

WE ARE

NEWHAM.

RISING STARS.

EMPOWERED.



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VOLUME 1 Issue 4 SPRING 2023

www.newham.gov.uk

ROKHS MAYOR.



I hope you enjoy this Spring 2023 issue of the Newham Mag featuring an interview with five rising stars who are benefitting from our Youth Empowerment Fund!

Since I became Mayor in 2018, I made a commitment that we would invest in our

future. My priority has always been to make Newham the best place for children and young people to grow up, to be happy and healthy; and to be encouraged to thrive and reach their full potential.

As part of our plans, we've set up a Youth Empowerment Fund which young people can access for training or equipment they need to learn and develop skills in the things they are passionate about. It was great to meet some of Newham's rising stars and you can read more inside about these aspirational young people.

This month marks one year of getting stuff done since my re-election as the Mayor of Newham in May 2022. As I step up a gear for the coming year of my second four year term, there's a feature in this edition on some of the key things we've delivered over the past 12 months. It's all part of our Building a Fairer Newham plans that I promised we would deliver when I stood for re-election last year. All of us have faced the worst Cost of Living Crisis in a generation, brought about by central government actions and inflationary pressures being experienced worldwide. Councils like Newham have faced growing demands and pressures on our finances, but despite these challenges we are making progress for all our residents.

In the past 12 months, we are delivering on the issues that matter most to them. We've taken action on rogue landlords, taking action against people who are fly-tipping, investing more money to support our young people,

including those with special educational needs and disabilities; offering residents advice on their employment rights and launched a campaign to target developers who haven't removed dangerous cladding from their blocks of flats. We are also taking action to help our residents in these hard times.

Since we launched our Cost of Living Crisis Response we've provided over 300,000 instances of wide-ranging support, including through the Council's Our Newham Money service which has helped residents receive an additional £1.3 million in benefit entitlements that would have otherwise been left unclaimed. Our network of Warm Havens across all our libraries and other venues in the borough have provided warmth and comfort to thousands of residents taking advantage of the extension of opening hours. Our support continues with our Help is Here campaign and you can find out more via the Council's website.

Over the year, our Community Assemblies' programme has continued bringing about projects that make a real

difference across our borough as more and more residents take a lead in shaping their neighbourhoods. It's the largest participatory budgeting initiative in the UK, with more than 200 people powered projects

enabled. We'll be kicking off the next 2-year cycle under the banner of People Powered Places, with £1.6 million to fund new projects initiated by local residents!

You can read more in this issue of the Newham Mag, and in the coming 12 months I'll keep you updated on progress and achievements as we accelerate with changes for the benefit of all our communities in Newham – because that is my only purpose.

**Rokhsana Fiaz OBE
Mayor of Newham**

@rokhsanafiaz



NEWS.

SIGN UP FOR OUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER AT
WWW.NEWHAM.GOV.UK/NEWSLETTERSIGNUP

A NEW CARERS SUPPORT SERVICE FOR NEWHAM



Newham Council has partnered with local carers to commission a new Carers Support Service that will help us deliver our Carers

Strategy. Three experienced local organisations – Age UK East London, Subco Trust and the Renewal Programme – are delivering an all-age support service for carers to help residents navigate services and support them in their caring role.

If you are a Newham carer who needs support, or know someone who does, then you can contact the new Carer Support Service by email: info@newhamcarers.co.uk or phone: **020 3954 3143**.

The Council is also developing a new Resident Advisory Group for carers who want to work with us to improve our Carers Services and co-deliver our Strategy Action Plan. To find out more or join this group contact Noorjahan.begum@newham.gov.uk

And help us to celebrate Carers Week 2023 at our second annual Carers Festival that will be taking place over the weekend of 10 June. Check out our Council Carers pages for more information www.newham.gov.uk/carersstrategy

NEW PARTNERSHIP TO BOOST FOSTER CARER NUMBERS

To raise the number of foster carers and help increase the proportion of children that can be fostered locally, Newham Council has launched a campaign



to encourage new types of carers. The Council has partnered with Now Foster on a radical programme of training and guidance to help those with careers and who might have demanding schedules to care for children and young people across the borough.

Complementing the existing fostering service and aiming to grow overall capacity, the new carers will be able to offer either emergency, temporary or permanent care to children and young people or respite care to parents and guardians. Now Foster will offer 1-2-1 guidance through the application process, empathy training, a family coach and a support bubble of peers to give practical and emotional care.

Find out more and register your interest in becoming a foster carer online: www.newham.gov.uk/fostering

LEARNING FOR THE FUTURE WORLD OF WORK

In April, Mayor Fiaz and council officers met with Dr Michael Spence, the President and Provost of world-class University College London (UCL) which has opened its new campus in Newham. Along with Professor Paola Lettieri, who leads the UCL East team, discussions

revolved around collaborations and progress since the two partners signed a Memorandum of Understanding in December last year.

