

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

Community Action sub- group 2019



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".



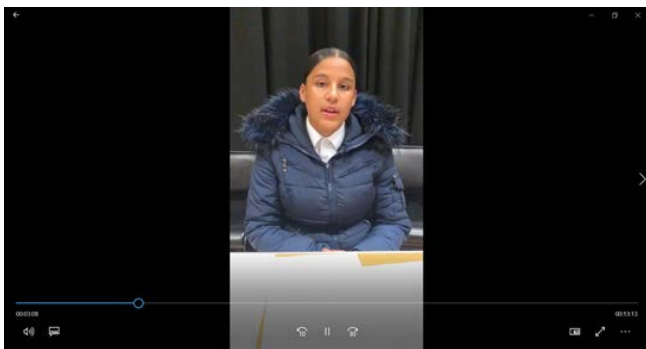
Dagenham and Redbridge Football Club

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.

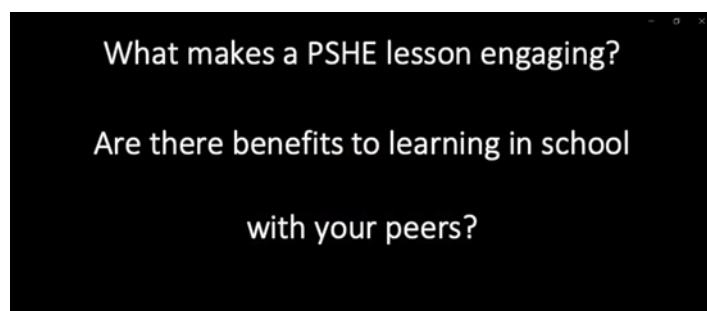
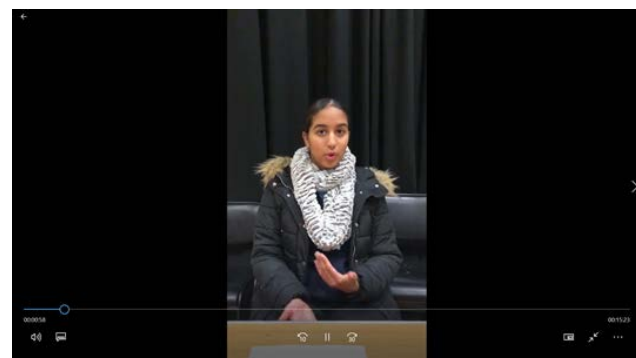
Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education curriculum

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

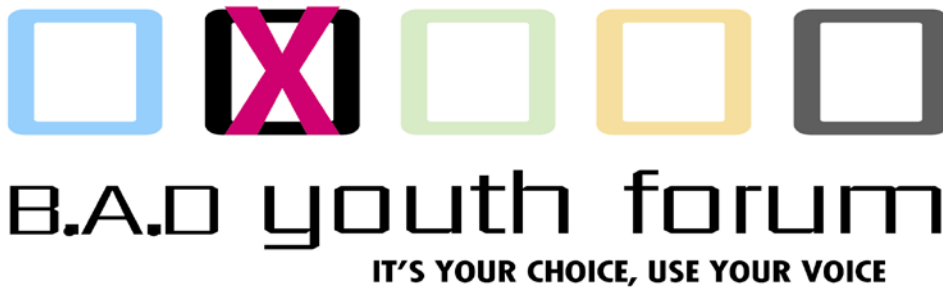
Young people engaged in two sessions with the team manager for Subwize, Young People's Drug and Alcohol Service. The sessions were aimed at educating young people about the use of drugs and alcohol, the possible consequences and how to stay safe. The workers created a safe environment which ensured young 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 5th 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



