

BARKING & DAGENHAM  
Progress Project



# The Young People's Development Forum (Disabled Children & Young People)

## Young People's Consultation Report

### "Safety Issues"

**September 2009**

*"New Innovations for working with  
Disabled Children & Young People"*

Barking & Dagenham Progress Project operate as a  
Charitable Company Limited By Guarantee.

The Consortium has a democratically elected Board of Directors / Management  
Committee representing partner organisations, disabled children & young  
people and the general community which supports our aims :-

Charity Number : 1102465

Company No. : 4574234

# Barking & Dagenham Progress Project

Young People's Consultation – "Safety Issues" : September 2009

## Introduction to Barking and Dagenham Progress Project :

B & D Progress Project is a voluntary sector partnership initiated in July 1998 by five local agencies.

- DABD
- B & D Crossroads
- PACT
- B & D Mencap Society
- CIIL

The project was established to support disabled children and young people in Barking and Dagenham and any agencies working with them. It attempts to bring together agencies so that resources can be best used and services can be improved.

## Introduction to the Young People's Development Forum :

A key feature of the Progress Project is to involve the young people at every level, which is why the YPD Forum was established.

- The Forum currently has 18 registered members who meet monthly to discuss different issues that are relevant to their lives.

They may be subjects either that the group have identified as important or that we have been commissioned to gain feedback on.

The forum is truly inclusive, and finds innovative ways for disabled young people to give their opinions and express themselves.

We also aim to be a model of good practice in that the opinions of the young people and their development are paramount and the process is transparent.

## Introduction to the Safety Session :

The Local Authority sought the Disabled Children's Parliaments' support in finding out disabled young peoples' experiences and views on how safe they feel in Barking and Dagenham, and to identify any issues with the parks within the borough.

This will complement the work already conducted by LBBD, in sending out these questionnaires to schools and other youth groups.

As the forum is not just to gain feedback for the benefit of service providers but also for the development of the young people it was decided that the session would be divided into 2 parts.

The plan was to have an initial activity to open up the subject of Safety in Barking and Dagenham, and then to ask, and gain feedback on 2 questionnaires:

1. Safer Parks Questionnaire
2. Be Safe Questionnaire

### **Structure of the session :**

The questions posed had to be translated into a session that would be accessible, relevant and enjoyable for all the forum members. To achieve this, the questionnaires were delivered via two very different types of activity:

#### **1. Safer Parks**

As a main group, each person had a pen and was asked to dance around the room to the music being played.

When the music stopped, each member had to go to the nearest piece of flip-chart paper (with one question on), and write down their answer to that question.

Once each person had answered every question, the activity was complete.

This activity was used to encourage cohesion between the group members, whilst enabling them to express their opinions about the questionnaire in an anonymous fashion.

#### **2. Be Safe**

To understand the experiences that our members have endured, with regard to 'Being Safe' in the community.

A 'YES' sign was placed at one end of the room, and a 'NO' sign at the other end - to illustrate the optional answers of the questionnaire.

Members were asked to go to their answer once the question had been read to the group. Members were also given the opportunity to follow up their answers with further opinions.

Some questions however, had to be simplified for the group in order for them to be able to answer accurately.

**NB** As is evident here, for our members the best way to facilitate feedback is through practical and highly visual activities with a high level of support.

## Participants Demographic Profile :

No. of Participants: 7

Gender :-			No.	%
Male	5	71		
Female	2	29		

	Male	Female	Total
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	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
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Age:-						
11-16	4	57			4	57
17-19						
20-25	1	14	2	29	3	43

Ethnic Origin:-						
White	4	57	2	29	6	86
Black African						
Black Caribbean	1	14			1	14
Mixed – White & Black African						
Mixed – White & Black Caribbean						
Asian						
Other						

Nature of Disability:-						
LDD	2	29	2	29	4	57
ASD	2	29			2	29
Wheelchair User	1	14			1	14
Epilepsy			1	14	1	14
Physical Disability	1	14			1	14
ADD/ADHD						
Deaf						
Other						

Attendance of Other Clubs in LBBD:-						
DABD/Ab Phab	4	57	2	29	6	86
CIIL						
Crossroads	2	29			2	29
Mencap						
PACT	1	14				

## Feedback Gained :

### Safer Parks Questionnaire

1) Which parks do you use in Barking & Dagenham?

Mayesbrook	-	0
Central	-	2
Barking	-	1
St. Chads	-	0
Valence	-	0
Parsloes	-	1
Greatfields	-	0
Old Dagenham Park	-	0

*Two of the young people were unsure of what park they used.*

2) What time of the day do you use them?

