

## ASSEMBLY

25 January 2017

<b>Title:</b> Barking and Dagenham (BAD) Youth Forum and Young Mayor Annual Report 2016	
<b>Report of the Strategic Director – Service Delivery and Integration</b>	
<b>Open Report</b>	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Wards Affected:</b> None	<b>Key Decision:</b> No
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<b>Accountable Divisional Director:</b> Jane Hargreaves, Commissioning Director for Education	
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Anne Bristow, Strategic Director – Service Delivery and Integration.	
<b>Summary</b> <p>This report summarises the work and achievements of the Barking and Dagenham (BAD) Youth Forum and Young Mayor in 2016. The work of each individual sub-group is included, the report also details the campaigns and projects young people have participated in, the outcomes they have achieved and the impact this has had locally.</p> <p>The BAD Youth Forum exists to give young people in Barking and Dagenham the opportunity to find an appropriate platform to express their views and be listened to at a senior level. The BAD Youth Forum holds annual elections to democratically elect its membership. Young people from all secondary schools (age 13 and over) are given the opportunity to nominate themselves ahead of the election day, which is held on the same day in each school (January). In 2016 all secondary schools participated in the election day, with the exception of Trinity Special School, which arranges a selection process that is more suitable to the needs of their students.</p> <p>At the start of 2016 the Barking and Dagenham Young Mayor was elected from the BAD Youth Forum members. The Young Mayor, and the social action workload included in her role, integrated in to the BAD Youth Forum for the first time and became one of our three sub-groups. This ensured sufficient youth worker support for the Young Mayor as well as peer support for fundraising events and other activities.</p> <p>At the start of 2016, all 60 members came together to discuss what issues are pertinent to young people. The wider forum shared experiences, both positive and negative, of living, working or being educated in the borough and from this two sub-groups were formed. The forum felt that the issues most affecting young people in 2016 were mental health and sexual health. As a result, one sub-group has made an ‘infomercial’ about breaking down the stereotypes around mental health and raising awareness of how to access support, whilst the other sub-group has continued to be Young Inspectors (as in previous years). The fact that young people were identifying mental health as a priority</p>	

issue reflects a need as expressed by many young people for better CAMHS services, particularly at an earlier stage.

The Young Inspectors group have carried out a total of 130 inspections of pharmacies throughout the borough that offer the Come Correct condom distribution scheme. The borough's performance against the Come Correct condom distribution scheme has improved and is now best in London. The Young Inspectors have also continued their link with Trading Standards, participating in 'test purchases' of age restricted products.

The accompanying presentation slides are included in the report as Appendix 3.

### **Recommendation(s)**

The Assembly is recommended to note the Barking and Dagenham Youth Forum and Young Mayor Annual Report 2016 and to ensure support for its work.

### **Reason(s)**

The Barking and Dagenham Youth Forum acts as the council's youth parliament. 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.

## **1. Introduction and Background**

- 1.1 In January 2016 the BAD Youth Forum held its 15<sup>th</sup> annual elections, with three boys and three girls (13+) elected. The elections took place in each secondary school on the same day with support from Democratic Services. 60 young people were elected to the forum.
- 1.2 Shortly after being elected, all forum members were invited to participate in a team building day full of interactive and engaging activities to help young people settle in to their new role. Following this the young people also participated in a Full Forum meeting in Barking Town Hall Chambers and a session at the Vibe Youth Centre to elect the Young Mayor and other important forum roles e.g. Chair and Deputy Chair of the Forum.
- 1.3 Having established, through full forum discussions, that mental health is a significantly important issue for young people, the group began planning how they could have the greatest impact. The group wanted to raise awareness of the stigma that exists whilst trying to break it down, thus enabling young people to access the support they need without fear of discrimination or negative judgement. Some members of the group had personal experience of accessing mental health services and were able to give the group valuable insights in to the issues young people with mental health issues face locally.
- 1.4 The Young Mayor and the sub-group who worked alongside her were the first of its kind in Barking and Dagenham. In 2016 we integrated all of the responsibilities of the Young Mayor in to the BAD Youth Forum with great success. The Young Mayor and the BAD Youth Forum worked together to choose the Young Mayor's charity

appeal, which in 2016 was Richard House Children's Hospice. The group worked tirelessly throughout the year arranging fundraising events to generate as much money for the charity as possible whilst raising awareness of the charity itself. The group arranged 6 events raising a total of £1363.17. In addition to her weekly sessions and fundraising events, the Young Mayor, Pelumi Oyewo, attended a total of 15 events.

