

WE ARE NEWHAM.

Latest on life in our borough

Balancing our budget and investing in the future, p6

Let's love Newham and create a cleaner borough, p8

Exclusive interview with music producer Lord Kimo, p18

I believe the future of Newham's

culture

is incredibly bright.

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Cover photography by Sylvie Belbouab. Sylvie is a local Newham resident and social documentary photographer. Follow her work on Instagram  @gbs10_portrait

Message from the Mayor



As we move into spring, the season of fresh starts and – hopefully – milder weather, there's much to be excited about! We are continuing to deliver on our commitments to build a fairer Newham, which you will find more on throughout this magazine. This includes the opening of our brand new Shipman Youth Zone and continuing our plans to future-proof jobs and skills in Newham for the benefit of all our people.

While there is much to look forward to, there are also tough times ahead. At the end of February, our budget for the coming year was approved at a meeting of Full Council. The Local Investment for Fairness in Tough Times Budget Plan for 2024/25 sets out how through robust financial management we will protect frontline services and the things that matter the most to our residents in the face of chronic underfunding from the Government, which is affecting all local authorities up and down the country.

While it means we have had to make some difficult decisions, it's also means we'll be able to continue safeguarding the key services for our residents, including those most vulnerable. It's also about ensuring we keep investing in all those important capital investments to improve our roads, build houses and sustain Newham's long-term future in these turbulent times.

Our Budget 2024/25 plans will protect essential frontline services, such as keeping our streets clean, and pump £17.5m into temporary accommodation in the face of an escalating housing crisis because more and more people are being made homeless. As well as more adults and children's social care, we'll be injecting a £5.4m boost for Special Educational Needs. We've looked at all the council's property assets and identified some we can dispose of to boost the Council's income for core services to residents as well. Our budget plans in the coming year will continue to meet those things that matter to you as we protect frontline services and invest in our people here in Newham.

Everything we do is for all sections of our community here in Newham, because my commitment as your Mayor is to build a fairer borough not only for now, but also for the future. This means making every pound count to protect the essential services our residents rely on, while continuing to invest in and improve the things I know you care about.

One of the areas I know that's important to you is making our streets cleaner. I'm pleased to report that our efforts to tackle fly-tipping are making a difference. We're investing in tackling the issue – but to achieve long-lasting

change, we need you. As with so many other things, it takes a full-borough effort to make a real change. I have seen first-hand in our communities how much talent and appetite there is to make things better. During challenging times, we must pull together and find different ways of doing things, and I am proud to be able to play a part in harnessing the incredible talent and energy we have here.

In this issue of the magazine, you'll find so many examples of residents and local groups doing their bit to make a difference in their neighbourhoods, including through our Citizens Assemblies and People Powered Places initiative. If you're interested in getting involved in your local community, you will find plenty of ways to do so on these pages.

Finally, as the magazine goes to print we are awaiting the results of our London Borough of Culture bid for 2025. Investing in all things culture in the borough helps our inclusive growth plans, the creation of jobs and collective wellbeing. Newham IS the beating heart of culture in London and, whatever the outcome, we are standing ready to deliver an enhanced programme of cultural activities this year. Read more inside, including the wonderful conversation I had with music producer Lord Kimo, where we discussed his life and work, from growing up in Newham, to the borough's deep cultural heritage.

I wish you peace and joy for the season ahead.

Rokhsana Fiaz OBE
Mayor of Newham
X @rokhsanafiaz



Our Budget

2024/25

Local investment for fairness in tough times

Local authorities across the country are facing an unsustainable financial challenge. We've now agreed our budget for 2024/25 and want to be open with you about what this means, including the difficult decisions ahead.

As government funding continues to be cut – more than 60% in real terms since 2010 – costs of goods and services also continue to rise. Added to this, pressures including the rising number of people facing homelessness, an increased need for adult and children's services, and ongoing cost-of-living pressures, mean that more people are turning to us for support than ever before. In particular, our costs for funding temporary accommodation, while helping families find long-term housing, has added strain to an already difficult situation.

All of this means that the gap between what we need to support our residents and what we can afford is growing wider. To close this gap, we have no choice but to look for new solutions and make some tough decisions.



How we're balancing our budget while investing in Newham's future

Our plans will make the best use of every pound, while we continue to make the best choices for the borough and our residents. Despite the immense pressures ahead, we are committed to protecting, investing in and improving vital public services for our communities.

