

Members' Briefing



**Barking &
Dagenham**



Leader's borough update

In his video this week, the Leader is with the Director of Public Health, Matthew Cole, who gives advice to any parents who have concerned about Strep A, given the recent increase in cases.

The Leader also advises residents how to report any issues with damp and mould in their homes, given the increases in mould cases across the country.



Council unveils commemorative plaque to remember women and children who have experienced domestic abuse

Last Monday, 5 December, as part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, the council in partnership with specialist domestic abuse support provider Cranstoun, unveiled a special commemorative plaque on a bench outside Barking Learning Centre, in recognition of all women and girls who have experienced domestic abuse.

As part of our commitment to tackling domestic abuse, we have joined forces with Cranstoun to undertake groundbreaking programmes to get to the root cause of domestic abuse and deliver interventions focused specifically on the perpetrators.

In May 2020 Cranstoun started delivering their Men and Masculinities course to great success and in the first quarter filled their programmes.

Cranstoun also piloted the ReMove Programme, the first intervention of its kind where the perpetrator is removed from the family home for a maximum of 6 months providing him (or her) with rent free accommodation; in return providing the victims/survivor with some breathing space to think about what they want and reach out for support and advice. The perpetrator has to commit to completing the 24-week Men and Masculinities programme, whilst supporting the victim/survivor (if safe to do so) by contributing financially with mortgage/rent payments, paying child maintenance and childcare. The victim/survivor is supported by a women's safety officer throughout the 6 months. It is then the decision of the victim/survivor if they wish to resume the relationship.

Any resident experiencing domestic abuse can contact our independent domestic abuse service (provided by Refuge) – Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm on freephone 0300 456 0174 or on the 24-hour number, 0808 2000 247. They will provide help and support needed to make them safe. If they are in immediate danger, they should contact the police on 999.



Trading Standards Team scoops Team of the Year Award

Our Trading Standards team grabbed a second prestigious award this month as they were named Team of the Year at the London Trading Standards Awards.

They were recognised for their relentless work to prevent the supply of illicit tobacco and shisha to ensure the borough's young people can't buy tobacco.

Judges were impressed by the range of stakeholders the service engaged with

when trying to tackle these issues and the team were commended for the joined-up work they'd done with planning enforcement around illegal shisha venues, and their work with the borough's youngsters through the BAD Youth Forum around underage sales.

Trading Standards officers run several test purchasing operations in the borough, and these play a huge part in catching the people and businesses breaking the law.

The awards ceremony took place virtually on Tuesday 6 December.



Cost of living support information guides

We're working with our partners across the community to support residents through the cost of living crisis. Our message is simple: if a resident is worried about how to make ends meet, or know someone who is, please reach out for help.

We're sharing [cost of living information support guides](#) with staff, Members and

partners so that everyone is on the same page when it comes to the support and advice available. This is because we know it's really important that we can all talk about it confidently with residents.

If a resident needs support, there's lots of information including where they can speak to someone face to face in their local area at www.lbbd.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support

To view the support guides, which will be kept up to date as the support available grows, please visit <https://www.lbbd.gov.uk/cost-living-support/cost-living-support-guides>

Training updates for councillors

This week we have included details of several LGiU and LGA courses and events. For details on how to access the courses, please see the Members' Training section below.

Borough News



Young Mayor challenges Leader to a lip sync performance for charity

The borough's Young Mayor, Zubin Burley, challenged the Leader of the Council to do a live performance to raise funds for his chosen charity, [The Ben Kinsella Trust](#).

Councillor Darren Rodwell put together a fun and expected [lip sync show](#) at the stage of the Barking Mad About Christmas event, which took place on Saturday 3 December outside Barking Town Hall.

From Freddie Mercury to an Elsa costume and a sprinkle of Christmas spirit – all the right ingredients to put a smile on residents' faces and raise money for this knife crime charity.

The Young Mayor and the BAD Youth Forum set up a [Just Giving page](#) and have raised over £2,000 so far.