UCL is deeply committed to supporting the Council's Building a Fairer Newham agenda and as one of the top ten universities globally, it is embedding its research and teaching expertise firmly in our borough with a new campus in Stratford offering a raft of opportunities for our people.

NEWS.



WELL NEWHAM LAUNCH

Every person's health and wellbeing is affected by multiple experiences and factors, not just those that can be addressed by a doctor with medication or treatment. To support Newham residents with the different things that can impact their health and wellbeing, and ensure everyone has access to the very best advice and guidance, Newham Council is launching the Well Newham programme with a week of activities from 5 to 9 June.

Delivered in partnership with health and care organisations across the borough (including the NHS and adult social care), Well Newham will consist of a fully accessible website and local information hubs offering advice and guidance across all areas related to health and wellbeing for residents.

Whether it is help with money management, advice on how to stop smoking, information about local exercise groups, managing existing health conditions or advice on how to access specific NHS services, Well Newham will support your health and wellbeing in Newham.

The programme supports the Council's Health, Wellbeing and Happiness agenda, which frames how the Council approaches policy and plans services for residents.

To sign up for the Well Newham launch event, visit the Eventbrite page: www.newham.gov.uk/wellnewhamlaunch or find out more online: www.newham.gov.uk/wellnewham

COVID MEMORIAL GARDEN OPENS IN PLAISTOW PARK

Over 100 residents attended the opening of Newham Covid Memorial Garden in Plaistow Park in April.

The garden honours residents who lost their lives during the pandemic and is in recognition of the front-line services and volunteers supporting Newham's most vulnerable residents.

The project features different planting areas, bespoke artwork and three hand-crafted totem poles. The three totems represent the themes of regrowth, support and community. The totems invite touch, including a 'touch trail' that a visitor can trace with their finger. It was designed by Jon Sheaff & Associates and local artist Matt Ponting alongside Plaistow Community Neighbourhood.

A joint statement from Councillor Neil Wilson, cabinet member for Health and Adult Social Care, and Councillor James Asser, cabinet member for Environment and Sustainable Transport, said: "We hope that the new Memorial Garden in Plaistow Park will be a place where those who lost loved ones during the pandemic will find solace.

"This memorial is a lasting tribute where all generations are invited to visit, sit, reflect and remember."

Newham is one of the London boroughs most heavily impacted by Covid-19, and tragically, 1,013 residents lost their lives to Covid-19.

One of these is the UCL East London Scholarship pilot, designed to provide free tuition as well as up to £15,000 support towards living costs for residents in Newham seeking to progress through post-graduate study. Available for 10 ambitious applicants wishing to study in East London, you can apply here: www.ucl.ac.uk/scholarships/ucl-east-london-scholarship

In more exciting news with another strategic partner, last month Mayor Fiaz and council officers met with academic

colleagues from the Computer Science and Digital Technologies Department at the University of East London (UEL) to discuss their pioneering work in data and digital science. Already collaborating on the Council's Newham Sparks Data Economy programme, UEL recently announced 50 bursary funded places for local residents to study Artificial Intelligence and Data Science starting in September this year. Find out more and apply here: uel.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/msc-ai-data-science

CELEBRATION.

NEWHAM SCHOOLS VISIT WOMEN OF THE WORLD FESTIVAL

As part of the Council's International Women's Day programme this year, a group of female pupils from Plashet School and Little Ilford School attended the Women of the World Festival at the Southbank Centre.

The Women of the World Festival is the world's biggest festival celebrating women, girls and non-binary people, and gives participants the opportunity to engage in conversations, performances and workshops around the themes of gender equality, equity and empowerment.

During the festival, pupils from Newham schools had the opportunity to engage in discussions around breaking barriers to sport with Nike, men and allyship with Beyond Equity, and the climate crisis with Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner June Oscar. They also attended dance workshops, a youth speed mentoring session and a marketplace filled with female-owned businesses and organisations.

Sara Saif, year 10 pupil at Plashet School said "I found the experience to be really inspiring as I was constantly surrounded by people who wanted change and I felt empowered by the women who spoke on the panels. Many of the things I heard resonated with me and I can now take them to change how I perceive the people around me and strive to be the best version of myself.

"I was overwhelmed by the amount of positivity from the people there, especially at the opening ceremony, and it is events like this that make me proud to be a woman and hopeful for the future."

The week after the festival, Little Ilford went on to deliver their own International Women's Day event, and are now planning for their boy-led event in June.



