

ASSEMBLY

26 January 2022

Title: BAD Youth Forum Annual Report 2021	
Report of the Commissioning Director, Education	
Open Report	For Information
Wards Affected: None	Key Decision: No
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Accountable Director: Jane Hargreaves, Commissioning Director, Education	
Accountable Strategic Leadership Director: Elaine Allegretti, Strategic Director, Children and Adults	
Summary	
<p>This report highlights the achievements and outcomes of the Barking and Dagenham Youth Forum in 2021. Outlining the work of each of the sub-groups, their aims and the impact of the work completed.</p>	
<p>The start of the Forum year in 2021 was very different to any other year. The country was once again in lockdown and schools were closed. Online nominations had been carried out via the One Borough Voice platform. The Forum had created a promotional video to attract new members which had been supplied to every secondary school in the borough, but it was challenging to recruit a whole new Forum. As a result of our efforts 15 new young people joined the Forum and all active members from 2020 remained members for another year.</p>	
<p>Despite being in a lockdown, we had grown used to online sessions and still offered young people the opportunity to participate in a first Full Forum virtual meeting, as well as a mental health session and a sub-group decider session. During the sub-group decider session, a Chair and Deputy Chair was elected along with our Young Mayor. Attendance at these online meetings was good, with a minimum of 30 young people attending each. Face to face meetings resumed in August 2021.</p>	
<p>The Community Action sub-group worked on a range of projects this year. These included working in partnership with Be First to create spray painted hoardings for a building project in Dagenham, a project about local parks and their facilities and health related projects.</p>	
<p>The Young Mayor sub-group committed to fundraising for Refuge domestic abuse charity once again in 2021. With the easing of restrictions young people have been enthusiastically involved in fundraising events, as well as raising awareness of the issue, particularly amongst other young people.</p>	

The **Young Inspectors sub-group** was on hold for much of the year due to demands on pharmacy services and the need for a duty of care to ensure young people were not put in unsafe situations. When it was possible, young people were trained to become Young Inspectors and commenced inspections of the Come Correct condom distribution service. Despite the late start, the inspectors are having a big impact on assessing how well pharmacies are performing and ensuring the standard of service is maintained.

Recommendation

The Assembly is asked to note the BAD Youth Forum Annual Report for 2021, as set out at Appendix A to the report.

1. Financial Implications

Implications completed by: Kofi Adu – Group Finance Manager

- 1.1 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.

2. Legal Implications

Implications completed by: Lindsey Marks – Deputy Head of Law

- 2.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

3. Corporate Policy and Equality Impact Implications

- 3.1. 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.
- 3.2 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 A – BAD Youth Forum Annual Report 2021