

THE ASSEMBLY

1 FEBRUARY 2006

REPORT OF THE BAD YOUTH FORUM

Title: Report of the BAD Youth Forum		For Information
Summary: This is the regular report on the work of the BAD Youth Forum and summarises the activities of the meeting of the Youth Forum held in December 2005. The main points arising are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updates from Sub-Groups• Local Development Framework (LDF)<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Issues and Options Papers○ Statement of Community Involvement• Olympic Games 2012• BAD Youth Forum website• Visit to the House of Commons		
Wards Affected: None		
Contact Officer: Julie Willing	Title: Democratic and Electoral Services Officer	Contact Details: Tel: 020 8227 2119 Fax: 020 8227 2171 E-mail: julie.willing@lbbd.gov.uk

1. Background and Purpose of the Forum

- 1.1 The BAD Youth Forum was set up in recognition of the importance of giving young people a say about the community they live in. The Forum is made up on the basis of representing all young people in Barking and Dagenham and they are encouraged to listen to what their friends say and be their voice as through them young people can have a direct link to the decision makers of the Borough.

2. Update from sub-groups

2.1 Equalities

This group was formed to challenge discrimination and celebrate diversity and has:

- Researched different types of discrimination and discussed what they consider the most common forms amongst young people in the Borough, homophobia and racism. The group will look to find out why this is happening and how it can be tackled;
- Participated in a self-expression exercise to create a strong bond within their group;
- Participated in a formal debate around sexual discrimination, in particular violence against women;

- Attended the 'Young Londoners Launch Event', at which Ken Livingston chaired a question and answer session with young people from all over London; and
- Participated in a crime and safety intergenerational meeting to try to build bridges between the generations

Future plans of work include:

- Producing a film to promote equalities and challenge discrimination, and
- Organising a multicultural event to attack discrimination and celebrate diversity – It is hoped that this event will be a showcase of talent in the borough with equality being the theme.

2.2 Health and environment

The group has looked at:

- Smoking awareness and how it can affect young people. The group will invite someone to come and talk to them about young people smoking.
- How young people can get involved in the Olympics in Barking and Dagenham and in sport in general

The group plans to:

- Participate in a sexual health workshop
- Look at the issue of littering and how to promote recycling

2.3 Crime and Safety

The group has revised the crime and safety questionnaire used by the Forum in 2004/05. This will be circulated to all schools and as many youth groups as possible to complete. The findings will be presented to Borough Commander Robin Hopes (Metropolitan Police) and the Forum will look at ways to combat some of the problems for young people in Barking and Dagenham.

The group will be meeting with the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator to talk about problems in the Borough.

2.4 Education

The group has discussed:

- Sex education – how it is taught and the merits of delivering sessions in Year 6
- School dinners – healthy eating/food options
- School Councils – encouraging young people to be part of their School Council and closer links with the Youth Forum and School Councils and teachers
- Building relationships with teaching staff and pupils

2.5 Youth Support Management Team (YSMT)

The group has been looking to create a logo to be awarded to voluntary organisations approved by young people. The group has also participated in team building exercises and is preparing a presentation for the Young People's Worker Forum at the end of January.

3. Local Development Framework (LDF)

- 3.1 The new LDF will guide the future development and use of land in the Borough and will cover everything from social and economic regeneration and environmental protection to housing and transport improvements. Issues and Option papers are the first step in preparing new plans and set out what sort of things should be thought about, such as sustainability, when considering any development. Young people were invited to get involved in the consultation process.
- 3.2 The LDF includes a Statement of Community Involvement that will set out how and when the Council will engage the community on planning issues. Having previously consulted the young people a representative from Groundwork East London informed that a draft Statement of Community Involvement had now been drawn up and that this took on board views about how to consult young people about how their local area should be developed over the next 10 years.

4. Olympic Games 2012

- 4.1 The young people received a brief overview of the 2012 Olympics and the potential possibilities of how the youth of the Borough could be involved, mainly:
1. Using the Olympics as a way to set personal goals to strive to achieve better results either through sport or in class work.
 2. If interested in volunteering for the Games, making sure that the information is available so that young people know how to do it.
- 4.2 The Olympics will now be a regular agenda item and a Forum representative has been invited to sit on a Borough-wide Olympic Forum so that the views of the youths will be heard.

5. BAD Youth Forum website

- 5.1 The Forum's website has been reviewed and will be updated taking on board the young people's suggestions to improve the site wherever possible.

6. Intergenerational Project

- 6.1 Young people had attended an Intergenerational Session in December 2005. Their views will be fed back to the meeting through evaluation forms.

7. House of Commons

- 7.1 Jon Cruddas, MP will host the next meeting of the Forum at the House of Commons.

Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:

- Minutes of the BAD Youth Forum meeting held on 21 December 2005