

Brent Care Journeys * Bulletin 7 * Summer 2022

Team

To kickstart the summer holidays we welcomed Barnardo's newly appointed CEO, Lynn Perry, to Brent. She was accompanied by Michelle (Corporate Director of Development and Innovation) and Jon (Director of Strategic Partnerships). They met briefly with Gail and Nigel but spent most of the day listening, reflecting and taking part. We spent our lunchtime at the Box Park sharing food with members of the Movement before some highly competitive rounds of crazy golf.

Later we received messages of thanks and appreciation from our senior leaders, noting sentiments such as *"I was really struck by the commitment, energy, enthusiasm and ownership of all we met who are working with and connected to BCJ"* and *"The things you hear on some visits impact you profoundly and that was the case yesterday. There is so much learning through the BCJ work and we need to find a way to share it that celebrates all the complex, non-linear learning that's emergent in our systems change work as well as all of the impact being achieved that is leading to tangible change."*

Service Design and Systems Change

The board met at the end of July to hear recommendations from the first group of Brent staff to codesign change in collaboration with young people. Writing it down like that makes me realise the significance of the history that we are creating together.

Through research and testing the group found that *there is a significant issue with staff turnover at Brent Local Authority*. By following a process of codesign with a group of care-experienced young people they tested giving staff and young people time and budget to do an activity together which they both enjoy, that is good for wellbeing, and that builds a trusting relationship between them. Young people hypothesised that if staff and young people got along better, staff would enjoy their jobs more and be more inclined to stay working for Brent LA for longer.

Testing this idea with 11 young people and 8 staff gave us evidence that both young people and staff enjoyed and benefitted from the opportunity to bond while doing something informal, fun and healthy.

The recommendations presented were therefore:

- Build upon the positive results of this test with a larger scale pilot to capture the impact on job satisfaction / retention
- Select 30 staff from LAC teams to take part and ensure these staff have the time and permission to do an activity with young people
- Divide the pilot into 3 groups testing the impact of different budget amounts – x10 staff with £10 budget, x10 staff with £20 budget, x10 with £30 budget
- Allow a 6-week timeframe for the pilot
- Develop written guidance on how staff can claim expenses so they can participate in the chosen activity
- After 6 weeks evaluate the pilot through an online focus group with staff and evaluation forms which really unpick the issue of relational practice and impact on job satisfaction

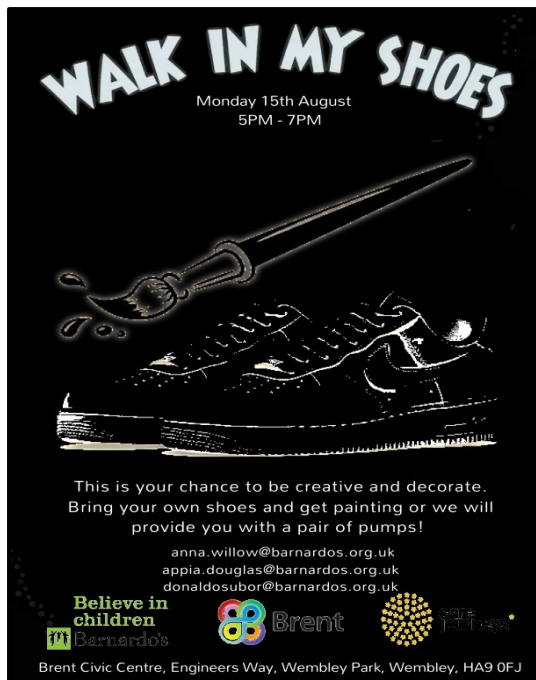
**** We are delighted to share that the Board have accepted these recommendations and that this pilot will be led by Brent in the near future. ****

Three other groups will be feeding back their recommendations for change in the second week of September so look out for our October bulletin for the next update on the way in which Brent staff and Brent young people are collaborating together to create change.

Youth led change

Over the Summer we have had the pleasure of enabling some excellent opportunities for our young people to choose their direction and mechanism for change. These include:

- Taking part in our WALK IN MY SHOES art project. ***Look out for the exhibition in the Civic Centre September 2022.***
- Completing a four day 'Make Your Own Campaign Film' course. ***These exceptional films will be shown at the Kiln Cinema on 22nd September.***
- Attending weekly workshops with Kiln Theatre to develop creative and performative artwork which will be ***showcased in a live exhibition on 22nd September.***



Our newly created Young Company have devised the concept 'Dear Social Services' for the final show. This event is a key opportunity to bring an ambitiously broad range of stakeholders together to consider how we could all do more, differently and together, to improve the lives of our looked after children.

Dear Social Services Project

Date	Time	Session Focus
Wednesday 17 August	19.00-21.00	Write your own work
Wednesday 24 August	19.00-21.00	Create spoken word poetry
Wednesday 31 August	19.00-21.00	Produce a music track
Thursday 1 September	19.00-21.00	Capture film and photography
Wednesday 7 September	19.00-21.00	Choreograph a movement sequence
Thursday 8 September	19.00-21.00	Design visual artwork
Wednesday 14 September	19.00-21.00	Direct actors to perform your work
Thursday 15 September	19.00-21.00	Lead rehearsals for actors performing your work
Monday 19 September	19.00-21.00	Building the Exhibition
Tuesday 20 September	19.00-21.00	Technical Rehearsal
Wednesday 21 September	19.00-21.00	Dress Rehearsal
Thursday 22 September	19.00-21.00	Final Rehearsal & Live Exhibition Event

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To reserve a place at the event on 22nd September please contact anna.willow@barnardos.org.uk



KILN

SAVE THE DATE

DEAR SOCIAL SERVICES

Join us for a live exhibition created and led by care experienced young people.

THURSDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2022
KILN CINEMA, 269 KILBURN HIGH ROAD
RECEPTION 7PM

Believe in children
Barnardo's

care journeys

A Young Company project, supported by Barnardo's Brent Care Journeys programme

We are especially keen to engage members of our wider communities at this event.

If you are able to support in this ambition, please do share this opportunity.

We would really like to reach faith groups, transport workers, fast food outlets, retail workers and those who work in parks and leisure.

Our movement members tell us that they feel "second rate" and that they are 'hiding in plain sight'. This is their opportunity to begin an important conversation in their borough.

Here and Now

As ever, to show our members how grateful we are for their commitment and to welcome new young people in, we ran a couple of social opportunities. Firstly, there was a catered sightseeing trip down the Thames on a cruise boat (donated from a corporate partner) where fish and chips, ice cream and lemonade were limitless. Once on dry land there was an equally bountiful supply of chicken and our very own DJ in the park.

If this sounds good and young people that you are working with would like to get involved, please email appia.douglas@barnardos.org.uk.

Lastly, for young people, the chance to win a £20 voucher **#ifyoucare**

TIPS ON HOW TO CREATE A BLOG



BCJ are giving **£20 Amazon vouchers** to the ten best blogs received by **Sunday 4th September**

What is a blog?

A blog is written information which shares personal views and experiences.

We are going to publish and promote these blogs to amplify our messages to Brent and beyond over the course of the next month. They will go out on our social media and comms channels under the banner **#ifyoucare**

- Your blog needs to inspire people to think, feel or act differently about the care system.
- Your blog should be a minimum of 300 words (2/3 of a page). There isn't really a maximum but you might want to think about making your points stand out to people who don't have much time.

Send your blogs to
anna.willow@barnardos.org.uk