



The Lord Mayor's Office

26th March 2021

Iftikhar Akhtar
35 Florence Road
West Bromwich
B70 6LG

Dear Iftikhar,

Councillor Mohammed Aikhlaq has drawn to my attention the wonderful work you have been doing as part of the Dawat-e-Islami's Welfare Team supporting young people across Birmingham during the pandemic. He says that every month you have been conducting over 50 events for children and students across different communities, motivating them and helping to reduce crime.

He says for those ages 9-16 you have set up monthly events at the Lighthouse in Aston and other locations across Birmingham and the Midlands. These events focus on the issues and problems that children are facing today, for example; anger management, bullying, reducing violence, behavioural issues, video games' addiction and many others.

For College and University Students, he says monthly events have been taking place at John Lewis in the city centre. Some of the topics covered were; time management, anxiety, self-confidence, focusing on their studies. These events have allowed students across different colleges and universities to network and share common goals. Some of the other issues covered have included knife crime, drugs, speeding, alcohol, gang culture etc.

Since COVID, I know these events are taking place online. This has helped not only with individual well-being and mental health; but has enabled the growth of positive peer-to-peer networks and to continue to empower young people to become model citizens and make an invaluable contribution to society.

Please accept my heartfelt thanks, this is essential work and must have made a real difference to the lives of the young people you have been supporting, you truly are a hero in these very challenging times.

I hope you; your family, friends and colleagues are keeping well.

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E-mail: Lord.Mayor@birmingham.gov.uk



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Please accept my very best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mohammed Azim'.

Councillor Mohammed Azim
Lord Mayor of Birmingham