

## Notice of Meeting of the

# ASSEMBLY

**to be held on Wednesday, 29 January 2020  
commencing at 7:00 pm in the  
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Barking**



To all Members of the Council of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

Date of publication: 21 January 2020

Chris Naylor  
Chief Executive

Councillors and senior officers are invited to attend a presentation in the Council Chamber from 6.00pm to 6.45pm from Richard Buck, Review Manager, Local Government Boundary Commission for England, outlining the arrangements for the forthcoming statutory Borough boundary review. Peter Maddison, Lead Commissioner, will also be in attendance to answer any questions.

Contact Officer: John Dawe  
Tel: 020 8227 2135  
E-mail: [john.dawe@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:john.dawe@lbbd.gov.uk)

Please note that this meeting will be webcast, which is a transmission of audio and video over the internet. Members of the public who attend the meeting and who do not wish to appear in the webcast will be able to sit in the public gallery on the second floor of the Town Hall, which is not in camera range.

To view webcast meetings, go to <https://www.lbbd.gov.uk/council/councillors-and-committees/meetings-agendas-and-minutes/overview/> and select the meeting from the list.

## **AGENDA**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

**2. Declaration of Members' Interests**

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, Members are asked to declare any interest they may have in any matter which is to be considered at this meeting.

**3. Minutes - To confirm as correct the minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2019 (Pages 3 - 6)**

**4. Leader's Statement**

The Leader will present his statement.

**5. Appointments**

The Labour Group Secretary will announce any nominations to fill vacant positions on Council committees or other bodies.

**6. BAD Youth Forum and Young Mayor Annual Report 2019 (Pages 7 - 36)**

**7. Council Tax Support Scheme 2020/21 (Pages 37 - 39)**

**8. Exemption of Care Leavers from Council Tax (Pages 41 - 45)**

**9. Annual Report of Member Champions (Pages 47 - 59)**

**10. Motions (Pages 61 - 70)**

**11. Questions With Notice**

**12. Any other public items which the Chair decides are urgent**

13. **To consider whether it would be appropriate to pass a resolution to exclude the public and press from the remainder of the meeting due to the nature of the business to be transacted.**

#### **Private Business**

The public and press have a legal right to attend Council meetings such as the Assembly, except where business is confidential or certain other sensitive information is to be discussed. The list below shows why items are in the private part of the agenda, with reference to the relevant legislation (the relevant paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended). ***There are no such items at the time of preparing this agenda.***

14. **Any confidential or exempt items which the Chair decides are urgent**

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Our Vision for Barking and Dagenham

## **ONE BOROUGH; ONE COMMUNITY; NO-ONE LEFT BEHIND**

Our Priorities

### **A New Kind of Council**

- Build a well-run organisation
- Ensure relentlessly reliable services
- Develop place-based partnerships

### **Empowering People**

- Enable greater independence whilst protecting the most vulnerable
- Strengthen our services for all
- Intervene earlier

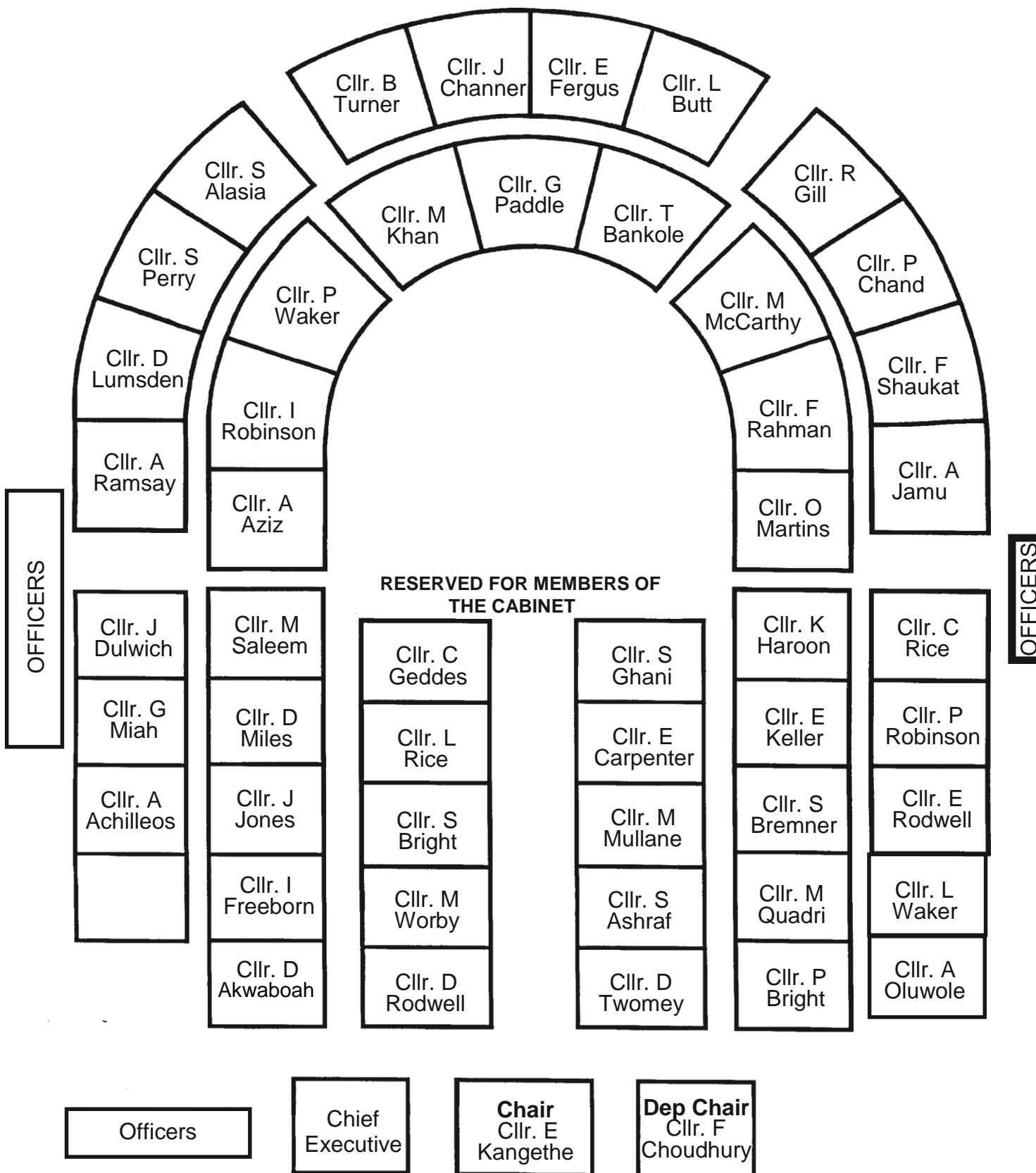
### **Inclusive Growth**

- Develop our aspirational and affordable housing offer
- Shape great places and strong communities through regeneration
- Encourage enterprise and enable employment

### **Citizenship and Participation**

- Harness culture and increase opportunity
- Encourage civic pride and social responsibility
- Strengthen partnerships, participation and a place-based approach

# BARKING TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER



**SEATING PLAN FOR THE ASSEMBLY**

## MINUTES OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 20 November 2019  
(7:01 - 7:36 pm)

### PRESENT

Cllr Elizabeth Kangethe (Chair)  
Cllr Faruk Choudhury (Deputy Chair)

Cllr Dorothy Akwaboah	Cllr Sanchia Alasia	Cllr Saima Ashraf
Cllr Abdul Aziz	Cllr Simon Bremner	Cllr Princess Bright
Cllr Sade Bright	Cllr Evelyn Carpenter	Cllr Josie Channer
Cllr John Dulwich	Cllr Edna Fergus	Cllr Irma Freeborn
Cllr Cameron Geddes	Cllr Syed Ghani	Cllr Kashif Haroon
Cllr Amardeep Singh Jamu	Cllr Jane Jones	Cllr Eileen Keller
Cllr Mohammed Khan	Cllr Olawale Martins	Cllr Giasuddin Miah
Cllr Adegboyega Oluwole	Cllr Glenda Paddle	Cllr Simon Perry
Cllr Moin Quadri	Cllr Foyzur Rahman	Cllr Tony Ramsay
Cllr Chris Rice	Cllr Lynda Rice	Cllr Ingrid Robinson
Cllr Paul Robinson	Cllr Darren Rodwell	Cllr Muhammad Saleem
Cllr Faraaz Shaukat	Cllr Lee Waker	Cllr Maureen Worby

### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Andrew Achilleos	Cllr Toni Bankole	Cllr Laila M. Butt
Cllr Peter Chand	Cllr Rocky Gill	Cllr Donna Lumsden
Cllr Mick McCarthy	Cllr Dave Miles	Cllr Margaret Mullane
Cllr Emily Rodwell	Cllr Bill Turner	Cllr Dominic Twomey
Cllr Phil Waker		

#### 31. Declaration of Members' Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 32. Minutes (11 September 2019)

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2019 were confirmed as correct.

#### 33. Death of former Councillor Mohammed Fani

The Assembly paid tribute to former Councillor Mohammed Fani who passed away on 13 September 2019.

The Assembly noted that Mr Fani was first elected to the Council in 1989 representing the Abbey ward, which he continued to represent until his retirement in 2010. During his time on the Council he served as Deputy Chair on both the Planning Committee between 2001 and 2007 and the former Safer and Stronger Community Select Committee between 2009 and 2010.

The Assembly paid tributes to Mr Fani, recalling fond memories of their colleague.

The Assembly stood and observed a minute's silence in memory of Mr Fani.

### **34. Appointments**

There were none.

### **35. Treasury Management 2019/20 Mid-Year Review**

The Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health Integration presented a report on the mid-year review of Treasury Management 2019/20.

The Cabinet Member highlighted the Council's continued outperformance with a return of 1.61% against an average of 0.98% for London Local Authorities and 0.90% for the total comparable population of 168 authorities, recognising the Investment Fund team's hard work in achieving this.

The Assembly noted that although the HM Treasury had announced that they would increase the interest rates offered on new Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) loans by 1.0%, this would not affect the Councils borrowing rates as borrowing for 2019/20 had been completed.

The Assembly **resolved** to:

- (i) Approve the revised 2019/20 Minimum Revenue Provision at Appendix 1 to the report;
- (ii) Note the Treasury Management Strategy Statement Mid-Year Review 2019/20;
- (iii) Note that in the first half of the 2019/20 financial year the Council complied with all 2019/20 treasury management indicators;
- (iv) Note the value of the treasury investments as at 30 September 2019 totalled £330.7m;
- (v) Note the value of the commercial and residential loans lent by the Council as at 31 March 2019 totalled £76.6m;
- (vi) Note the value of long term borrowing as at 30 September 2019 totalled £785.3m. This is split with £275.9m of Housing Revenue Account (HRA) borrowing and £509.4m of General Fund borrowing. This comprised market, Public Works Loan Board (PWLB), Local Authority and European Investment Bank (EIB) loans;
- (vii) Note the value of short term borrowing as at 30 September 2019 totalled £130.0m; and
- (vi) Note the increase in the interest rates offered on new PWLB loans by 1.0% on top of existing loans terms of 0.8%, which equates to a margin of 1.8%



above the relevant gilt yield.

### **36. Adoption of Sex Establishment Licensing Policy 2019 - 2022**

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Social Housing introduced a report on proposed updates to the Council's Sex Establishment Policy.

The Cabinet Member advised that the current policy had been subject to a detailed review to ensure that it was fully reflective of local authority best practice and incorporated the latest legal powers. A significant new addition to the policy was the adoption of legal provisions to regulate sex entertainment venues, covering lap dancing and striptease venues.

The Cabinet Member advised that the draft policy took the position that there should be a general policy presumption against permitting further licensed sex related activities either adjacent to or in the vicinity of premises in defined areas. This would include schools, places of worship, hospitals and residential accommodation.

Members welcomed the policy and in particular, the emphasis on the protection of young people. It was noted that 91% of those who responded to the consultation were in favour of the policy, however the Leader expressed dismay as to how the draft policy was reported upon negatively in the local press.

The Assembly **resolved** to:

- (i) Adopt the provisions contained in Section 27 of the Policy and Crime Act 2009 extending the local sex establishments licensing regime to also include sex entertainment venues; and
- (ii) Adopt the Sex Establishment Licensing Policy 2019 as set out at Appendix 2 to the report, including the associated Standard Licensing Terms, Conditions and Restrictions for Sex Establishments as set out at Appendix 3 to the report.

### **37. Local Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2018/19**

The Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care Integration presented a report on the Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2018/19.

The Annual Report described the work and priorities of the Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) from April 2018 to March 2019. It set out how the Board had worked to improve the protection of vulnerable adults across Barking and Dagenham along with its achievements in 2018/19 and key priorities for the future.

The Annual Report was agreed by the Safeguarding Adults Board at its meeting on 10 July 2019 and was presented and discussed at the Health & Wellbeing Board on 10 September 2019.

In response a question, the Cabinet Member advised that self-neglect was an issue for some adults, where there was no family network and the behaviour of the

individual could lead to isolation. It was noted that these residents were not always known to the Council and the Cabinet Member called upon residents to look out for their neighbours and relatives.

The Assembly **resolved** to note the contents of the Annual Report of the Safeguarding Adults Board for 2018/19.

**38. Motions**

There were none.

**39. Questions With Notice**

There were none.

