

# Additional Forum activities 2020



## Engagement and Participation

In addition to each of the sub-groups' projects and achievements, Forum members also had the opportunity to be involved in other pieces of work too.

This included:

- A range of consultations (detailed on the next page)
- Attending formal meetings (virtually)
- Celebrating our black young people and the contribution they have made to the borough as part of Black History Month
- Attending London Youth Assembly meetings
- Participating in activity sessions to promote positive wellbeing

# Consultations

As with other years, the Forum were approached to participate in a range of consultations throughout the year, sharing their personal opinions and helping to shape services/decisions.

In 2020, the list of consultations included:

- **Domestic Abuse Commission**- Amelia Grant from the Commission spoke to young people about their perceptions of domestic abuse and the normalisation of harming a partner, as well as controlling them. Young people shared their views and experiences which helped to shape the community engagement response which will be included in the commission report.
- With **C-Card condom distribution service** in the borough offering online registrations young people were consulted about how to share the message of this new aspect of the service being available. The group approved an automated e-mail that will be sent out to everyone who registers online and discussed the possibility of condoms being sent direct to home addresses. This helped the service lead to make decisions about the most appropriate way forward for the service and ensure young people's views were at the heart of the service.
- **Fearless** consulted with Forum members about a new campaign on Snapchat and Instagram they will be running focussed on grooming, county lines and anonymous reporting. The young people gave honest feedback about the images Fearless were using and the wording on the posters, ensuring they are age appropriate and engaging.
- **NCS (National Citizen's Service)** met with the young people and posed the following question: *given the impact of the global pandemic on education, employment and training for young people, what are the keys skills and career opportunities that you think young people in your area need better access to?* Young people discussed volunteering opportunities and how they felt NCS could shape their projects going forward to suit the current restrictions.
- Having previously consulted with the Forum, colleagues working on the **Lost Hours campaign** returned to the group to showcase a series of posters asking for their views about whether the messages are conveyed accurately and if they are impactful and effective. Young people explored the positive and negative aspects of the posters and helped colleagues to adapt them.
- Young people were asked to discuss the **Becontree Centenary project** and share their views, this was part of a wider consultation in the community.
- **Transport consultation**- as plans to cut free travel for young people from November onwards were announced, young people were offered the opportunity to share their views along with information about how the lack of free travel would affect them. These views were added to other young people's views from all over London and shared with the

Mayor of London/Government in a bid to save young people's free travel. Three quotes were used from BAD Youth Forum members in a report from TravelWatch (London's transport watchdog) sent to London MP's. In October 2020 it was announced that the plans to scrap free travel for under 18s had been cancelled.

- **LivShare**- young people in the Forum were consulted about a new kind of housing they are planning for young people, this will be for care leavers, students and other young people who need accommodation. Young people shared their views about the style of the housing, what they would need to feel safe living there, thoughts about shared and private spaces and generally what home should feel like for young people. The group will have the chance to review the architects plans early next year.

## Youth Independent Advisory Group meeting

In June, Forum members participated in a Youth Independent Advisory Group meeting, these meetings are an opportunity for young people to meet with Police to discuss issues relating to crime. The agenda is set by young people and the meeting is chaired by the BAD Youth Forum chair Johami Mutuale. The BCU commander, Detective Chief Superintendent Steve Clayman attended the meeting and agreed to answer a series of questions the young people had planned. Here are some examples of the topics discussed at the meeting:

- Stop and search data
- Gangs
- Street crime data and how lockdown has affected crime statistics
- Police improving/rebuilding relationships with ethnic minorities
- Most common crimes committed by under 18's
- Knife crime
- County lines
- Early intervention services
- Rise in crime post lockdown
- Diversity in the local police force

As a result of the discussions Cllr Mullane met with the London Youth Assembly member, Aker and at a later date with the Young Mayor and the Leader of the Council to discuss some of the issues that arose from the meeting.

## **BAD Youth Forum Chair**

Johami Mutuale, was elected the Chair of the BAD Youth Forum 2020. Johami is an experienced Chair and brings a wealth of knowledge as well confidence to attend formal meetings and share the views of young people in the borough. Despite lockdown, this year was no different! Johami continued to attend Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings (via MS Teams) and champion the views of young people. Johami enjoys these opportunities and the committee appreciates her honesty and thoughtful responses.



In addition to the OSC, Johami has committed to attend Safer Neighbourhood Board meetings. This includes both the 'open' and 'closed' meetings. As a new member Johami has attended 1 meeting so far but is looking forward to future participation.

## **London Youth Assembly (GLA)**



Aker Okoye was the representative for Barking and Dagenham 19-20 and was elected Vice Chair by his LYA peers. The number of meetings this year were reduced as a result of

lockdown and the time it took to move meetings to online, but there has been 2 meetings since lockdown began.

The LYA continued to focus on mental health and crime issues relating to young people in London. Due to restricted number of meetings, unfortunately plans did not progress as expected.

We now have 2 new representatives from the Forum sitting on the LYA, they are Fiona Eagleson and Millie Kiseke. They will be attending their first meeting in November.