

ASSEMBLY

25 January 2023

Title: BAD Youth Forum Annual Report 2022	
Report of the Jane Hargreaves, Commissioning Director, Education	
Open Report	For Information
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 2022. Outlining the work of each of the sub-groups, their aims and the impact of the work completed.</p>	
<p>At the beginning of 2022, we welcomed 17 new members to the Forum from schools across the borough. We had been unable to visit schools to speak to students and encourage them to nominate themselves at the end of 2021, so we had to rely solely on schools to promote the opportunity to join the Forum. As in previous years, our most committed members were invited to remain Forum members for another year, meaning we had a total of 36 members in 2022.</p>	
<p>The Forum split into 2 sub-groups in 2022, instead of the usual 3 sub-groups. The 2 groups were the Community Action sub-group and the Young Mayor sub-group. Due to lower than usual membership, we decided to continue with the Young Inspectors programme but offer this as an 'add-on' opportunity to members. All young people were offered the opportunity to participate in inspections and did so independently with support from youth workers in sub-group sessions to write reports.</p>	
<p>The Community Action sub-group were tasked with addressing topical issues affecting young people. In 2022 they opted to focus on environmental issues, health (which included vaping and obesity) and tackling child exploitation. During weekly sessions the young people worked with a range of partners to develop their knowledge.</p>	
<p>The Young Mayor sub-group conducted a survey amongst young people to decide the charity to support in 2022. Following this process young people worked hard to raise awareness of the charity and raise money, this was done through a range of events throughout the year and in collaboration with the Young Mayor's school, Jo Richardson Community School.</p>	

Please see full report for further information about the work of both sub-groups.
<p>Recommendation(s)</p> <p>The Assembly is recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Note the work and achievements of the BAD Youth Forum in 2022 (ii) Provide direction to the Forum to ensure that it continues to inform and shape Council policy and delivery going forward.
<p>Reason(s)</p> <p>The BAD Youth Forum was created in 2001 to give young people a formal and recognised platform to express their views and make a positive impact in their community. It serves as the borough's Youth Parliament.</p> <p>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.</p>

5. Financial Implications

Implications completed by: Kofi Adu - Finance Manager

- 5.1 BAD Youth Forum is managed and funded by the council's Integrated Youth Service from cost centre F17400, the service is funded by a combination of general fund and external funding from Public Health. The service is not reporting any adverse budget variance for this financial year and the forecast for next year is an estimated break even position.

6. Legal Implications

Implications completed by: Daniel Longe, Principal Solicitor, Children Adult and Education

- 6.1 Section 1 to 6 of the Localism Act 2011 provides the local authority with a wide range of powers which includes the power to embark on projects for the benefit of the authority, its area or persons resident or present in its area.
- 6.2 The Barking and Dagenham Youth Forum plays a very important role in giving young people a platform and voice to participate and engage in very important issues that affect young people in the borough. This has had an overwhelmingly

positive impact on all young people involved. It is therefore an important project that contributes to the overall benefit of the council.

- 6.3 The report commends the Assembly to note the achievements made by the Youth Forum and invites comments on future direction of the Youth Forum.

7. Other Implications

7.1 Corporate Policy and Equality Impact –

- 7.1.1 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.
- 7.1.2 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.

Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report: None

List of appendices:

Appendix 1: BAD Youth Forum Annual Report 2022