## ASSEMBLY

29 January 2020

<b>Title:</b> Barking and Dagenham (BAD) Youth Forum and Young Mayor Annual Report 2019	
<b>Report of the Director for People and Resilience</b>	
<b>Open Report</b>	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Wards Affected:</b> None	<b>Key Decision:</b> No
<b>Report Author:</b> Sally Allen-Clarke, Senior Youth Worker, Participation, Opportunity and Wellbeing	<b>Contact Details:</b> Tel: 020 8227 3297 E-mail: sally.allen-clarke@lbbd.gov.uk
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Jane Hargreaves, Commissioning Director, Education	
<b>Accountable Strategic Leadership Director:</b> Elaine Allegretti, Director for People and Resilience	
<p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>This report highlights the achievements and outcomes of the Barking and Dagenham Youth Forum in 2019. Outlining the work of each of the sub-groups, their aims and the impact of the work completed.</p> <p>The Barking and Dagenham Youth Forum is now in its 18<sup>th</sup> year. The Forum enables young people to develop the skills and confidence to express their views and represent their peers. By doing this young people contribute to policy development and encourage local decision makers to listen to the views of young people and recognise the importance of this. The Forum elects 60 young people each year through a democratic election process in each school, supported by Democratic Services. In 2019 Goresbrook and Greatfields were able to join the Forum for the first time, as pupils had moved in to Year 9, bringing the total number of schools with representatives on the Forum to 14.</p> <p>As in all other years, the Forum year started with a team building evening at the Vibe Youth Centre, giving new members a chance to get to know each other along with a Full Forum meeting in Barking Town Hall Chambers. Each year, the Forum splits in to three sub-groups focussing on different campaigns.</p> <p>The <b>Community Action sub-group</b> enables young people to work on topical and relevant campaigns and projects that will have a positive impact on the borough's youth. In 2019 young people focussed on drugs and alcohol, teen parents, Personal, Social, Health and Economic education, a community event at Dagenham and Redbridge Football Club and volunteering at Barking food bank.</p> <p>The <b>Young Mayor sub-group</b> worked closely with the borough's Young Mayor to support his efforts to raise funds for SANE Mental Health charity. The group attended and hosted a range of events to raise as much money as possible as well as awareness of the charity and mental health.</p>	

The **Young Inspectors sub-group** have continued to quality assure the C-Card condom distribution scheme locally. Young people conduct mystery shop inspections and report back with their findings which are shared directly with each pharmacy. In addition to this, young people have also been involved in inspecting the School Nurse service and Outpatients East Sexual Health service.

**Please see attached report with full details of the Forum's work.**

### **Recommendation(s)**

The Assembly is asked to note the Barking and Dagenham Youth Forum and Young Mayor report for 2019 and to provide guidance and support for its work.

### **Reason(s)**

The Barking and Dagenham Youth Forum acts as the Council's Youth Parliament and enables the Council to fulfil its duties to listen to the views of young people as set out in the Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities on Services and Activities to Improve Young People's Well-being (2012). First established in 2001, the Forum works with secondary schools to annually democratically elect representatives that serve the borough via the Forum's campaigns, consultations and social action projects. The work of the Forum supports the Council's aim to encourage civic pride and enable social responsibility.

## **1. Introduction and Background**

1.1 See main report.

## **2. Proposal and Issues**

2.1 See main report.

## **3. Options Appraisal**

3.1 N/A

## **4. Consultation**

4.1 A wide range of consultation work has taken place through the Forum. See main report.

## **5. Financial Implications**

*Implications completed by Kofi Adu – Group Finance Manager.*

5.1 The budget for the operation of the Youth Forum is funded from cost centre F17400. Ongoing budget provision has been made, therefore there is no current financial risks for the continuation of this arrangement.

## **6. Legal Implications**

*Implications completed by Lindsey Marks Deputy Head of Law*

6.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

## **7. Other Implications**

7.1 **Risk Management - None**

7.2 **Contractual Issues - None**

7.3 **Staffing Issues - None**

7.4 **Corporate Policy and Equality Impact**

7.4.1 The Barking and Dagenham Youth Forum support the Council's vision to empower people and to encourage citizenship and participation, specifically encouraging civic pride and social responsibility. The Forum supports young people to be pro-active, empathetic, resilient residents with a good skill set transferrable to everyday life. Through consultation and campaign work, young people regularly meet with local decision makers. By doing this young people ensure policies and strategies that most affect the lives of young people are reflective of their needs. Young people gain an understanding and appreciation for participation, recognising they have the right to express their views and be listened to, and that their voices count.

7.4.2 Young people have seen change as a result of their participation, and where this was not possible, they understand why. This work aims to ensure that as young people grow into adulthood, they are active citizens who contribute to the local community. Please refer to full report, in particular the Additional Forum events section which details the range of consultations the Forum has been involved in and the impact of their involvement.

7.5 **Safeguarding Adults and Children - None**

7.6 **Health Issues**

7.6.1 Health is always a key theme of the Forum's work. During the course of the year young people have focussed on a number of health-related issues. These include; drugs and alcohol workshops, teen parents, contributing to the review of the personal, social, health and economic curriculum for all schools in the borough, inspections of the c-card condom distribution scheme, school nurse service and Outpatients East sexual health clinic and lastly, mental health through the Young Mayor's efforts.

7.6.2 The Forum's work has impacted on the quality of services available through the Young Inspectors work, highlighting issues from a service user perspective which is invaluable and can only be provided by young people. Recommendations from each of the inspection reports have been shared with service providers equipping them with the essential information needed to provide the best possible service to young people.

7.6.3 The Young Mayor's work has raised the profile of mental health at events the group have attended, with information cards being distributed and young people speaking with members of the public about mental health. The group themselves have gained a greater insight in to how to support themselves and others to have positive mental health, and how to support those that are struggling. Please refer to sub-group sections of the report attached which provides full details of the work highlighted above.

## **7.7 Crime and Disorder Issues**

7.7.1 The Forum have worked closely with representatives from MPS over the past year, developing good relationships with them and working in partnership to discuss youth related crime issues. Young people have engaged in four Youth Independent Advisory Group meetings during 2019, each with a different theme. Young people have gained a wealth of knowledge relating to crime in Barking and Dagenham and how to stay safe. These meetings have supported the MPS efforts to engage with young people and share knowledge and information that can be disseminated to their peers. Over time this has become a solid partnership which young people appreciate and are keen to be part of.

7.7.2 In addition to these meetings the Forum's Chair, Johami Mutuale, also attends the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings. During these meetings Johami has challenged MPS and senior council officers about their role in keeping young people safe and ensuring young people know their rights and responsibilities. Her presence in the meetings provides a young person's perspective that would otherwise be lacking, ensuring that when issues are discussed Members are able to clarify points with Johami. The Forum will continue to link with MPS and build on this successful partnership.

## **7.8 Property / Asset Issues – None**

# Overview 2019



## Introduction and background

The BAD Youth Forum was created in 2001, to give young people a formal and recognised platform to express their views and make a positive impact in their community.

In 2019, 70 young people were democratically elected representing each secondary school including Goresbrook and Greatfields for the first time. Trinity Special School are also members of the BAD Youth Forum. The school conduct their own election process, suitable to the needs of students.

Up to 3 female and 3 male representatives are elected from each school. General membership is for young people aged 13-19 or 25 with a disability.

Each year up to 15 young people are invited back to the forum based on

their contribution and attendance in the previous year. These young people by-pass the election process and contribute to the initial sessions, supporting new young people to engage.

At the start of the year, the BAD Youth Forum held a Full Forum meeting in Barking Town Hall, introducing new members to how the council works and what the role of the forum is. Councillor Princess Bright kindly presented to the Forum about her role and achievements as our youngest Councillor. Councillor Bright took questions from young people who were keen to hear about her experiences and how she had become a Councillor at such a young age. Young people found the speech and subsequent Q&A session very informative and inspirational.

The newly elected young people discussed current local youth issues as potential campaigns/projects. Topics included: education, crime, aspirations, mental health and teen pregnancy.



First Full Forum meeting photo  
(February 2019)

# Team Building Day

At the start of each year all newly elected forum members and 'returning' Forum members are invited to attend a team building day.

The aim of the day is for everyone to get to know each other, including the workers, and to start to cement good working relationships. Young people participate in an evening full of fun games and exercises designed to get people socialising. **58** young people attended the evening, the highest number we have ever had!

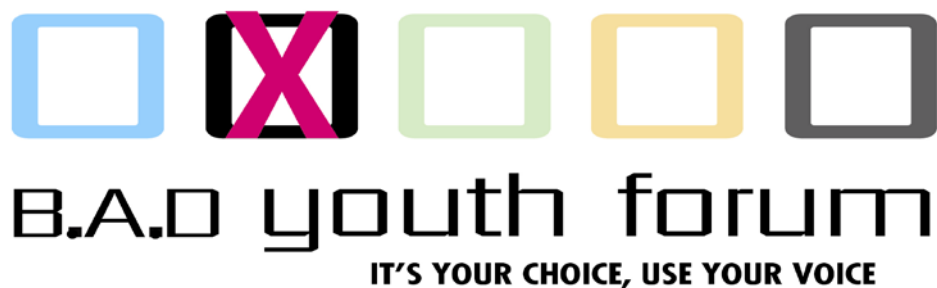


## Election of the 2019 Young Mayor

During the BAD Youth Forum's first AGM the borough's new Young Mayor was elected. Five young people stood for election, the vote was very close on the night. Councillor Princess Bright kindly announced the winner- Joshua Singh-Hill who won by a small margin securing his place as Barking and Dagenham Young Mayor for 2019.

*Please see Young Mayor section detailing Joshua's achievements*





## Introduction and background

The BAD Youth Forum Community Action sub-group plays a vital role within the Forum retaining the flexibility year after year to pursue a variety of youth related issues in Barking and Dagenham that they see as a priority. This sub-group does not have a set remit and this year has focused on:

**Health;** educating themselves through workshops with Subwize (Drug and Alcohol misuse service for young people in Barking and Dagenham) about the dangers of alcohol and drugs and how to stay safe in various situations.

### **Volunteering at a local food bank**

The group were keen to participate in an activity that would directly benefit the community, whilst learning more about the needs of the people in the borough.

### **Dagenham and Redbridge Football Club**

The group presented the BAD Youth Forum, its aims and outcomes to members of the football club during a community event. The young people also attended the club's Show Racism the Red Card football match.

### **Personal, Social, Health and Economic education curriculum**

The group worked with Becky Casey, PSHE and Wellbeing Advisor, to review the proposed new curriculum and give suggestions about how their PSHE curriculum could be best delivered in schools.

### **ACEs programme**

Young people were keen to learn more about Teenage Pregnancy and how it affects young people. The group met with Georgia Sheridan, Relationship Manager from Community Solutions, and met with a teen mum to hear about her life.

## Volunteering at Barking food bank

The group opted to volunteer at Barking food bank, sorting food donations ready for bagging and distribution. The food bank struggle to find volunteers for this part of the process so were extremely pleased to welcome a group of hard-working young people to their food depot. The young people worked all day ensuring they had completed every task before leaving, even staying later than planned! The group enjoyed the experience and were pleased to have had an impact on such a vital service for some of the borough's most vulnerable families.

### A representative from Barking food bank said;

"How do I say thank you to the wonderful team from the Youth Forum who volunteered their time and effort to support the work we do in alleviating poverty and its effects in our borough.

I must confess that I was anxious that the task for the day might not be completed before the youths decides they've had enough and want to leave. Was I proved wrong! They worked so hard and were still rearing to go after completing a given task. Outstanding contribution from young people. They all were AMAZING! I shall be boasting of you to the corporate team volunteering next week. A big thank you to everyone for working so hard and tidying up afterwards. I hope you all enjoyed the time well spent".



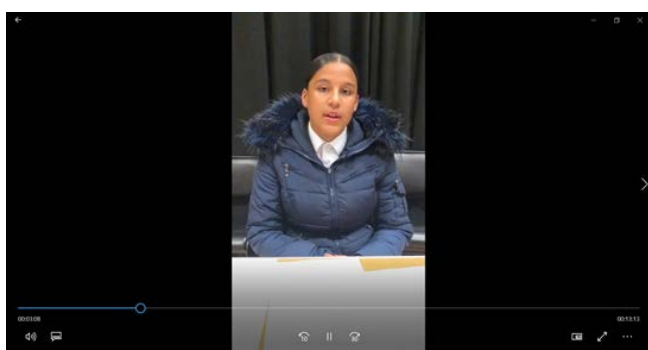
### Dagenham and Redbridge Football Club

The young people enjoyed the opportunity to show their support for this important event. Racism is something that affects young people and it was really important to them that they publicly supported an event which aims to challenge racism in football. Having presented to members of the Club the previous week detailing the work of the Forum, the young people attended the

Daggers Against Racism Day event showing their support for this important cause.