Our plans include:

- The sale of unused council properties and land to inject £17.5m into temporary accommodation. This will provide a lifeline for families facing the ongoing housing crisis.
- Reviewing how we deliver our services, including finding ways to make more efficiencies and reduce costs.
- Investing in vital services – including £11.6m for adult social care, and £4.5m for children and young people's social care.
- Capital investments of around £400m to address ongoing needs, including street infrastructure, and building and acquiring new houses to provide vulnerable families with the security of a permanent home.

- Continuing to lobby government to recognise its responsibilities. This includes Fair Funding Reforms to support a fair and realistic way to estimate the spending needs of different local authorities, and urgently fund essential services adequately.

While the proposed budget includes modest increases in Council Tax and social rent, which are still some of the lowest in the capital, it also maintains support for vulnerable households through schemes like the Council Tax Reduction programme.

Throughout the difficult landscape, our dedication to building a fairer Newham is unwavering. Our plan is called Local Investment for Fairness in Tough Times, because our ambitions and commitments to invest in Newham, even during the tough times, are an integral part of our mission to make our borough a fairer place for the future.

For more on our budget, visit newham.gov.uk/budget

*All information correct at time of going to print.

Let's love Newham and create a cleaner borough

We're working hard to improve the cleanliness of Newham's streets. We've listened to the issues you face and have a plan of action to make real, long-lasting change. Below are just some of the ways we're making a difference:

- Improved our street cleansing service to be more efficient and effective.
- In 2022/23 we increased recycling rates to 25.6% and have since introduced weekly recycling collections, to help residents recycle more and put less in their rubbish bins.
- Improved our enforcement teams and street cleansing services to work together to issue fines and crack down on fly-tippers.
- Introduced 8 new vehicles and additional crews to clear illegally dumped waste.
- Partnered with leading organisations from Keep Britain Tidy to University College London to develop new innovations to improve cleanliness in our borough.
- Put plans in place to launch a new Envirocrime team in March 2024 to crack down on littering and fly-tipping. The team will work within the Council and with partners, including local police.

We've made huge strides in reducing fly-tipping, with incidents dropping by almost a third in the year 2022/23.





Newham London

Newham London

A cleaner Newham

Together, we can make Newham a home to be proud of. There's so much we can all do to make a positive difference as an individual or as part of a local community group.

1. Don't miss your bin collection day

Check your collection day online at newham.gov.uk/checkyourcollectionday

Put your bins out the night before your collection day, so you never miss a collection. Waste collections start from 6am.

2. Book a bulky waste collection today

To help keep our borough clean and tidy, we can pick up your unwanted items like furniture, mattresses, fridges and more. We collect from your door. Let's all help prevent rubbish being dumped on our streets.

Visit newham.gov.uk/bulkywastecollection to book your bulky waste collection and we'll aim to collect within 5 working days.



starts with us

3. Download the Love Newham app and report issues directly to us

You can report environmental issues such as full street litter bins, illegally dumped rubbish like fly-tipping, graffiti and dog-fouling, directly to us via the Love Newham app.

Search and download 'Love Clean Streets' in the App Store or Google Play Store. Then take a photo, add some brief details, and press send. The location is captured automatically with all the information we need to deal with the problem.

4. Don't throw away an item that could be used by someone else

15,000 people in Newham are members of Freecycle Newham, so they can give away their good quality unwanted items for other people in the community to reuse.

You can donate your unwanted items to those in need by visiting newham.gov.uk/donateunwanteditems



5. Take part in Litter Lotto

If you're 18+, search and download 'Litter Lotto' in the App Store or Google Play Store. Simply upload a photo showing you throwing away litter in a council-branded bin via the app's camera function.

In return, you'll help keep our neighbourhoods cleaner and could even bag yourself cash prizes. Enter as many times as you like, as long as it's different litter.

6. Join a local litter-picking group or create your own

Get involved and create a positive impact in your community. Contact recycling@newham.gov.uk to find out more.

7. Love Food Hate Waste

Sign up to local Love Food Hate Waste workshops delivered by Nutrition Kitchen. Gain top tips to help make the most of your food and save up to £70 a month. Visit nutrition-kitchen.co.uk/love-food-hate-waste for more.

8. People Powered Places

Take part in local environment projects in your neighbourhood as part of our People Powered Places programme. See what's on near you at newhamco-create.co.uk/peoplepoweredplaces

9. Get involved

Follow [@NewhamLondon](https://twitter.com/NewhamLondon) on X and Instagram, and [@NewhamCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/NewhamCouncil) on Facebook, to find out how you can take part in, or volunteer at, local events such as pop-up repair cafes, road shows and community clothes swaps near you.

Unlocking the power of community: transforming Newham together

Our vibrant borough is transforming and there's a secret ingredient that can make this change truly remarkable – you.

We're committed to supporting local change-makers – which is why we provide the platforms, spaces, practical tools and financial support you need to make a lasting impact.