Community and faith organisations celebrate Queens Award for Voluntary Services

Barking and Dagenham's community and faith organisations Al Madina Mosque, Humdum and Kingsley Hall have each been honoured with a Queen's Award for outstanding voluntary services.

Charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups across the UK receive the award for their work across a wide range of fields, providing community support and empowering others. The awardees have all enhanced the lives of others through their work, with the highest number of awards this year going to the community support sector which includes food banks, village shops and fundraising events.

To mark the occasion, a special reception was held at Barking Town Hall, giving staff from each of the groups the opportunity to get together over a cup of tea and cake.

The Queens Award, which is the highest honour a local voluntary group can receive in the UK, is also equivalent to an MBE. This year 244 organisations received the award, highlighting the continued breadth and depth of voluntary service undertaken.



Nominations open for Women's Empowerment Awards 2023

Residents are being urged to put forward nominations for next year's Women's Empowerment Awards.

The event takes place in March to mark the end of Women's Empowerment Month and celebrates the diverse achievements of women who live and work in Barking and Dagenham.

This year's event features nine different categories, seven of which are open for public nominations, including Educator of the Year, Female Volunteer, and Businesswoman of the Year Awards.

Next year marks the eighth time the Awards will have been hosted and features the Jodie Chesney Young Woman of the Year Award, in memory of Jodie Chesney who was tragically murdered in 2019.

The deadline for nominations is Tuesday 31 January 2023. For more details and to nominate visit oneboroughvoice.lbbd.gov.uk/womens-empowerment-awards-2023



Residents urged to Give a Child a Christmas

We're supporting local radio station Time FM's "Give a Child a Christmas" campaign, which asks people to donate money [online](#) or in person at their Romford studio.

Presents can also be dropped off at GBP Estates, 35 Victoria Road, Romford RM1 2LH, which will then be distributed to families in need.

Not everyone will be able to, but if you have any spare cash or unused toys or gifts sitting around that would make a great present, please consider donating to the campaign and help bring some festive magic to people in our borough. Residents can donate up until Thursday 15 December.

Around the council



Construction jobs available in Barking and Dagenham

Any resident interested in a career in construction is being urged to speak to the Council's Job Shops.

From brickies and scaffolders, to plumbers, plasterers and labourers, there is something for everyone with construction work taking place across the borough at sites including Barking Riverside, Beam Park, and Eastbrook Film Studios.

People with all levels of experience are being sought, from apprenticeships through to experienced, full and part-qualified construction professionals.

For those with no experience, the council's Jobshop brokers can help arrange site visits and work experience, as well as offer training packages to help kickstart a career in construction. Applicants will receive full application support and an introduction directly with their prospective employer.

To discuss the opportunities available, residents should email a CV to construction@lbbd.gov.uk or drop-in to the Job Shop at Dagenham Library or Barking Learning Centre and speak to an advisor.



Residents invited to open a savings account today through Barking and Dagenham Money

The Council has partnered with Leeds Credit Union to bring more affordable loans options and saving accounts to residents through Barking and Dagenham

Money (BD Money).

The aim is to help local people become more financially resilient, keep more money in their pockets and access appropriate services to meet their financial needs and ambitions. This is not-for-profit, with all benefits staying in the community.

Since its launch earlier this month we've racked up hundreds of new members. For residents considering opening a savings account through BD Money, it's straight-forward, hassle-free and there's also a wide range of trusted, low-interest loans available.

More information can be found at www.BDMoney.co.uk



Parents urged to get their child's school to sign up to the School Uniform project

Did you know that 1.4 million wearable school uniforms end up in landfill every year in the UK?

We're encouraging parents and schools in the borough to work together to set up pre-loved school uniform shops, as part of a project to save families money and benefit the environment.

The project, funded by East London Waste Authority (ELWA), is building a network of schools across Barking and Dagenham, Havering, Newham and Redbridge to set up pre-loved school uniform shops and stalls.

It will play an important role in supporting families through the cost-of-living crisis and creating a cleaner, greener place for people to live and work in.

You can find out more about the School Uniform Bank Project [here](#).