- 1.5 The Young Inspectors sub-group were commissioned by Public Health to carry out mystery shop inspections of local pharmacies and outlets that offer the Come Correct condom distribution scheme. The Young Inspectors were trained at the start of the year by experienced Young Inspectors and were mentored through their initial inspections. At the time of writing this report the Young Inspectors had completed a total of 130 inspections. For each inspection a full report is completed by the young person and the findings are fed back to the Condom Distribution officer for LBBB Public Health, who in turn shares it directly with the pharmacy or outlet, therefore ensuring continual impact on service delivery.
- 1.6 Throughout 2016 BAD Youth Forum members participated in three full forum meetings. Each meeting had a different theme or purpose. These included a meeting with Meena Kishinani, Programme Director, to discuss the A2020 programme, a trip to the Houses of Parliament to meet with local MP Jon Cruddas and a celebration event at the end of the forum year.
- 1.7 The forum members have participated in a wide range of one-off consultations throughout the year which have enabled young people to share their views, hear about changes to their local area, question local decision makers and have an impact on service delivery locally. This has included work on the development of the borough manifesto.

## 2. Proposal and Issues

### Sub-groups work outline

#### 2.1 Mental Health sub-group



- 2.1.1 The sub-group discussed topics at length to establish the issue they felt they could have the greatest impact on. The group discussed their life experiences and things

that have affected themselves and their peers and from this discussion found that they had all been affected by mental health issues.

- 2.1.2 During initial discussions, some young people identified difficulty in accessing services and the long waiting times once referred. But the most prominent issue that concerned young people is the stigma associated with young people who have a mental health condition.
- 2.1.3 Young people carried out a consultation in their schools and amongst friendship groups, asking for young people's views and general understanding of mental health. The group received over 250 responses. Following this, the group created ideas of how best to address the issue of discrimination and stigmatisation of young people based on their mental health condition. The group decided to make a short film to tackle the issue. From previous campaigns, the forum knew that it is difficult for schools to find the time to incorporate additional resources in to PSHE /Citizenship lessons, so therefore, the group made a video that can be played in all areas of the schools on TV screens, either silently or with sound.
- 2.1.4 The DVD was created and delivered to all secondary schools in the borough and a variety of council buildings. It will also be posted on Social Media sites, supported by the Leader of the Council. The DVD is a visual way of educating young people that people with mental health issues do not look or act in a certain way and that mental health conditions are not something to be ashamed or scared of. It encourages people to recognise mental health conditions in themselves or their peers and informs them of where to access help.
- 2.1.5 Throughout the year this sub-group have regularly met with Ronan Fox, Joint Commissioner for Barking and Dagenham Clinical Commissioning Group. This partnership has been beneficial to the young people's campaign and Ronan's work to improve Mental Health services for young people locally. Through this partnership Ronan has introduced the group to representatives from KOOTH, an online counselling service that aims to support young people who need help but do not necessarily need to access a counsellor face to face. Young people have had involvement in the consultation process looking at the accessibility of the online service and assessing its suitability for young people in Barking and Dagenham. Some young people have also accessed Integrated Youth Services' Peer Support Group, a youth provision for young people with moderate mental health issues that do not meet statutory thresholds, delivered by our Health Youth Workers.

## 2.2 Young Mayor



2.2.1 The Barking and Dagenham Young Mayor for 2016 was elected from the BAD Youth Forum in February. Three young women stood for election, Pelumi Oyewo was successful after giving a powerful speech to her peers.

2.2.2 After being elected Pelumi worked with the sub-group to research local charities that they could consider supporting. After careful consideration and a democratic vote the young people collectively decided to support Richard House Children's Hospice. This charity supports many families from Barking and Dagenham who have children and young people who have a life threatening or life limiting illness. The young people felt this is a special charity that they wanted to support.

2.2.3 Pelumi has worked successfully as part of a sub-group of the BAD Youth Forum to plan all of her events to raise money for Richard House. There have been a total of six events throughout the year which have engaged members of the public. The events have focussed on raising awareness of the charity as well as raising money. The events included:

- A cultural event held at the Vibe Youth Centre
- Non-uniform day at Southwood Primary School
- A toy tombola at Richard House Children's Hospice Summerfest event
- Several events at the Youth Parade, including a Young Mayor vs the Leader of the Council custard welly race!
- A bucket shake collection at Asda Dagenham
- A Halloween movie night

2.2.4 A total of £1363.17 has been raised from these six events, representing a 70% increase on the amount of money raised by the 2015 Young Mayor for her charity.