EVENTS

2023 - UPCOMING EVENTS

JUN
NEWHAM
HERITAGE
MONTH

**22 & 24
JUN**
WINDRUSH
DAY EVENTS

11 JUL
SREBRENICA
MEMORIAL
DAY

**26 JUN
-9 JUL**
NEWHAM
WORD
FESTIVAL

**18 JUL
-17 AUG**
SOUTH ASIAN
HERITAGE
MONTH

SEP
NEWHAM
UNLOCKED
FESTIVAL

OCT
BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH

NOV
ISLAMOPHOBIA
AWARENESS
MONTH

11 NOV
ARMISTICE
DAY

12 NOV
REMEMBRANCE
SUNDAY

NOV
CIVIC
CHRISTMAS
LIGHTS
SWITCH ON

DEC
WE ARE
TOGETHER
AT
CHRISTMAS

Please visit www.newham.gov.uk
for more information.

GETTING STUFF DONE BUILDING A FAIRER NEWHAM.

MAY 2022



People Powered Places

Launch Event YOUR VOICES. YOUR CHOICES. YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD.

Community Assemblies are now **People Powered Places**

Thursday 27 April, 5.30pm-8.30pm
Stratford Library E15 1SL

Come to the launch event to celebrate our people-powered achievements and the start of the 2022-2025 cycle with Mayor Rick Warren, Cllr and local councillors.

Find out more about how we are taking community engagement and participatory democracy to the next level. Experience an enjoyable inclusive evening with performances, music and food.

For more information on People Powered Places, visit www.newham.gov.uk/peoplepoweredplaces or call 020 551 0826

£800,000 funding secured for Community Assemblies (now People Powered Places) where residents can influence

spending in their neighbourhoods
Plans to restore James Riley Point high rise on Carpenters Estate approved, paving the way for the delivery of 132 affordable homes

JUNE 2022



WE ARE SAFETY.

WE ARE NEWHAM.

FIVE YEARS FROM GRENFELL, PEOPLE ARE STILL NOT PROTECTED IN THEIR OWN HOMES. WE ARE TAKING ACTION TO HELP RESIDENTS BY CAMPAIGNING FOR CLADDING SAFETY. FIND OUT MORE WWW.NEWHAM.GOV.UK/CLADDING

Cladding Action campaign launched to make 15,000 flats safe in the borough
New 3-year strategy on Domestic

Abuse prevention approved
£162,000 of illegal tobacco seized in Newham crackdown
Ageing Well strategy agreed to improve the health of residents aged over 50

JULY 2022



6 Newham parks awarded Green Flags in recognition of their high standards
New contractor appointed to tackle the problem of litter on Newham's streets

NOV 2022



THIS IS A WARM HAVEN

16 Warm Havens opened with practical help for anyone needing respite and warmth

due to the cost of living crisis
Clean Air and Climate Champions programme launched to boost air pollution awareness
Newham honours residents, including 3 Freedom of the Borough award recipients, 1 Alderperson and 5 Civic Awards

DEC 2022

Newham's Landlord Licensing Scheme approved for a third 5-year term to champion the rights of renters



Public Space Protection Orders introduced for Motor Vehicle Nuisance
Residents vote 'yes' to £300 million investment in Custom House for new homes and jobs
Newham Council's fostering offer enhanced to attract more carers and boost care closer to home
Over 3,500 residents attend 22 events for We Are Together At Christmas

JAN 2023

Residents invited to give feedback on the draft Local Plan which determines how development and regeneration takes place up to 2038



Education and Health Care Plan backlog cleared three months ahead of schedule as part of the SEND improvement journey
£1.6 million approved for People Powered Places community-led projects
Over 160 residents had their say on how the Council will spend its 2023/4 budget

SIGN UP FOR OUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER AT WWW.NEWHAM.GOV.UK/NEWSLETTERSIGNUP



5,537
residents participated
in Community
Assemblies (now
People Powered
Places) in 2022/3,
voting for 75 projects

500,000
people visited
Newham libraries
since Warm Havens
were launched



292
active volunteers
volunteered
14,532
hours

AUG 2022

No Waste on Streets initiative
delivers 72% reduction in fly-tipping

WE ARE CHANGING. WE ARE NEWHAM.

WE ARE RECYCLING.

