



**Councillor Damian White**  
**Leader of the Council**

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Mrs Teresa Goulding  
Director  
Jodie Chesney Foundation  
Royals, Viking Way  
Rainham  
RM13 9YG

*Teresa*

Thank you for meeting with me recently, and once again I would like to extend my deepest condolences at the loss of Jodie in such dreadful circumstances.

I can speak on behalf of the community in the London Borough of Havering, in saying how shocked we were to learn of the tragic death of Jodie earlier this year, which brought into sharp focus the blight of serious violence in our community. It was heartening to see the community coming together in tributes to Jodie, especially the walk through Romford town centre and adorning the streets with purple ribbons which was a touching spectacle given the tragic circumstances.

Tackling serious violence is a priority, both for the council and in partnership with the police and the wider community. It is heartening that the Jodie Chesney Foundation has been formed to provide prevention, intervention, education and support to parents and children and young people themselves who may not otherwise engage with mainstream support. This is consistent with the borough's priority to safeguard our young people from serious violence and intervene earlier with those who are perhaps susceptible to it.

As Leader of the Council I fully endorse your charity's aims and wish you well. Please keep me informed of your progress and do not hesitate to contact me in the future if you feel I could assist in any way.

Kind regards,

*Damian White*

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