

WE ARE NEWHAM.

Latest on life in our borough

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Message from the Mayor



Welcome to the new look winter edition of the Newham Magazine! Our latest edition has been redesigned to make it easier to read and I hope you enjoy the various features, updates and news.

As you read across the pages, you'll see that it's jammed-packed with all the things we've been doing across the Council, as we keep focused on delivering the best council services for you and your family, and deliver on our Building a Fairer Newham mission too.

We've been focused over recent months on our campaign to tackle the persistent and damaging issue of fly-tipping. Through the 'A Clean Borough' movement we are galvanising across the borough with residents, schools, local businesses and community groups. I know from talking to our young people, residents and communities that they think that littering and fly-tipping happens because some people think it's ok to throw rubbish and dump unwanted items on our streets. It is not! All of us want our streets to be clean and free

from rubbish, as we are proud of Newham, which is a wonderful place to live. So, we're taking action and introducing a borough-wide campaign that includes improved rubbish collections, expanded resources to prosecute illegal waste disposal, and a campaign to encourage residents to work with us and their communities to improve street cleanliness. 'A Clean Borough' will have a lasting impact and I look forward to sharing more news as it gets underway.

Separately, I am delighted to share news of the ways in which we hope to inspire our communities and create opportunities for young people. The first of these is our bid to become the London Borough of Culture in 2025; with the aim of securing at least £1 million of additional investment, creating more opportunities and placing Newham on the map because of the unique and eclectic creativity of our people which enriches us in so many ways. More on this in the magazine, including how you can get involved and support our bid because Newham is the beating heart of London's culture!

This goes hand in hand with our announcement of a partnership with the University of East London, who will be investing £7.3 million over the next 10 years in our flagship Stratford Youth Zone to support young people into the creative and cultural industries. I am really excited at the opportunities the collaboration brings! It's all part of our plans to make Newham the best place for our children and young people so that they are supported to thrive and reach their potential. The partnership is being led by our Youth Empowerment Service and will open up a raft of skill and job opportunities across the arts, creative and cultural sector in Newham and beyond! In January 2024, they'll also be opening the brand new Shipman Youth Zone in Custom House – which will house one of our new Family Hubs as well – and I am thrilled that it will be the first ever carbon neutral Youth Zone building anywhere in London!

Our commitment to taking action in response to the climate emergency is about investing in the future of communities as well as our planet, which is why next month we'll be publishing our new Climate Action Just Transition plan, which will feature in the next edition of the Newham Mag.

Investing in the future of our borough is as important as making investments now, so that we continue our focus on delivering the best public services for all our people in Newham as part of our Building a Fairer Newham plans. That's why we are making sure that every single penny and pound we spend at the Council is being spent well to achieve the outcomes we want to see. It's all part of our robust financial management and good governance agenda that started five years ago.

You'll know from wider media reports that councils up and down the country are facing real pressures because of increased demand for children and adult services, as well as rising temporary accommodation costs and economic uncertainties brought about by decisions by national government. Added to that the cost of living and increased costs because of inflation does have an impact on the Council as well. In this edition of the Newham Mag, we have provided an update on how we are responding, including what you can expect in the coming months as we complete the process of setting our budget for next year.

As we look towards Christmas, and the end of another year, I want to take this moment to make an appeal for peace. It is unbearable to see the horror of the war raging in the Middle East because of the actions of terrorists. Innocent Israeli hostages are still captive and must be freed; and the innocent people of Gaza, including children, facing a humanitarian catastrophe need to be protected so that no more are killed. I know that it is having a direct impact on so many, and people are feeling profound anger and grief, which risks fuelling hate. I know that as a rich and diverse community here in Newham we must not let it tear us apart.

As this year comes to an end, I hope that you and your loved ones can take time to be together and reflect on the strength that comes from being part of our beautiful and connected community in Newham. We all have a responsibility and duty to play our part.

Here's to a hopeful 2024 and a year for peace.

Rokhsana Fiaz OBE
Mayor of Newham
X @rokhsanafiaz

Newham: the beating heart of culture

In 2017, the Mayor of London launched the London Borough of Culture initiative to celebrate and inspire creativity across the city.

We know our diverse culture, places and people are what makes Newham the best kept cultural secret in London.

