BD COLLECTIVE

WHAT IS IT?

A network of networks, big and small, thematic or geographic, short or longer term, coming together to make the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham a better place to live.

The work of the networks is diverse but is bound together by shared values. They link people ready to put the community ahead of their organisation. We know that when networks are effective, they lead to civil society doing more.

EACH NETWORK

- Connects people across the social and public sectors
- Builds trust between people and between organisations by talking about shared challenges
- Shares accountability for better living in the borough across all groups that can make a contribution
- Shifts power to devolve decision making to those most impacted by those decisions

The combined efforts of the networks shifts the balance in the borough from:

Individual organisations **to** collective endeavour

Traditional public systems commissioning **to** shared accountability and power with civil society

Generating a whole that is more than the sum of the parts and so making Barking and Dagenham a better place to live

THESE COLLABRATIONS HAVE LED TO:

- Fewer residents going hungry
- More people connected to each other in their neighbourhoods;
- Helping health systems to understand and honour the power of community.

By setting up a network you too can make a difference to your community.

HOW WE ARE GOING TO DO IT

VALUES

FACILITATE CONNECTION
- Between civil society organisations
- Between civil society and public systems

BUILD TRUST
- Allow difficult conversations to surface

INCREASE ACCOUNTABILITY
- transparent and open decision making processes
- Focus on impact over activity

SHARE POWER
- Devolve decision making
- Robust social infrastructure
- No one sector has more power than another

BEHAVIOURS

WE ARE COMMITTING TO
- Making it easy for networks to form and sustain
- Focusing on the things that matter for residents
- Increasingly working in consortia
- Always making room for new organisations/people
- Having the difficult conversations
- Learning together (especially our mistakes

OUTCOMES

THIS NEW WAY OF WORKING WILL LEAD TO:
- Co-operative governance structures that don't depend on an organisation
- Increased innovation by civil society
- Public systems supporting collective activity
- Transparent decision making and financial reporting
- More participatory funding
- Embedded processes across all activity to ensure we are continually learning and improving
- More people involved in more stuff!