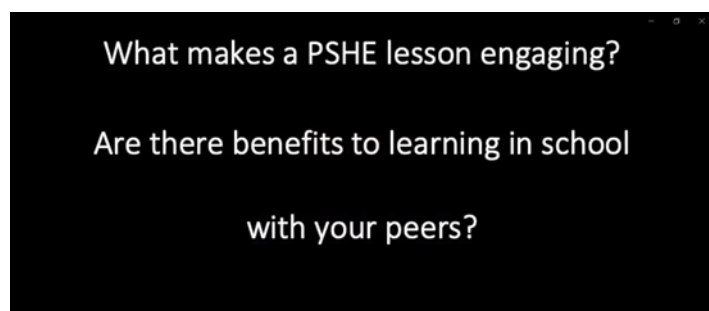
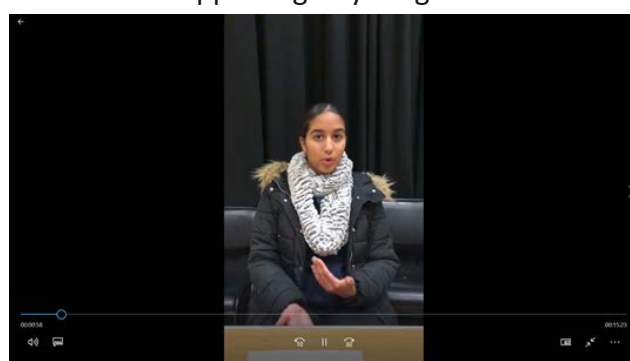
## Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education curriculum

Young people are passionate about the education they receive, and in particular have strong views about the PSHE curriculum. Through discussions, young people have discovered the quality of the PSHE curriculum varies across the borough, with some young people benefitting from a varied curriculum taught by confident, knowledgeable teachers, whilst others are receiving just a small amount of information in some school years. With the new Relationship and Sex Education curriculum becoming statutory in September 2020, Becky Casey (PSHE and Wellbeing Advisor) is in the process of supporting the introduction of the PSHE curriculum for schools. The BAD Youth Forum gave their views about what a good quality, well balanced PSHE curriculum should look like, this will be shared with Head Teachers across the borough.



A film is being created to present to Teachers to be used as a training resource for teachers when planning good quality PSHE lessons that support young people's learning. In it, young people talk about the key qualities that make a good PSHE lesson and curriculum from their perspective. In the development of the film a

common theme that young people discussed in detail was cyber bullying lessons. Some young people felt these were out of date, that they are not relevant or appealing to young people. Young people asked that the lessons about online safety must be up to date and talk about the current apps being used and how to be safe on them, for example, Snap Chat, Instagram, Houseparty, Friends Roulette. This information and much more is included in the film; a copy of the film will be available in early 2020.



## Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) programme



At the start of the year, the Community Action sub-group members were keen to find out more about teen pregnancy, how it affects young people and why we have a relatively high rate of teen pregnancy in Barking and Dagenham. The group were introduced to Georgia Sheridan, Relationship Manager for Community Solutions, who explained the ACEs programme and the borough's drive to support children and young people affected by trauma. Georgia arranged for a teen parent to visit the group too, to talk about her experiences and how being a young mum had affected her life. Hearing about this young woman's experiences contributed to young people's ideas about what a good PSHE

curriculum should look like, this will factor in their feedback to Head Teachers and curriculum leads. The young people plan to sample some of the training that Georgia and her team aim to take in to schools, targeting children and young people who will benefit from early intervention to break the cycle that could lead to teen pregnancy or negative behaviours as an adult. BAD Youth Forum members will aim to encourage their schools to participate in this programme to support young people who would most benefit from this intervention and support.

## Drugs and Alcohol

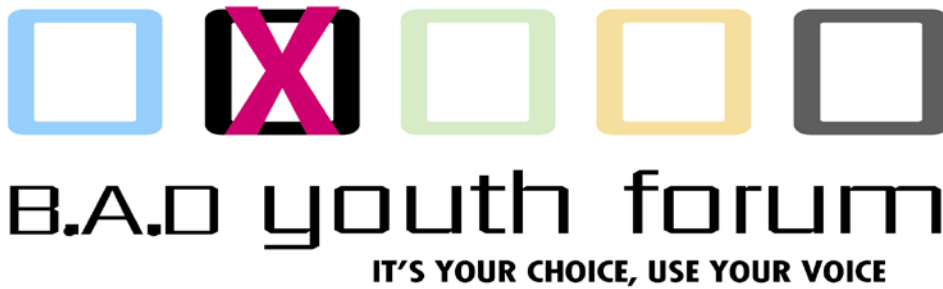
Young people engaged in two sessions with the team manager for Subwize, Young People's Drug and Alcohol Service. The sessions were aimed at educating young people about the use of drugs and alcohol, the possible consequences and how to stay safe. The workers created a safe environment which ensured young people had the confidence to ask questions and challenge their own misconceptions about alcohol and drugs without fear of being judged. Young people enjoyed the sessions and took a lot of information away to share with their peers.



# Young Mayor

## Sub-group achievements

### 2019



## Introduction and background

The Barking and Dagenham Young Mayor is supported by a sub-group of the Barking and Dagenham Youth Forum. The group work alongside the Young Mayor, supporting their fundraising efforts throughout the year.

Similar to other years, the newly elected Youth Forum members opt to join the Young Mayor sub-group. These young people participate in training focused on communication, team-work and developing ideas.

In 2019 Joshua Singh Hill was elected to be the borough's 5<sup>th</sup> Young Mayor. Joshua was passionate in his speech about making a difference and being a good advocate for young people across the borough.

The group have worked well together, developing ideas and working hard to raise as much money as possible.





# Charity appeal 2019

At the start of the year the Young Mayor sub-group worked together to agree three potential charities to fundraise for. A range of ideas were put forward and debated by the group. Once the suggestions had been narrowed down to a choice of three charities the group went out to the public (young people only) and asked for their opinion.

**1673** votes were cast, which was our greatest ever response!

**SANE Mental Health Charity** won with more than 800 votes. The Young Mayor and Forum members recognise the need for improved mental health awareness and good quality services supporting young people. They were excited to support

this charity and the vital support they offer people.

A representative from the charity met with the group and explained their work in more detail and the difference their fundraising would make. This was also an opportunity for the young people to ask questions and start thinking about how best to fundraise for the charity.



# Fundraising

The group have been involved in devising, organising and delivering a range of fundraising events this year. Here is a full list of all of the activities and the amounts raised:



Bucket shake £25.90



DRFC bucket shake £266



Youth Parade £25



Games night £54.10



Non-uniform days £925.82



Non-uniform day £677.72

# Sponsored Event

The group also decided to participate in a sponsored event, this entailed a range of activities designed to challenge young people and raise money for their charity.



Painted rocks with positive messages to be hidden around the borough for people to find

#besomeonesrock



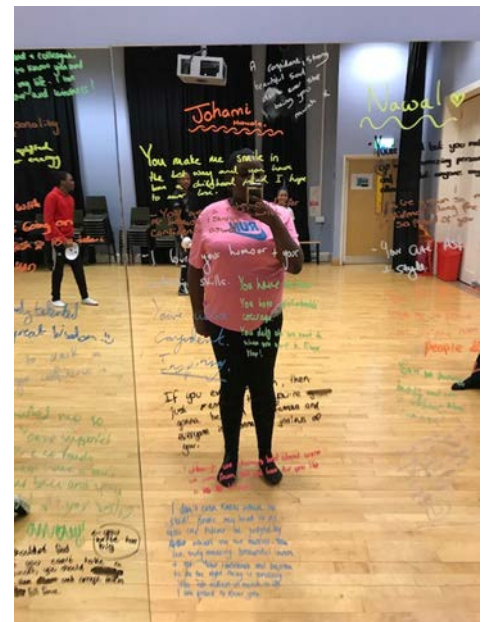
An hour's silence



Mental Health First Aid activities, challenging young people to recognize their own strengths and value



**GRAND  
TOTAL  
RAISED FOR  
SPONSORED  
EVENT:  
£356.46**





# Young Mayor – Joshua Singh Hill

A key element of the Young Mayor's role is to attend events throughout the borough and represent young people. In 2019 Joshua attended 15 events, these included

- A trip to the Houses of Parliament with Chris Naylor and the outgoing Young Mayor Wesley Oparaugo
- Children In Care awards ceremony; Joshua handing out awards to the children congratulating them on their achievements
- Women's Empowerment Month Launch; Joshua attended the event and gave a speech entitled Gender Equality
- Joshua attended the formal opening of Future Youth Zone and was one of the first people to greet Prince Harry on his arrival
- Attending the Mayor's Civic Ceremony
- Attending the Mayor's Church Service
- D-day landing parade
- National Citizens Service 'Dragons Den' style event giving feedback to other young people about their project ideas
- African Showcase event in Barking
- Youth Parade
- Black History Month launch event at Broadway Theatre
- Colin Pond Awards, awarding the borough's highest achieving young people
- Black History Month event hosted by Adanna Women's group relating to youth violence and how to tackle it, the Young Mayor delivered a speech about influences in his life
- The BAD Youth Forum's annual visit to the Houses of Parliament
- Remembrance Day Parade



## Quote from Young Mayor

"To be elected as Young Mayor this year felt amazing and surreal as it wasn't entirely expected. Throughout the year, I've felt privileged to experience what I have and to see how amazing this community can be at the local events I have attended. It's been a busy year that I can't take for granted and I have enjoyed learning new things about the young people in the Borough and the issues they have"

# Total funds raised (as of October 2019)

# £2331

Fundraising will continue until February 2020 when the next Young Mayor will be elected and a new charity chosen.

With the funds raised so far, the Young Mayor and the Barking and Dagenham Youth Forum have made it possible for SANEline, a national out-of-hours mental health helpline offering specialist emotional support, guidance and information to anyone affected by mental illness, including family, friends and carers, to answer 233 phone calls to people who are vulnerable, at crisis point or generally in need of help.

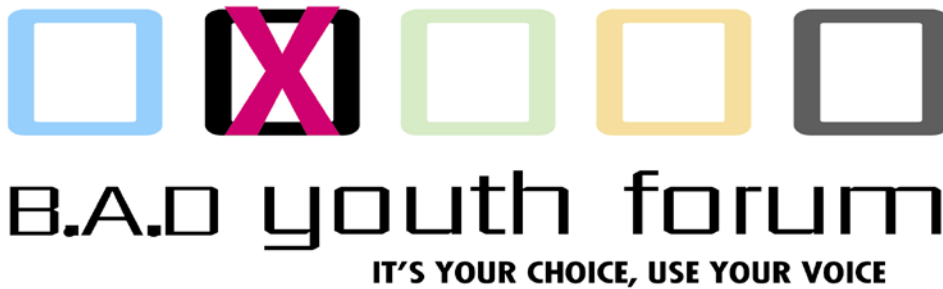
**Partnerships Officer at SANE, Naima Abdullah said;**

*" We at SANE are proud of the hard work the Young Mayor and everyone who has helped raise awareness for SANE and it is amazing to see the youth of today so in touch with social issues. "*

# Young Inspectors

## Sub-group achievements

### 2019



## Introduction and background

The Young Inspectors group are commissioned by Public Health to carry out quality assurance visits of the pharmacies providing the free pan-London Come Correct condom distribution scheme in Barking and Dagenham.

Each year newly elected members join this sub-group, with some returning members remaining with the group to ensure continuity and to help train new members. Once they become a member of the Young Inspectors, the group

participate in training to ready them for their role.

Young Inspectors are responsible for accessing pharmacies like any other young person would, registering for a 'C-Card' and reporting on their experience.

**At the time of writing this report (Dec 19) 150 inspections** have been completed during 2019. This is an increase of 35 inspections from 2018, representing a **30.4%** rise in the number of inspections.

In addition to C-Card inspections, Public Health also requested Young Inspectors to inspect the

**School Nurse Service** to assess how well young people know about the service, how young people friendly the service is and whether the service is fit for purpose in meeting young people's needs across the borough's schools.

Also, in 2019 the Young Inspectors have been commissioned to inspect the **Sexual Health Service in Outpatients East**. At the time of writing this report the inspection is in the planning stages.



## C-card inspection training

Newly recruited Young Inspectors have often never been involved in mystery shop inspections before. It is vital that young people present like all other service users would, which can be complicated when you know you are completing an inspection.

Training focusses on ensuring young people fully understand all parts of the C-Card registration process, for both condoms and femidoms. Young people are assessing the following areas:

- Friendliness, environment and how welcoming the staff are;
- How comfortable the staff make young people feel;
- 10 specific areas of condom/femidom demonstration;
- 7 pieces of information that pharmacists should tell young people, including testing time periods for different sexually transmitted infections,

clinics where young people can be tested, time frame for the use of Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) and whether the young person is informed that the service is confidential.

In order to complete a comprehensive report of each inspection, young people are trained to write reports and carry out practice inspections to test their ability to remember details. Experienced members of the group accompany all new members on initial inspections to help them relax and support them with remembering all of the details of the visit.



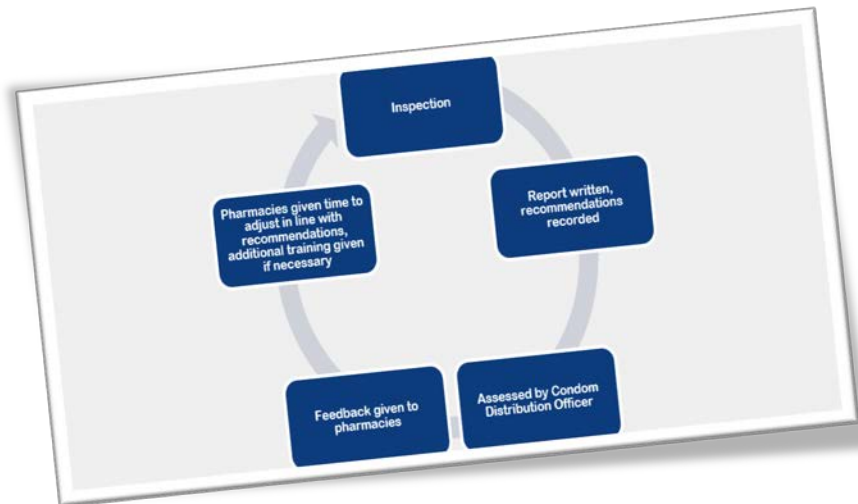
# Young Inspectors' impact

Continuous quality assurance for the past 5 years has enabled the Condom Distribution Officer of the borough to provide up to date information about the quality of service each pharmacy is providing to young people. These inspections are the only way to know how efficient the service is and whether young people are receiving the service they should be. After each inspection the Young Inspectors report is sent to the Condom Distribution Officer, Heather McKelvey. Heather then contacts

each pharmacy to relay the results. If needed, further training or support is offered to poor performing pharmacies, to support them to improve.

