

## ADMINISTRATION MOTION FOR DEBATE – ADMINISTRATION MOTION FOR DEBATE – MOTION ON YOUNG TOWER HAMLETS

Proposed by: Cllr Maium Talukdar  
 Seconded by: Cllr Bodrul Choudhury

**Amendment proposed by: Cllr Sabina Akhtar**  
**Seconded by: Cllr Mohammad Chowdhury**

### This Council notes:

- That Mayor Lutfur Rahman, in his previous term as Mayor, oversaw a huge investment of resources into the borough’s youth services – taking young people off the street, giving them educational, cultural, recreational, wellbeing and employment opportunities, and preparing them for adult life.
- ~~The chronic cuts to, neglect and underfunding of, Tower Hamlets’ youth services during the terms of the previous administration, which resulted in the closure of 70% of all youth centres and attendant services in the borough. And insert:~~

**The previous administration built wealth, knowledge and skills in the community by partnering with the voluntary and community sector to deliver youth services. As they have a track record of delivering high quality youth provision.**

**Insert: That this council’s own studies demonstrated that when communities are empowered, they provide efficient, effective, and economical youth services.**

Tower Hamlets Youth Service (Commissioned Provision) 3 Year Performance									
	2017/18			2018/2019			2019/2020		
	Target	Achieved		Target	Achieved		Target	Achieved	
		No.	%		No.	%		No.	%
Contacts	2779	3914	140.84%	4180	4723	112.99%	2505	5108	203.91%
Participants	1646	1676	101.82%	2598	2277	87.64%	1503	2394	159.28%
Recorded Outcome	991	1092	110.19%	1600	1462	91.38%	902	1416	156.98%
Accredited Outcome	494	499	101.05%	847	546	64.46%	451	519	115.08%

Tower Hamlets Youth Service (In-house Provision) 3 Year Performance									
	2017/18			2018/2019			2019/2020		
	Target	Achieved		Target	Achieved		Target	Achieved	
		No.	%		No.	%		No.	%
Contacts	6,040	2,564	42.45%	5740	2948	51.36%	3835	2648	69.05%
Participants	3624	1119	30.88%	3444	1355	39.34%	2301	1579	68.62%
Recorded Outcome	2174	417	19.18%	2066	350	16.94%	1381	1008	73.01%
Accredited Outcome	1087	322	29.62%	1033	401	38.82%	690	621	89.96%

- That various studies – (set out below) – outline the correlation between access (or lack thereof) to youth services for young people and increased levels of crime and ASB, as well as low educational attainment and decreased job opportunities.

#### **Links to External Reports/Websites**

Social Mobility Commission 2019:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/818679/An\\_Unequal\\_Playing\\_Field\\_report.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/818679/An_Unequal_Playing_Field_report.pdf)

APPG on Knife Crime and Violence Reduction: *Securing a brighter future: The role of youth services in tackling knife crime*, 2020

<http://www.preventknifecrime.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Securing-abrighter-future-the-role-of-youth-services-in-tackling-knife-crime-v.2.pdf>

ONS 2021 – Child Poverty and Education Outcomes by Ethnicity

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/nationalaccounts/uksectoraccounts/compendium/economicreview/february2020/childpovertyandeducationoutcomesbyethnicity>

- That this latter point is particularly true in the youngest and most densely-populated borough in the country, where green space is scarce for many communities.
- That children from lower income households often have worse educational outcomes. A 2021 report found that those children from poorer households and without access to a decent education and extra-curricular activities end up with significant gaps in academic achievement – especially those from BAME backgrounds.
- ~~That young people in Tower Hamlets have suffered because of the previous administration's cuts.~~ **Insert: Under the previous administration Tower Hamlets had one of the best funded youth services in London and managed to secure more than £1m of funding from the GLA's MyEnds programme to combat youth violence on the Isle of Dogs.**

#### **This Council believes:**

- That the young people of Tower Hamlets deserve the best opportunities to excel, both inside and outside of the classroom.
- ~~That every ward in Tower Hamlets should have a dedicated youth centre, where children and young people can access services to help them develop skills, as well as their interests and aspirations.~~
- ~~That a serious (re-)investment in capital, personnel, and infrastructure is required to deliver these ambitions.~~
- **And insert: Modern youth services are most effective when they are delivered through strategically located centres equipped with state-of-the-art facilities to engage and support out young people.**

- That youth work is an essential and under recognised profession. Professionally trained youth workers are experts in their field and know what's best when it comes to delivering youth services.
- That the launch of the Mayor's *Young Tower Hamlets (YTH)* scheme earlier this week (Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July) – in which a £13.7million per annum investment in the borough's redesigned youth service and a guaranteed youth centre in every ward were showcased – represents a drastic change in the Council's approach, and a firm commitment to the future of the borough's young people.
- That this investment will provide jobs, intern and apprenticeship opportunities for young people across the borough.
- That this investment will also help tackle inequalities faced by disabled and SEN young people in the borough; it will also provide women and girls with increased safe access to sporting, educational, and cultural services previously cut.
- That the work of the Deputy Mayor and Council Officers should be particularly recognised in helping to deliver this key Mayoral priority.
- That this scheme represents the insourcing of another key service in the borough, enhancing democratic accountability and control, and symbolising a key step in accelerating education and attainment in Tower Hamlets.
- That an overcentralised youth service is an inefficient way of delivering youth services and has previously led to poor governance and malpractice occurring in the borough.

**This Council resolves:**

- To approve and endorse the Mayor and Council's newly launched service, *Young Tower Hamlets*, and recognise the huge benefits it will have on the borough's young people and families.
- To commend Officers and the Lead Member for their work in delivering this project.
- To support officers in the delivery of this key service moving forward.
- That every youth worker employed by the borough undergoes a full DBS check before being employed by the borough.
- To only recruit professional youth workers to staff our service.
- To request that the lead member explore the creation of a youth worker training fund to be delivered by our partners in the FE/HE sector.