Now is the time to show this to the world through our Borough of Culture 2025 bid and secure £1.35million investment to elevate Newham's cultural life.

Why is Newham bidding?

Newham is one of the most dynamic and diverse London boroughs, with a unique heritage and fast emerging reputation as a cultural and creative centre. From the creative leaders relocating to the East Bank, such as the V&A and Sadler's Wells, to the extraordinary Eid celebrations across the borough, Newham is distinct and, we believe, deserves far greater recognition.

Last year, we launched the borough's cultural strategy 'Building Newham's Creative Future' that outlined our long-term commitment to supporting this sector, and the benefits this could bring to our residents' health, happiness and well-being.

How would the investment be used?

- Establish Newham as a centre for culture and creativity.
- Increased opportunities for the cultural sector, local artists, and residents.
- Investment in local businesses, particularly in relation to arts, events, food and hospitality.
- Elevating our grassroots cultural communities and bringing in international artists to co-create with Newham organisations.



BACK OUR BID

Newham is the beating heart of London Culture

Back our bid for London Borough of Culture 2025 and help bring £1.35m into Newham to support our cultural and creative activity.

Want to get involved? Scan the QR code or visit newham.gov.uk/boroughofculture to fill in our survey.

You can also email your ideas to weareculture@newham.gov.uk or support us on social media [#NewhamIsCulture2025](https://twitter.com/NewhamIsCulture2025)



Working together for a clean borough

Making lasting improvements to our borough relies on us as a Council listening and taking action on the issues most important to our residents. This commitment led the Mayor of Newham, Rokhsana Fiaz OBE, to visit local people to find out what they wanted to see happen as part of our 'A Clean Borough' initiative.

Residents, pupils from Maryland School and members of our litter picking and community safety teams, shared their perspectives, including how they're taking action and what more must be done to address street cleanliness.

Mayor Fiaz

We're here as part of our aim to galvanise our residents, schools, local businesses and community groups around the persistent and damaging issues of littering and fly-tipping. I know from speaking with people across the borough that we all want our streets to be clean – and I'm interested to understand how we can encourage our communities to work with us to tackle the issue. Can you tell me about your experiences?

Victoria, resident

I've been living here for a long time. Some of the people in the block drop litter and nappies from the top floor balconies. They should try to put it in the bin – it doesn't take time to lift the lid or drop it inside. We need to make sure our place is a clean environment, then our community will be a better place to live.

Dean, litter picking co-ordinator

I think how you treat your house is how you should treat outside.

Moses, resident

I've lived in Newham for about three years. When I see litter, when I see fly-tipping, it does really affect me. I would always complain and my wife said I should do something about it!



Allison, Mayor Fiaz, Victoria and Dean

Mayor Fiaz

What did you do?

Moses, resident

My aim was to try and find a way to actually make a difference. So I got involved in local community assemblies [now called People Powered Places]. They're a mix of people who've just moved to the area and who've have lived here for years – all trying to improve the area.

I want to spread awareness. Maybe people don't understand what they can do to prevent fly-tipping – that they can actually get it collected. And not necessarily just fly-tipping, littering. So it's a case of educating people, potentially the people that don't want to be educated and, if it's possible, to catch these people in the act. So they understand this is having a detrimental effect, and we're not going to stand for it anymore.

Dean, litter picking co-ordinator

I agree. People can arrange a collection, or there is a tip they can use free of charge all year round. They don't have to dump on the streets.

"I want to spread awareness. Maybe people don't understand what they can do to prevent fly-tipping – that they can actually get it collected."

Moses, resident

What is fly-tipping?

Fly-tipping is the dumping of rubbish – anything from plastic or black bags that have been discarded either empty, with rubbish or full of unwanted items, to discarded shoes and clothes, electrical items, mattresses, boxes and bulky goods.



Maryland School won the Green Champions award at the Newham Civic Awards.



Mayor Fiaz

Talking of making a difference, a huge congratulations to Maryland School who won the Green Champions award as part of the Newham Civic Awards.

Can you talk me through what you do to make a contribution to our environment in response to the climate emergency?

Pupil

The Eco warriors [pupils] have many projects, such as taking part in the local Food Waste Prevention Programme. As part of this we received a HotBin from the Council (a heated compost bin). We put leftover food in, and it breaks down as it gets heated. Then at the end we take it out and use it for the school garden. Parents also get a chance to take bags of compost home for their gardens or flower pots.