Over the years, we've run several Citizens Assemblies, where we've invited residents to come together with us to learn about important local issues and help develop local policies. Topics covered have included making Newham's green spaces better, 15-minute neighbourhoods and climate action.

We also run termly Youth Citizens Assemblies called Today Not Tomorrow. They're open, creative, fun and safe forums where young people aged nine to 25 can come together to talk about a specific topic, to decide how to improve their local area. The aim is, through social action, to give our young residents a clear voice in their community to help shape decisions that affect them.

The Citizens Assembly members continue to be invited to get involved in wider strategies, such as our Budget strategy and the Borough's Youth Safety Action Plan.

Another way we involve our residents in local decision-making is through our People Powered Places programme – one of the UK's largest participatory budgeting

initiatives. This innovative programme invites residents, voluntary, community and faith sector organisations to identify their local area needs, then develop ideas for local projects to be funded by us to make lasting improvements.

Following a project application period, local projects go on to participate in 'The Big Vote', offering those who live, work or learn in Newham the unique opportunity to choose which projects receive funding. This year, over 10,000 votes were cast for 120 community projects across our borough, with the winners sharing a funding pot of more than £1.6m.

To find out more about the People Powered Places programme and how you can get involved, visit newhamco-create.co.uk/peoplepoweredplaces

Whilst this year's successful residents kick-start their local projects and strive for change, we're asking you to think about how you too could give back to your area and make local improvements.

Your involvement is the catalyst for transformative change, ensuring our borough reflects the aspirations and unique voices of us all. Turn to **page 17** for more on this.



Within our borough, we are fortunate to have so many truly dedicated individuals who work tirelessly to make a difference to their local communities. Here are just a few of the amazing people who were honoured at our most recent annual Civic Awards. Will you be next?



Your Place (London) Ltd was recognised with the 'Well Newham' award. Your Place is a residential supported accommodation hostel for single adults, working with people experiencing homelessness and rough sleeping. With 155 beds, it is the largest provider of accommodation for homeless people in the local area. They also support their clients to access a range of other services to live independent lives.



Sian won a 'Good Neighbour' award. As well as taking on a leading role in her community, organising recreational events and tackling social problems in areas such as community safety and housing repairs, she also joined one of our resident scrutiny panels, where she is a voice for her estate and others in the borough.



Rameez 'Ramzy' was awarded with the 'Youth Excellence Award'. As co-chair of the Children in Care Council, his efforts have helped change the way we, as a council, are held to account for the services we provide to young people.

Congratulations to everyone who was nominated and who won at Newham's Civic Awards ceremony.

Meet the local residents

In 2023/24, 120 projects successfully secured funding from the People Powered Places programme thanks to your vote. We caught up with four residents about their local projects, their experience of the programme and why they feel more residents need to get involved in local change.



Faisal
The Young Entrepreneur's Book Club – East Ham


“We’re empowering the ambitious youth of Newham, aged 15 to 25, to unlock their entrepreneurial potential. Our project revolves around the establishment of a vibrant book club that focuses on entrepreneurial literature, exploring ideas related to entrepreneurship, personal development and success stories.”

-  [newham.gov.uk/
youngentrepreneurs
bookclub](https://newham.gov.uk/youngentrepreneursbookclub)
-  [linktr.ee/YouthBiz
BookClub](https://linktr.ee/YouthBizBookClub)



Paul
Br8ke The Silence (B8TS) – Forest Gate & Maryland

“We’re teaming up with local community hubs to run 12 drop-in sessions that provide men with spaces to talk about their mental health. Through our sessions, we’re challenging the stigma of loneliness, which is often associated with masculinity, providing expert support for men looking to achieve good mental health and wellbeing.”

-  [newham.gov.uk/
br8kethesilence](https://newham.gov.uk/br8kethesilence)
-  [@br8kethesilence](https://www.instagram.com/br8kethesilence)



Sheba
Be Safe, Feel Safe with Women and Girls Self Defence – Plaistow

“We’re working with our local community to combat fear and anxiety in women and young girls, and to increase their confidence. Our project provides women and girls with the tools they need to support their mental health and wellbeing, and protect themselves in a compromised situation.”

-  [newham.gov.uk/
safetyfirst](https://newham.gov.uk/safetyfirst)
-  [psbl.org.uk/health/
self-defence](https://psbl.org.uk/health/self-defence)



Celia
Sustainable fashion and living + Newham's first Food Forest – Green Street

“We are establishing Newham’s first food forest at the Katherine Road Community Centre to create a perennial food-growing system. We will also teach annual food growing, food-waste reduction, run ‘Climate Kids’ sessions and fashion upcycling workshops. Our project addresses the climate crisis, bringing residents together in workshops focused on implementing good, sustainable practices.”

