you don't miss out on opportunities for education, employment and training.
- ▶ Make it easier for you to get hold of information, advice and guidance.
- ▶ Provide more ways for you to get qualifications and experience.



We want to improve educational outcomes for vulnerable groups, such as children in care, with disabilities, travellers, refugees and children who've been involved in crime.

What young people say:

- ▶ Give adults the help they need so that they can play a stronger role in our lives.
- ▶ Support young people who don't speak English as a first language at home.
- ▶ Work in ways that support us, such as making sure that personal tutors for children in care understand what young people are saying.

What we will do:

- ▶ Make sure that all children in care can go to a good or outstanding school.
- ▶ Improve personal education plans for looked after children, so that they get the right support when they need it.
- ▶ Support parents to help them care for and educate their children.
- ▶ Improve our early years services to reduce the gap between the highest and lowest achievers as soon as possible.



Priority 3

We want to cut crime levels among young people in Hackney

What young people say:

- ▶ Provide more things to do, and tell us about youth clubs and activities that are already up and running so that we don't get involved in gangs.
- ▶ Help us improve our relationships with the police and authorities in general, e.g, by making sure that schools and estates get the right support.
- ▶ Offer more one-to-one support for young people who won't go to school.

What we will do:

- ▶ Put our new youth crime reduction strategy in place which involves you and your families and helps identify young people who need more support.
- ▶ Find better ways to work with you and your families, and other important people in your lives, to cut the numbers of young people offending and re-offending.



We want to make sure that young people are safe at home and around Hackney

What young people say:

- ▶ Make sure that we can get confidential help if we feel unsafe at home.
- ▶ Have more police patrolling schools and estates.
- ▶ Provide courses for parents in the local community that take into account language or cultural barriers.
- ▶ Provide short courses for parents covering issues such as personal safety in the home and on the streets.

What we will do:

- ▶ Make sure that services for adults remember that adults may be parents too, and deliver adult services with this in mind.
- ▶ Continue to promote safeguarding in Hackney's communities.
- ▶ Provide more parenting programmes at an earlier stage to improve parenting skills.
- ▶ Improve the way we respond to young people who are bullied or victims of crime.



We want to make sure that young people enjoy good mental health

What young people say:

- ▶ Provide more group activities which will help to build up our confidence and trust.
- ▶ Encourage us to enjoy out of school activities that will increase our social skills.
- ▶ Make sure that we can get confidential support if we need it.

What we will do:

- ▶ Make sure our mental health staff are well trained to provide the best help.
- ▶ Make sure staff in schools, children's centres, youth and health services know more about children's emotional development and where children can get support if they need it.
- ▶ Put teams in schools to promote good mental health and to get involved earlier if children or young people are at risk.



Priority 6

We want to improve services for disabled young people

What young people say:

- ▶ Improve communications between forums for different groups of young people.
- ▶ Find ways to help disabled and able children mix together.
- ▶ Make sure everyone works together so that disabled young people can join in.
- ▶ Education and training are really important to us, too, and we should be given the same chances as other young people.

What we will do:

- ▶ Make sure we meet the promises set out in the Every Disabled Child Matters charters.
- ▶ Make sure that disabled children and young people have easy access to our buildings and services.
- ▶ Listen to what parents and young people's forums are saying so that our services meet your needs.
- ▶ Provide short breaks for disabled children and their families as part of our new plan.



Priority 7

We want to encourage young people to have a healthy lifestyle

What young people say:

- ▶ Provide fun activities that involve exercise – no more boring gyms!
- ▶ Make cycle routes safer because we worry about walking or cycling to school.
- ▶ Give us healthier food choices, especially vegetables!
- ▶ Provide better sex education, and make it less embarrassing to visit a sexual health clinic – travelling or mobile clinics would be good.

What we will do:

- ▶ Encourage more of you to walk or cycle to school and college and to take part in physical activities in school, after school and at weekends.
- ▶ Increase the number of schools achieving National Healthy School Status (which covers healthy eating and physical activity).
- ▶ Continue our work to reduce teenage pregnancy rates.
- ▶ Provide more exciting outdoor play spaces.



