



## Item 7.1: Questions from Members of the Public

### Full Council – 11 July 2022

1. **Question from M. Whiteley to Councillor Donnelly Jackson, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, Equalities & Culture**

Please can you confirm how much debate has taken place as to whether Brent will remain members of Stonewall's Diversity Champions scheme?

I know the Council paid & £2.5k in the last financial year and am concerned that since the publication of the Nolan investigation relating to the BBC this does not represent a good decision on behalf of local residents.

**Response:**

Brent Council has been a member of the Stonewall Diversity Champions scheme, for the last few years.

We last paid our subscription to Stonewall early on in the last financial year 2021/2022. Being a member over the past few years has provided us access to LGBTQ+ support and resources.

This year, although there was some discussion surrounding the press coverage, for example involving Stonewall's advice to various organisations, the discussion at Brent Council which involved the LGBTQ+ network to not renew our membership has been one based solely on the practical benefits versus money spent.

This was the key consideration in not maintaining our membership of the Stonewall scheme at this time. We are absolutely committed to tackling LGBTQ+ inequality across Brent and improving equality, diversity and inclusion within our own workforce and community.



## **Item 7.2: Questions from Brent Youth Parliament**

### **Full Council – 11 July 2022**

#### **1. Question from Brent Youth Parliament to Councillor Grahl, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools**

The Brent Youth Strategy recognises the importance of youth engagement forums and the high demand for youth spaces. What support and funding is being offered by the Council to help develop these?

#### **Response:**

The Council's ambitious youth strategy, developed with the support of over 500 young people across the borough, recognises the need to make sure we continue to listen and respond to young people so that their views are taken into account as the strategy is delivered. A number of practical steps have been taken to ensure this happens, including:

- Young people being involved as members of a steering group that also involves a number of partner organisations, whose role is to review, challenge and take forward each part of the strategy delivery plan. The establishment of youth activities within Family Wellbeing Centres has been based on co-design work with young people in schools. For example, there are sports activities that can lead to the possibilities of coaching qualifications as well as art workshops in video, painting and animation.
- The Brent Youth Parliament (BYP) providing a key forum for young people to express their views - BYP has been involved in the Youth Strategy Steering Group. There are a number of separate places for young people's voices to be heard: a Youth Panel has been meeting regularly since the end of 2020 as part of the Youth Justice Board funded Pathfinder project – ensuring the voices of young people from diverse backgrounds are heard and services/projects co-designed with them; The Black Community Action Plan Youth Forum provides an opportunity for young people to ensure the commitments within the plan are met; The Local Cultural Education Partnership has a young voices group who have attended the Youth Strategy Steering Group and are gaining feedback from other young people on their current priorities.
- A role being created (Youth Service Transformation Lead), responsible for the delivery of the Youth Strategy and supporting the steering group, identifying funding opportunities, working with the Young Brent Foundation and other youth organisations to develop the youth offer across Brent.

The Council is also committed to working with the voluntary and community sector to develop more spaces for young people to meet and take part in positive activities. Discussions are ongoing with national charity Onside to consider how an Onside Youth Zone could be established within the borough.