Barking and Dagenham has the strongest performing C-Card programme in London. The service has been rated top in London for several years, and significantly is rated top in London for repeat encounters showing the service is effective and one that young people choose to return to in order to make healthy choices when having sex. It is worth noting that Barking and Dagenham conduct 61% more repeat encounters than Hackney, the second placed borough in London. This is with less than half the number of outlets in delivering the scheme in B & D and is therefore a good indicator of the quality of the service being received.

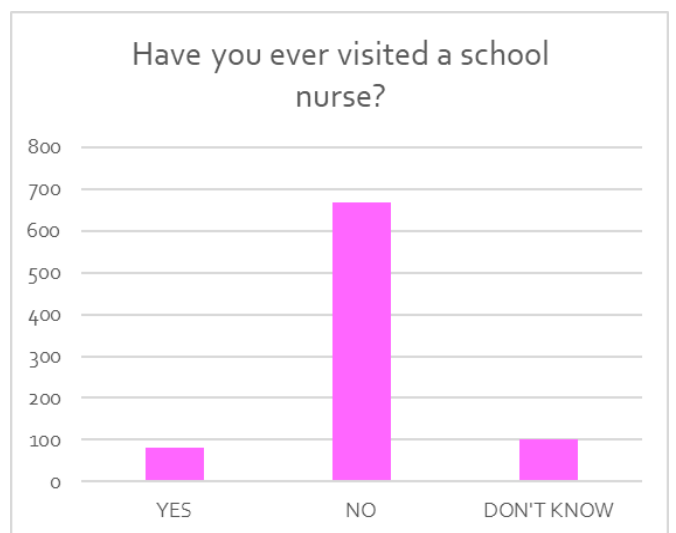
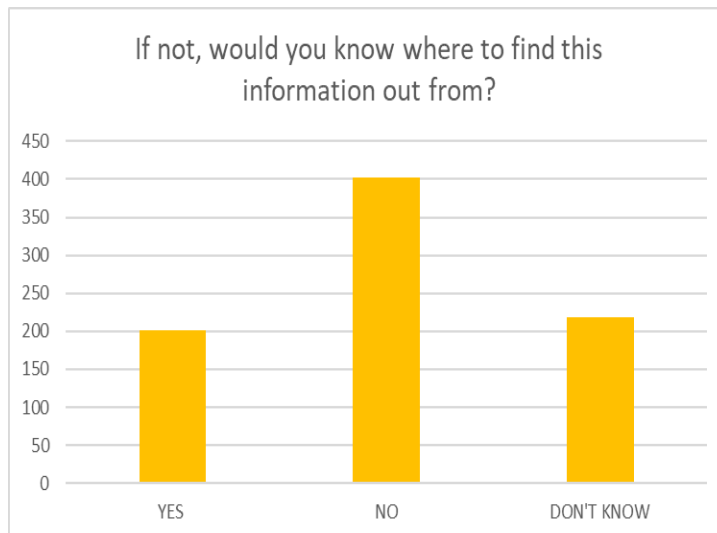
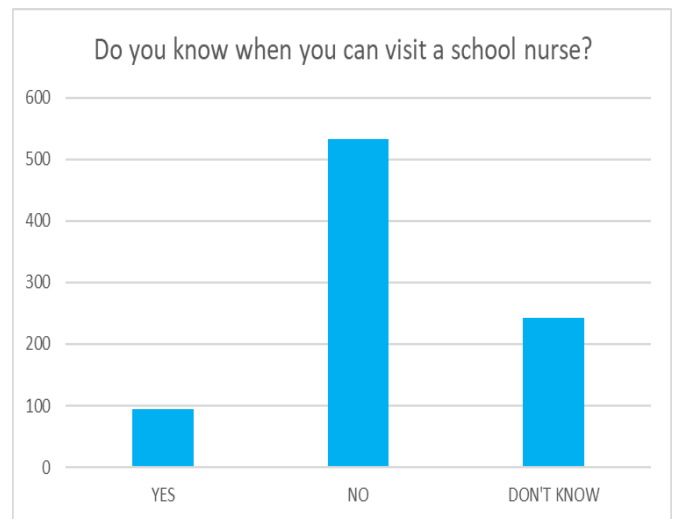
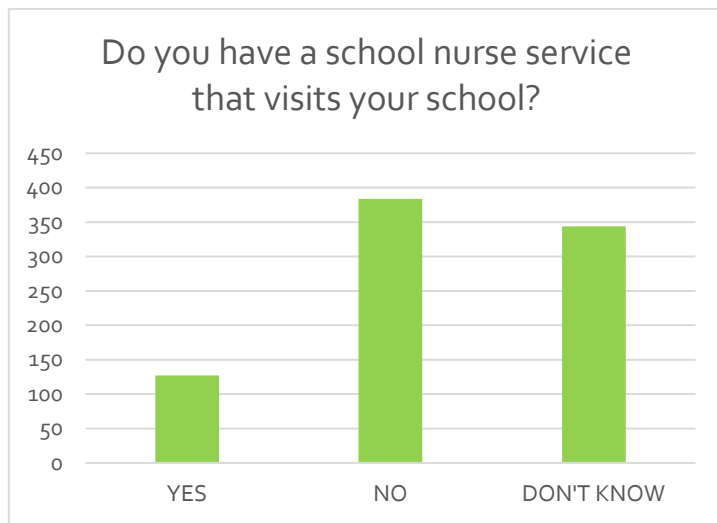
There is an apparent correlation between the work of the Young Inspectors and teenage pregnancy figures. Our most recent Teenage Pregnancy figures (Q3 2018) are 17.9 conceptions per 100 women under the age of 18. This is the second lowest quarterly rate the borough has ever had, 28.7% lower than the same quarter the year before and shows a reduction over time that is now faster than the national average.



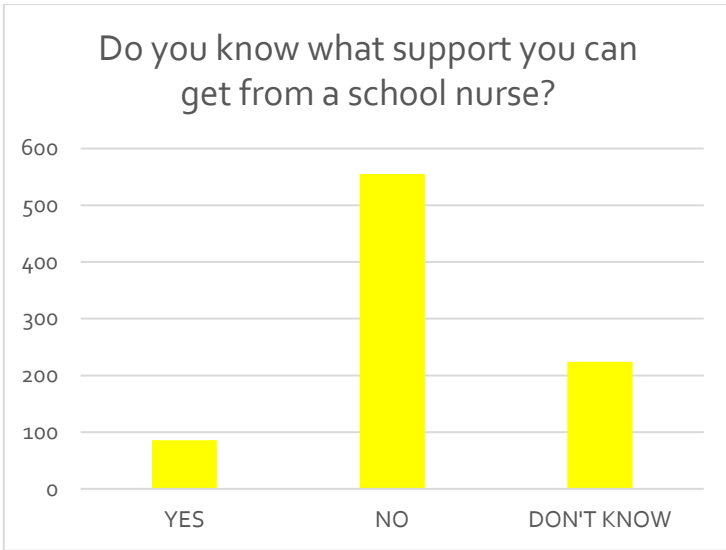
# School Nurse Service inspections

For the first time Young Inspectors were asked to inspect the School Nurse service. The inspection process began with a survey that Young Inspectors, and other Forum members, took to their peers. The survey addressed the young people's knowledge of the service and how accessible they think it is, should they wish to use it. The survey was conducted in **11** schools and Forum members obtained **855** responses.

Here are the results:







Some notable findings from this questionnaire show that 85% of respondents did not know their school had a School Nurse service visit them regularly, subsequently 90% did not know when you could visit a School Nurse in their school and only 23% of respondents would know who to ask about how to access the School Nurse service. The questionnaire also highlighted a lack of knowledge relating to why you might visit a school nurse. Public Health and the Operational Lead for the School Nurse service will review this feedback and will discuss the promotion and accessibility of the School Nurse service in schools.

Young Inspectors and additional Forum members will be trained in November 2019 to conduct face to face mystery shop inspections with school nurses before the Forum year finishes in December. Young people will cover a range of issues including; mental health, physical health, puberty, stress and anxiety, peer pressure and relationships. Young Inspectors will feed back on the outcomes of the inspection during the presentation at the Assembly meeting in January 2020.

# Additional Forum activities 2019



## Engagement and Participation

Throughout 2019, the BAD Youth Forum members participated in a wide range of additional events. It is important for Forum members to be involved in these events as they enable young people to understand the borough better, give their views about wider issues that affect young people and gain experiences and skills.

The members of the 2019 Forum were particularly active members, keen to regularly attend consultations and other events outside of their own sub-group.

The list of events include:

### **Consultations**

#### **Youth Independent Advisory Group**

#### **London Youth Assembly meetings**

#### **Stubbers trip**

#### **Prince Harry visit to the borough**

#### **Annual visit to the Houses of Parliament**

#### **Youth Parade**

#### **Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings**

#### **D-Day Landing parade**





# Youth Independent Advisory Group

The Youth Independent Advisory Group meetings began in 2018 as a partnership between the BAD Youth Forum and Police. Crime and safety is a regular theme in Forum discussions, and equally Police are keen to develop a good relationship with young people locally. Four meetings have taken place in 2019, with the following themes:

- Knife crime
- Question and Answer session
- Contextual Safeguarding
- Criminal Exploitation

During the meetings young people have shared their views and perceptions of crime in the borough, detailing crimes that concern them the most, and areas of the borough they feel least safe and why.



Young people have learnt more about how to stay safe and how to access support if they need it. Some young people cited a reluctance to speak with Police about concerns but since developing a relationship with Youth Engagement Officers they feel more assured the Police are there to help and protect them.

During the contextual safeguarding meeting, young people shared invaluable information about particularly problematic areas in the borough, from a young persons' perspective. This 'intelligence' has been entered on to Police systems to enable Safer Neighbourhood Teams to focus their patrols effectively. The YIAG also fed directly into a successful bid to the Mayor's Young Londoners' Fund, which resulted in an extra **£1m** investment in the borough to tackle serious youth violence and forms a part of the borough's 'Step Up Stay Safe' action plan.



← Young people's perception of the reasons why another young person might carry a knife, in order of most likely reason at the top to least likely at the bottom

## Consultations

The BAD Youth Forum are regularly requested to participate in consultations that relate to young people. In 2019, young people actively engaged in a wide range of consultations, sharing their views and helping to shape local policy and decision making.

Here is a list of the consultations and their purpose:

- Cultural Education Partnership; young people worked with Martin Russell (CEP Development Co-ordinator) to discuss the CEP conference being hosted in October. Young people spoke about their current cultural education entitlement and what they would like to see added to this in the future. The ideas and views from the Forum were used in the planning of the conference, which was aimed at young people, Headteachers, partners and stakeholders.
- Becontree Centenary Project; the lead artist for the project attended a session to ask young people for ideas of how best to engage young people in the forthcoming centenary celebrations. Young people discussed a range of ideas they felt would spark young people's interests.
- Elaine Allegretti (Director of People and Resilience) visited the Forum to talk about their work and discuss ideas of how to include the Forum in future pieces of work. Young people presented their progress to date and shared the issues that young people are most concerned with in Barking and Dagenham. This was an introductory meeting for Elaine to the Forum, there are plans for Elaine and the Forum to meet again in the future.
- Young Londoners Fund bid consultation; young people were asked to give their views regarding how money should be spent in the borough if the bid was successful. Young people shared their views about what they feel is missing in the borough and how receptive they felt young people would be to the proposed plans. They believed that detached youth workers would help young people feel safer in the community and in particular around transport hubs. Ideas and comments from young people were included in the bid, which we now know has been successful.
- Subwise; Young People's Alcohol and Substance misuse service consulted with young people asking for their views about which social media platforms are most appropriate for their service to use when communicating with young people. Views from young people were shared with the wider service provider for consideration.
- The Condom Distribution Officer, Heather McKelvey, consulted the group regarding the C-Card pan London website, asking for feedback about the aesthetics and content of the website. All London borough's have been tasked with consulting young people, all comments will be considered when re-developing the site.
- Children In Need and their health; two council colleagues visited the Forum with a view to gather information about young people's experiences of health and care services and the impact that this has had on their lives. Young people answered a range of questions, the feedback from young people was encapsulated in a report and directly fed back to the Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children's Board.

- Lost hours campaign; as part of the Council's drive to address needs of young people and the local community regarding the 'lost hours' immediately after school the Forum were consulted. The consultation aimed to gather young people's views about the current situation related to youth violence, how best to inform young people about the lost hours campaign and engage them in having a positive impact on youth violence. The views of young people will shape the campaign and ensure it is young people focussed and age appropriate. This also forms part of the Borough's Step Up, Stay Safe action plan.



