

Summary of my work as EA to the Leader

Introduction

It's been a very busy year! I have been so grateful for the opportunity to meet residents, groups and organisations from across the borough in my role as EA to the Leader.

As I highlighted the last time I attended E&R for scrutiny, I continue to support our housing strategy – suggesting ideas and ways we can best work with our housing association partners to utilise our existing social housing, and to support regeneration projects where appropriate. I've also focused on a social initiative tackling loneliness and continued to organise and host our information playgroup session with Cllr Dykes, helping to promote our services and programmes to Bromley's busy young families.

I have given a brief description of activities undertaken below.

Housing

In July, I supported the housing team by organising an event in parliament to promote our draft housing strategy. The event was well attended and two of our MPs, Sir Bob Neill MP and Col. Bob Stewart MP, attended and gave overviews of the national housing policy agenda.



Tackling Loneliness

This year I also focused on tackling loneliness in Bromley which included hosting a Tackling Loneliness Together summit during National Loneliness Awareness week. The summit was attended by over 120 delegates from charities, residents' associations, faith groups, and various other relevant groups and societies.

Since the summit I have been working with charities and groups to help promote and support activities to help tackle loneliness in our communities.



Talk tots and tumble

Cllr Dykes and I continued to host our popular Talk, Tots and Tumble information-playgroup sessions for Bromley's busy young families. As I explained at last year's scrutiny meeting, we felt there was a need to reach out to Bromley's young families to share the programmes and services we offer. We know that young families are unlikely to be able to attend council meetings or get involved in the community as much as they would like, due to childcare commitments, so the purpose of the playgroup information sessions is to bring the information to them! We have traditionally hosted the session at the Glades in the soft play area, but we are offering to host a session in any ward that would like to have us! We hosted our first one by invitation in Orpington. If you would like us to come to your ward, please get in touch!