Before School	-	0
After School	-	0
Evenings	-	1
Weekends	-	2
Other	-	1 ( <i>depends when I need to walk through</i> )
	-	2 ( <i>daytime</i> )

3) How often do you use the parks?

Everyday	-	0
3-4 times a week	-	0
1-2 times a week	-	3
Fortnightly	-	1
Monthly	-	0
I rarely use the parks	-	3

4) What do you like about the parks?

- It's cool in the daytime to chill out
- It is fun
- It's fun to play with your friends
- Ducks
- Good time with mates and family
- Parks make good shortcuts

5) What do you dislike about the parks?

- Gangs
- You get stabbed at night
- Noise
- Not cool at night time, you will nick and get stabbed and that
- Signs saying 'no ball games'

6) How would you improve them?

- More police
- More fun and games in the parks
- More roundabouts
- More games to play with
- More age 14+ stuff
- Stop selling the land off
- Have a sports centre
- Only open in the daytime

7) Do you feel safe in the parks?

Yes - 3

No - 4 Why?

Large groups hanging around  
Big dogs

### Be Safe Questionnaire

1) To what extent do you agree or disagree that your local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together?

Agree - 7

Disagree - 0

2) In your local area, how much of a problem, if at all, do you think there is with people not treating each other with respect and consideration?

*(We asked...In your local area, do you think people treat each other with respect and consideration?)*

Yes - 5

No - 2

3) In the last year would you say that you have been treated with respect and consideration by your local public services.....

Yes	-	2
No	-	5

4) Do you feel safe in the borough?

Yes	-	7
No	-	0

5) Are you worried about knife crime in the borough?

Yes	-	5
No	-	2

6) Are you worried about gangs in the borough?

Yes	-	4
No	-	3

7) Do you worry about travelling on public transport?

Yes	-	4
No	-	3

8) Have you ever been mugged?

Yes	-	2
No	-	5

9) Are there certain areas or neighbourhoods of Barking & Dagenham you do not feel safe in?

- Barking
- Dagenham Heathway

10) What do you understand by the word 'community'?

- Working for people
- People
- A group of people living in the same area that live cooperatively

11) What do you understand by the term community cohesion?

- People getting on with each other

12) Do you know how you could contact the local council to discuss any local issues you are interested in or concerned about?

Yes - 6 (*internet, local paper*)

No - 1

13) Do you think your school is a welcoming place for members of the local community?

Yes - 6

No - 1

14) Do you participate in any lessons or school activities which give you the opportunity to explore the importance of the local community getting on with each other?

*(All 7 of the participants said they were unsure)*

15) Do you have opportunities, in school, to meet members of the local community and discuss local issues?

Yes - 0

No - 4

*(3 of the participants said they were unsure)*

## Conclusions :

The feedback in this report evidences that once discussions start about unfamiliar topics, the young people are able to think of themselves and others.

It proves that when adequate structures are put in place young people whatever their abilities are able to make intellectual comments on subjects that are relevant to their lives.

In the case of this session those structures involved a high level of support staff, 'visual discussions', and highly active group cohesion activities.

**Safer Parks;** From discussions taken whilst collating this data, the young people seem to only go to the park with the youth clubs they attend, which they say makes them feel safer as they are going around in a big group.

That said, one of the main things that came from the questionnaire was that due to big group and gangs 'hanging around' at night, more police presence would certainly make a difference to them feeling safer.

The young people ultimately see the parks as somewhere to go with their friends and family, to chill out and have some fun.

In order for them to do this more successfully, they feel that there should be more games provision within the parks for all age groups; including sports centres and equipment.

**Be Safe;** Overall, the young people believe that Barking & Dagenham is a place where everyone gets on together, but they also feel that on the whole, they themselves are not treated with the respect and consideration they deserve from public services.

Even though the majority of the young people stated that they feel safe in the borough, over half of them also said that they worried about knife crime, gangs and travelling on public transport.

Comments about this included the fact that they didn't feel exposed to these problems as they are not involved in them directly.

Most of the participants know how to get in contact with the local council - or where to look for contact details.

But they feel that they don't have enough contact with local councillors via their schools.

A lot of them felt that they don't get the opportunity to discuss issues of importance about the local area with someone of said authority.

This conclusion will be helpful in improving park facilities and safety within the borough in the future; as it is now apparent what disabled young people feel is important and relevant to their lives.

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