## London Youth Assembly (LYA)

The London Youth Assembly formed in 2018, with each London borough having a Member and Deputy Member. Meetings continued in to 2019 with two new young people being elected to represent Barking and Dagenham- Aker Okoye (Member) and Jessica Soares Paim (Deputy).

Young people are required to attend four sub-regional meetings and four full LYA meetings, which are held at City Hall. Barking and Dagenham are the host borough for the North East sub-region in 19/20 and at the first LYA meeting in September Aker was elected as Vice Chair of the whole LYA. He is ecstatic to hold this position and keen to have an impact on the work of the LYA. Aker will be able to update Members on his progress in January.

The LYA are set to continue their work on knife crime and mental health and wellbeing started in 2018. A formal letter was submitted to the Mayor of London in July by LYA members, the Mayor's response detailed a range of options for the LYA to explore in order to enhance their work. One example being the Violence Reduction Unit and many other initiatives currently available.





# Stubbers Activity Centre

As a treat for all their commitment and hard work, young people participated in a trip to Stubbers Activity Centre for the day! As well as being fun young people worked well together, learnt some new skills and spent the day outside in the sunshine.



# Youth Parade

As in all previous years, the Barking and Dagenham Youth Forum attended the annual Youth Parade. Young people participated in the parade as well as having a stall where they were offering a range of activities to raise money for the Young Mayor's charity. This included rock painting, face painting, raffle tickets and bucket shaking.





## HRH Duke of Sussex visit to the opening of Future Youth Zone

As part of HRH Duke of Sussex's visit it was agreed that the BAD Youth Forum members, supported by Future Youth Zone members and representatives from Box Up Crime would lead in a discussion with the Duke regarding knife crime.



The session was a continuation of discussions the Forum were already having, including during a Youth Independent Advisory Group meeting. The meeting was Chaired by Donnavan Augustine, long time member of the Forum. Six Forum members were invited to attend. The group worked well together discussing the issue of knife crime and possible ways forward to tackle the rising concern. All ideas and information that were generated at the meeting were shared at the following Youth Independent Advisory Group meeting.



When the Duke joined the discussion he was keen to hear about local young people's thoughts and feelings regarding knife crime, and especially keen to hear what they think is needed to change young people's attitudes and behaviour towards knives and other weapons. It was a very engaging and entertaining discussion. Young people were thrilled to have been involved, they really appreciated the Duke's questions and honesty about his views.



## Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings

Chair of the BAD Youth Forum, Johami Mutuale, attends the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings throughout the year. Johami is keen to share experiences of young people locally and ensure policy and decision makers understand how important it is to recognise the importance of young people's views. Johami is very vocal in meeting's championing young people's needs and issues.

Johami is particularly keen on discussing crime issues and working to make the borough a safe place for all residents. Johami has shared her views relating to lack of school's officers in the borough, how crime affects young people and challenged officers to share their views about initiatives to reduce the recent rise in youth violence across the tri-borough partnership.



## Domestic Abuse Commission

7 Forum members have chosen to contribute to the Domestic Abuse Commission, through regular meetings with Amelia Grant, Domestic Abuse Commission Community Engagement Officer. Young people have explored their own views of domestic abuse and what they perceive to be some of the contributing factors locally. This issue has been explored in a family setting and also in relationships amongst young people, recognising that domestic abuse has become an issue for a growing number of young people in their own relationships. Young people have explored different influences such as culture and gender divide, and recognised this starts at such a young age. Young people have been very honest and open with their views and experiences and will continue to contribute to the Commission for the foreseeable future.



**ASSEMBLY****29 January 2020**

<b>Title:</b> Council Tax Support Scheme 2020/21	
<b>Report of the Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Core Services</b>	
<b>Open Report</b>	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Wards Affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> Yes
<b>Report Author:</b> Donna Radley, Head of Benefits	<b>Contact Details:</b> E-mail: <a href="mailto:donna.radley@elevateeastlondon.co.uk">donna.radley@elevateeastlondon.co.uk</a>
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Claire Symonds, Chief Operating Officer	
<b>Summary</b>	
<p>The Council has a statutory duty to consider annually whether to revise its Local Council Tax Support Scheme (CTS) or replace it with another scheme. This report recommends keeping the current scheme for use in 2020/21. The Assembly has a legal duty to approve the CTS by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020.</p> <p>The Cabinet is to consider this report at its meeting on 21 January 2020 (the date of publication of this Assembly agenda). Any issues arising from the Cabinet meeting will be reported at the Assembly meeting.</p>	
<b>Recommendation(s)</b>	
<p>The Assembly is asked to agree that the Council Tax Support Scheme implemented for 2019/20 be retained for 2020/21.</p>	
<b>Reason</b>	
<p>The Council's CTS scheme requires no changes for effective processing of the scheme.</p>	

**1 Introduction and Background**

- 1.1. The Welfare Reform Act in 2012 abolished Council Tax Benefit (CTB) from April 2013 and, in its place, support took the form of a local Council Tax Support Scheme (CTS). The Local Government Finance Act 2012 contains provisions for the setting up of local support schemes. The current scheme in Barking & Dagenham has been based around the Default Council Tax Reduction Scheme and has been previously ratified by Assembly.
- 1.2. The current scheme in operation ensures that;
  - The scheme is means tested
  - Pensioners are protected, i.e. they must be able to receive up to a 100% reduction (a provision of the national pension age scheme).

- Everyone of working age contributes something towards their Council Tax. A “minimum payment” of 25%. There is a 75% maximum on which any entitlement to CTS is based.
- Those who are not pensioners and with capital in excess of £6,000 are not eligible for a Council Tax reduction under this scheme.
- Universal Credit is considered and aligned with the principles of Housing Benefit administration.

## **2. Proposals and Issues**

- 2.1. There are no proposals to change the scheme.

## **3. Financial Implications**

*Implications completed by Katherine Heffernan, Head of Service, Finance*

- 3.1 The Council is required to maintain a Council Tax Support Scheme. This is now funded as part of the Council’s overall funding settlement and so any increases or decreases in take up or cost fall upon the Council’s budget (rather than being provided for by a grant.)
- 3.2 The annual cost of the current scheme does vary somewhat with demand but is in the region of £12.7m to £13m (ie around 20% of total Council tax income.)
- 3.3 This report proposes no changes to the current scheme and so there are no direct financial implications arising. However, it should be noted that where amounts specified such as the applicable amount rise by less than local income inflation this will over time tend to remove households from eligibility and so reduce the cost of the scheme. It must be remembered that households on very low incomes on or near the thresholds for Council Tax Support are likely to struggle to pay their Council Tax and so the true cost to the Council taking into account collection rates, arrears and bad debt is likely to be much lower.
- 3.4 The Council must set aside a discretionary fund for circumstances of exceptional hardship. It is anticipated that a discretionary fund of £50,000 can be created to assist those with exceptional circumstances. This would be monitored and reviewed quarterly, although case law does suggest that if exceptional hardship is shown the Council must grant a discretionary reduction and cannot refuse due to a “depleted budget”. It is therefore vital that a clear policy is implemented so the Council can set their own criteria of whom would qualify for a discretionary reduction. The cost of the discretionary fund will reduce the overall Council Tax collected by £50,000.

## **4. Legal Implications**

*Implications completed by Dr Paul Feild, Senior Governance Lawyer*

- 4.1 The CTS is a continuation of the 2019/20 scheme as approved by the Assembly last year. It was produced following consultations as required by the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Local Government Finance Act 2012.

4.2 As observed in the report the discretionary hardship fund while set at £50,000 shall be administered according to the exceptional hardship policy and the cap is not a reason for refusal.

## **5. Other Implications**

5.1 **Risk Management** - It is considered likely that keeping the current scheme will continue to make it difficult to collect Council Tax from those entitled to a reduction under the scheme. Presently there are 75,958 live properties with a Council Tax Charge in this borough, as of 30 August 2019, and 15,488 Council Tax Support claims against these properties.

**Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:** None.

**List of appendices:** None.

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## ASSEMBLY

29 January 2020

<b>Title:</b> Exemption of Care Leavers from Council Tax	
<b>Report of the Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health Integration</b>	
<b>Open Report</b>	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Wards Affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> Yes
<b>Report Author:</b> Valerie Tomlinson-Palmer, Senior Commissioner, Children's, Care and Support	<b>Contact Details:</b> Tel: 0208 227 3549 E-mail: <a href="mailto:valerie.tomlinson-palmer@lbbd.gov.uk">valerie.tomlinson-palmer@lbbd.gov.uk</a>
<b>Accountable Director:</b> April Bald, Operations Director, Children's Care and Support	
<b>Accountable Strategic Leadership Director:</b> Elaine Allegretti, Director, People and Resilience	
<p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>On 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019 (Minute 32), the Cabinet considered a report on the Local Offer for Care Leavers. One of the key decisions was to recommend to Assembly that LBBD Care Leavers resident in the borough should be exempted from Council Tax up to the age of 25. This would be in line with the practice of many other Local Authorities.</p> <p>Young People who have been in care are some of the most vulnerable young people in society and evidence suggests that without good support their life chances are significantly poorer than for their peers raised within a birth family.</p> <p>Exemption from Council Tax will help make the transition from care to independence smoother by reducing financial pressures on these young people who are learning how to manage their budget and increase their chances of avoiding falling into debt.</p>	
<p><b>Recommendation</b></p> <p>The Assembly is recommended to agree that LBBD Care Leavers resident in the Borough be exempted from Council Tax up to the age of 25, effective from April 2020.</p>	
<p><b>Reason(s)</b></p> <p>To assist in achieving the Council priority of "Empowering People" by enabling greater independence by supporting the most vulnerable and ensuring that no one in our community is left behind.</p>	

## **1. Introduction and Background**

- 1.1 Children in care and those with care experience are some of the most vulnerable members of our society and national evidence indicates that far too often their life chances are significantly poorer than for their peers who are raised within a birth family. Like any parent, our responsibility is not just to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the children during their childhood but also extends to preparing them for a happy, healthy and successful life as an adult – and this means providing support beyond the age of 18 when they legally become an adult.
- 1.2 Through the Children and Social Work Act 2017, local authorities are required to publish their Local Offer for care leavers, outlining the services and support available within the local authority area, including information about both statutory entitlements as well as any discretionary support that a local authority chooses to provide.
- 1.3 Support offered should cover preparing for adulthood and independent living, health and wellbeing, relationships, education, training and employment, accommodation and participation in society.
- 1.4 LBBD has recognised the need to improve its approach to working with care leavers. While good outcomes are being achieved, our aspirations for care leavers could and should be higher. We should embrace the notion of being “pushy parents”. The principle of “would this be good enough for my child” should underpin our local offer.

## **2. Proposal and Issues**

- 2.1 The Children’s Society report “Wolf at the Door” published in March 2015 recommended that Councils make care leavers eligible for council tax exemption, to ensure that the transition from care to adult life is as smooth as possible, and to mitigate the chances of care leavers getting into debt as they begin to manage their own finances. Care Leavers are amongst the most vulnerable groups in the community, particularly for council tax debt. Evidence from the Children’s Society shows how challenging care leavers can find managing their own budgets for the first time when moving into independent accommodation and how scary they found falling behind on their council tax.
- 2.2 As their corporate parent, we should help care leavers to take their first steps towards living independently, just as any parent would with their children. By making care leavers exempt from council tax, we are giving these young people a few valuable years to learn how to manage their finances and have a better chance of avoiding problem debt in the future – thus making the transition from being in care to becoming independent much smoother.
- 2.3 Most other London Boroughs including our neighbours Newham and Redbridge have already taken the decision to exempt care leavers from paying council tax.
- 2.4 In October 2018, the Mayor of London published his actions for care leavers, including the agreement to waive the GLA precept where a borough has put in place a discretionary scheme for care leavers to be exempt from council tax. This means that the cost to the Council of exempting care leavers would be less the GLA

precept. The Mayor of London also pledged to undertake a survey of London boroughs to gather information on discretionary schemes and encourage boroughs who do not currently have a care leavers exemption scheme to set one up, showing that there is further backing for exemption schemes.

2.5 Options for exemptions that were considered:

- Council tax exemption for all care leavers up to 25
- A stepped discount - council tax exemption for all care leavers up to 21 (100%), then liable to pay 50% council tax until 25.
- A sliding scale for council tax exemption – with 18 years old being fully exempt and the amount of council tax they pay increasing each year until they are 25 and are paying full council tax.

2.6 Initial discussions with Elevate about a sliding scale highlighted some issues, mainly that date of birth is not recorded as it is not required for council tax purposes, and there is no field for this on the council tax system. This discount would need to be manually applied outside the system. In addition; Elevate also do not recommend creating eight levels of discount (one for each year) as this would not only increase administration, and likelihood of error but they also say this would be confusing to the young people.

2.7 Elevate confirmed that a two-tier discount scheme would be more manageable although they add that as their system does not record date of birth and that they would not know when a young person moved into accommodation liable for Council Tax (e.g. moving out of a staying put arrangement), this would need to be monitored by the Leaving Care team.

2.8 Agreement has been made that the Leaving Care team will monitor any changes of circumstance and send a monthly report to Elevate advising which Care leavers are eligible enabling the discount to be applied.

2.9 An accurate estimate of the costs of a council tax exemption for all care leavers up to either 21 or 25, requires the addresses of each care leaver to check council tax bands. If a care leaver is a full-time student, they would already be exempt from paying Council Tax. Other variants include whether the care leaver lives alone in which case they will have a 25% single person discount, and what type of accommodation they live in, such as residential care or supported lodgings, as not all are liable for paying council tax. Where a care leaver lives with non-care leavers, the exemption would be applied in a similar fashion to where a student lives with a non-student, e.g. their name would not appear on the bill, and the non-care leavers would be liable to pay the council tax, and would receive a 25% single person discount if they were the only other person in the property.