Help and support available for residents through the Household Support Scheme

Residents who may be struggling with their finances or to make ends meet are

being encouraged to get in touch.

Funding is available to vulnerable residents to support them with essentials over the coming months.

Residents can [apply online](#) or email benefits@lbbd.gov.uk.

There are also [a number of other support services](#) including:

- Our Community Food Clubs which are free of charge and can provide £20 worth of food per week for a period of either three or six months at www.lbbd.gov.uk/community-food-clubs
- Our money and debt webpages provide an income and expenditure calculator and budgeting tools that will help people understand how much money they have coming in and how much is going out, helping them look at areas where they can make savings at www.lbbd.gov.uk/money-and-debt
- Residents who are worried about their finances and need help to tackle debt can now get advice and support from our local Barking and Dagenham Money website at: www.bdmoney.co.uk
- People struggling with increasing energy costs should contact their energy supplier about possible funds they may be entitled to, to help them through difficult periods. They can also access the Warm Homes Grant at www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme
- People with disabilities who aren't claiming specific disability benefits may be able to take advantage of a number of benefits available, including Personal Independence Payments, Disability Living Allowance (for children), and Universal Credit. For those caring for someone with disabilities they may be able to claim Carer's Allowance although this is means tested, at www.gov.uk/financial-help-disabled/disability-and-sickness-benefits
- People with a water meter who are experiencing financial difficulties may want to look into the Watersure scheme at www.ofwat.gov.uk/households/customer-assistance. Most water companies also have a fund to help those who are struggling, and it might be worth contacting their water provider.

- People who are out of work and looking to get into employment can get help and support from our Job Shops at www.lbbd.gov.uk/help-finding-work
- Anyone worried about a lack of skills can find courses and support on the Adult College website at <https://adultcollege.lbbd.gov.uk/>
- Residents who need help with emergency living expenses for food, fuel (gas and electric for customers who pay via a key meter), travel expenses and household appliances and/or clothing in exceptional circumstances can apply for help from our Hardship Fund (Individual Assistance Payment) at www.lbbd.gov.uk/hardship-and-covid-support-schemes.

Residents can also contact our Homes and Money Hubs which are open for a drop in at Barking Learning Centre and Dagenham Library from 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday or via email at: homesandmoneyhub@lbbd.gov.uk.



Jobs and training opportunities available from our Job Shops

Residents who need help and support to get into work can visit our Job Shops.

Jobs and training opportunities are advertised on the website every Monday, and residents can register with the service by completing the [online form](#). They will then be contacted by a member of staff.

Alternatively, residents can contact the shops by telephone: Dagenham Job Shop – 020 8724 8877; Barking Job Shop – 020 8724 8870.

For details of jobs available every week, residents can visit www.lbbd.gov.uk/help-finding-work.

For more information about help and support, residents can visit the Barking and Dagenham Working Together campaign page at www.lbbd.gov.uk/working-together.

Local Government News

Parliamentarians discuss London's homelessness crisis

The [All Party Parliamentary Group \(APPG\) for London](#) and the [APPG for Ending Homelessness](#) hosted a joint event in Parliament last Monday (5 December) to discuss the strategies in place to support homeless Londoners and policy priorities for reducing homelessness in the capital.

London faces the most severe homelessness crisis in the country. While rough sleeping is the most visible form of homelessness, a further 150,000 homeless Londoners – including 75,000 children – live in temporary accommodation arranged by their local borough.

Progress has been made on reducing rough sleeping in the capital over the last

few years. However, there are fears that, with rising rents, demand for homes continuing to outstrip supply, and additional cost-of-living pressures, many more Londoners are at real risk of homelessness in the coming months.

The event was jointly chaired by Florence Eshalomi MP and Bob Blackman MP and speakers included Jamie Carswell, Co-Chair of the London Housing Directors' Group, Jasmine Basran, Head of Policy and Campaigns, Crisis and Jacob Quagliozzi, Director of England, Housing Justice.

Improving Adult Social Care: LOTI innovation fund

Boroughs have until 9 January 2023 to submit proposals for the London Office of Technology and Innovation (LOTI) innovation fund to design and test new approaches to improving adult social care.