Alice Billings House is being transformed into a community asset for local creatives and artists

SEP 2022



Newham's Children's Services rated 'Good' with 'Outstanding' Leadership by Ofsted in three-year turnaround

£1 billion Carpenters Estate

masterplan to deliver 2,152 new homes submitted for planning approval

Building a Fairer Newham Corporate Plan approved by Newham Council's Cabinet

OCT 2022

WE ARE COMMUNITY SAFETY. WE ARE NEWHAM. NO PLACE FOR HATE

NEWHAM HATE CRIME STRATEGY 2022-25

www.newham.gov.uk

Hate Crime strategy launched to reduce hate crime and open up new ways to report it

The Cove, a new communal meeting and work space for care leavers aged 18 to 25, opened in East Ham

FEB 2023



£500 grants offered to help organise community-based celebrations for the King's Coronation

Newham Council's

Cost of Living crisis support helped over 300,000 residents

Budget approved, including:

- £27 million to deal with inflationary pressures
- £18 million to keep pace with increased demands in the borough
- £10 million for Building a Fairer Newham priorities
- £256 million to help Build a Fairer Newham, including 16 new projects

MARCH 2023



Plans unveiled for London's first Data Campus as part of a £1.2 million investment in Newham Sparks

'Help is Here' launched to help residents during the cost of living crisis

Commission on Multi-ethnic and Inclusive Newham established to identify and reduce inequalities

£1.7 million funding awarded to improve the Hamara Ghar sheltered-housing scheme

Newham shortlisted for 3 Municipal Journal awards and 2 LGC Awards

Newham's Suicide Prevention strategy launched to support residents and reduce the local suicide rate

APRIL 2023

Newham Council agreed to acquire Wakeling Court to become first Newham Living scheme for vulnerable adults

Newham Council purchased an additional 203 properties across the year to help tackle the homelessness crisis

First Family Hub opened following a £4 million Family Hubs & Start for Life grant

Almost £10 million approved to improve the borough's roads, pavements and cycle ways

458
residents participated in the Council's decision-making process

1,487
co-design/co-production interventions taking place

NEWHAM SPARKS.



LEADING THE WAY WITH THE LAUNCH OF THE NEWHAM SPARKS DATA CAMPUS

Newham Council has launched London's first Data Campus as part of its ambition to become the leading destination for digital and data industries and to help transform the delivery of local government in the borough.

The Newham Sparks Data Campus unlocks underused space in East Ham Town Hall to provide support for digital entrepreneurs and free incubation for local start-ups and existing businesses. It is part of the Council's £1.2 million investment in Newham Sparks to drive growth in the leading edge of the data and digital industries.

Newham Sparks was launched following research conducted by Newham Council in collaboration with

University College London's (UCL) Institute for Global Prosperity that found the data sector generates £23.1 million in gross added value to Newham. If the borough capitalises on all of the potential opportunities from the digital and data sector, this could increase to £104 million by 2035 including the creation of more than 5,500 new jobs in the data sector.





At the launch event, Mayor of Newham Rokhsana Fiaz OBE, said: “Research shows that the data and digital industries will help us futureproof our borough – above all in supporting our residents and young people to benefit from high quality local jobs while inspiring growth in businesses and supporting the transformation of how we deliver services as a local authority.”

Newham is taking advantage of its unique opportunity to become the centre for the data and digital economy. It is already supported by the existing ecosystem of innovation that includes the Innovation District in Olympic Park; plans for the lower Lee Valley data centre; Royal Docks Enterprise Zone; and strong partnerships with UCL and University of East London. The borough is also one of the most diverse and youngest in London.

The high quality of Newham schools and achievements of students presents the opportunity of a significant future skilled workforce.

Mayor Fiaz continued: “Our intention is for Newham to become a leading destination for the digital and data economy, capitalising on the unique opportunity our borough presents for innovators and investors while creating opportunities for our residents.”

Find out more about Newham Sparks here: www.newham.gov.uk/NewhamSparks

“Research shows that the data and digital industries will help us futureproof our borough – above all in supporting our residents and young people to benefit from high quality local jobs while inspiring growth in businesses and supporting the transformation of how we deliver services as a local authority.”

Rokhsana Fiaz OBE
Mayor of Newham



People Powered Places



COMMUNITY ASSEMBLIES ARE NOW PEOPLE POWERED PLACES

In response to residents' feedback and with the aim to further grow the impact of the programme, Community Assemblies have been relaunched for the 2023-2025 cycle as People Powered Places.

Already recognised as a best-in-class example of what can be achieved with participatory democracy, People Powered Places are part of the Council's commitment to build a "People powered Newham and widening participation", and is fundamental to the delivery of the London Borough of Newham's four-year Corporate plan 'Building a Fairer Newham'.

The programme has been

allocated £1.6 million of Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding for two years, which is broken down into £200,000 for each of Newham's eight neighbourhoods. Residents can get involved in decision-making by participating at different stages of the programme.

Anyone who lives, works or learns in Newham can take part in the following stages:

STEP 1: Residents decide on their local priorities.

STEP 2: Residents discuss solutions to improve their area.

STEP 3: Residents and local organisations come up with a project proposal to receive funding. Residents can apply

for up to £5,000 and local organisations can apply for up to £20,000.

STEP 4: Residents vote for their favourite projects.

STEP 5: Successful projects are delivered by residents and local organisations with support from the Council.