<b>Care Leavers aged 18 – 21</b>	<b>Care Leavers aged 21 – 25-year</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>TOTAL minus GLA precept</b>
100% exemption	100% exemption	£196,921.71	£156,359.12
100% exemption	50% discount	£127,247.04	£101,035.98
100% exemption	No exemption/discount	£57,572.37	£45,713.42

2.10 These figures are based on the current list of care leavers living within the borough and their current addresses as provided by the Leaving Care Team and Elevate,

and based on the assumption that all care leavers are solely liable for the cost, do not claim the single person discount and that 100% of those entitled make a claim. After adjustments for single person discount and other discounts available to them via the Council Tax Support Scheme, this estimate is likely to reduce. However, the estimate might also increase if the overall number of care leavers eligible for exemption increases, or if circumstances change, e.g. moving to a larger property.

- 2.11 Based on the lists supplied, 70% of care leavers aged 18-21 live within the borough with the remaining 30% living in boroughs that already offer exemption to care leavers. 110 (55%) of the 199 care leavers aged 21 to 25 live within the borough. Of the remaining 89, 41 live in areas that exempt care leavers from council tax, 5 are in prison and the whereabouts are unknown for 19. We would look to enter reciprocal arrangements with neighbouring boroughs that already exempt care leavers. Many of the London boroughs that offer council tax exemption to care leavers already offer this exemption to care leavers from other boroughs, for example Haringey, Lewisham and Croydon. We do not know how many care leavers from other boroughs currently live in Barking and Dagenham; however, it is likely that these reciprocal arrangements will result in some level of cost. There are currently 24 care leavers (according to lists supplied) who live in areas that do not exempt care leavers, mostly in Kent and Essex.
- 2.12 We propose that all LBBDD care leavers up to 25 living in the borough are fully exempt from paying council tax, in line with best practice, in keeping with the Council's vision of leaving no one behind and embedding the principle of "would this be good enough for my child".
- 2.13 The exemption from paying council tax is likely to result in a decrease in emergency payments made to care leavers in crisis and the numbers of care leavers finding themselves in council tax arrears, as well as further reducing the dependency on services that is experienced by some of our young people. Where care leavers are in council tax arrears, it is proposed that once an exemption is effective, as of April 2020, any remaining arrears would be cleared.

### **3. Financial Implications**

Implications completed by Katherine Heffernan, Head of Service, Finance

- 3.1 This report seeks to enhance the current local offer to care leavers by exempting care leavers from paying council tax up to the age of 25. This is estimated to cost around £0.15m per year for LBBDD care leavers living in the borough and an unknown but fairly small amount more if care leavers from other authorities were exempted under reciprocal arrangements. If this recommendation were approved by Assembly, this exemption would feed through to the Council's budget through a reduction in the Council tax base. This will be taken into account in the MTFs for 2020/21 onwards.
- 3.2 However, offsetting this council tax base reduction as a result of these recommendations, there is likely to be a decrease in bad debt and write offs and emergency payments made to care leavers in crisis, as well as further reducing the dependency on services that is experienced by some of our young people, although this has not yet been quantified.



- 3.3 The number and amount of exemptions provided to Care Leavers would be recorded by the Council Tax recovery team in Revenues and Benefits. It is recommended that the financial impact both to the young people and to the Council should be monitored and reported to the Corporate Parenting Board.

#### **4. Legal Implications**

Implications completed by Dr Paul Field, Senior Governance Solicitor

- 4.1 The Local Government Finance Act 1992 section 13A (1) gives the Council the discretionary power to reduce liability for Council Tax in relation to particular cases or by determining a class of cases where national discounts and exemptions cannot be applied. Section 13A(1) states *'Where a person is liable to pay Council Tax in respect any chargeable dwelling and any day, the billing authority for the area in which the dwelling is situated may reduce the amount which he is liable to pay as respects the dwelling and the day to such extent as it thinks fit.'* Furthermore, Section 13A(3) enables the Council to establish a scheme in relation to particular cases or by determining a class of case in which liability is to be reduced to an extent provided by the determination. The proposed scheme which exempts care leavers who are living in the borough is reasonable being evidence based as it supports the Council's corporate parenting role for care leavers.
- 4.2 There are a number of pieces of legislation and statutory guidance that set out the role of the local authority in respect of children in care and care leavers. There are statutory obligations and guidance for the role of the Local Authority as the Corporate Parent in the Children's Act 2017, and the Children and Young People Act 2008.

**Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report: None**

**List of Appendices: None**

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## ASSEMBLY

29 January 2020

<b>Title:</b> Annual Report of Member Champions'	
<b>Report of Leader of the Council &amp; Cabinet Member for Social Care &amp; Health Integration</b>	
<b>Open</b>	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Wards Affected:</b> None	<b>Key Decision:</b> No
<b>Report Author:</b> Mike Haywood Head of Leader's Office.	<b>Contact Details:</b> Tel: 020 8724 5013 Email: <a href="mailto:mike.haywood@lbbd.gov.uk">mike.haywood@lbbd.gov.uk</a>
<b>Accountable Strategic Leadership Director:</b> Elaine Allegretti, Director of People & Resilience	
<b>Summary:</b>  On 18 February 2018 Assembly agreed new governance arrangements (Minute 56) including the provision of Member Champions. In May 2018, the Annual Assembly approved the new Constitution (Part 2, Chapter 6, Paragraph 9).  Under the new Constitution, up to five Member Champions can be appointed by the Leader to support the work of the Cabinet and promote and raise the profile for the cause for which they are a champion.  At its meeting on 11 December 2018, Cabinet approved the appointment of Councillor Irma Freeborn and Councillor Chris Rice as Member Champions for Quality in Care and for Mental Health respectively (Minute 71 refers). A work programme was created following this.  This report sets out the roles of the Member Champions who support the work of the Cabinet Member for Social Care & Health Integration and reports back on their activities over the last year.	
<b>Recommendation:</b>  The Assembly is asked to note the Annual Report of Member Champions'	
<b>Reasons:</b> It is good practice to report back on the work being undertaken by Member Champions who support the Council's aim of encouraging civic pride and enabling social responsibility.	

**1. Role overview for the Member Champion for Quality in Care**

- 1.1 The role of the Member Champion for Quality of Care is to support the Cabinet Member for Social Care & Health Integration in raising the profile and the importance of a high quality, sustainable adult social care sector.

## **Specific activities**

The role includes:

1. Visiting residential and supported living care settings, and home care providers, in order to see first-hand how services are delivered.
2. Maintaining a good understanding of the issues that arise in dealing with adult social care services and assessing their quality.
3. Engaging with users of services and explore their experience of care.
4. Being able to advocate for quality of care with Member colleagues and the public, and to challenge myths about what good social care looks like.
5. Understanding and engaging with the Council's processes used for ensuring that care delivered is of a good standard, and to use experience of discussions with providers and service users to help to improve it.

## **2. Role overview for the Member Champion for Mental Health**

- 2.1 As a local authority we have a crucial role to play in improving the mental health of everyone in our community.
- 2.2 The role of the Member Champion for Mental Health is to support the Cabinet Member for Social Care & Health Integration to raise the profile of the importance of mental health and wellbeing in Barking & Dagenham.

## **Specific activities**

The role includes:

1. Maintaining a good understanding of the issues concerning mental health.
2. Promoting better public understanding of mental health needs and addressing negative attitudes and behaviours including discrimination towards people with mental ill health.
3. Engaging with local community groups to encourage action to promote better mental health and life chances.
4. Assessing how council strategies and directly provided services support and improve mental health and wellbeing.
5. Represent the Council on the Council of Governors of the North East London NHS Foundation Trust.

## **3. Member Chamber Job Description**

- 3.1 A generic job description for Member Champions is included in the appendix of this report.

#### **4. Report by Councillor Freeborn, Member Champion for Quality in Care**

##### **Introduction**

- 4.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an insight into visits I have carried out at care settings in the borough.
- 4.2 I have visited a number of settings (or venues) to evaluate the quality of care that is provided by speaking to residents and their families, and frontline staff and by assessing the environment in which vulnerable people live.
- 4.3 I have assessed each visit using a set of criteria, including the physical space in which care is provided (environment), the attitudes and perceptions of staff (management/staffing) and service user feedback.
- 4.4 The very nature of being a Member Champion for Quality in Care means providing a challenging and critical view as well as welcoming good practice. I have therefore provided an overview of my impressions and experiences, which includes positive and negative feedback.
- 4.5 For this reason, and in the interests of providing a balanced report the care settings I visited have been anonymised.

#### **5. Note on the work of the Quality Assurance (QA) team**

- 5.1 The QA team undertake inspections of all organisations who provide support services to adults, either those who are located in the borough or who have a contract with the local authority assessing the quality of the service against a robust quality assurance policy and framework. All providers are given a rating of Green, Amber, Red or Blue depending on the findings of the QA team inspections and improvement plans are then put in place. Feedback from the Members' Champion has been built into improvement plans where relevant. However, the feedback below is the Member Champion's views and not those of the QA team.

#### **6. Visits conducted by the Member Champion for Quality in Care**

##### **Venue 1**

- 6.1 My first visit was to a facility providing care to older people and those with learning difficulties. As part of this visit, I toured the home and met with staff to discuss the aspects of the care provided to residents. There was a clean, fresh smell although the décor is in the process of being updated.
- 6.2 The care home has three units: Dementia care, nursing care and extra nursing, each with their own health care team. It has won local awards for providing a diverse range of food options.

##### **Venue 2**

- 6.3 This is a facility providing safe accommodation to domestic abuse survivors and their children. I met with managers and residents to gain a greater insight into the plight of the women who live at the property.
- 6.4 The refuge was clean and homely in the communal areas, including the laundry

and reception rooms. I was able to learn about the activities offered to children by the staff in order to help them feel safe and welcome in an undoubtedly scary time in their lives. Unfortunately, the limited space available means that only those with the highest need are placed at this facility due to it being heavily oversubscribed.

- 6.5 In meeting residents, I learned that, whilst they appreciated the service provided, there were numerous issues facing them as domestic abuse survivors, including lack of funds available to support them when they escape an abusive partner despite financial manipulation and control sometimes being used as a weapon over them by their abuser.

### **Venue 3**

- 6.6 This provides support to young people with substance abuse issues. I met with managers and support workers who work directly with young people who need one-to-one support, work in schools to increase awareness about drug use and with young people who attend substance abuse support sessions.
- 6.7 The organisational focus seems to be on not only preventing risk-taking behaviours and encouraging healthy choices but also on enabling young people to develop boundaries, emotional resilience and self-esteem. The assembly rooms had activity equipment and information leaflets offering support and welcoming young people to future events, thus ensuring they see the programme as fun in addition to serving an educational purpose.
- 6.8 The venue serves not only Barking and Dagenham but also neighboring boroughs, leading to resources being extremely limited for one-to-one interactions. Staff feedback included one key worker noting the pressure this placed on staff, particularly as they are often required to meet service users in order to monitor their progress.

### **Venue 4**

- 6.9 This is part of a pilot programme for Looked After Children moving into temporary accommodation to allow them to develop skills leading to their independence as adults. The scheme lasts for two years, with a tenancy granted alongside advice on financial management, reskilling opportunities and vocational programmes. The residents took a great deal of pride in what for many of them, may have been their first home that was their own. Residents are given the autonomy of decorating their property in whatever way they see fit, helping to build their sense of independence.
- 6.10 There is a backlog of children leaving care who need affordable housing who rely on Universal Credit in order to rent privately. I was able to meet one resident coming to the end of their tenancy who noted that the impact of the programme on her life was overwhelmingly positive, albeit with the bittersweet element of the limit of a two-year tenancy.

### **Venue 5**

- 6.11 This is an extra care scheme for older people, which I was able to visit on an open day launch of the new care provider.
- 6.12 Although there was an activities coordinator playing cards with residents on the day I visited, the provision of entertainment felt limited. I understand fundraising initiatives are underway to address this. The complex has a hairdresser, gym, mini-supermarket and a canteen. There is a garden to the rear of the home which would benefit from some investment, in both time and effort.

## **Venue 6**

- 6.13 This is a temporary housing hotel for children aged 16 and above seeking asylum in the UK. I was able to meet with residents, managers and support workers. Whilst the service offers housing to these vulnerable young people, perhaps more importantly it also assists them in their applications to the Home Office and with access to Higher Education, something often denied to children with questionable legal status in this country. All residents in the facility are given bedroom units and take turns doing chores such as cleaning communal areas. The staff noted that there is a curfew of 10pm and opportunities for leisure activities and career-based workshops.

## **Venue 7**

- 6.14 This is a residential home for adults with physical and learning disabilities and other complex needs. Whilst the exterior of the property is modern, the interior is quite dated. I noted quite an unwelcoming environment for visitors and residents on entry due to loud music playing early in the morning. The staff facilities were limited having been allocated a small, dark room. The home is rightly proud of its roof garden, which is used for barbecues and is a source of pride for both staff and residents. The home appeared under-occupied which could impact on its future viability.

## **Venue 8**

- 6.15 This is an end-of-life care facility. I was shown around it by the manager. The rooms were large, providing space to both the patients and their families. The area has a beautiful set of gardens with lots of activities and entertainment on offer.

