



THE RT. HON. STEPHEN TIMMS MP

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Labour Member of Parliament for East Ham

Ms Avani Higgins
Assistant Head teacher
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Dear Avani,

I write to confirm my support for Dads and Sports Club. Dads and Lads is a very impressive, wholly voluntary initiative by local parents to provide football teams for local youngsters. I have known the group, and its founders, Keith Rochester and Tony Davis, since 2005.

Dads and Lads is a sports mentoring organisation which was founded in 2001. In July 2014, the club registered with HM Revenue and Customs as a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) thereby gaining charitable status. This means it is able to offer sports to the wider community and enhance the lives of children, young adults and their families at grassroots level by providing recreational activities and services that address their needs and aspirations.

Dads and Lads initially aimed to encourage fathers – and mothers – to become more involved in their sons' development through mutually enjoyable activities such as football. Their scope, however, is now being extended to offer workshops on a variety of issues such as bullying, self-esteem and nutrition for children, young adults and their families. In 2014, they hosted a series of three workshops under the heading of *Challenging Youth Crime*. These workshops tackled issues such as peer pressure, knowing your rights and joint enterprise. They were very well attended and received.

It is hoped that Dads and Lads' continued involvement in the community will contribute to reducing crime, increase community participation and enable youngsters at risk to realise their learning and citizenship potential. Mr Davis tells me that an opportunity to work with Little Ilford School, in whatever capacity, would be a major step forward for the club.

Dads and Lads has a committed leadership. I hope they will continue to play an active part in our community and I look forward to hearing about their future successes.

Thank you for your help.

Yours sincerely,

STEPHEN TIMMS MP