STEP 6: We celebrate our achievements.

Join your local People Powered Places event in May to get involved in choosing your local priorities with your neighbours. Find out more on Newham Co-create: newhamco-create.co.uk/peoplepoweredplaces or by visiting your local library.

YOUR VOICES. YOUR CHOICES. YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD.

Originally launched in 2018, Community Assemblies have become one of the country's largest and most comprehensive participatory budgeting initiatives. The programme has funded more than 200 projects to date, all having a real impact in the borough. Two of the projects which were part of the most recent cycle are Generation East London and Youth FC.



GENERATION EAST LONDON

Irina Drytchak, the project lead of Generation East London, was working with the Council as a BSL interpreter for Community Assemblies and wanted to set up a project that was accessible to the deaf community.

Generation East London has three offerings: deaf awareness training, self-defense for women and BSL storytelling. All of the sessions include a BSL interpreter and are accessible to deaf and hearing people. Collectively, they educate the East Ham community about deaf awareness and deaf culture.

Irina said: "Collaboration is really important because the more support we have, the more people we can reach out to and find ways to include more deaf people who live in this area."

YOUTH FC

Emmanuel Kwami is the project lead of Youth FC, which provides sports equipment, facilities and coaching for 14-18 year olds, encouraging young people to become more physically active.

He said: "If everyone is out there doing football, you have less people doing crime and getting up to no good. And having a fit, younger generation is good for the community because it builds a stronger older generation.

"As a community member you know what your community needs, so put your idea out there because you don't know how much it may benefit someone until it's in place."



CELEBRATING NEWHAM'S PAST AND BUILDING NEWHAM'S FUTURE



Newham Council remains committed to addressing the housing crisis in the borough to provide social housing that local people can afford.

The latest programme will see the delivery of a further 1,500 homes. These are on top of the 1,000 that were started in 2018-22, many of which are nearly ready to welcome their new residents.

In celebration of our local heritage, the Council is commemorating significant individuals connected with Newham – whether they were known locally, nationally or internationally – by naming new buildings after them. The latest developments have six such dedications:

JACK LESLIE POINT, CANNING TOWN

Canning Town born footballer Jack Leslie (1901-1988) played for Barking Town and Plymouth Argyle. He was the first black footballer to be selected for England, in 1925.

GREER GARSON HOUSE, LITTLE ILFORD

Manor Park born actress Greer Garson CBE (1904-1996) was the fourth most nominated woman for the Best Actress Oscar and star of Hollywood films Goodbye Mr Chips, Mrs Miniver (Best Actress, 1942) and Random Harvest.

NOELE GORDON HOUSE, EAST HAM

Noele Gordon (1919-1985), born in East Ham, was a senior ITV producer who became famous as motel owner Meg Mortimer in the soap opera Crossroads. Helena Bonham Carter recently played her in a TV biopic.

LUCEL TATE HOUSE, MARYLAND

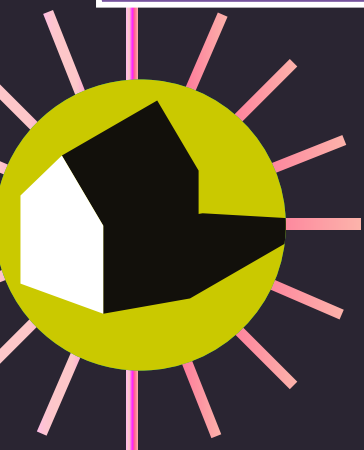
Lucel Tate (1923-1998) was the first chair of the Hibiscus Caribbean Elderly Association (1984-97) and founder of Hibiscus Community Centre. She was a pioneer of diversity in social care and housing. She worked in Forest Gate all her life.

HENDRIX HOUSE, MARYLAND

Legendary American guitarist, singer and songwriter Jimi Hendrix (1942-1970) wrote one of his biggest hits, 'Purple Haze', in 1966 while waiting to appear on stage at The Upper Cut club on Woodgrange Road.

SARDAR ALI HOUSE, CANNING TOWN

A member of Newham's first mosque, on Star Lane, Sardar Ali (1932-2006) was a founding member of the Canning Town Muslim Trust. He was also a councillor and a shop steward at Ford Motor Company.





MAYOR FIAZ MET UP WITH SIX OF THE YOUTH EMPOWERMENT FUND'S RECIPIENTS AT THE STRATFORD YOUTH ZONE TO FIND OUT HOW IT HAS HELPED THEM GROW THEIR AMBITIONS AND ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS.

NEWHAM'S RISING STARS.

The Youth Empowerment Fund is a grant to support young people in achieving their ambitions, by providing financial assistance to help them buy the resources, training or equipment required to learn and develop skills in the things they are passionate about.

