

ASSEMBLY

29 January 2020

Title: Barking and Dagenham (BAD) Youth Forum and Young Mayor Annual Report 2019	
Report of the Director for People and Resilience	
Open Report	For Decision
Wards Affected: None	Key Decision: No
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Accountable Director: Jane Hargreaves, Commissioning Director, Education	
Accountable Strategic Leadership Director: Elaine Allegretti, Director for People and Resilience	
Summary <p>This report highlights the achievements and outcomes of the Barking and Dagenham Youth Forum in 2019. Outlining the work of each of the sub-groups, their aims and the impact of the work completed.</p> <p>The Barking and Dagenham Youth Forum is now in its 18th year. The Forum enables young people to develop the skills and confidence to express their views and represent their peers. By doing this young people contribute to policy development and encourage local decision makers to listen to the views of young people and recognise the importance of this. The Forum elects 60 young people each year through a democratic election process in each school, supported by Democratic Services. In 2019 Goresbrook and Greatfields were able to join the Forum for the first time, as pupils had moved in to Year 9, bringing the total number of schools with representatives on the Forum to 14.</p> <p>As in all other years, the Forum year started with a team building evening at the Vibe Youth Centre, giving new members a chance 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>The Community Action sub-group enables young people to work on topical and relevant campaigns and projects that will have a positive impact on the borough's youth. In 2019 young people focussed on drugs and alcohol, teen parents, Personal, Social, Health and Economic education, a community event at Dagenham and Redbridge Football Club and volunteering at Barking food bank.</p> <p>The Young Mayor sub-group worked closely with the borough's Young Mayor to support his efforts to raise funds for SANE Mental Health charity. The group attended and hosted a range of events to raise as much money as possible as well as awareness of the charity and mental health.</p>	

The **Young Inspectors sub-group** have continued to quality assure the C-Card condom distribution scheme locally. Young people conduct mystery shop inspections and report back with their findings which are shared directly with each pharmacy. In addition to this, young people have also been involved in inspecting the School Nurse service and Outpatients East Sexual Health service.

Please see attached report with full details of the Forum's work.

Recommendation(s)

The Assembly is asked to note the Barking and Dagenham Youth Forum and Young Mayor report for 2019 and to provide guidance and 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 See main report.

2. Proposal and Issues

2.1 See main report.

3. Options Appraisal

3.1 N/A

4. Consultation

4.1 A wide range of consultation work has taken place through the Forum. See main report.

5. Financial Implications

Implications completed by Kofi Adu – Group Finance Manager.

5.1 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.

6. Legal Implications

Implications completed by Lindsey Marks Deputy Head of Law

6.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

7. Other Implications

7.1 **Risk Management - None**

7.2 **Contractual Issues - None**

7.3 **Staffing Issues - None**

7.4 **Corporate Policy and Equality Impact**

7.4.1 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.

7.4.2 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.

7.5 **Safeguarding Adults and Children - None**

7.6 **Health Issues**

7.6.1 Health is always a key theme of the Forum's work. During the course of the year young people have focussed on a number of health-related issues. These include; drugs and alcohol workshops, teen parents, contributing to the review of the personal, social, health and economic curriculum for all schools in the borough, inspections of the c-card condom distribution scheme, school nurse service and Outpatients East sexual health clinic and lastly, mental health through the Young Mayor's efforts.

7.6.2 The Forum's work has impacted on the quality of services available through the Young Inspectors work, highlighting issues from a service user perspective which is invaluable and can only be provided by young people. Recommendations from each of the inspection reports have been shared with service providers equipping them with the essential information needed to provide the best possible service to young people.

7.6.3 The Young Mayor's work has raised the profile of mental health at events the group have attended, with information cards being distributed and young people speaking with members of the public about mental health. The group themselves have gained a greater insight in to how to support themselves and others to have positive mental health, and how to support those that are struggling. Please refer to sub-group sections of the report attached which provides full details of the work highlighted above.

7.7 Crime and Disorder Issues

7.7.1 The Forum have worked closely with representatives from MPS over the past year, developing good relationships with them and working in partnership to discuss youth related crime issues. Young people have engaged in four Youth Independent Advisory Group meetings during 2019, each with a different theme. Young people have gained a wealth of knowledge relating to crime in Barking and Dagenham and how to stay safe. These meetings have supported the MPS efforts to engage with young people and share knowledge and information that can be disseminated to their peers. Over time this has become a solid partnership which young people appreciate and are keen to be part of.

7.7.2 In addition to these meetings the Forum's Chair, Johami Mutuale, also attends the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings. During these meetings Johami has challenged MPS and senior council officers about their role in keeping young people safe and ensuring young people know their rights and responsibilities. Her presence in the meetings provides a young person's perspective that would otherwise be lacking, ensuring that when issues are discussed Members are able to clarify points with Johami. The Forum will continue to link with MPS and build on this successful partnership.

7.8 Property / Asset Issues – None