-  [newham.gov.uk/
climateyouchange](https://newham.gov.uk/climateyouchange)
-  climateyouchange.org

transforming our borough

As a participant in Newham's People Powered Places programme, can you describe your experience and how you were supported?

Paul, Br8ke The Silence (B8TS)

"My experience was truly exceptional. The process was remarkably transparent and well-structured, ensuring everyone involved felt informed and empowered. What truly resonated with me was the incredible level of engagement provided by the Community Neighbourhood Team. This, coupled with opportunities to actively interact with the community, created an atmosphere of collaboration and energy."

What inspired you to actively engage in local change and how has your involvement shaped your perception of community in Newham?

Celia, Sustainable fashion and living + Newham's first Food Forest

"Our group, ClimateYouChange, is driven by the reality of rapidly escalating climate change. We firmly believe that everyone can enact powerful change, essential for the survival of our planet. We aren't tiptoeing around the edges of what needs to happen. No one is coming to save us. We must work together and educate one another on the changes we all need to make. Whilst we were promoting our project, we found local people to be really engaging, approachable, and happy to help."





Faisal, The Young Entrepreneur's Book Club

"I was looking for a space where like-minded people interested in entrepreneurship could come together, discuss ideas and help each other out where possible. I couldn't find one, so I decided to create one!"

This year's People Powered Places programme has put Newham on the world map as a leader of participatory democracy. How does it feel knowing that over 10,000 residents cast votes during the 'The Big Vote', many of who voted for you?

Paul, Br8ke The Silence (B8TS)

"Witnessing over 10,000 residents engage in 'The Big Vote' and seeing so many residents choose our local project was incredible. In a funding landscape characterised by increased oversight and complexity, Newham's approach stands out as refreshingly accessible and empowering. Participating in this programme and receiving community support has been a privilege, and I'm confident it paves the way for lasting positive change in our borough."

"Make the change
you want to see."
Faisal

Finally, reflecting on the success of your community project, what's your message for others about the benefits of getting involved in local change?

Sheba, Be Safe, Feel Safe with Women and Girls Self Defence

"There's huge power in numbers. By coming together and sharing our ideas, knowledge and strengths, we can contribute to fostering a safer borough for us all."

Paul, Br8ke The Silence (B8TS)

"It's not just about holding our elected officials accountable; it's about taking ownership and actively building the Newham we envision. Come forward, lend your voice, and let's collectively create a ripple of change that transforms our community."

Celia, Sustainable fashion and living + Newham's first Food Forest

"Individuals coming together have power to create significant, lasting change. We can work to build the future that we want to see and be a part of. We are still in time to save our planet from climate change and with this we have a chance to create a fairer society with stronger, healthier communities."

Faisal, The Young Entrepreneur's Book Club

"Make the change you want to see; don't wait for others to do it for you. This is an opportunity to be the architects of the future you want to see. So, if you want to see change around you, take the responsibility and make it happen."

People Powered Places



Are you feeling empowered to create local change?

Join us at our upcoming People Powered Places events in June to find out more about local projects taking place in your neighbourhood. Hear from inspiring speakers and project leads who have started their own projects, and get support and advice from our teams to help you kick-start local change.

Community neighbourhood/venue	Date/Time	Community Neighbourhood Team contact details
Custom House & Canning Town Canning Town Library, E16 1EH	Monday 3 June 6-8pm	020 3373 0854 CN.CustomHouseCanningTown@newham.gov.uk
Beckton & Royal Docks Beckton Globe Library, E6 5JQ	Wednesday 5 June 6-8pm	020 3373 0853 CN.BecktonRoyalDocks@newham.gov.uk
East Ham East Ham Library, E6 2RT	Thursday 6 June, 6-8pm	020 3373 0827 CN.Eastham@newham.gov.uk
Green Street Katherine Road Community Centre, E7 8PN	Monday 10 June 6-8pm	020 3373 0857 CN.Greenstreet@newham.gov.uk
Manor Park Kensington Primary School, E12 6NN	Wednesday 12 June 6-8pm	020 3373 0858 CN.Manorpark@newham.gov.uk
Plaistow Plaistow Library, E13 9HL	Thursday 13 June 6-8pm	020 3373 0859 CN.Plaistow@newham.gov.uk
Forest Gate & Maryland The Gate Library, E7 0QH	Thursday 20 June 6-8pm	020 3373 0856 CN.Forestgate@newham.gov.uk
Stratford & West Ham Stratford Library, E15 1EL	Tuesday 25 June 6-8pm	020 3373 0826 CN.Stratfordwestham@newham.gov.uk

Find the latest information at newhamco-create.co.uk/peoplepoweredplaces

Lord Kimo: on culture, community and growing up in Newham

We recently had the privilege of meeting award-winning music producer, and former member of Asian Dub Foundation, Lord Kimo. As a former resident of Newham, Lord Kimo's experiences in the borough have shaped who he is both personally and professionally.