2.2.5 During her term as Young Mayor, Pelumi has attended 15 events representing and speaking on behalf of young people locally and, on one occasion, regionally. These events include:

- Mayor of London event, a reception to celebrate the importance of London's communities and the impact their contribution has

- Gender Equality Charter launch
- Women's Empowerment Month awards ceremony
- Barking and Dagenham's Got Talent
- Queens birthday celebration at the Civic Centre
- Annual ceremonial council
- Mayoral Civic Service
- Barking Folk Festival
- Northbury School Fete
- Two National Citizens Services events
- Richard House Children's Hospice Summerfest event
- Barking and Dagenham Youth Parade
- Arc Theatre event
- Remembrance Sunday service
- Subwize Alcohol Awareness Week event in Barking and Dagenham College

2.2.6 Throughout the year Pelumi has worked with the current and previous Mayors of Barking and Dagenham. These relationships have supported Pelumi to learn new skills and grow in confidence.

### 2.3 Young Inspectors



2.3.1 The Young Inspectors had 20 new members join at the beginning of the year. As in previous years, the Young Inspectors were commissioned by Public Health to inspect pharmacies which offer the Come Correct Condom Distribution scheme ('C-Card'). The Young Inspectors have focussed solely on these inspections this year which has dramatically increased the number of inspections we have been able to complete.

2.3.2 At the start of the year the young people participated in training which involved mystery shop inspections, report writing, learning how to accurately register someone for the Come Correct Condom distribution card and the wide range of information an inspector has to identify during an inspection. This training is essential to teach young people how to be an effective 'mystery shop' inspector, without the pharmacy knowing they are being inspected.

- 2.3.3 During the course of 2016 (until this report was completed mid November) a total of 130 inspections were completed by young people. A report for each of these inspections has been completed by the Young Inspectors and the feedback, both positive and negative, will have been fed back to every pharmacy on each occasion. This has been possible due to the effective link the Forum has with the borough's Condom Distribution Officer, who sits within Integrated Youth Services, who makes contact with every pharmacy following receipt of each inspection report.
- 2.3.4 Over the course of the year new pharmacies have joined the scheme, the Young Inspectors have inspected all 29 pharmacies on the programme at least once each. Anonymised examples of a positive and negative inspection have been included in appendix 1 and 2.
- 2.3.5 As a result of the effective link with the Condom Distribution Officer we have been able to clearly see the impact of the inspections on the quality of service pharmacies are offering young people. In some pharmacies we can evidence good progression. Others have always offered good service and we can evidence that they continue to do so. In a minority of cases some pharmacies offer a poor service which has not improved but we can evidence that this continues to be monitored and that the Condom Distribution Officer gives extra support to these pharmacies. The numbers of condoms distributed under the C-Card programme has risen by 95% between Quarter 2 2015 and Quarter 2 2016 to 15,975 in that quarter, and we are now the best performing borough in London.
- 2.3.6 In addition to the C-Card quality assurance inspections, young people have worked in partnership with Trading Standards to conduct 'Test Purchases' of age related products, such as, knives, alcohol and cigarettes. Young people have made many purchases in shops throughout the borough which Trading Standards follow up with a warning or, as in one case this year, prosecution.

## 2.4 Consultations

- 2.4.1 Throughout 2016 the BAD Youth Forum have participated in a number of one-off consultations. These include:
- A2020 consultation with Meena Kishinani, Programme Director. This consultation gave young people the opportunity to listen to the Ambition 2020 plans and give feedback about how they felt this would positively and negatively affect young people in Barking and Dagenham. The young people asked a number of assertive and thought provoking questions which were formally fed in to the consultation process carried out borough wide.
  - Young people met with the borough's Confidence and Faith Police Officer, sharing their views about local policing and what they felt could be improved. Young people were able to discuss personal experiences, as well as those of their peers. This honest insight was greatly received and will be used to inform future decision making about local priorities. Also from this consultation, young people were educated about local crime issues, how safe the borough is and how to access the police force locally should they need to.
  - Young people participated in a consultation with Holly Baine, Project Manager responsible for Implementing the Review of Child Sexual Assault Services for London. This project is commissioned by NHS England and is

tasked to create a 'Child House' which is an all encompassing service that children and young people, who are the victims of sexual abuse, can access for support in emergency situations. The project manager asked young people for their views of what a 'Child House' should look and feel like and what should be on offer to young people who access the services. All views were documented and will be combined with the views from children and young people all over London to design and build the Child House in the next two years.

