

Name of Committee: Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Municipal Year: 2024-25

Reference	Action	Assigned to	Scrutiny Lead	Due Date	Response
Insert date	Insert agenda item title and the action requested by the committee	Insert name of director	Insert scrutiny lead	Insert Date	Response provided by the service/ witness
11.07.24	Provide data comparing the percentage of children eligible for EMA funding, the percentage of applications submitted, and the percentage of awards granted.	<b>Lisa Fraser</b> Director of Education	<b>Cllr Abdul Mannan</b> CESSC Chair	8.10.24	Further information included in Appendix 1.
	Provide an update on any concerns regarding the concrete at Stepney All Saints School and current assessment of safety.	<b>Lisa Fraser</b> Director of Education	<b>Cllr Abdul Mannan</b> CESSC Chair	8.10.24	Further information included in Appendix 2.
	Provide details on the summer schools available in the borough.	<b>Layla Richards</b> Director of Commissioning and Culture	<b>Cllr Abdul Mannan</b> CESSC Chair	8.10.24	Further information included in Appendix 3.
	Highlight whether there is any national or regional funding available for investment into new technologies to support young people with additional needs.	<b>Lisa Fraser</b> Director of Education	<b>Cllr Abdul Mannan</b> CESSC Chair	8.10.24	Further information included in Appendix 4.
	Provide the updated list of safe spaces in Tower Hamlets, including the delivery method and agreement status.	<b>Shafiur Rahman</b> Interim Director, Youth Services	<b>Cllr Abdul Mannan</b> CESSC Chair	8.10.24	Further information included in Appendix 5.
17.10.24	Confirm the number of care leavers employed by the council through apprenticeship programmes.	<b>Susanna Beasley Murray</b> Director, Children's Social Care	<b>Cllr Abdul Mannan</b> CESSC Chair	26.11.24	Further information included in Appendix 6.
	Provide the updated action plan for the Written Statement of Action (WSOA)	<b>Lisa Fraser</b> Director of Education	<b>Cllr Abdul Mannan</b> CESSC Chair	26.11.24	Further information included in Appendix 7.

	Circulate the latest Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Partnership (THSCP) Annual Report	<b>Steve Reddy</b> Corporate Director, Children's Services	<b>Cllr Abdul Mannan</b> CESSC Chair	26.11.24	Further information included in Appendix 8.
05.12.24					
13.02.25					
08.05.25					

## Appendix 1 – EMA Awards

A breakdown of items 2 and 3 is provided below. However, we do not have access to the data on the percentage of children eligible for EMA funding. The Education Awards Team administers the awards, and in line with the eligibility criteria outlined below, we can only access data for students who have submitted an application. We do not have a list nor the authority to access data for non-applicants who may be eligible but have not applied.

### Breakdown of EMA Applications for 2022/23 & 2023/24

#### 2022/23 EMA

- Total applications: 1,931
- Total number eligible for grant: 806\*
- Total number of grants awarded: 746

\*For the 2022/23 round, we received 1,931 EMA applications. Of these, 806 applicants were eligible for the grant, but only 746 were awarded. The 60 applicants we were unable to pay did not provide the required bank statements/supporting documents for payment.

#### 2023/24 EMA

- Total applications: 949

- Total number eligible for grant: 767\*
- Total number of grants awarded: 752

\*For the 2023/24 round, we received 949 EMA applications. Of these, 767 applicants were eligible for the grant, but only 752 were awarded. The 15 applicants we were unable to pay also did not provide the required bank statements/supporting documents.

#### **EMA Eligibility Criteria:**

- You need to be between 16 and 19 years old on 1 September 2024.
- You must be enrolled in a full-time study programme at a recognised sixth form provision/college.
- Your household annual income (excluding Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction) must be below £25,000.
- You must have been a resident of Tower Hamlets for three years, unless you are a refugee on the Ukraine or Afghan scheme.
- You need at least a 95% attendance record by the end of your first term.
  - Allowances are made for authorised absences.

## **Appendix 2 – Concerns Regarding Concrete at Stepney All Saints School**

The Council would not be able to comment on the safety of Reinforced Autoclave Aeriated Concrete (RAAC) at Stepney All Saints as this is not a building for which the Council is the responsible body.

Responsibility for building safety falls to the Diocese as a Church school. Discussions on the removal of RAAC is therefore managed between the Diocese and the DFE. The Council are however aware that temporary measures have been put in place and the school is now approved on the School Rebuilding Process to facilitate full removal. The timescales for this school within the programme is currently being progressed.