In this exclusive interview at the soon-to-be-reopened Shipman Youth Zone, Lord Kimo opened up about his early life in Newham, the importance of culture and community, and of ensuring young people have the support they need to nurture their talents.

Mayor Fiaz

What was it like for you growing up in Newham?

What were some of the things you remember, what were the challenges?

Lord Kimo

My family and I moved to Newham in the early '90s, initially settling in East Ham. We also lived in Upton Park and Plaistow.

At the time there was a lot of racism. But the good thing was, I was exposed to every single culture, so musically it was an abyss of knowledge just waiting to be taken.

Newham has been a huge influence on my musical journey. From Bengali, Indian, Punjabi, and Pakistani beats to Reggae, Roots, Dub, Punk Rock, Grime, Garage, and more.

There was also a strong community bond [in Newham]. And over the years it's become even more tight. Back then it used to be little [pockets of] cultures but now it's everybody together.

Mayor Fiaz

Are there any particular areas you remember as you were growing up here that say something about you as a person?

Lord Kimo

Green Street was the changing point in my life. It was very interesting cos obviously 'New Way, New Life' (by Asian Dub Foundation) was the first video I ever featured on. That was the first time I was exposed to that culture [in Green Street]. It was very overwhelming and exciting at the same time. I was just in my teens. That experience marked a turning point in my music career, as over the following years I became a full-time member of the world-renowned group as a singer and producer.







Mayor Fiaz

What was it like being that age, doing what you were doing, going on tour?

Lord Kimo

Being able to provide at a young age was the best thing ever – when I was a youngster, I just wanted to get my family out of hardship. And then being able to help other people because of what I've seen. When people talk about hardship [in Newham], it takes someone like me to explain to the young people – I know what you're talking about. How can you relate to the youth if you've never been there?

Mayor Fiaz

You mentored some really successful artists who've come out of Newham, can you tell us a bit about that?

Lord Kimo

There's a few guys I was privileged to be able to give some experience to. When my family and I moved to Newham I crossed paths with Pahuldip Singh Sandhu (aka Steel Banglez), who is one of the best exports and artists that's come out of Newham. I remember mentoring him briefly, chatting about music, showing him my DJ decks, and sensing his inspiration to pursue a career in music. The first deck he touched was at my house. We still stay connected. I'm very proud of his work.

Mayor Fiaz

What is it about Newham that generates so much unique talent?

Lord Kimo

It's a melting pot – that's what it is – of communities, culture, of everything. I work with a lot of boroughs – the difference here is you've got everyone. So if you take bits from everyone, it's a winning combination.

Mayor Fiaz

What would your advice be on how we nurture and unleash that talent? We've got such amazing home-grown talent who are making waves and shaping British identity.

Lord Kimo

You've had a lot of talent coming out of Newham, bring those people back and let them be part of this movement. Someone who can talk to young people about the journey, what it takes.



Mayor Fiaz

Having spaces for young people is so important. What do you think of the space here at Shipman Youth Zone?

Lord Kimo

It's amazing. The area needs it, the public needs it and I fully support what you're doing. I think if this was here when I was living here it would have been a different story for a lot of people my age and the youth. Having something like this will definitely generate something good for the future of Newham.

Mayor Fiaz

I consider myself to be a social activist – we step into spaces to make the world better in our own small ways. It started with a really small set of conversations [between myself and the community] to reimagine the space. We should be developing youth zones that are beautiful, well designed. The plan is for every single youth zone in the borough to be refurbished, to become state of the art and then for each to have its own specialism. Shipman will be tech, digital, innovation.

Lord Kimo

You're on a mission, I love it.

Mayor Fiaz

We've also been doing so much around youth safety in Newham. It's really sad, it's heartbreaking. I can't even imagine what it must be like losing someone. They all sit in my heart, in my mind. What's driving it and what can you see as some of the solutions?

Lord Kimo

There's nothing worse than losing someone. For me, having been on both sides of that divide, it's upbringing, and [access to] resources where the community is not strong enough. It's giving opportunities. If you're one of these youths, you've got someone saying you can either join a gang, or someone like yourself who says I have this place (Shipman Youth Zone). That youth's going to come here. It's about the people you have here. You've got to talk to the kids about realistic facts, what's happening now, it'll hit them differently.