The Fund is open to any young person aged nine to 25 who lives in Newham, or who has been placed out of the borough as part of their care or safeguarding arrangements, and meets the fund's financial status criteria.

Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz was joined by Jensen Jolly, 11; David Andries, 13; Valentina Herakova, 13; Tommy Featherstone, 15; Akarni Jordan-Hibbert, 16; and Mansoor Wamala, 20.

Mayor Fiaz: Since I became Mayor of Newham back in 2018, one of my main priorities is our commitment to young people. I made a promise to young people that I would set up a Youth Empowerment Fund that they can access to help them pursue their dreams.

I'm delighted to be joined by you all today to find out how you're all getting on. What are your ambitions and inspirations, and how has the Fund helped?

AKARNI: I want to be a marine biologist, but even if that dream doesn't happen I'd still like to be something to do with the environment because there needs to be more people pushing forward in that area. We should care about the environment because global warming is imminent and scientists are doing what they can but we also need to be making cutbacks to see any type of results.

Ever since I was younger, I've always been interested in surfing, swimming and free diving but I've never been able to do a proper qualified course because it was a lot of money. I applied for the Fund, not thinking a lot would come from it, but it has allowed me to take a professional diving course that lets me do dives anywhere in the world. I can do sea floor clean ups and that wouldn't have been possible otherwise.

I have been inspired by seeing the results in my country in the Caribbean, seeing trash in the sea or even going to Southend and seeing the rubbish in the water. It's sad because you know it wasn't originally like that and they were really nice places, but tourism has made it worse.

TOMMY: It's been my lifelong aspiration to be in the performing arts and the Fund helped my application to a prestigious drama academy. I love acting and singing and I've done it for as long as I can remember. If I was to become a professional and make a name for myself, I'd love to represent the youth and advocate for the arts, which are incredibly important.

My mum is my inspiration, she's a real personality, and I think I get that from her. My mum realised I had something and she pushed me to pursue it, and I've done it for as long as I can remember.



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT FUND.



MANSOOR WAMALA



JENSEN JOLLY

THE AMBITIOUS YOUNG PEOPLE FOLLOWING THEIR DREAMS THANKS TO THE YOUTH EMPOWERMENT FUND.

JENSEN: My ambition is to go into engineering and the Fund helped me get a computer to support my studies. I love to make robotics stuff and learn from watching videos

of robots being built. I really want to make my own robot one day. I am inspired by my dad who was a building engineer.

VALENTINA: After I finish secondary school, I want to do anything to do with music – maybe teaching others and performing. The Fund helps pay for music classes and also funded a guitar and music lessons online. My inspiration is my dad because he used to play guitar when he was younger. He always tells me about how he enjoyed it and how he regrets



TOMMY FEATHERSTONE



AKARNI JORDAN-HIBBERT



DAVID ANDRIES

stopping. He says he could have had a good future because of it; I want to have a good future too.

MANSOOR: My ambition is to fly planes. When I was five I was offered the chance to look in the cockpit of a plane and I was amazed by every gadget in there and wanted to play with it all. It grew from there. I joined the Air Cadets and it opened my eyes to the possibilities and I got to fly gliders when I was 15. When I started doing better in school and getting good grades in maths and physics,

I thought nothing can stop me flying a plane.

I'm in my second year of doing Aerospace Engineering with Pilot Studies at the University of Liverpool and that wouldn't have been a reality if this opportunity wasn't available. I remember when I finished A-Levels, I thought how was I going to be able to fund this dream I have? I learned about the Fund from a relative and it opened doors for me. The Fund was able to pay for 20 hours of flying at the university alongside my course. I'm really thankful because that

wouldn't have been possible; I would have gone to a different university and not had that opportunity.

DAVID: I play the piano, I'm in a choir and I'm in the Army Cadets' marching band so I also play side drum. Ever since I came to England, I always had a big passion for music. I joined my primary school in year three and the teachers saw I loved to do music so they were able to Fund some music lessons for me. I was playing piano every Friday in assembly when everyone came in.

IF YOU KNOW
YOU WANT TO
DO IT, GO FOR IT. **JENSEN**



YOU SHOULDN'T BE SCARED TO DO WHAT YOU WANT BECAUSE YOU HAVE HELP. VALENTINA



I wanted to explore my talent and the Fund secured a keyboard for me. I was able to achieve more things by playing the keyboard.

Mayor Fiaz: How did you find out about the Youth Empowerment Fund?

TOMMY: Lots of research. I think there's not many foundations for children or they are specific, for example if you want to be a footballer. But it is an overall fund, it helps with any ambition. The incredible team behind it really helped me along the way to pursue my dream.

