

BD Giving Activities (Dec 2019-Sep 2020)

In 2019-2020, Barking and Dagenham Giving has been leading on and involved in delivering a number of initiatives across the borough:

- An online campaign to celebrate a year of 'giving'. As part of Giving Tuesday (3 December 2019), BDG launched a social media campaign supported by the Council, to acknowledge and celebrate all those who have given in Barking & Dagenham in 2019, whether it is time, money, or skills. The campaign shared six short videos of volunteers answering questions such as 'why is it important to volunteer in your community'.
- BDG has been involved as a member of the working group leading the development of the council's new Social Value Policy. This policy will encourage contractors to consider their activities holistically, taking account of the wider economic, social and environmental effects of their actions. Practically, this has already led to:
 - A collaboration with contractor Clear Channel UK and charity Trees for Cities to deliver the 'Borough Innovation Fund' as part of their social value commitment to the borough. The fund, worth £60,000, has attracted six expressions of interest from local charities with two groups making it to funding stage.
 - Discussions with Xerox about the implementation of three community projects per year, e.g. employee volunteering, marketing support for fundraising campaigns.
- A bid was submitted in February to City Bridge Trust's 'Connecting the Capital' programme for five years of core funding for BDG totalling £248,500. A decision in this regard is expected over the course of the autumn.
- BD Giving secured a grant in partnership with ELBA for developing a community led pilot to support the public health approach to violence reduction. The project, commissioned by the MOPAC Violence Reduction Unit, includes a budget for BDG to help develop a local network in the borough.
- On 14 April, BDG launched the Covid-19 Barking and Dagenham Community Stories project to help capture the local response to the outbreak through the eyes of organisations, volunteers and beneficiaries. The project is being

delivered by You Press Partnerships, an award-winning social enterprise that works with young people and underrepresented communities to have their voices heard through the creative arts, writing and multimedia production.

- In the first half of May Barking and Dagenham Giving launched its new website (bdgiving.org.uk).
- On 18-24 May, Barking and Dagenham held its first Giving Week, a new celebration of local people and projects that support the community during the coronavirus crisis and all year round. The aim of the week is to highlight how powerful it is for local people to give time, skills and space for their community and to support local causes. The week featured stories of adaptation and inspiration in reaction to the lockdown, which were published online. The week also saw over £9,000 from the Barking and Dagenham lottery handed over to local causes by Cllr Saima Ashraf, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Community Leadership & Engagement, and culminated with the opening of the Covid-19 Rapid Response Fund for applications.
- On 23 April, BDG announced the new Covid-19 Rapid Response Fund (worth £100k) thanks to a collaboration with Lankelly Chase Foundation and Barking and Dagenham Renew. The fund was co-designed with the social sector and opened for application at the end of BD Giving Week, on 22 May. 43 applications totaling £187k were submitted, with 24 applicants being awarded funding by decision-makers selected from within the community. The fund closed for applications early July, six weeks after being opened for applications.
- Building on the success of the Rapid Response Fund, a new 'Local Fund' worth £240k from Lankelly Chase Foundation to be held by Barking and Dagenham Giving have been earmarked for distribution in the community. BDG will take the lead in setting up a process for distributing the money.

In addition, a bid for £100k from the National Lottery Community Fund for an extension of the Rapid Response Fund was submitted in July.