

MAYOR OF LONDON

Andrew Boff AM

Chair of the London Assembly

C/o Anna.Sutton@london.gov.uk

Our ref: MGLA150621-5878

Date: 22 September 2021

Dear Andrew,

London Assembly (Plenary) Meeting 10 June 2021 – Motions

Thank you for your letter of 11 June about the motions agreed at the London Assembly (Plenary) meeting on 10 June. Please see my reply to motions 1 and 2 below.

Motion 1 – Antisemitism

I share the disgust and condemnation expressed by the Assembly at the incidents of antisemitism seen across London. London's Jewish communities make a valuable contribution to life in our city and I will continue to do what's necessary to ensure they feel as safe and welcome as all Londoners.

I welcome the focus on antisemitism that the motion, and the suggested five-point action plan, provides. I also welcome the acknowledgement that some actions are outside of the remit of the Mayor of London.

My determination to combat the scourge of hate crime, and to celebrate the diversity that is one of London's great strengths is undiminished. My Police and Crime Plan, describing our plans to keep London safe in the next three years and beyond, is currently being developed. That plan will ensure we take action to challenge those who would seek to divide us and enable the best possible response when hate crime does occur. Those actions will be developed with the direct input of those targeted by hate crime.

In the meantime, both my Office for Policing And Crime and the Metropolitan Police Service are continuing to work closely with London's Jewish communities to ensure we are doing all we can to tackle antisemitism and support those affected.

Motion 2 – Adverse Childhood Experiences

I welcome the Assembly's motion on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), and I am absolutely determined to do everything I can to improve opportunities for and support young people, as well as to reduce inequality in London.

MAYOR OF LONDON

In 2018, I set up England's first Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) to reduce violence, to increase safety and to make sure that young people and local communities are at the heart of our approach. I was clear that we needed to tackle the root causes of violence and take a long-term, public health approach. The VRU has prioritised developing partnerships, policy advocacy, research into the causes of violence, and an innovative programme of investment to test what works.

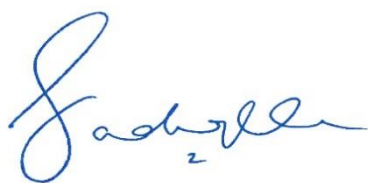
The VRU's strategy (published in July 2019) is framed around a contextual approach – one that prioritises the key relationships in a young person's life – with parents/carers, teachers, youth practitioners and peers, and how we can strengthen them alongside an understanding of the role that the environment and neighbourhood play in shaping a young person's life opportunities.

The importance of understanding ACEs cannot be underestimated. While wanting to be very careful about not pre-determining a young person's future, we know that the prevalence of four or more ACEs indicates a real vulnerability that can lead to a much greater exposure to violence either as a victim or perpetrator. For that reason, the VRU's programme has a clear emphasis on ACEs. As a few examples, it is currently shaping a pilot to support young people who have been affected by domestic violence; it is strengthening the mental health and guidance of parents and carers having listened to their needs; and is investing in school primary programmes to develop healthy relationships as a means of building individual resilience.

In response to your specific proposals, the VRU team has met with the London ACEs Hub already in existence and is always keen to do further work with them. The team has also met with the WAVE Trust and enjoys a good relationship with the organisation. For some time, the VRU was represented on WAVE's board by their public health representative.

The VRU is always open to new projects and ideas and is happy to follow up further with both organisations. It is also working closely with the national network of 17 other VRUs, to ensure that research and evidence are being built and shared with specialists from across health and education sectors around what works in the area of ACEs as well as later in a young person's development. I will continue to lobby national government for long-term investment in early years, youth services and early intervention work all of which are vital for improving support to young people and families.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sadiq Khan', with a small '2' written below the name.

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London