DAVID: In Newham we have a lot of youth centres and that's how I was able to find out about the Fund, and find new hope for the future. People from different families can get what they want and achieve what they need. Different careers aren't cheap, if you want to become a marine biologist like Akarni, there's a lot of steps and it takes a lot of money. The Fund sparked hope in a lot of people who are more aware and thankful that they can achieve

what they want to achieve.

JENSEN: I think it would be good for others to know about the Fund so it can inspire them.

Mayor Fiaz: What are your thoughts about the Council running the Fund?

MANSOOR: Growing up, I have had negative thoughts about the Council, but the fact they are funding this, it gives me a bit of joy. I did not expect this kind of opportunity to come up living in Newham and it's amazing.

TOMMY: The Fund coming from the Council is something special. Usually things go towards the police force or building projects, but this is something that goes towards children and is something important. It makes you feel that this is a chance and gives you a sense of hope for the future, and that the council does care about you and they want you to do well.

DAVID: By living in Newham, you get this opportunity that can help

you with many things. It's really good.

AKARNI: As someone who has always been in Newham's community you hear a lot about different things like tea and coffee at the library or training courses, but nothing as big as this. I have friends from different boroughs who don't have the same support; it makes you glad you're from Newham. And there are lots of people from different backgrounds and ethnicities but the Fund puts everyone on the same financial standing and their dreams can come to fruition.

Mayor Fiaz: Do you have any advice to anyone who might be thinking about getting involved with the Fund?

MANSOOR: If you're from Newham, the Fund shows you can achieve your ambition. There are examples of people who have done it, which allows other people to gain belief in this project. And I would love to give back when my career takes off.

CHANGING THE FACE OF FAMILY SUPPORT IN NEWHAM

Family Hubs are coming to Newham to help support on a range of issues from mental health to parenting.

Strong, supportive families help to improve the stability of communities and make for happier individuals. In Newham, we are focused on placing children and young people at the heart of everything we do. We believe that local families should be able to access the support they need most, in a place that suits them best, while feeling connected to their wider community.

Work is underway to make that ambition a reality. Alongside a number of local authorities across the country, Newham Council has been chosen to trial a new type of family support centre – known as a Family Hub.

Family Hubs will offer early support to families and young children to help them overcome difficulties and build strong relationships. The hubs will build upon our existing Early Help offer, and act as a ‘one stop shop’ for advice and guidance on a range of issues including infant feeding, mental health and parenting.

The first hub opened as a pilot in East Ham Library last month and is helping to pave the way for this new approach. The second is set to open in January at the new and improved Shipman Youth Zone, following a £9 million regeneration project.

The integration of a Family Hub and Youth Zone will significantly enhance our support for families and young people in the borough, offering them space in an environment that they can consider ‘home from home’.



F A M HUBS L Y



The support helped me a lot, I am a bit more open now. I was depressed and now I know where to go for help, I feel happier.

The support is improving my family life. My finances are better; council tax, carer's allowance and my daughter is now in school. The team were accommodating when I needed to ask anything or if I needed more help and time to understand.