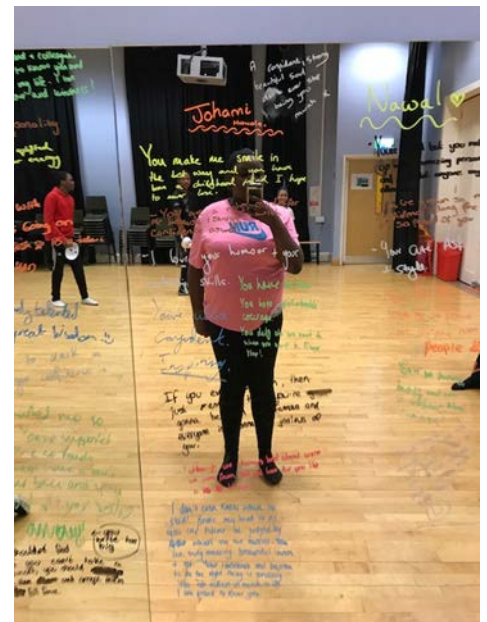
An hour's silence



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



B.A.D youth forum
IT'S YOUR CHOICE, USE YOUR VOICE

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,

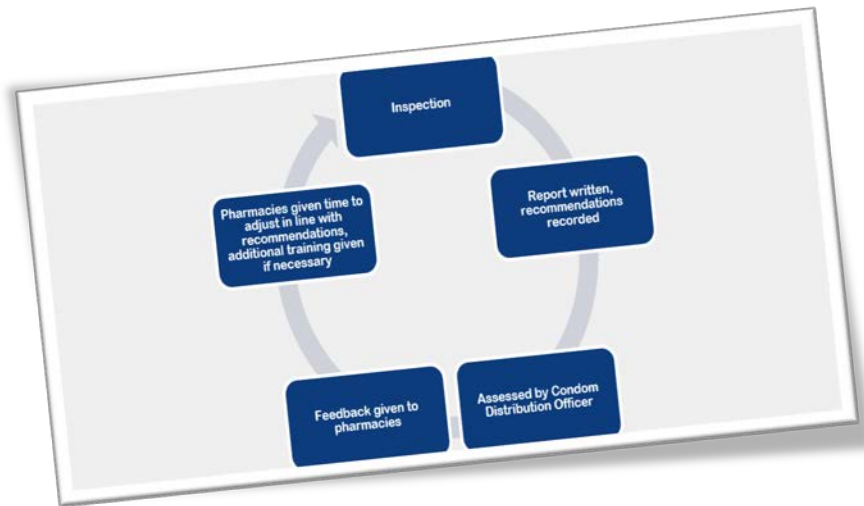
clinics where young people can be tested, time frame for the use of Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) and whether the young person is informed that the service is confidential.

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.