“Newham is a melting pot of cultures.”



Mayor Fiaz

We're bidding to be London Borough of Culture in 2025, which will generate so many opportunities for the borough, for the people here. Can you tell me about your involvement and how important you think culture is here?

Lord Kimo

I got a message out of the blue on Instagram and heard you were doing this amazing project, trying to place a bid for London Borough of Culture. I didn't even finish the sentence, I just said sign me up and that's how it happened.

I think [culture in the borough is] essential. It's the foundation of a lot of things. Having a mixed culture and melting pot of cultures is the best experience anyone could have. My involvement includes producing the score for the soundtrack [of a key event for the bid].

Mayor Fiaz

We find out in March** if we've won it. We're going to present this so compellingly, because there's so much we've got to showcase to the world. Even if we don't win, the London Borough of Culture is always going to be Newham this year — and every year.

Lord Kimo

Whether you win this bid, you've already won. Because you're giving something back. It would also highlight what the borough actually has been doing and what it's contributed to the historical movement of what we have now and what we're able to give in the future. I believe the future of Newham's culture is incredibly bright.

*** Shipman Youth Zone is due to open this spring. For updates on Instagram, follow @shipmanyouthzonalbn**

**** At the time of this interview, the results for the London Borough of Culture have not yet been announced.**

Celebrating culture in Newham

At the time of writing, we are still waiting for the outcome of our bid to become the London Borough of Culture 2025. A massive thank you to everyone who has shown their support – whether completing our survey, contacting us with your ideas, or registering your support online.

If we are successful, the bid will include a £1.35 million investment to elevate Newham's cultural life. This will be used to establish Newham as a centre for culture and creativity. This means increasing opportunities for the cultural sector, local artists, and residents; helping us invest in local businesses, particularly in relation to arts, events, food and hospitality; bringing in international artists to co-create with Newham organisations; and enabling us to better support our grassroots cultural communities.

Building Newham's Creative Future

Did you know, as part of our ongoing cultural offer, we have a 15-year plan to create more cultural opportunities within the borough? This is in addition to the London Borough of Culture bid, so whatever the result, we plan to deliver an enhanced programme of cultural events in 2024.

In the spirit of creating more opportunities for the plethora of existing talent in Newham, we have started a new **#NewhamLovesCreatives** series aimed at amplifying and sharing ideas on how we overcome challenges and giving creatives a new platform to express themselves and collaborate. Our first event recently took place and we hope to create different thematic events across the year, so keep an eye on our Instagram **@NewhamCulture** or our webpage **newham.gov.uk/BoroughofCulture**





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Sparking skills for Newham's digital future

Newham Sparks is our flagship programme to ensure that every resident and business in the borough benefits from the revolution in data and artificial intelligence.

Data is fast becoming essential to everything we do, from technology that can perform tasks without our help, to artificial intelligence, or 'AI', becoming part of everyday life. This could include personalised suggestions popping up when you are shopping online, or TV and film recommendations on a streaming service – that's AI.

The use of data is limitless, from helping to improve decision-making and online safety, to helping businesses to grow by making them more efficient. Figures show that around one in six UK organisations, totalling 432,000, have already embraced at least one AI technology. Inevitably, data and AI will transform how we work and the types of jobs available in the future. Estimates suggest that around 7% of existing UK

jobs could be affected over the next five years.

That's why Newham Sparks is investing, helping to build data skills and experience to ensure that residents and businesses harness the data opportunities of today, and tomorrow, alongside making our borough the centre of data in the capital. We are committed to creating jobs and boosting local investment.

East Ham Town Hall will be one of a network of bases for an exciting Newham Sparks programme, providing opportunities for local businesses and residents, including our young people. Over the next year, we will run activities for people aged 16-30 to kick-start careers in data, for local businesses to learn data skills and for residents to learn basic data literacy.

We are running a series with London Design and Engineering UTC, where students from the college will teach local businesses how to use data to help their businesses run smoother, such as by using AI to draft letters. Newham College, which is based right across the road from East Ham

Town Hall will lead a series of data-themed events for businesses. Our partners, called Cognizant, will deliver interview skills training and coaching to get more residents into data careers. Barclays will also run basic data literacy training for adults who have no or little experience in digital and data.

Data jobs aren't just about AI, they come in all shapes and sizes. Recently, our young people met with the Football Association who shared how important data is in their organisation, from analysing player performance, to how they do their marketing. They also met with ASOS, the online retailer, who spoke about how to use data in the fashion industry.

Look out for the latest about Newham Sparks and join us as we accelerate towards a data-driven future.