- Mick McManus, Alcohol Co-ordinator for the Barking and Dagenham Substance Misuse Strategy Team, consulted with young people about the effectiveness of alcohol awareness messages delivered to young people locally. Young people were asked how effective the messages are, where and how they receive the messages and how these messages could be more effective. Young people gave very honest feedback which Mick took away to commissioners and programme managers to help shape future alcohol awareness programmes locally.
- Young people were consulted about the Borough Manifesto, not only looking at their views but also to create the original consultation form that people across the borough were asked to complete. Young people adapted the consultation to ensure it was fit for purpose and captured the most important information effectively.
- Erik Stein, Group Manager for Integrated Youth Services, led a consultation session asking young people to review the Local Safeguarding Children's Board priorities and plan for this year. Young people prioritised each area of the plan and this was fed back directly to the chair of the LSCB.

## 2.5 Children's Services Select Committee

2.5.1 The Chair and Deputy Chair of the forum have attended all Children's Services Select Committee meetings throughout the year and have actively participated in the current work plan focussed on adoption. Young people have scrutinised and challenged views and practices during the meetings, ensuring their voices are heard. Young people have gained skills in speaking in formal meetings and have a deeper understanding of the value of their role on a committee and how their views and opinions can benefit themselves and other young people in Barking and Dagenham.

2.6 Other events and meetings the BAD Youth Forum have participated in.





- The young people were tasked by the council's Marketing and Communications team to devise a Youth Newsletter consultation. The young people consulted with their peers and shared the results. This feedback will be used to create a borough wide newsletter for young people, focussing on what is important to young people.
- The Monday sub-group consulted other young people for their views about PSHE and Citizenship lessons in schools. At the start of the forum year many young people expressed frustration about the National Curriculum requiring schools to 'teach to the test'. Young people feel the curriculum and the GCSE exams are so rigid that there is not time to teach young people other important life skills. Young people cited examples of things they have learnt in order to pass their GCSE exams that they feel they will never use again. However, almost all of the young people had no idea about mortgages, managing finances and living independently. Some young people felt concerned about the lack of effective healthy relationship and sexual health content in secondary school curriculum for some schools. Having discussed what topics they feel are missing the group wrote to each school asking for information about the content of their PSHE curriculum. One response from Eastbrook School indicated that their Chair of Governors will look at their curriculum with a view to adapting it to include additional topics the young people suggested for Key Stage 4 and sixth form.
- Two young people represented the forum on the '25% Steering Group' board. This is a regional meeting set up for young people to express their views about what they feel should be included in the new Mayor of London's list of priorities in relation to young people. Two young people attended meetings and shared their views.
- Young people were actively involved in the Borough Manifesto film, giving their views about the borough now and where they would like to see it in 5, 10 and 20 years time.
- Nine BAD Youth Forum representatives participated in the borough's National Takeover Day. The young people 'took over' the LSCB meeting, planning a range of activities that were designed to educate the board about young people's experiences and what the young people think the board should consider when creating policies and making decisions locally that will affect young people's lives.
- Young people participated in a trip to the Houses of Parliament, hosted by Jon Cruddas MP. The young people enjoyed a tour of the Houses of Parliament followed by a meeting with their MP. Young people had pre-arranged a list of questions for their MP ranging from Brexit and how this will affect the borough, to local plans, in particular Ambition 2020, and what the MP's views are about the direction the borough is headed in. Young people had a very enjoyable and educational experience.
- Two representatives have attended the Public Transport Liaison Group giving their views about transport services locally.
- Young people have attended two Patient Engagement Forum meetings arranged by the CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group), feeding back the health projects they have been working on and their achievements throughout the year, as well as contributing their views.
- One representative attended a Chief Officers Group meeting hosted by the Youth Offending Service, looking at out of court disposal orders and whether the right decision has been made.

