

ASSEMBLY

27 January 2021

Title: Barking and Dagenham (BAD) Youth Forum and Young Mayor Annual Report 2020	
Report of the Director for People and Resilience	
Open Report	For Decision
Wards Affected: None	Key Decision: No
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Accountable Director: Jane Hargreaves, Commissioning Director, Education	
Accountable Strategic Leadership Director: Elaine Allegretti, Director for People and Resilience	
Summary	
<p>This report highlights the achievements and outcomes of the Barking and Dagenham Youth Forum in 2020. 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 19th 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 secondary schools, supported by Democratic Services.</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 Community Action sub-group enables young people to work on topical and relevant campaigns and projects that will have a positive impact on the borough's youth. In 2020 young people focussed on domestic abuse and the negative impact this has on young people. With the pandemic and lockdown situation young people felt very strongly that this was an issue they needed to raise awareness about and support other young people to recognise and understand the signs, as well signposting to support services.</p>	
<p>The Young Mayor sub-group worked closely with the borough's Young Mayor to support her efforts to raise funds for Refuge, Domestic Abuse charity. The group were keen to make a positive impact in terms of donations as well as raising awareness of the charity. Throughout lockdown the young people were very creative with their fundraising ideas.</p>	

The **Young Inspectors sub-group** were unable to operate as they normally would, conducting inspections of various health services. Instead they worked in partnership with Havering and Redbridge to create a lockdown survey to gather young people's views, Held discussions about the Black Lives Matters movement and initiated a piece of work focussed on mental health in response to the lockdown survey results.

The Forum adapted well during lockdown and the significant changes everyone experienced, please see attached report with full details of the Forum's work and their achievements.

1. Introduction and Background

1.1 Please refer to main report.

2. Proposal and Issues

2.1 Please refer to 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. Please refer to 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 Corporate Policy and Equality Impact

7.1.1 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.

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

List of appendices:

- Appendix 1 – BADYF Overview 2020
- Appendix 2 – Community Action Sub-Group
- Appendix 3 – Young Mayor Sub-Group
- Appendix 4 – Young Inspectors Sub-Group
- Appendix 5 – Additional Forum Events