The fund, which will provide up to £100,000 to two projects, is open to submissions from the 24 London boroughs who are LOTI members. Project submissions will need to address one or more of the themes – better residential and care homes, better care at home and better community support models.

[More information and expression of interest forms are available on the LOTI website here.](#)

This week's coverage in the national and regional media

Evening Standard, 8 December – [Strep A: London's scarlet fever hotspots revealed as parents urged to stay vigilant for symptoms.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Local Authority Building and Maintenance, 8 December – [London Councils responds to Public Accounts Committee report on housebuilding targets.](#) Mentions Cllr Darren Rodwell.

Evening Standard, 6 December – [Christmas bin collection: when can you put](#)

[your rubbish out over the holiday?](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

The Guardian, 5 December – [‘The Roding is sacred and has rights’: the hammer-wielding barrister fighting for London’s forgotten river.](#) Mentions Barking.

Time Out, 5 December – [This new map shows London’s most deprived areas.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Evening Standard, 5 December – [London’s most expensive rentals: inside the priciest homes in every borough.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Europe Real Estate, 5 December – [Oxenwood and Graftongate secure East London logistics development.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Londonist, 4 December – [Warm Banks in London: Where to find one and how to use them this winter.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Media Releases

[East London Council unveils commemorative plaque to remember women and children who have experienced domestic abuse.](#)

[East London Council’s Trading Standards Team named Outstanding Team of the Year.](#)

Christmas has arrived in Barking and Dagenham with the Council’s big Christmas event.

[East London Council Deputy Leader scoops prestigious award for hate crime work.](#)

Members’ Training

Local Government Association (LGA) Events

The LGA are offering the following sessions:

National Community Safety Partnership Conference - Wednesday 14 December, 10 to 11.30am and 2 to 3.30pm

The Local Government Association (LGA) and the Association of the Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) are jointly hosting a national Community Safety Partnership (CSP) conference. These virtual webinars will bring together local authorities, the police, Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) and wider community safety partners to discuss best practice in tackling community safety issues.

The morning session will focus on CSP roles and responsibilities/governance and landscape. The afternoon session will focus on community safety policy themes for example, the Serious Violence Duty.

Greenhouse gas accounting including a focus on waste - Tuesday 17 January, 10 to 11.30am

The LGA and Local Partnerships Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool has been developed to provide a straightforward and consistent approach for councils seeking to calculate their own carbon baseline. The tool produces summary tables and charts to help local authorities to understand their most significant sources of emissions, which can then be used to prioritise actions to reduce carbon emissions. They will be providing a summary of how to use the tool and updates to it.

Alongside this, they are really pleased to launch a carbon calculator for waste emissions. Whilst on the LGA and University College London (UCL) Net Zero Innovation Programme, Cambridgeshire County Council and UCL have created a carbon calculator to improve accounting and reporting of a Waste Disposal and/or Waste Collection Authority's scope 3 emissions from the management and treatment of waste. This will aid councils in reducing scope 3 emissions, provide transparency of council expectations of suppliers, and enable council staff to understand and reduce environmental implications of their procurements and services.

One to One Development Sessions

The LGA are offering councillors the opportunity to have one-to-one development conversations with one of the Leadership Academy Facilitators. This will be available to councillors in leadership positions for the next three months. These sessions are not political and will be provided by tutors from the LGA's Leadership Academy programme who a number of councillors might have met from participation on the programmes. They will be focussed on helping councillors adapt their personal leadership style through three structured coaching calls. For more information, please contact Leanna McPherson at: leanna.mcpherson@lbbd.gov.uk

If you are interested in joining any or all of these courses, please email: leanna.mcpherson@lbbd.gov.uk or lois.taylor@lbbd.gov.uk

The LGA also offers help for new Councillors via the New Councillor Hub, which can be found [here](#).

And finally...

The Members' Briefing is intended to keep you up to date with what is going on in the council, in the borough and in the world of local government. Please let us have your suggestions on items for inclusion in future bulletins and any feedback you may have on how it can be improved.

