

Child Q Update Report - Why was it me?

Statement of the Independent Safeguarding Children Commissioner

Child Q's experience shook the system, shocked the public and appalled most parents, but it didn't surprise many of the young people I spoke to in Hackney. For them, negative interactions between many young Black people and the police were commonplace, albeit this one, occurring at a school, was extreme.

This update report reflects on the response to the Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review published in March 2022. It covers the progress made against the review's 14 recommendations and evaluates a range of activity that was initiated across our partnership. Whilst change beyond policy takes time, there are some positives to report. There is a tentative optimism about the efforts to build and improve relationships between the police and the community, not one child has been subject to a strip search (MTIP) in Hackney over the past 14 months and we've seen significant levels of good work from many organisations.

The report is unapologetic in emphasising the voices of children, families, community networks and youth advocates. It reflects what they told us and highlights the lack of trust there can be in the police, in some schools and in most statutory agencies. Simply ignoring or minimising their concerns, as some seem tempted to do, will not deliver improvement. The community still needs to be heard and changes still need to be made. To this end, the report makes an additional 13 recommendations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Gamble', is positioned above the printed name.

Jim Gamble QPM
Independent Child Safeguarding Commissioner
City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership