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10 June 2022

Dear parents and carers,

Work to protect children, families and staff from racism and harm

The awful treatment of Child Q, the Black schoolgirl stripsearched by police in a Hackney school, has caused and continues to cause distress and trauma, to communities both in schools and beyond.

Hackney's schools and the local education system have great strengths. However, the system continues to see injustices disproportionately affecting children from Black and Global Majority backgrounds. These do not happen everywhere but they are still too prevalent. It's up to us, working together, to change this urgently.

We are clear: our Black and Global Majority children and their families must be consistently better heard, understood, championed and protected.

Last year, the Council took a formal anti-racist position. It means we don't just confront or call-out racism, but actively fight it. In education, this has included reducing exclusions, which disproportionately affect Black boys; training staff to be proactively anti-racist; developing learning materials in line with a diverse curriculum; reviewing behaviour policies in some schools; and making our workforce more representative.

Schools have worked and continue to work on implementing and collaborating on a range of positive changes. But, we must continue this work so no Black and Global Majority child ever experiences racial trauma, particularly in a space where they should be safe and protected.

The case of Child Q raised concerns about police practices and policies, consistency of safeguarding approaches, and racism. That's why we have undertaken a set of critical actions, ranging from lobbying the government and the Mayor's of London's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) to change the law and protocols around policing in schools, as well as undertaking our own rapid review of the role of police in schools; to implementing an inclusion charter, and working with secondary schools to ensure strong anti-racism practices. We also wrote to the chair of governors at the school Child Q attended voicing our concerns and offering support.

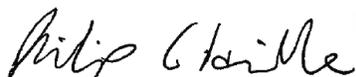
We have also held and will be holding a series of community listening sessions, including for young Black girls to speak about their experiences of living and growing up in Hackney, particular within the education system and in their interactions with the police, and have also held sessions with parents and carers to update them on all our work and give them an opportunity to be heard and ask us questions. The most recent meeting was on Wednesday night (8 June).

Please see the attached leaflet to show the range of work we are doing with our communities and alongside our schools and school leaders.

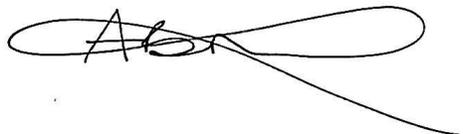
If you, others, or your child/children feel triggered or upset by this topic, please find help and support below:

- Search '**Hackney Local Offer**' for lots of different types of support
- Chatworks Hackney is a dedicated space for Afro-Caribbean and dual heritage people to find support and improve their health and wellbeing: **chatworkshackney.co.uk**
- Counsellors can be found at BACP: **bacp.co.uk**
- Therapists can be found at BAATN: **baatn.org.uk**

Yours sincerely



Philip Glanville
Mayor of Hackney



Cllr Anntoinette Bramble
Deputy Mayor and Cabinet member for
Education, Young People and Children's
Social Care