

MAYOR OF LONDON

Chris Walsh

Chair

Positive Ageing in London

positiveageinginlondon@gmail.com

Our ref: MGLA080620-3820

Date: 3 July 2020

Dear Mr Walsh,

Thank you for your email of the 5 June about older Londoners and London's recovery from the coronavirus crisis.

I am acutely aware of the high number of older Londoners that we have lost to the virus. Every life lost is a tragedy. I am also aware that the lockdown places significant burdens on some older Londoners – especially those who are shielding.

Please pass on my thanks to Positive Ageing in London members for drawing up the set of principles for ensuring the needs of older Londoners are met in recovery and to you for sharing them with me.

Many of these principles are already in evidence in the approach that I have taken to respond to the crisis, and I will ensure that my teams continue to apply these principles where possible going forward. My Deputy Mayor Debbie Weekes-Bernard is co-chairing the Social Recovery taskforce of the London Recovery Board with Councillor Ruth Dombey, the Vice Chair of London Councils. As you know, Debbie is the Deputy Mayor for older Londoners and both Debbie and Councillor Dombey are committed to making London more age-friendly in line with the World Health Organization's Age-friendly Communities Framework.

My team established the London Community Response Survey to engage with and hear the impact and needs of London's civil society organisations and their beneficiaries. They actively invited older Londoners organisations to participate. I am enormously grateful to Positive Ageing in London, and the many other older Londoners stakeholder organisations who positively responded to the invitation and are participating in the survey, for the important intelligence they are providing to us. It has been especially helpful for informing the priorities of the London Community Response Fund.

I have contributed £5 million to the London Community Response Fund. The Fund has now attracted a total of over £23 million. From this, grants have been made to help support organisations for older people, as well as local initiatives that have helped vulnerable older people.

My staff worked closely with ThriveLDN, the pan-London mental health organisation, and our public health colleagues to provide older Londoners who are likely not be on-line with hard copy material on staying mentally well during these times.

MAYOR OF LONDON

Thank you once again for writing. I hope that you and all Positive Ageing in London members stay safe and well.

Yours sincerely,

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

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London