

Item No. 3.1	Classification: Open	Date: 22 November 2023	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Community Evidence on the Themed Debate	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Introduction

1. The council assembly business panel agreed that the theme for council assembly in March 2023 should be “Giving our children and young people the best start in life”.

Community evidence on the theme

2. The deadline for community evidence was 11.59pm, 16 November 2023.
3. The following requests have been received by the deadline for consideration by this meeting and they are listed in the order received below.
4. Which community evidence shall be considered and the length of each submission will be established by way of a programme motion at the start of council assembly. Community evidence shall be conducted under the existing rules for public participation.
5. If the community evidence is not dealt with by council assembly, the matter shall be referred without debate to the relevant cabinet member who shall, after consideration, respond with an open reply to the sender.

Submissions

1. Southwark Youth Parliament

The community evidence requests states:

“Representatives from the Youth Parliament would like to come to Council Assembly and present their future plans for the time in parliament.”

2. Nathaniel Pamah, Football Fridays Youth Club

The community evidence requests states:

“I am the CEO of community interest company, Holistic Mastery CIC - a community empowerment organisation that supports and develops individuals from black and marginalised communities through our 4 services (1:1 Mentorship, Youth-led Youth Club, Bespoke Mental Health Support Services and Community Empowerment Engagements).

I would like to discuss my 3 asks regarding 1 of our 4 services - our Youth-led Youth Club, Football Fridays Youth Club (FFYC).

FFYC aims to:

- PROTECT young people from harm to themselves or others - keep young people safe
- DIRECT young people toward success and better life outcomes and away from failure and danger
- DEVELOP young people to unlock their talents and through self-empowerment become the best versions of themselves.

We empower our young people and hit our goals through sports, coaching, mentoring, pastoral care, and personal development workshops, presentations events and trips.

Our aims are directly linked to our three asks:

1. Sports provision to ensure young people have spaces to do sports activities south of the borough
2. Ensuring that these spaces are easily accessible and affordable/ free for young people from low income families
3. Developing mechanisms in youth provision to offer safe transportation for young people who are unable to travel to sports activities due to their safety."

3. Evan Jones, St Giles Trust

The community evidence requests states:

"Evan Jones, Director of Criminal Exploitation Development at St Giles Trust, would like to speak about what is called money muling, which is a type of financial exploitation of children and young people. Getting involved in this practice can affect them in a range of ways, from financial exclusion into adulthood through to being exploited and coerced to commit very serious offences, exposing themselves to huge amounts of risk. The seriousness of financial exploitation is often not recognised, nor are the ways that it can affect people's ability to benefit from mainstream financial services; Evan will seek to explain how this practice works, the risks it creates and ways it could be addressed."

4. Greig Larsen, City of London Academy

The community evidence requests states:

"I would like to present community evidence as to the new scheme to offer healthy school meals to families within the Southwark council area.

I work as the catering manager at a local secondary school and I would like to support the initiative as I know the benefits it can bring to the community."

5. Sonay Ozkutayli, the Neurodiversity Family Hub

The community evidence requests states:

“I am writing on behalf of the Neurodiversity Family Hub, a community-based nonprofit organisation dedicated to supporting children and young people with neurodiversity in Southwark, along with their families and caregivers.

In the wake of our deputation on 12 July 2023, our organisation has been actively engaged in addressing the pressing needs of our community. The demand for our services has surpassed our initial expectations, highlighting the critical importance of providing adequate support for children and young people with special educational needs (SEND).

Upon reviewing Councillor Jasmine Ali's motion for the upcoming assembly, I am convinced that Southwark stands at a pivotal moment, requiring bold decisions to ensure the equitable education of SEND students. It is our firm belief that affording every child the best possible start in life should extend universally, transcending surface-level considerations.”

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Constitution	160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Constitutional Team constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk 020 7525 7228

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services	
Report Author	Virginia Wynn-Jones, Principal Constitutional Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	20 November 2023	
Key decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer title	Comments sought	Comments included
Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	20 November 2023	