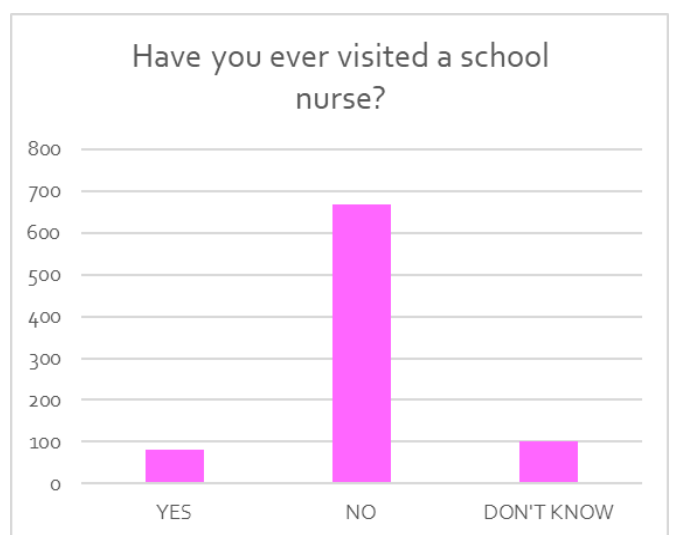
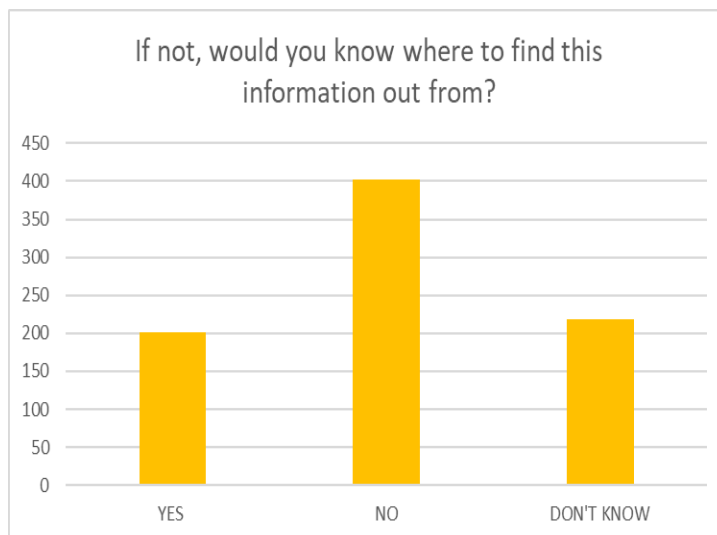
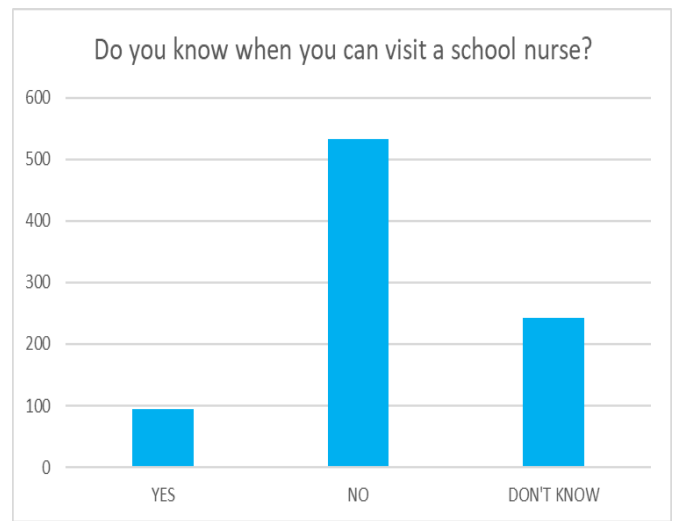
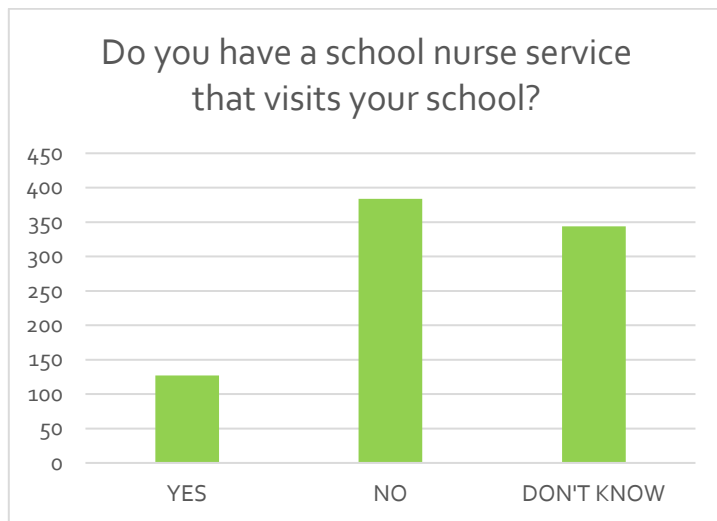


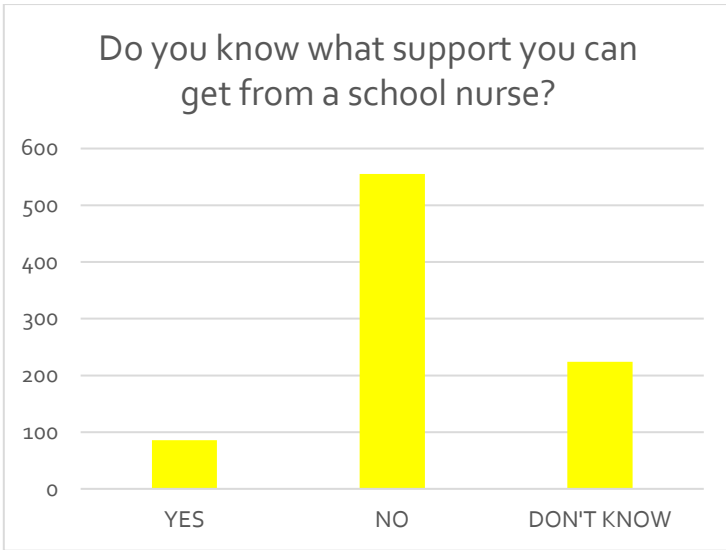
There is an apparent correlation between the work of the Young Inspectors and teenage pregnancy figures. Our most recent Teenage Pregnancy figures (Q3 2018) are 17.9 conceptions per 100 women under the age of 18. This is the second lowest quarterly rate the borough has ever had, 28.7% lower than the 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.