## **Venue 9**

- 6.16 This is a nursing home facility catering to the elderly, including those with dementia and, or requiring end of life care. The home has improved its CQC rating from Inadequate to Good in just two years and offers excellent entertainment facilities including a 'nostalgia room'. The staff were very receptive under the relatively new manager, with goals having been introduced to increase and maintain staff morale. The home has two large gardens, with most rooms overlooking these. The food provision stood out in comparison with other care homes.

## **Venue 10**

- 6.17 This is a care home set in a pleasant location opposite a park, which residents can take advantage of. It has made adaptations for residents, including a nostalgia room and music was being played in the background when I visited which was welcoming. The rooms were clean and well maintained with a fresh aroma. The accessibility to services like hairdressers, chiropodists, dentists and libraries stood out as a positive aspect of how the home keeps its residents in touch with the outside world as opposed to merely entertaining them within the confines of the home. At the time of my visit, residents were making pizzas and seemed to be both engaged and happy.

## **Venue 11**

- 6.18 This is a care home set on the boundary of the borough and is set in picturesque gardens.
- 6.19 There are separate units according to the needs of the residents. Each unit consists of a health manager and the care team, with separate facilities available for both. However,

I was concerned that the staffing levels may not be adequate as each unit contained residents in communal areas with no staff supervision. I felt my visit was being managed in a manner which denied me a thorough understanding of the reality of life for residents in the facility, with staff pre-empting my entrance to each unit, giving me the impression that staff were being moved from area to area to disguise a shortage.

6.20 I noticed very little interaction between staff and residents, perhaps indicative of a disconnect that fortunately seemed unique when compared to other facilities.

## **7. Conclusion**

7.1 The diverse nature of the facilities I have visited as part of my role as Member Champion have given me a snapshot of the quality of care in the borough. I have seen things that were good and not so good, in need of improvement as well as excellence in care provision. Above all, I have been impressed by the dedication of staff towards some of the most vulnerable in our community.

7.2 There are budgetary constraints in the care system that are well documented in the local and national media. These challenges are not limited to the public sector.

7.3 I have found the quality of outdoor activities and entertainment on offer, at times frustrating, especially given the vital role they play in enabling elderly people to lead fulfilling lives.

7.4 Overall, I believe that my role in observing quality in care in the Borough so far has been useful in laying the foundations for future visits. I hope this report proves helpful and insightful.

## **8. Next steps**

8.1 As well as returning to care settings I have already visited in the course of the last year, moving forwards I would like to focus on residents who receive personalised home care services to garner their views and experiences.

## **9. Report by Councillor Chris Rice, Member Champion for Mental Health**

9.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an insight into the work I have carried out as Member Champion for Mental Health during 2019.

9.2 I have attended a conference and a workshop on mental health as well as visiting supported housing in the borough occupied by people with severe mental illnesses. I have also supported the provision of mental health awareness training for councillors.

9.3 I have also attended meetings of the North East London Foundation Trust (NELFT) as the Council's representative on the governing body.

## **10. Conferences**

10.1 In January 2019 I attended a free conference provided by the Institute of Public Policy Research on the 'parity of esteem', which can be defined as "valuing mental health equally with physical health." This is demonstrated by the following:



- NHS funding not reflective of the fact that poor mental health is the largest cause of disability in the UK.
- There is treatment gap, where the number of people thought to have a mental condition exceeds the number of people receiving treatment. Factors include the stigma that many people still feel if they seek treatment.

10.2 I also attended a free all-day workshop organised by the Centre For Mental Health for all local councillors in London authorities with an interest in mental health. One of the speakers was from Thrive LDN. Thrive LDN is a London-wide movement to improve the mental health and wellbeing of all Londoners. It is supported by the Mayor of London and led by the London Health Board. The discussion included the Thrive initiative in Barking & Dagenham.

## 11. Thrive Thames

11.1 Thrive Thames is a pilot project which is supported by the London Borough of Barking & Dagenham and the Mental Health Foundation Trust. Its aim is to co-ordinate a range of peer-support programmes with Thames View estate residents and local services. The programme aims to improve people's skills, confidence and relationships and build community cohesion. The project plans to work with local services and recruit residents to volunteer to support and take ownership of the project.

11.2 Peer-support groups started in June 2019 and are being delivered with support from the Mental Health Foundation over a period of six months. They include:

- Health & Happiness Training. Group workshops for residents who want to learn more about improving their mental health and wellbeing.
- Parent's Thrive. Peer support groups for parents. A resident has kindly agreed to work with the programme to deliver the programme and has contributed to its design. Topics covered include mindful eating, ways to wellbeing, responding to challenging behaviour and will also include games and related craft activity. The programme was scheduled to restart for 6 weeks from 13th September 2019.
- Peer Education Project. Where older students are trained to peer educate younger students on mental health and wellbeing. The project was planned to start at Riverside Campus week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019. Although the reported feedback is positive and those who attend the groups enjoy it and feel it's beneficial, it is felt they need to increase the numbers of attendees.
- Tree Shepherd Workshops. Focus on supporting those who are interested in starting a business. Workshops will be delivered once a month with 1:1 support also offered at a drop-in clinic.
- Standing Together. Peer support groups for older people at risk of social isolation. This is currently being delivered within an existing group-DABD Golden Years to test the programme in a community setting. Engagement during sessions is very good despite a sense of apprehension in the beginning. If evaluation feedback in November is positive, they

might consider setting up a group separate to the existing one. The group scheduled to run on the last Wednesday of every month.

- 11.3 I spent an afternoon with the manager and residents at the Sue Bramley Centre, sitting-in on the first of a series of six group workshops on the Health & Happiness Training programme.
- 11.4 I found the level of language used by the facilitator to be easily understandable, with the information presented very clearly. I particularly appreciated the skills that were utilised to make the session more interactive but without making anyone feel under pressure. I had one concern, thinking that the session was quite long at two hours, which I fed back to the project manager.
- 11.5 I have been re-assured that this issue was not raised by those residents attending the programme, with the drop-out rate being very low. I have also been meeting with council officers and the manager for Thrive Thames and will receive updates on how the project is progressing.

## **12. Other visits**

- 12.1 I have also visited supported housing in the borough where people with severe mental illnesses, e.g. schizophrenia, are residing. I began by speaking to service users and staff at a property on Surrey Road. The property was clean and appeared well maintained. Residents reported being content with where they are residing.
- 12.2 This was also true when subsequently visiting and speaking to service users currently residing in supported housing on Fels Farm Avenue. This property had the additional benefit of being able to set aside a patch of their back garden where service users can grow their own vegetables.
- 12.3 Staff were concerned about the lack of available accommodation when residents are able to make the transition back to more independent living. Visits to more sites are being arranged.
- 12.4 I have also subsequently visited supported accommodation on Knights Close, which has self-contained accommodation. I was able to look around two of the one-bedroomed flats, which appeared to be functional and relatively spacious. One service user was available to speak to me and informed me she is happy with her accommodation and finds the staff friendly and helpful. Again, the staff were largely concerned about the lack of housing to facilitate the transition to more independent living. There are plans to visit more supported accommodation in the borough.

## **13. Raising Awareness of Mental Health**

- 13.1 Since June 2019 mental health training packages have been rolled out by the council, which includes:

### **Mental Health Awareness**

- This course is designed to create an environment and procedures for staff to be free to discuss their mental health if they need to. Also, to help staff be self-aware and recognise the symptoms mental ill-health they might be experiencing, knowing how to get help. The training has been made mandatory for all staff.

## Managing Mental Health

- This course is intended to support managers to assess, recognise and monitor the mental health and well-being of staff that they are responsible for managing. How to approach and work with someone suffering from mental ill-health, recognising changes in behaviour, and performance management. It also teaches how to complete Team Pressure Resilience Assessments. The training has been mandatory for managers.

## Mental Health First Aid (certified)

- This voluntary, accredited two-day Mental Health First Aid training is more in depth. It is aimed for people who might be expected to be an on-going point of call in the organisation and community for people experiencing mental ill-health problems, e.g. Children's Centres. First aiders would be equipped to manage volatile situations and know-how and who to signpost to directly.

## Mental Health Awareness for Councillors

- This is a voluntary, bespoke session for councillors. It focuses on the fundamentals of mental health, including the differing types of mental health problems and their impacts on people and the community. The timing of the session was arranged to coincide closely with World Mental Health Day. The session was tailored towards councillors as much as is possible to assist them in dealing with people coming into their surgeries and to outline the most appropriate places to signpost. The opportunity of delivering an additional evening session is being explored.

## **14. North East London Foundation Trust (NELFT)**

14.1 As part of my role I have also been appointed as the council's representative to the governing body for the North East London Foundation Trust (NELFT). I have attended every monthly meeting since January 2019, where topics such as ward cleanliness, complaints and the patient experience have been discussed.

14.2 A recent Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection of NELFT generated a formal rating of 'Requires Improvement', the previous rating being "Good". Key areas that have led the CQC to determine a 'requires improvement' rating include:

- Pressure on the acute inpatient mental health pathway and impacts on quality and safety of patient care as a result.
- Variable and inconsistent practice in relation to assessment and admission via the Acute Crisis Assessment Team (ACAT) pertaining to adult acute mental health.
- Junior doctor staff engagement, who had concerns that their professional views were not adequately respected, e.g. when trying to escalate their concerns.
- Workforce challenges particularly in Kent Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and the acute inpatient mental health care pathway.

- Challenges within the senior executive leadership team impacting on the delivery of improvements across some key areas within the wider Trust.
- 14.3 Governors have been informed that measures are already in place across all the areas the CQC highlighted in order to address the issues that were highlighted. This includes an action plan to support junior doctors, particularly in relation to workload pressures and engagement, and a review of the mental health acute care pathway that incorporates the opening of Picasso Ward to provide additional beds.
- 14.4 The CQC also highlighted many areas of good practice, including outstanding practice in four services they inspected:
- Forensic inpatient/secure wards (low secure)
  - Wards for people with a learning disability or autism
  - Community-based mental health services for people with a learning disability or autism
  - Specialist community mental health services for children and young people

**15. Next steps**

- 15.1 The provisions in place for children and adolescents is one aspect of mental health care which I have not yet had a chance to explore. I would like to focus next on this service area.

## **Appendix – Generic Job description for Member Champions**

### **1. What are Member Champions?**

- 1.1 The main purpose of Member Champions is to (a) support the work of Cabinet Members and (b) promote the cause for which they are a champion (eg disabilities, mental health, older people etc).
- 1.2 Member Champions are intended to be outward-facing, enthusiastic, and focused on raising the profile of the issue they Champion. They will develop in-depth knowledge on the issue(s) they Champion and use that knowledge to support the relevant Cabinet Member(s) and engage relevant stakeholders including the community in the council's work.

### **2. Conditions of being a Member Champion**

- 2.1 A Member Champion can be any member of the Council who is not a member of the Cabinet.
- 2.2 A Member Champion may be a member of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee or Policy Task Group but not be the Chair or Deputy. If they are a member of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee or Policy Task Group and the O&S Committee or Policy Task Group conducts a review of the area they champion, they must declare a non-pecuniary interest.
- 2.3 A Member Champion can be called to give evidence to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee or the Policy Task Group alongside their relevant Cabinet Member(s).

### **3. Appointment of Member Champions**

- 3.1 Member Champions are appointed by the Leader in liaison with the relevant Member of the Cabinet and exist to raise the profile of issues which are important to the Council.
- 3.2 A Member Champion will normally be expected to serve for a 1-year term.
- 3.3 An appointment may be made during the term of office to any new position that is agreed by the Leader and relevant Cabinet Member or to a position where there is a vacancy.

### **4. How Member Champions works with Cabinet Members**

- 4.1 Cabinet Members make decisions. Member Champions champion specific issues. Portfolio meetings are decision-making meetings and it is important that all parties remain aware of this.
- 4.2 Member Champions will follow a programme of activity which is decided by the Leader in consultation with the Cabinet Member relevant to the Member Champions' area.

4.3 Tasks for Member Champions should be decided at portfolio meetings involving the relevant Cabinet Member.

4.4 There should be an additional item at the end of each (monthly) portfolio meeting to which Member Champions are invited which sets out their work programme including (a) an overview of their area and (b) what they should be doing in the forthcoming month.

4.5 Member Champions will be kept updated on activity in the area they champion through portfolio meetings and other relevant meetings with Cabinet Members.

4.6 Cabinet Members should meet Member Champions separately (outside of portfolio meetings).

4.7 Member Champions should meet the Leader once a month for the first 3-4 months to provide an update on their progress and use it as an opportunity to raise issues.

4.8 Member Champions should produce an annual report on their activities.

## **5. The role of Member Champions**

5.1 The work of the Member Champion should complement the work of the relevant Cabinet Member.

5.2 A Member Champion cannot make decisions and must not commit the Council in any way or in a manner that could be interpreted as being contrary to established policy and practice and must not commit the Council in any way or in any manner (*including financially*) which would bring the Council into question.

5.3 There is potential for confusion and overlap between the role of the Member Champion and that of the relevant Cabinet Member. It is important that Member Champions are clear about their role and what they can and cannot do.

5.4 All Member Champions must act reasonably in their role and recognise and work effectively within the political management and working arrangements adopted by the Council. They should take care not to impinge on issues outside their area of interest.

5.5 Member Champions should not talk to the media without first consulting with the Cabinet Member and the Council's Communications Team.

