

ASSEMBLY

31 January 2024

Title: BAD Youth Forum Annual Report 2023	
Report of the Jane Hargreaves, Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care and Disabilities	
Open Report	For Information
Wards Affected: None	Key Decision: No
Report Author: Sally Allen-Clarke, Senior Youth Worker, Participation, Opportunity and Wellbeing	Contact Details: Tel: 07971 111 532 E-mail: sally.allen-clarke@lbbd.gov.uk
Accountable Director: Jane Hargreaves, Commissioning Director, Education	
Accountable Strategic Leadership Director: Elaine Allegretti, Director for People and Resilience	
Summary	
<p>This report details the projects, campaigns and achievements of the Barking and Dagenham Youth Forum in 2023. The report highlights young people's outcomes and the impact their work has had.</p>	
<p>In January 2023, 30 new young people joined the 22 returning members, making this our biggest cohort of young people since before the pandemic. Schools supported the nomination process by showing our promotional film in assemblies and form time, as well as inviting us in to promote the Youth Forum face to face with students.</p>	
<p>Similar to other years, the Youth Forum split into 2 sub-groups. The 2 groups were the Community Action sub-group and the Young Mayor sub-group. Young Inspectors remained within the Youth Forum with young people completing independent inspections once they had completed their training with Youth Forum staff.</p>	
<p>The Community Action sub-group takes responsibility for focussing on issues that are most important to young people in the borough in each Youth Forum year. The group tackles issues that others find hard to talk about, discussing how the issues affects young people and what the Youth Forum would like to do to address it. In 2023, the focus has been on addressing the issue of sexual harassment and sexual assault and the normalisation of this behaviour amongst many young people. The Forum was also successful in securing £12,000 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to support their campaign and volunteer work.</p>	
<p>The Young Mayor sub-group agreed their chosen charity and focussed their year on raising money and awareness of the charity. The group also focussed their efforts on giving back to the community via a foodbank volunteering day.</p>	

<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 2023(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>

1. Financial Implications

Implications completed by: Kofi Adu - Finance Manager

- 1.1 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 estimated break even position.

In 2023, the Youth Forum secured £12,000 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. This money has been used to enhance the work of the Youth Forum which is highlighted in the main report. The Youth Forum will receive a further £12,000 in 2024 to support volunteering opportunities for 50 young people.

2. Legal Implications

Implications completed by: Nicola Monerville, Principal Solicitor, Children and Adult Safeguarding and Education.

- 2.1.1 This report is for review and consideration and the Assembly is recommended to note the work and achievements of the BAD Youth Forum in 2023 and provide direction to the Forum to ensure that it continues to inform and shape Council policy and delivery. It does not require a decision for which a legal implication would arise.

2.2 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. It also provides rights and powers for local communities (social enterprises, groups and forums) to change how things are done in the borough.

2.3 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 and its residents.

3. Other Implications

3.1 Corporate Policy and Equality Impact –

3.1.1 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.

3.1.2 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**