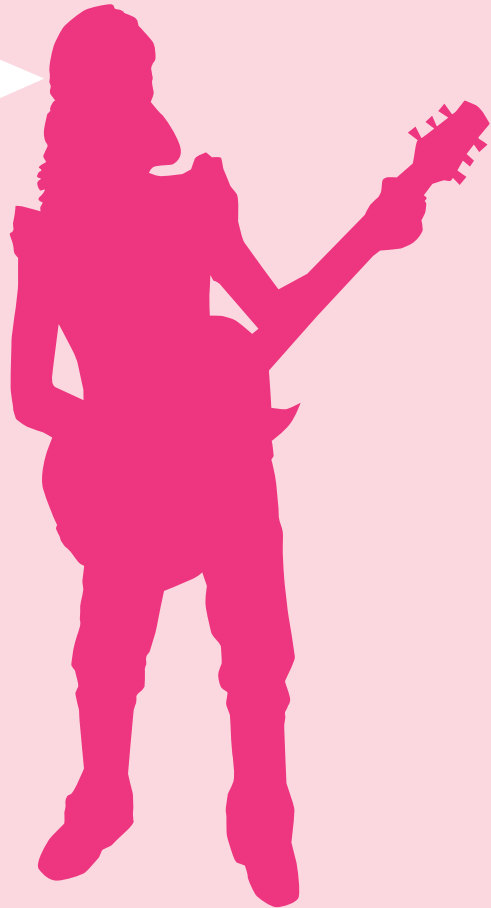
We want more and better activities for young people

What young people say:

- ▶ Organise activities that meet our needs – not too late, but not so early that they clash with school.
- ▶ Make sure that we know about activities that already exist.
- ▶ Make sure that we can all join in, regardless of our age or ability.
- ▶ Ask us what kind of activities we want you to run.

What we will do:

- ▶ Organise more activities and tell you and your families which ones are running in your area.
- ▶ Ensure that Hackney's open spaces are safe places to be.
- ▶ Give you a say in what's happening in Hackney.
- ▶ Run more activities that lead to qualifications.



How can you get involved?

- ▶ Get involved in your local youth forum or the Youth Parliament.
 - Call the Hackney Youth Parliament on [07772 227 319](tel:07772227319)
 - Call Stoke Newington and Shoreditch Youth Forums and Democracy Ambassadors on [07527 385 680](tel:07527385680)
 - Call North East and Homerton Youth Forums on [07527 385 664](tel:07527385664)
- ▶ Get involved in your school council or cluster council. Ask your cluster council representative or teacher for details.
- ▶ To find out about Talk and Do (primary) and The Forum (secondary) forums for pupils with disabilities, learning difficulties or medical needs, call [020 8820 7404](tel:02088207404), email aneurin.wood@learningtrust.co.uk or speak to your special education needs coordinator at school. They will also give you details of inclusive sports.
- ▶ Call the Youth Offenders Forum on [020 8356 1099](tel:02083561099)
- ▶ Call the Children in Care Council on [07976 113 343](tel:07976113343)
- ▶ Call Greendoor (LGBT group) on [020 8533 2324](tel:02085332324) or [07772 565 546](tel:07772565546)

How can you find out more?

- ▶ For details about youth clubs, projects, sports services, What's On in Hackney and volunteering opportunities, call [020 8356 7404](tel:02083567404) or visit www.younghackney.org
- ▶ If you are thinking about choice and career options for 14 – 19 year-olds, check out My Choice website at www.mychoicelondon.co.uk
- ▶ Get in touch with Connexions to find out about your rights, careers, training and education opportunities, health, relationships, money, work housing, travel, and things to do. Visit www.connexions-direct.com or call London East Connexions Partnership [020 8536 3630](tel:02085363630) or visit 63-67 Dalston Lane, E8 2NG.
- ▶ CHYPS Plus is the young people's health service for Hackney. For health information and advice visit www.chypsplus.nhs.uk or phone [020 8919 5040](tel:02089195040).

Hackney Children and Young People's Services

Working together to improve the lives of children and young people

In partnership with:



Working together for a safer London