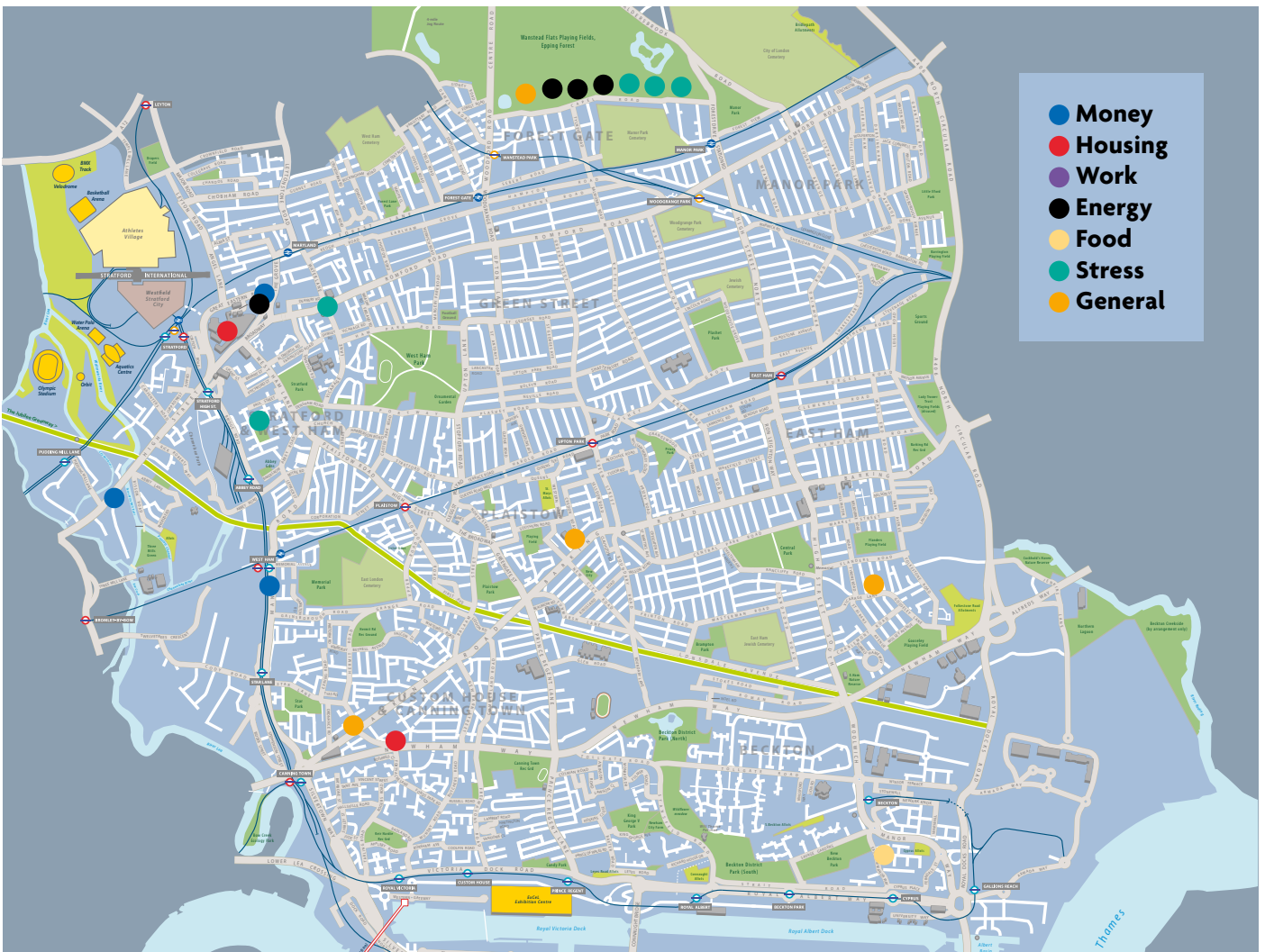
I would like to thank you for the services you provide and special thanks to those who supported me and my children during such a difficult time.

I really appreciate the help I received and look forward to growing better and healthier relationships with my children.

As a family, we are delighted to have Early Help services get involved in our concerns - please continue to support us.



HELP IS HERE



ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO SUPPORT NEWHAM RESIDENTS

The Government's Household Support Fund has been extended from 1 April 2023 until 31 March 2024 to further help Newham residents. Newham Council has been allocated an additional £6 million to support vulnerable residents with significantly rising living costs.

Financial assistance will be available for food, energy and other essentials, and will be distributed via the Council's financial wellbeing service, Our Newham

Money, to residents as well as to voluntary, community and faith sector organisations.

Since September 2022, Our Newham Money has helped over 5,000 families receive immediate financial assistance with food and energy costs, allocating £1.6 million in its Hardship Support grants.

The application form for the latest support is open online. Anyone requiring further information should visit www.ournewhammoney.co.uk

To find out about other support, see www.newham.gov.uk/costoflivingresponse or call Our Newham Money on **020 8430 2041**.



NEWHAM LAUNCHES SUICIDE PREVENTION STRATEGY

Newham Council has launched its new three-year Suicide Prevention Strategy aiming to reduce the local suicide rate and support those affected or bereaved by suicide.

At the Strategy's launch, Mayor of Newham Rokhsana Fiaz OBE said: "Suicide is a devastating reality faced by many families, with far-reaching impact on loved ones and friends. Any suicide in Newham is one too many.

"We need to create an environment in Newham where all of us are supported in talking about how we feel because we look out for each other and are ready to step in when help is needed. That includes targeted support for people at higher risk because of the challenging things they are experiencing."

As part of the strategy launch, free access to suicide prevention training will be provided through the borough's Social Welfare Alliance platform and a new resources page will be published for partners profiling the wide range of resources available to reduce suicide risk.

There are four main goals for the Suicide Prevention Strategy:

1. Improve awareness of Newham's suicide prevention strategy and local support services.
2. Work with existing borough programmes, communities and residents to ensure support is accessible, relevant and trusted by higher risk population groups.
3. Improve data collection and intelligence of population risks through work with official partners.
4. Continue to strengthen mental health support for children and young people in Newham and build resilience before adulthood.

You can read more about Newham's new suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan online: www.newham.gov.uk/suicideprevention

**THE YOUTH EMPOWERMENT
FUND GIVES YOU A SENSE OF
HOPE FOR THE FUTURE AND
THAT THE COUNCIL DOES CARE
ABOUT YOU AND THEY WANT
YOU TO DO WELL.**

TOMMY FEATHERSTONE