- Twenty young people attended the borough's Youth Parade, celebrating local young people and their achievements, as well as raising funds for the Young Mayor's charity appeal.
- Throughout the year young people have met regularly with the Leader of the Council. These meetings have been held during regular BAD Youth Forum sessions and have given young people the opportunity to regularly update the Leader about their achievements to date and also explore ideas moving forward. The young people have greatly appreciated their time with the Leader this year and feel it has benefitted their work.
- The Monday sub-group volunteered in a food bank in Barking for a morning in order to support the local community and volunteer their services.

## 2.7 Forward plan

At the start of every BAD Youth Forum year (January) young people devise a thorough plan that aims to address issues young people face locally, that will have an impact and benefit young people in Barking and Dagenham. Although the specific work plans will be decided once the new forum is elected and inducted, there are a number of priorities the forum will consider, these include:

- Continue close links with Condom Distribution Officer to ensure good quality assurance procedures are in place for the C-Card scheme to further support the council's work to reduce Teenage Pregnancy rates.
- If commissioned, we will continue to inspect pharmacies offering the c-card scheme and reporting about the effectiveness of their services.
- Build on the success of the Young Mayor's achievements this year to ensure we have another successful year in 2017, where their work is fully integrated into a social action sub-group.
- Ensure our campaigns and work plans contribute to the boroughs priorities of encouraging civic pride, enabling social responsibility and growing the borough.

### 3. Financial Issues - completed by Daksha Chauhan, Group Accountant, Childrens Finance

3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

### 4. Legal Issues – completed by Lucinda Bell, Education Lawyer

4.1 This report asks that the Assembly notes its contents and continues to support the Forum. No decision is required. There are no further legal comments.

### 5. Other Issues

#### 5.1 Corporate Policy and Customer Impact

The Barking and Dagenham Youth Forum and Young Mayor programmes have a direct impact on two of the three Council priorities. These are; encouraging civic pride and enabling social responsibility. All of the work that the BAD Youth Forum and Young Mayor carries out, is with an aim to improve the borough for the benefit of young people locally. The young people volunteer vast amounts of time

throughout their term to ensure they have an impact locally. This in itself is enabling social responsibility and having civic pride.

The young people extend opportunities to other young people throughout the year through consultations which enable them to have their say and have an impact on local services and decision making. The work of the Young Mayor, in particular raising awareness of, and funds for, the Young Mayor's charity appeal, is a positive example of social responsibility. Young people take on these roles to enhance their lives and those of others locally.

The work of the Forum plays an important role in the borough's transformation plans and the borough manifesto going forward.

## **5.2 Safeguarding Children**

The young people have participated in a number of consultations and meetings directly relating to safeguarding. These include the National Takeover Day of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board focussing on safeguarding issues related to young people, consultations with a local police officer and representatives sitting on each Children's Services Select Committee meeting, which is reviewing adoption practice. In addition, the Forum's campaign around improving awareness of and access to mental health services is in support of the borough's duty to keep children and young people safe. Many specific consultations also relate to Safeguarding issues, which can be seen in detail in point 2.4.1.

## **5.3 Health Issues**

During 2016 two of the forum sub-groups had a health focus, the Mental Health sub-group and the Young Inspectors. The Mental Health sub-group have created a resource that can be used in any setting that has a TV screen. The short film addresses the issue of mental health which affects a significant number of young people and seeks to raise awareness of where to access help. This valuable tool is available to any setting young people may use within the borough.

With regards to the Young Inspectors, they continue to address the issue of good quality condom distribution in the borough. Through well planned inspections and detailed reports relevant commissioners are able to see the quality of services available for young people. The Young Inspectors reports map out good provision, improving provision and those that are still in need of improvement. This enables the Condom Distribution Officer to effectively equip staff at these outlets with the required training and resources to ensure the services maintain a high standard. Teenage pregnancy figures continue to decline at a faster rate than national, and there is a correlation between this as the work of the Young Inspectors.

## **5.4 Crime and Disorder Issues**

Whilst crime has not been a focus for the Forum this year, we continue to maintain close links with the Police. The role of the Young Mayor and active participation in community events such as the Youth Parade, contribute to providing positive role models for young people, as well as a community that is cohesive and working together for the greater good.

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

**List of appendices:**

Appendix 1 - Exemplar positive pharmacy inspection

Appendix 2 - Exemplar negative pharmacy inspection

Appendix 3 – BAD Youth Forum annual report presentation slides