## **Appendix 3 – Summer Schools and Activities**

Summer Fun – which includes a link to HAF Providers:

[Tower Hamlets Local Offer :: Blog Articles / Summer Fun 2024! \(localoffertowerhamlets.co.uk\)](https://localoffertowerhamlets.co.uk)

Holiday Childcare – Ofsted registered:

[Tower Hamlets Local Offer :: Providers / Search Results \(localoffertowerhamlets.co.uk\)](http://localoffertowerhamlets.co.uk)

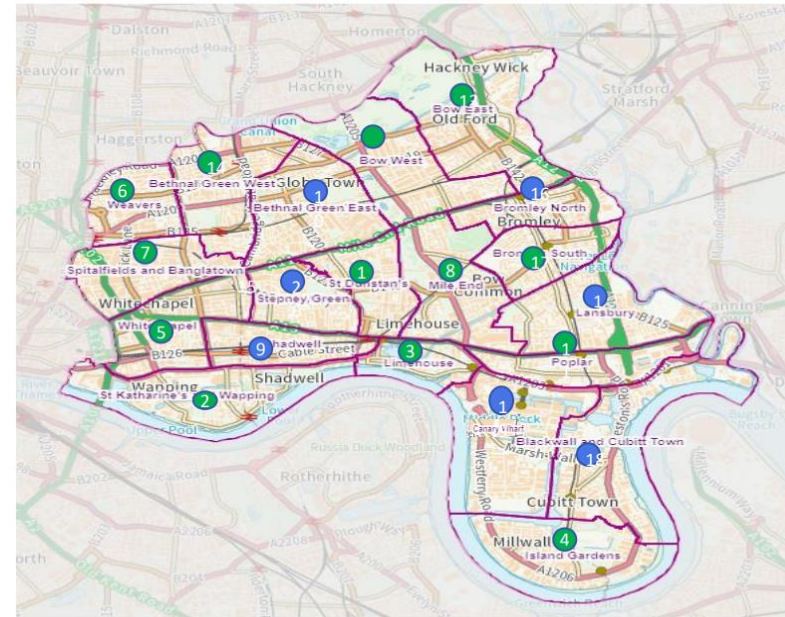
## **Appendix 4 – Funding for Investment into New Technologies for SEND**

I do not know of any, but the DfE SEND capital funding can be used to support schools with resources which could include technology that can enhance learning environments. We have not received any requests from schools, this year, for investment in new technologies. - **Dr Tina Sode**, Head of SEND.

## **Appendix 5 – Updated List of Safe Spaces in Tower Hamlets**

# Safe Spaces Status Update

No	Ward	Building (C) = community owned	Delivery Method 2024-25	RAG	Target Opening Date
1	St Dunstan's	Haileybury Youth Centre	YTH/Commissioned (C)	G	
2	St Katharine's & Wapping	Wapping Youth Centre	YTH/C	G	
3	Limehouse	Limehouse Youth Centre	YTH/C	G	
4	Island Gardens	St Andrew's Wharf	YTH/C	G	
5	Whitechapel	Christian Street Hub	C	G	
6	Weavers	Columbia Road Youth Centre	YTH	G	
7	Spitalfields & Banglatown	Old Castle Street Youth Centre/ Osmani Centre (C)	YTH/C	G	
8	Mile End	UAB (YTH) / 99 St Pauls Way (C)	YTH/C	G	
9	Shadwell	Bigland Primary School (C)	YTH	A	Nov 24
10	Bethnal Green East	Bethnal Green Library	YTH	A	Dec 24
11	Poplar	The Reach (C)	YTH	A	Nov 24
12	Lansbury	TBC	YTH/C?	R	
13	Bow East	East Side (C)	C	G	
14	Bethnal Green West	Minerva Centre (C)	C	G	
15	Bow West	Kitcat Terrace (specialist) / +1 TBC	YTH/	G	
16	Bromley North	TBC	YTH/C?	R	
17	Bromley South	Bow Community Hub Linc Centre (C)	YTH/C	G	Nov 24
18	Blackwall & Cubitt Town	Samuda Centre (50p club)	YTH	A	Dec 24
19	Canary Wharf	Phoenix Heights	YTH	A	Dec 24
20	Stepney Green	New City College Corp – Arbour Sq	YTH	A	Dec 24

