

Attendees at the Mayor's Early
Years' Summit

Mayor's Office

London Borough of Tower Hamlets
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12 December 2018

Dear Resident,

Re: The Mayor's Early Years' Summit

Thank you for attending the Mayor's Early Years' Summit on Friday 30th November 2018 and contributing to such a successful event.

It was clear there was a massive amount of enthusiasm from everyone who attended and lots of innovative ideas on how to improve our early years' offer in Tower Hamlets. We already offer support through investing in our children's centres, early help service and parenting support. I will circulate a report on the findings of the Summit before Christmas.

As we discussed there are many challenges facing the different organisations within and beyond the Council in delivering early years' support as we face cuts from central Government, growing demand on our services and a complex labour market. I am committed to working with you, and our partners across the Borough to ensure the best start in life for our children.

We've identified some initial feedback on the broad themes discussed to follow up on from what you told us on the day:

- Improving communications for families. Presenting meaningful information in ways parents can access more easily, using smart phones as a platform, for example, around the availability of childcare places and support that is available.
- An agreed SEND pathway for families linked to the Universal Pathway presented at the Summit.
- Working closely with Barts Health to develop access to services such as speech and language.
- Looking into under twos' childcare for children with additional needs.

- The Council is looking into funding specialist SEND training for childminders and working with partners to discuss cost of placements.
- Linking our early years' work to our Tackling Poverty work.
- Providing more ante-natal and maternity services run by health services through children's centres and continuing to improve the reach of our services to our most vulnerable families.
- Creating more childcare support for children with additional needs.

If you have any further comments please contact eytraining@towerhamlets.gov.uk. This will be used to develop a new Early Years' Strategy and we will also be working up our budget proposals in the coming weeks based on the feedback from the conference. Please watch out for information on the Early Years' Summit link: www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/eysummit

I will continue to work with you to improve our offer to parents and children – this is a key priority for me as Mayor.

Yours sincerely



Mayor John Biggs
Executive Mayor – Tower Hamlets