Mayor Fiaz

That's great, how inventive! Can I ask you all, when you're on your way to school, what do you think about the state of the roads and streets in terms of rubbish?

Pupil

The streets, they are clean, but the bins are quite overflowing and there's rubbish all over the floor. And you can walk to school without treading on it – but there is a lot and I think that needs to be improved.

Mayor Fiaz

You've made a really good point. One of the things we're exploring is how do we adhere to regulations around keeping streets clear for people with prams, large buggies or wheelchairs, and so that people can walk freely, but at the same time accommodate the vast number of people moving into the borough.

We've seen a lot of population growth and our bins haven't kept up with the pace.

Pupil

Some people just spit their chewing gum out on the floor, or it completely misses the bin.

Pupil

If I saw a friend throw something on the floor, I would tell them straight away to pick it up and put it in the bin. Because most of the rubbish goes through the pipes into the seas and the animals are getting hurt.

Mayor Fiaz

All of us have power to influence other people's behaviour. We have a network of people, from our parents to our siblings, other family members, but also neighbours. If you had one message to say to those people who drop litter, what would it be?

Pupil

That it's our world and we only have one so we should take care of it together.

"It's our world and we only have one so we should take care of it together."

Maryland School pupils

Mayor Fiaz

That's a really great, powerful message.

Allison, you're from our community safety team. One of the things we need to challenge is this attitude that it's acceptable to just throw rubbish. Why do you think people litter?

Allison, community safety team

Some people don't deliberately go out and drop rubbish, it's just that they're not aware because it gets picked up. So it's about educating, changing their behaviour. And making people understand what they need to do with their rubbish to make sure it's disposed of legally.

Mayor Fiaz

From your perspective, do you think it's got better or worse in recent years?

Allison, community safety team

We are noticing a reduction in complaints in littering and fly-tipping in certain areas, but not all. That's why it's very important for people to report it correctly, so that we can task our officers and we can go to those hotspot areas, and then we can monitor them. And we can make sure that we put enough resources in to solve that problem.



Allison, Mayor Fiaz with Street Cleansing Operatives Fitzroy and Mahamadou, and Dean

Mayor Fiaz

How do you think we can inspire residents to stop littering?

Allison, community safety team

If we're not spending lots and lots of money on street cleansing, we could be spending it on other things like schools or supporting other important services.

Mayor Fiaz

Tell me a bit more about what your team does day to day.

Allison, community safety team

We have a team of enforcement officers investigating environmental crime offences and antisocial behaviour offences.

Environmental crime is fly-tipping and littering, we can issue fixed penalty notices for fly-tipping of up to £400 and prosecute individuals that fly-tip large amounts of rubbish. My team also deals with antisocial street drinking, nuisance congregation, abandoned vehicles. Activities that make the borough feel unsafe and look dirty. We need to work with residents, our external partners and council colleagues, the private rented sector, the police, highways. We need to look at solving problems and making the borough cleaner long term.

Mayor Fiaz

And Emma, from a resident perspective, how do you think we can make Newham a cleaner borough?

Emma, resident

The issue of street cleanliness has a severe and far-reaching impact on many in our community, caused by multiple and complex factors. There is no one-size-fits-all solution and it needs the Council, residents, community organisations, and local businesses to work together to combat littering and fly-tipping.

A huge thank you to everyone who joined in this important conversation. Over the next page, we share some of the ways we are helping to tackle the issue.



Dean, Mayor Fiaz and Allison



"Street cleanliness needs the Council, residents, community organisations, and local businesses to work together."

Emma, resident

Working together for a clean

borough: Our response

We're working hard to improve the cleanliness of Newham's streets. We've listened to the issues our residents 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:

You said

62% of residents think removing dumped rubbish is the most important street cleansing service.

Our response

We've invested in eight new vehicles and additional crews to clear dumped waste. We're improving the service that clears waste from high streets to support our high streets looking clean.

You said

74% of residents support fining people for illegally dumping rubbish.

Our response

We're launching a new envirocrime team next year to crack down on littering and fly-tipping. The team will work within the Council and with partners, including local police.

You said

We'd like to see more greenery in Newham.