5.6 If you have any questions please contact Von Edomi, Communications Team, at [Von.Edomi@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:Von.Edomi@lbbd.gov.uk) or on 0208 227 2022

5.7 The Leader may remove a Member Champion during their term in consultation with the relevant Cabinet member.

## **6. Member Champion Values**

6.1 Member Champions will be committed to the values of the Council and the following values in public office as set out in the Councillors Code of Conduct:

- Openness and transparency
- Honesty and integrity
- Tolerance and respect
- Equality and fairness
- Appreciation of cultural difference
- Sustainability
- Inclusive leadership

## **7. Member Champion job description (general)**

Member Champions will:

7.1 Attend portfolio meetings relevant to the issue for which they are a Champion.

7.2 Maintain an awareness of all matters connected with their area of interest.

7.3 Keep the Leader of the Council up to date with their work on a regular basis.

7.4 Work alongside Cabinet Members to support them in their chosen interest and where appropriate on the Policy Task Group if it relates to their area of interest.

7.5 Contribute to good practice and the continuous improvement of services and functions related to the interest.

7.6 Engage with Members in matters related to their interest at the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet, Policy Task Group, Assembly and other meetings where appropriate.

7.7 With the approval of the Cabinet Member, raise the profile of their interest in the community including through local media with the support of the Council's Communications Team.

7.8 Monitor and work closely with partner bodies in the field of the interest.

7.9 Identify the most relevant community groups whose work is associated with their interest and foster good working relationships with those groups (as agreed with the Cabinet Member) be the Council's representative on relevant external bodies.



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## ASSEMBLY

29 January 2020

<b>Title:</b> Motions	
<b>Report of the Chief Executive</b>	
<b>Open Report</b>	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Wards Affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> No
<b>Report Author:</b> John Dawe, Democratic Services Officer	<b>Contact Details:</b> Tel: 020 8227 2135 E-mail: <a href="mailto:john.dawe@lbbd.gov.uk">john.dawe@lbbd.gov.uk</a>
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Fiona Taylor, Director of Law and Governance	
<b>Accountable Strategic Leadership Director:</b> Chris Naylor, Chief Executive	
<p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>In accordance with paragraph 10 of Part 2, Chapter 4 of the Council Constitution, motions and amendments to motions on issues directly affecting the borough may be submitted to the Assembly to be debated and voted on. For information, attached at <b>Appendix 1</b> is the relevant extract from the Council's Constitution relating to the procedure for dealing with Motions with Notice.</p> <p>Two motions have been received in accordance with the Council's procedure rules. These relate to the adoption of the All Parliamentary Party Group on British Muslims working definition of Islamophobia (<b>Appendix 2</b>) and the declaration of a 'Climate Emergency' (<b>Appendix 3</b>)</p> <p>The deadline for amendments to the motions was noon on Friday 24 January 2020.</p>	
<p><b>Recommendation(s)</b></p> <p>The Assembly is asked to debate and vote on the motions and any amendments proposed.</p>	

**Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:** None

**List of appendices:**

- **Appendix 1** – Extract from the Council Constitution, Paragraphs 10, 11 and 12 of Part 2, Chapter 4.
- **Appendix 2** – Adoption of All Parliamentary Party Group on British Muslims working definition of Islamophobia
- **Appendix 3** – Declaration of a 'Climate Emergency'

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## 10. Motions With Notice

- 10.1 Written notice of any motions must be received by the Chief Executive by no later than 4.00pm on the Wednesday two weeks before the meeting, except in respect of a vote of no confidence in the Leader of the Council for which the process in paragraph 13 applies.
- 10.2 A notice of motion must relate to a matter which affects the Council or its area and must relate to a matter in respect of which the Council has a relevant function. There is no limit on the number of motions that a Councillor may submit but the notice of motion must be submitted either by the Councillor who is proposing the motion or via the Group Secretary.
- 10.3 A notice of motion may be in more than one part and contain more than one recommendation, but must all relate to the same subject matter.
- 10.4 The Chief Executive may reject a notice of motion if, in his/her opinion:
  - (a) it is of a vexatious or derogatory nature or otherwise considered improper or inappropriate;
  - (b) is contrary to any provision of any code, protocol, legal requirement or rule of the Council;
  - (c) it does not relate to the business of the Council;
  - (d) is substantially the same as another motion already considered at the Assembly within the previous twelve months.
- 10.5 Where the Chief Executive rejects a notice of motion on any of the above grounds, he/she shall inform the Chair and the Councillor who submitted the notice of motion as soon as possible. Prior to determining whether to accept or reject a motion, the Chief Executive may seek clarification or propose alternative wording to the Councillor who submitted the motion.
- 10.6 In the event that the Councillor who is proposing the motion is not present at the Assembly meeting, the motion will be withdrawn.
- 10.7 Any motions withdrawn as indicated above, or withdrawn at the request of the Councillor who proposed the motion, either before or during the meeting, may not be resubmitted to the Assembly within a period of six months. This condition will be waived where the Councillor, or a colleague on their behalf, has notified the Chief Executive by 5.00 pm on the day of the meeting of their inability to attend due to their ill health or other reason accepted by the Chief Executive.
- 10.8 Motions will be listed on the agenda in the order in which they are received, save that:
  - (a) where two or more notices of motion are received from a particular Councillor for the same meeting, that Councillor's second notice of motion shall be included after all other Councillors' first notices of motion, that Councillor's third notice of motion shall be included after all other Councillors' second notices of motion, and so on.

- (b) where he/she considers that the notice of motion, statement or consideration of the notice of motion is likely to result in the disclosure of confidential or exempt information, in which case he/she may group such notices of motion together with other items of business which are, in his/her opinion, likely to involve the exclusion of press and public during their consideration.
- 10.9 Written notice of any amendments to motions must be received by the Chief Executive by no later than 12 noon on the Friday before the meeting. The same criteria and actions as described in paragraphs 10.2 - 10.8 will apply in relation to any amendments received.
- 10.10 Any amendments proposed after the time specified in paragraph 10.9 will only be considered for exceptional reasons such as a change in circumstances appertaining to the original motion, in which case the consent of the Chair will be required.
- 10.11 The Assembly shall not debate any motion which could give rise to a significant change to the income or expenditure of the Council or to contract terms unless, in the opinion of the Chief Executive acting on advice from the Chief Financial Officer and Director of Law and Governance as appropriate, the motion is accompanied by a report from the Chief Financial Officer or the Director of Law and Governance, as appropriate, setting out the financial or legal effect of the motion.
- 10.12 Where a motion which would require an accompanying report under Rule 10.11 falls to be moved without such accompanying report being made available to all Councillors, the motion shall stand adjourned without debate to the next available meeting of the Assembly.
- 10.13 Subject to Rule 10.14, if there are other motions or recommendations on the agenda that have not been dealt with by the close of the meeting, they are deemed formally moved and seconded and shall be put to the vote by the Chair without debate.
- 10.14 Where a notice of motion submitted under Rule 10 falls to be dealt with under Rule 10.13, the Councillor giving the notice may either:
  - (a) speak to the motion for not more than three minutes before the motion is put by the Chair without debate; or
  - (b) require that the motion is deferred to the next available meeting.

## **11. Motion to rescind a previous decision**

- 11.1 A motion or amendment to rescind, or which has the effect of rescinding, a decision made at a meeting of the Assembly within the past six months, may not be moved except upon a recommendation from the Cabinet for a variation of the approved Budget or Policy Framework, or where the Monitoring Officer confirms that it is appropriate for the Assembly to reconsider the matter to comply with law, as a result of a change of law or material change of circumstances.

## **12. Rules of Debate**

12.1 The following order / rules of debate shall apply:

- (a) Except with the Chair's consent, the debate on each motion shall last no longer than 10 minutes and no individual speech shall exceed two minutes.
- (b) The mover will move the motion and explain its purpose.
- (c) The Chair will invite another Councillor to second the motion.
- (d) If any amendment(s) has been accepted in accordance with paragraphs 10.9 or 10.10, the Chair will invite the relevant Councillor to move the amendment(s) and explain the purpose.
- (e) The Chair will invite another Councillor(s) to second the amendment(s).
- (f) The Chair will then invite Councillors to speak on the motion and any amendments.
- (g) Once all Councillors who wish to speak have done so, or the time limit has elapsed, the Chair will allow the mover(s) of the amendment(s) a right of reply followed by the mover of the original motion.
- (h) At the end of the debate, any amendments will be voted on in the order in which they were proposed.
- (i) If an amendment is carried, the motion as amended becomes the substantive motion to which any further amendments are moved and voted upon.
- (j) After an amendment has been carried, the Chair will read out the amended motion before accepting any further amendments, or if there are none, put it to the vote.
- (k) If all amendments are lost, a vote will be taken on the original motion.

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## Notice of Motion

### Councillor Ashraf has submitted the following Motion

#### **Adopt the All Parliamentary Party Group on British Muslims working definition of Islamophobia**

'This Council expresses alarm at the rise of Islamophobia in recent years across the UK, and around the world. In Barking and Dagenham alone, we have seen an increase of 15% in reports of Islamophobic hate crime since July 2018.<sup>1</sup>

This Council is committed to fighting Islamophobia in all its forms. We welcome the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on British Muslims' definition of Islamophobia, which has been backed by 750 Muslim organisations and institutions.

The APPG on British Muslims working definition of Islamophobia *includes the following examples in its' definition of Islamaphobia:*

"Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness."

Contemporary examples of Islamophobia in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in encounters between religions and non-religions in the public sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Calling for, aiding, instigating or justifying the killing or harming of Muslims in the name of a racist/fascist ideology, or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Muslims as such, or of Muslims as a collective group, such as, especially but not exclusively, conspiracies about Muslim entryism in politics, government or other societal institutions; the myth of Muslim identity having a unique propensity for terrorism, and claims of a demographic 'threat' posed by Muslims or of a 'Muslim takeover'.
- Accusing Muslims as a group of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Muslim person or group of Muslim individuals, or even for acts committed by non-Muslims.
- Accusing Muslims as a group, or Muslim majority states, of inventing or exaggerating Islamophobia, ethnic cleansing or genocide perpetrated against Muslims.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.met.police.uk/sd/stats-and-data/met/hate-crime-dashboard/>

- Accusing Muslim citizens of being more loyal to the 'Ummah' (transnational Muslim community) or to their countries of origin, or to the alleged priorities of Muslims worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying Muslim populations the right to self-determination e.g., by claiming that the existence of an independent Palestine or Kashmir is a terrorist endeavour.
- Applying double standards by requiring of Muslims behaviours that are not expected or demanded of any other groups in society, e.g. loyalty tests.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic Islamophobia (e.g. Muhammed being a paedophile, claims of Muslims spreading Islam by the sword or subjugating minority groups under their rule) to characterize Muslims as being 'sex groomers', inherently violent or incapable of living harmoniously in plural societies.

This Council hereby adopts the above definition of Islamophobia as set out by the APPG on British Muslims and will continue to engage with local Muslim community groups and organisations to combat this hatred. This Council calls on the government to follow suit and adopt the APPG definition, sending a clear message that any and all forms of Islamophobia will not be tolerated in our communities'.

## Notice of Motion

### Councillor Freeborn has submitted the following Motion

#### Declare a 'Climate Emergency'

'This Council notes:

- That a changing climate will have severe and enduring social, economic and environmental implications, and that tackling climate change is an issue of inequality as the greatest impact will be on the most vulnerable and those least able to protect themselves.
- That the 'Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C', published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in October 2018, (a) describes the enormous harm that a 2°C average rise in global temperatures is likely to cause compared with a 1.5°C rise, and (b) confirms that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society and the private sector.
- That strong policies to cut emissions also have associated health, wellbeing and economic benefits.

This Council further notes:

- Barking and Dagenham Council's existing work to tackle climate change, including committing to cutting our carbon footprint by 25% by 2025, launching Beam Energy to provide cheaper fuel tariffs with energy from 100% renewable sources and committing to ending single use plastic in the council.

This Council resolves to:

1. Pledge to do everything within its power to make B&D carbon neutral by 2030.
  - Launch a review to report on delivering a Zero-Carbon B&D including publishing a new B&D Action Plan on Climate Change, with an interim draft to be presented for scrutiny by Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.
  - Setting specific and measurable targets to reduce carbon emissions for the Council and for the borough as a whole, including costed milestones to zero-carbon;
  - Consider systematically the climate change impact of each area of the Council's activities;
  - Increase local resilience to climate impacts already in the system
2. Task the Director for Inclusive Growth with responsibility for reducing carbon emissions resulting from the Council's activities as rapidly as possible, and ensuring a coordinated approach across housing, our corporate estate, transport, regeneration, planning and other services.

3. Continue to prioritise support for vulnerable residents through Beam Energy, working with partners at a community, borough wide and regional level to provide advice services and access to funding for heating, insulation and ventilation.
4. Accelerate existing programmes to deliver reductions in greenhouse gas emissions including delivery of heat networks in the borough, low carbon development and high-quality housing, an efficient and low carbon corporate estate and support for renewables and for community energy.
5. Work with partner bodies across the borough and across London to ensure the climate emergency is adequately reflected in the development and implementation of all borough wide strategies and plans.
6. Reaffirm B&Ds membership of UK100 and use our membership to work with other councils across the UK to meet climate change targets.
7. Draw up a communications strategy to support delivery of a Zero-Carbon B&D and enable our residents to make low carbon choices.
8. Call on the UK Government to provide the powers and resources to make this possible'.