

# Overview 2020



## 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 2020, 65 young people were democratically elected representing each secondary school. 6 young people were elected from 10 of the 13 secondary schools, including youth groups. Members must be aged between 13 and 19 years, or up to 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 their annual Full Forum meeting in Barking Town Hall, introducing new members to how the council works and what the role of the Forum is. Democratic Services attended the meeting and delivered a presentation about local, regional and national politics and how the Forum contributes to decision making.

The newly elected young people discussed current local youth issues as potential

campaigns/projects. Topics included: mental health, domestic abuse, environment and crime.

Councillor Bankole kindly attended, and after an election process the new Young Mayor Jessica Soares Paim was elected, announced by the Councillor.



First Full Forum meeting photo  
(February 2020)

## 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.



## Election of the 2020 Young Mayor

During the BAD Youth Forum's first AGM the borough's new Young Mayor was elected. Six young people stood for election, the vote was very close on the night. Councillor Bankole kindly announced the winner- Jessica Soares Paim who was a clear favourite amongst her peers.

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