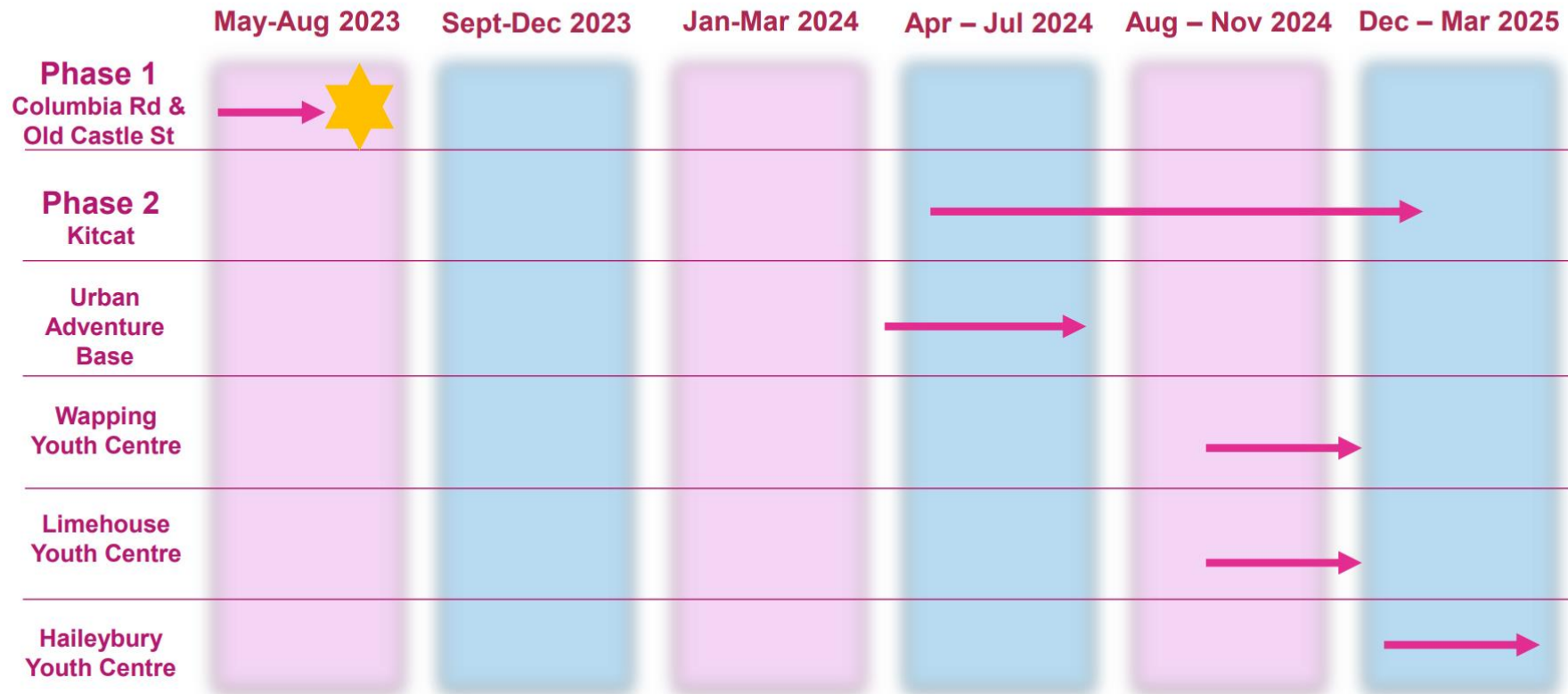


RAG	Wards	No. of Youth Centres 2024-25
G	12	14
A	6	6
R	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>22</b>

# Safe Spaces – Capital Works Refresh Timeline



- The service have been successful in securing £488k in Youth Investment Fund grant funding which needs to be spent by March 2025.



## **Appendix 6 – Care leavers employed by the council through apprenticeship programmes**

There is a whole council approach and support to secure apprenticeships for care experienced young people, with each department in the council signed up and five apprenticeship opportunities in place and filled. We actively promote apprenticeships for care experienced individuals across the council ensuring these remain high profile at keyboards such as the Corporate Equalities Board. Oversight of improvements in these areas remain a priority at the Children's Services Improvement Board. There is a commitment from the Director of Resources who approved in October a £300k match fund for the apprenticeship levy, providing care leavers opportunities in HR, IT, and Finance.

## **Appendix 7 – Updated Written Statement of Action (WsoA)**

Written Statement of Action Tracker - [1. LBTH WSoA Tracker Sep 24 \(final\).xlsx](#)

Written Statement of Action Monitoring Meeting - [Presentation Slides SEP 24 \(final\).pptx](#)

## **Appendix 8 – THSCP Annual Report 23-24**

Hyperlink : [TOWER HAMLETS SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT](#)