

THE ASSEMBLY

4 FEBRUARY 2004

REPORT OF THE B.A.D. YOUTH FORUM

UPDATE REPORT	FOR INFORMATION	
<p><i>This is the regular report on the work of the B.A.D. Youth Forum submitted under Article 2, paragraph 9.2 of the Constitution.</i></p> <p>Summary</p> <p>The report summarises the activities of the meeting of the Youth Forum held in December 2003. The main points arising are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Terms of reference• Work of the sub-groups• LGC Local Government Awards• Events programme• Connexions UK• Future meeting		
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1 Introduction

Following the inaugural meeting of 2003/04 B.A.D. Youth Forum, the group came together on 11 December 2003.

Notwithstanding the time of the year attendance was quite poor, an issue that will be taken up by the Youth and Development Service with absent Forum members. As a result the proposed hustings for Chair of the Forum have been held over until the next meeting.

2 Terms of Reference

At the inaugural meeting of the Forum the young people accepted the need for ground rules so that everybody would feel comfortable participating,

particularly as the Forum is a new learning experience for many young people. The ground rules as reported have now been incorporated as part of the terms of reference governing the way the Forum operates.

3 Sub-groups

The outcomes of the various meetings of the sub-groups set up under the Forum are reported as a regular item. It was noted that as a result of the resignation of a youth worker coupled with the fact that a temporary member of staff left at the end of the year, this has had an effect in terms of the level of support the sub-groups can reasonably expect at the present time. The vacant post of youth worker supporting the Forum has since been advertised.

➤ Crime and safety

The meeting discussed how both parks and buses could be made more safe for young people as well as issues around stop and search rights.

➤ Education

Issues discussed included PSE improvements, teacher/pupil respect, careers advice, a need for water fountains in schools, better bike security, more football/rugby pitches and also that canteen food could be improved.

Meetings of the other sub-groups including Youth facilities, social services and health were planned to be held in January and will be the subject of further reports.

A number of the young people want to see more Sub-Group meetings. However in view of the mentioned staff shortages proposals are being given to organizing a once a week drop in at the Beacon Centre to enable Forum members to do follow up work rather than having to rely solely on the support of youth workers.

4 LGC Local Government Awards

As part of the LGC Local Government Awards the Council made a submission on behalf of the B.A.D. Youth Forum under the heading of Local Democracy Initiative of the Year. Unfortunately the submission has not been shortlisted.

5 Events Programme

The Events Manager from the Leisure and Environmental Services Department outlined the work of the Events Section including information about the main events organized.

A business plan of events is being drawn up for the next three years which has been subject to wide-ranging consultations with different groups including the Youth Forum.

The aim is that the plan currently in production will reflect the views of young people. The proviso was made however that any new events will be subject to available funding.

Having opened up the issue to the floor a number of ideas were suggested from young people including:

- Something around the River Roding to highlight Barking's history as a fishing fleet such as a fun day and a boat race
- More young orientated music shows like that organized at last year's Town Show
- School talent shows
- Dramatic arts
- Karaoke
- Bring back the Carnival in Barking or alternatively extend the Dagenham Carnival across the Borough
- Mini-marathon
- Charity netball matches

The Events Manager agreed to take up the various ideas including speaking to such groups as the carnival organizers and those involved with the Road Race Committee.

It was agreed by the Forum that it would be useful to stay in touch with the Events Team and to that end the Manager will be invited to attend future

6 Connexions UK

The role of Connexions UK was outlined for the Forum's benefit in relation particularly to issues of inclusion through getting more young people involved in shaping services. A subsequent meeting has been arranged with the Youth and Development Service with a view to arranging for representation on the UK Connexions Board. A number of young people have put their names forward.

7 Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Forum is due to be held on 19 February 2004, provisionally at the House of Commons to be hosted by Jon Cruddas, MP.