



BEXLEY LABOUR GROUP PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

13th November 2017

Labour councillors support local Living Wage employer

Bexley's Labour Group of councillors have welcomed the community work undertaken by the Archway Project in Thamesmead and registered their support for them as a Living Wage employer during the recent Living Wage Week.

Councillors Stef Borella, Daniel Francis, Danny Hackett and Mabel Ogundayo visited the project on 10th November to meet staff, volunteers and users and see the difference the project makes to young people in the community.

The Archway Project is a youth club and education centre providing a range of educational workshops and recreational activities. They offer a unique learning experience, with a proven track record for minimising social exclusion, empowering at risk young people, providing meaningful qualifications and reducing crime rates.

Speaking at the visit, Cllr Stef Borella, Shadow Cabinet Member for Education said "This visit gave us an opportunity to see the difference the Archway Project makes to a number of young people to give them essential lifelong skills. The project supports young people including those with Special Educational Needs or at risk of offending and provides a vital opportunity to give them skills in the field of cookery and motorbike repairs."

The visit also allowed the councillors the opportunity to register their support for Living Wage Week, as the project is a Living Wage employer. The London Living Wage is now £10.20 per hour and recent statistics supplied by the Living Wage Foundation show that 33 per cent of jobs in the London Borough of Bexley are paid below this rate and that 24.7% of children in the borough live in poverty.

Cllr Mabel Ogundayo, Deputy Leader of the Labour Group and councillor for Thamesmead East where the project is based said "I am delighted to support the Archway Project and the fact they are a recognised Living Wage employer. Figures supplied by the Living Wage Foundation show that low pay disproportionately affects women in work and in particular those with children, having a direct impact on child poverty.

Bexley currently has four accredited Living Wage employers and we believe the council should take a stronger lead in encouraging businesses across the community to pay the Living Wage, to increase spending power in the borough and help lift local families from poverty".

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