If you would like to be kept up to date with the latest information, or if you're a business who would like to partner with the programme, email the Newham Sparks team at newham.sparks@newham.gov.uk

A man with a beard is wearing a VR headset and holding a controller. The scene is lit with a mix of blue and orange light, creating a futuristic atmosphere. The man is looking upwards and to the right, fully immersed in the virtual reality experience.

"Data is fast becoming essential to everything we do, from technology that can perform tasks without our help, to artificial intelligence, or 'AI', becoming part of everyday life."

Our Family Hub Networks

We want to make sure families can access the support they need – for themselves and their children.

Family Hub Networks are 'one-stop-shops' where you can access the information, advice and support you need, all in one place.

By joining up and improving services, we are making getting support when you need it as simple as possible. The Networks bring together services from our Family Hubs, Children's Centres, 0-19 Children's Health, youth services and local Voluntary, Community and Faith organisations.

Support is available from pregnancy right up to 18 years of age (up to 25 years if the young person has additional needs).



Support includes:

- Free activities for all ages
- Mental Health and Wellbeing support
- Infant feeding support
- Ages and Stages support, including weaning, fussy eating, managing behaviour, toilet training
- Parenting support such as parenting programmes and workshops
- Specialist advice and support for children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities
- Support with money, employment, volunteering and welfare.

Did you know?

Our first Family Hub at East Ham Library opened in April 2023 and the Shipman Youth and Family Hub in Custom House is due to open this spring. We are one of 75 local authorities to receive a government grant to create four Family Hub Networks. To find out more about activities and services on offer, please visit newham.gov.uk/familyhubnetwork



Family Hub Networks are here to support families across the borough. We spoke to Ms S, who visited one of our Family Hub Networks for housing and financial support. She said:

“I made an application for free school meals but it was rejected and no one could help me with this. The Family Navigator called and emailed the school to get me support and when they called me back to say they would put money on his lunch card, I was happy and crying. The service is fantastic. My son can now eat well and this will help me to sleep well. I will see a Family Navigator again for my money problems.”

“The entire Family Hubs team helped me and my family like only a mother can do. I was treated with respect and kindness, and I was offered support that I didn’t even know existed. When they did not have the information they needed, they looked for it and

phoned people in various departments so that the matter could be communicated to the right team. They advocated for me and spoke on my behalf when I could not do so myself due to the language barrier. I really appreciate your work.”



“The entire Family Hubs team helped me and my family like only a mother can do.”



NUTRITION KITCHEN
12-Week Lifestyle
Weight Management
PROGRAMME
FRIDAY 26th
Jan
9:45 - 10:45
11:00 - 12:00
12:15 - 13:15

nutrition kitchen
families understand food

Our top tips for keeping healthy and well

We're here to help you maintain healthy, happy lives. Below are some simple tips to help you get the best out of spring.

1. Visit Well Newham

The Well Newham website wellnewham.org.uk offers access to a range of tools to support your health and wellbeing, including a directory of around 500 services. You can also get face-to-face support at our hubs, as Ummea from Manor Park did (see right image and quote).

2. Sign up to receive Ageing Well in Newham WhatsApp updates

If you're 50+ and would like to be sent messages about services, events and plans to improve your health and wellbeing, simply message **07814 076 044**.

3. Get fit with Our Parks

Our Parks offer fun and inclusive outdoor exercise sessions, delivered by qualified fitness coaches. For more information and other ways to keep active in the community, visit wellnewham.org.uk/advice/keeping-active

4. Get more financial control

If you're eligible for support based on a social care assessment, consider managing it through a direct payment. This could see you getting a set amount of money to arrange the care and support you need, instead of us doing it for you. Find out more at newham.gov.uk/directpayments

5. Get vaccinated

Vaccinations offer you and your loved ones the best protection against a number of diseases. Among them,

the MMR jabs protect against three serious illnesses: measles, mumps and rubella. All routine vaccinations are available for free through the NHS. If you're worried you've missed one, contact your GP. For further guidance, visit nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/nhs-vaccinations-and-when-to-have-them

6. Be Connected

Feeling lonely can happen to us all, but there are lots of ways to meet new people and build a network by simply getting involved in our local community. Find out how at newham.gov.uk/BeConnected

7. Get inspired by easy, healthy recipes

Eating healthily helps reduce our risk of getting many illnesses. Sign up for free cooking classes from Nutrition Kitchen in a fun and friendly environment at wellnewham.org.uk/advice/healthy-weight

8. Ask for help if you need it

Good mental wellbeing is important for our physical health, relationships and work. Whether you want to connect with others, need bereavement support or urgent help in a crisis, we are here for you. Find out more at wellnewham.org.uk/healthy-mind

9. Get help with daily living activities

AskSARA is our new online guided advice and assessment tool, designed to help you find useful information about products aimed at supporting you and your loved ones. For more information, visit newham.livingmadeeasy.org.uk

If you need help using AskSARA, contact the Access to Adults Social Care Team on **020 8430 2000** (option 2). Text Phone: **18001 020 8430 2000**.