Our response

We're planting lots of flowers and wildlife to help the biodiversity of the planet, for example on the Greenway near Stratford.

You said

We should find out who is dumping rubbish to help stop it.

Our response

Officers are going out with the crews clearing waste to check dumped rubbish for evidence and issue fines as we clear the waste. We're also exploring technology-based solutions, such as GPS cameras.

You said

We'd like to see new approaches to help with this issue.

Our response

We're partnering with leading organisations from Keep Britain Tidy to UCL to develop new innovations to improve cleanliness in our borough.

You said

What can we do to help?

Our response

We all have a part to play in making Newham a clean borough. Find out how to dispose of your waste correctly and, if you see anyone dumping waste illegally, report it on the 'Love Newham' app.



Greenway Pollinator Trail

Weekly Recycling is coming...



From 4 December 2023, you can recycle every week.

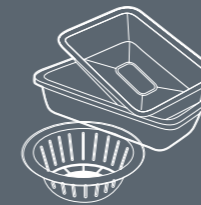
Most of us in Newham recycle, so we're launching weekly collections to make it even easier for you to recycle more and put less in your rubbish bin.

So make sure you join your neighbours in putting your glass, foil, aerosols, mixed paper, cardboard, tins and plastic in the recycling. **Let's bin less and recycle more.**

Exciting changes are coming to you in 2024! Visit newham.gov.uk/BeBinDayReady



Glass bottles and jars



Tin foil and foil trays



Aerosols



Mixed paper and cardboard



Food tins and drinks cans



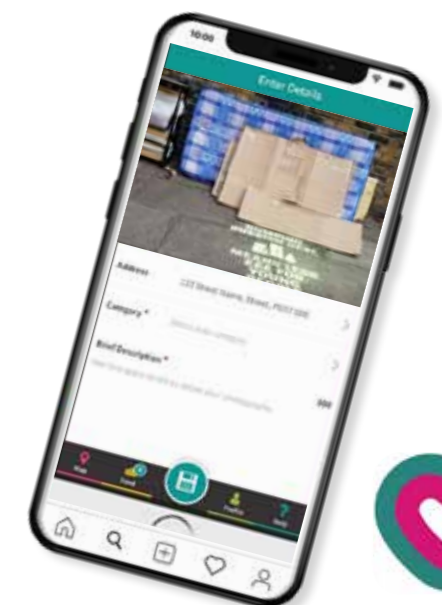
Plastic bottles and packaging

Have you heard about the 'Love Newham' app?

Love Newham is our free smartphone app and website that allows you to report environmental issues directly to us. Report problems such as graffiti, fly-tipping, fly-posting, litter and dog fouling and we'll sort it.

After you've downloaded the app, simply take a photo, add some brief details, and then send. The location is captured automatically with all the information we need to deal with the problem.

Search in the App store or on Google Play for 'Love Clean Streets'



Supporting our residents: Every penny and pound counts

Managing how we spend money is critical, especially now when the cost of living puts all of us under additional financial pressure. As a Council, we are well on the way to setting the 2024/5 budget, with plans in place for proposals to be developed and consulted on before publication next March.

Our budget sets out how we will respond to financial pressure and maintain the services our residents need, while making investments needed for the future of our borough. This year, the budget setting process is one of the most challenging due to a range of factors including a reduction in real terms funding from central government by 18 per cent.

In Newham, we are facing a housing crisis due to the lack of affordable, quality housing or rent controls. Despite building the largest number of affordable homes of any London borough in the past two years, we have over 36,000 households on the Council's housing waiting list and more than 6,000 households in temporary accommodation. It means we are facing soaring costs to support those who are in crisis.

