

## ASSEMBLY

30 January 2019

<b>Title:</b> Barking and Dagenham Youth Forum and Young Mayor Annual Report 2018	
<b>Report of the Director for People and Resilience</b>	
<b>Open Report</b>	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Wards Affected:</b> None	<b>Key Decision:</b> No
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<b>Accountable Director:</b> Jane Hargreaves, Commissioning Director, Education	
<b>Accountable Strategic Leadership Director:</b> Elaine Allegretti, Director for People and Resilience	
<b>Summary</b>	
<p>This report details the achievements of the Barking and Dagenham Youth Forum during 2018. Outlining the work of each of the sub-groups, their aims and the impact of the work have completed.</p>	
<p>The Barking and Dagenham Youth Forum is now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year. It exists to provide young people with a formal platform to express their views and be ambassadors for young people locally. The Forum elects 60 young people each year through a democratic election process in each school, supported by Democratic Services. In 2018 ELUTEC opted to become members of the Forum, electing their first ever representatives. Trinity Special School elected new representatives this year, via an internal election process suitable to the needs of students.</p>	
<p>The Forum year started with a team building evening, enabling new members to get to know each other along with a Full Forum meeting in Barking Town Hall Chambers. Each year, the Forum splits in to three sub-groups focussing on different campaigns.</p>	
<p>Our Community Action sub-group opted to work on a range of different issues that young people had identified at the start of the year. The group were keen to address concerns about the standard of supply teaching in Barking and Dagenham schools, learn more about drug and alcohol misuse, be involved in an intergenerational work and tackle concerns about crime and safety. The young people were supported by Youth Workers to arrange appropriate visits and workshops. The group met with Ian Starling, Principal Advisor, and shared their concerns about supply teachers. This feedback has been recognised and reinforces the need to recruit and retain good quality teachers for the Borough. Towards the end of the year the group focussed on crime and safety concerns and met with Councillor Carpenter and Councillor Mullane to share their experiences. Following this meeting an high level action plan was created to address young people's concerns. Young people contributed to this by creating a powerpoint presentation to be used in schools, colleges and alternative provisions informing young people about</p>	

anonymous reporting options to encourage people to report crimes, thus helping to make the Borough a safer place. The group also produced a short film detailing their experiences to be shown at the Serious Crime Summit in January/February and made good links with Safer Schools Officers.

The Young Mayor sub-group has once again had a very productive year. The group has been well attended throughout the year, which has resulted in a good number of events being hosted/attended and a large sum of money raised. The Young Mayor was elected in February 2018 and began working in partnership with a sub-group of the Forum. The group researched local, regional and national youth charities. Following a public youth vote, New Horizon Youth Centre was voted as the Young Mayor's Charity Appeal for 2018. New Horizon Youth Centre offers services and resources to young people aged 16-21 all across London who are homeless. Services include; support with housing, education, employment and training, a place to eat each day, wash clothes and shower and also conducts outreach work. Over the course of the year young people attended 4 local events to fundraise for it, hosted 3 events of their own and arranged non-uniform days in 4 schools. The group raised a total of £4340, which is a 24% increase on the fundraising total of last year's Young Mayor and is the most that any Barking and Dagenham Young Mayor has raised to date.

The Young Inspectors sub-group was commissioned once again by Public Health to quality assure the Come Correct C-Card scheme in local pharmacies. The group were trained at the start of the year to become mystery shop inspectors. Following their detailed training the group conducted practice inspections, supported by experienced Young Inspectors. The group inspect every aspect of the service, assessing how friendly and welcoming the staff are, how comfortable they make them feel, ensuring that all aspects of the condom/ femdom demonstration is delivered accurately and nothing is missed and lastly assessing whether all relevant information regarding testing, timescales and confidentiality are shared. Each inspector completes a detailed report after every inspection which is shared with the Borough's Condom Distribution Officer to feedback to pharmacies. In 2018, a total of 115 inspections were completed, which included inspections of femdom demonstrations for the first time. There is an apparent correlation between the work of the Young Inspectors and a decline in teenage pregnancy rates locally, which have started to decline at a faster rate than national and London.

### **Recommendation(s)**

The Assembly is asked to note the Barking and Dagenham Youth Forum and Young Mayor report for 2018 and to ensure support for its work.

### **Reason(s)**

The Barking and Dagenham Youth Forum acts as the council's youth parliament and enables the council to fulfil its duties to listen to the views of young people as set out in the Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities on Services and Activities to Improve Young People's Well-being (2012). First established in 2001, the Forum works with secondary schools to annually democratically elect representatives that serve the borough via the Forum's campaigns, consultations and social action projects. The work of the forum supports the council's aim to encourage civic pride and enable social responsibility.

## **1. Introduction and Background**

1.1 Please refer to main report.

## **2. Financial Implications**

*Implications completed by: Feroza Begum, Group Finance Manager*

2.1 Any incidental costs associated with the Forum will be contained from within the service's existing budget.

## **3. Legal Implications**

*Implications completed by: Lucinda Bell, Education Lawyer*

3.1 This report updates Assembly on the work done this year by the Youth Forum this year. The Council has a statutory duty imposed by s507B of the Education Act 1996 "so far as is reasonably practicable" to secure access for young people in their area to sufficient positive leisure-time activities. S6 of the 2006 Education and Inspections Act amended this section added responsibilities on Local Authorities to secure access to sufficient youth work activities, ascertain young people's views on positive activities, publicise positive activities and consider alternative providers.

## **4. Public Health Implications**

*Implications completed by: Matthew Cole, Director of Public Health*

The Young Inspectors Group are funded from the Public Health Grant received from central government for trained youths to carry out quality assurance visits of the pharmacies providing the condom distribution scheme in Barking and Dagenham. Feedback from inspections have been useful in improving service provision to Barking and Dagenham residents including young people. Barking and Dagenham has the best performing C-Card programme in London.

Public Health will continue to fund the service with the expectation that the funds provided is used by to support the Young Inspectors in carrying out their work.