"I can't understand English properly but the advisors spoke to me slowly and with kindness. I found the service useful." **Ummea, Manor Park**



10. Become a 'Carer Friendly' organisation

Finally, if your company or organisation has an influence on the lives of carers in our borough, you can sign up to our new Carer Friendly Newham programme. You will be committing to embedding its principles, while also promoting your efforts. For more details, visit newham.gov.uk/carerfriendly



Our top cost of living tips

We know how tough things are for many people and are here to offer support to those who need it. As a quick reference point, we recommend these five tips to help reduce your cost of living:



1. Create a budget

Create a detailed budget to track income and expenses. If you need help with this, our very own financial wellbeing service, Our Newham Money, is on hand to help you.



2. Shop smart

Look for deals and compare prices before making a purchase. A handy, free comparison tool, [trolley.co.uk](https://www.trolley.co.uk), lets you compare the cost of items at major supermarkets. You can also set alerts for when the price of your favourite items drop.



3. Make meals at home

We all like the odd takeaway treat or going out for meals, but it can quickly add up. Instead, why not try making your favourite takeaway meals at home for a fraction of the cost. Check out Our Newham Money's budget friendly recipe videos at [newham.gov.uk/budgetfriendly](https://www.newham.gov.uk/budgetfriendly)



4. Turn down your thermostat by 1°C

Turning down your thermostat by just 1°C can save £100 a year on average.



5. Help is Here

If you are worried about money and need financial advice or support, Our Newham Money advisers can provide confidential help and support.



For more tips, scan the QR code or visit [newham.gov.uk/costoflivingresponse](https://www.newham.gov.uk/costoflivingresponse)





Foster for Newham and make a difference

Delrose and John have fostered for Newham since 2012. Delrose previously worked as a teacher and then in a bank. She decided to foster after friends pointed out she would be a perfect carer.

Delrose and John foster teenagers. Delrose described how when a new child comes into your home, you have to remember you are a stranger to them and it takes time to build trust. Past experiences may cause children to act up, so resilience and consistency are key.

Asked if she had a message for people thinking about fostering, Delrose explained how hugely rewarding it is when you do your best and see it returned with love and respect, describing her joy at receiving a handmade card from her foster child.

Helping a child feel safe, settled and secure when they're not able to be with their family makes a huge difference to their lives and can be incredibly rewarding.

Lots of different people with many different circumstances become foster carers. For example, you can be at home full time and foster a baby, or you can be employed and foster a child at primary or secondary school.

If you live in or near Newham and want to find out more, including what our foster offer includes, get in touch via [newham.gov.uk/fostering](https://www.newham.gov.uk/fostering) or call **0808 1753 989**. The team is currently looking for foster carers for children up to 18 years and can talk you through any questions you have.



Easter holiday activities



There are activities for all the family this Easter. For the latest listings, please scan the QR code or visit eequ.org/newhamhaf

Holiday Activities and Food programme

We have an eggstravaganza of exciting activities planned for children and young people this Easter holiday.

Alongside a range of organisations, we're working to provide a full programme of holiday clubs including sports, drama, cooking, music, arts and crafts, dance and much more. All clubs will also provide a delicious, healthy meal each day.

We know holidays can be difficult for families, which is why we are once again offering free places for young people aged 4 to 16 who receive a benefits-related free school meal. Most clubs will also have places for children and young people who need some additional support. If your child has been identified as having a special educational need and/or disability (SEND), please contact the club before booking and provide as much information as possible to ensure they are able to meet the needs of your child.

The Easter activity programme will run between 29 March and 12 April.

For more information and to book a place, visit newham.gov.uk/HAF

"The scheme is very good and the money I save is vital. The children get a hot meal or packed lunch and snacks too. They are out all day and if they were at home, they would get bored and be constantly asking for treats and snacks."

Parent who uses the Aston Mansfield programme, Little Ilford.

"The staff here are welcoming and caring, they allow you to feel comfortable even in hard moments."

Parent who uses the food bank provided by the Royal Docks Learning and Activity Centre, alongside their holiday programme.

**"Newham is a
melting pot –
of communities,
culture, of
everything.
It's a winning
combination."**

Lord Kimo

WE ARE NEWHAM.