

To Headteachers
Hackney Secondary Schools

13 April 2018

Dear Headteacher,

As you will be aware, there has been a rise in the number of violent attacks in Hackney and across London in recent weeks. Our thoughts remain with the families and friends of those who have fallen victim to these tragic attacks, whose lives have been changed forever. Understandably, many of you, your staff and the children and families will be returning to school after the holidays feeling worried and concerned about the recent violence. Some of you/them may have been directly or indirectly affected by it.

The Council's priority is to work closely with people across Hackney to provide support and reassurance at this time. Much work has been done in recent years to make Hackney a safer place and we need to work together to make sure the progress we have made in this is not lost and to ensure that we are doing everything that we can at a local level, to keep our young people safe. I will be writing to you about this in the coming weeks.

However, I know that as a headteacher, your immediate priority will be to make sure that the children and young people in your school are safe and receive any support that they need.

If you have any concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a child or a young person please contact the First Access & Screening Team (FAST), as the single point of contact or for Children and Families Services.

FAST can be contacted on 0208 356 5500 any time Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm for advice, guidance or to make a referral. After 5pm and at weekends, the Out of Hours social work service is contactable on 0208 356 2710.

If you have immediate concerns about the safety of children and adults in the school, you should of course call the police on 999.

More general concerns may stem from children and young people's (or indeed adults') questions, fears and perceptions over the recent events.

Young Hackney can provide advice and guidance to staff and support and respond to individual or groups of children in your school. Your school's Young Hackney linked team leader will be able to discuss this with you. You may want to consider referring individual young people to the Children and Young People's Partnership Panel (CYPPP) for early help and support services. Again, your linked team leader will be able to provide further details or you can contact FAST directly.

If you are unsure as to who your linked team leader is, please contact:

Pauline Adams
0208 356 2709

pauline.adams@hackney.gov.uk

HLT's Educational Psychology Service can offer support in terms of information and advice, moral support and a just being sounding board. They can also provide advice to school staff

about possible emotional responses among staff and pupils and how to manage these; scripts for discussions with children and young people; counselling, relaxation and debriefing sessions. If you would like to discuss potential support, please contact:

Yvonne Wade, Principal Educational Psychologist
020 8820 7057

yvonne.wade@learningtrust.co.uk

If you come across anyone who you think might know something about any of the recent violent attacks - or anyone who is worried about someone close to them becoming involved in gang crime - please urge them to get in contact with the police or the FAST on 020 8356 5500.

The recent events are indeed tragic but such events are rare and Hackney remains a safe place, with crime rates well below what they were in the late 1990s. Schools play a vital role in protecting children and young people and the Council is committed to working with you and other partners to do everything in our power to keep children and young people safe. I will be in touch with you about our plans.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sian Davies', written in a cursive style.

Sian Davies

Interim Director of Education