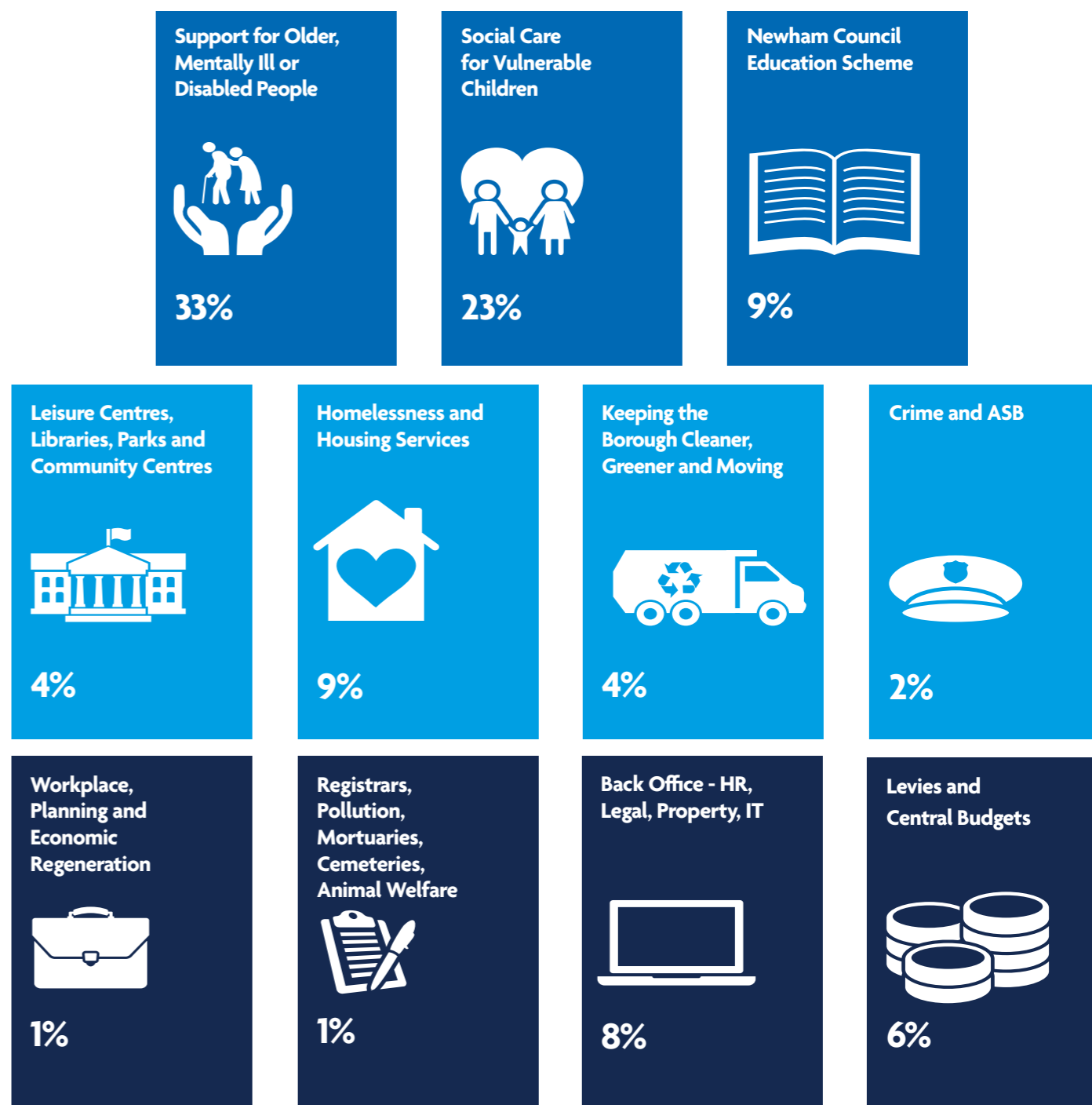
At the same time, costs for our Adult and Children Services are increasing due to our rapidly growing population and increased complex health needs. This situation is compounded by the impact of inflation, which means increased energy costs and wage bills.

In September, we published an update on our financial situation which showed that, at current levels, we are predicting a budget overspend. We have moved quickly to put in place an action plan to manage our budget. This includes introducing financial controls and a Homelessness Response Programme to reduce the need for temporary accommodation. It goes hand in hand with campaigning to government to introduce policy reforms and provide adequately for the needs of our borough.

Our response to the financial challenge we face is based on our successful track record of managing our finances and returning a balanced budget. At every step, our commitment is to protect the services our residents need, while investing in what will have greatest benefit for our borough.

Our budget for 2024/5 will be informed by the government's Autumn Budget, which has now announced. Our Draft Budget report will go to Cabinet for approval in January 2024, with the final budget for 2024/5 due in February. For regular updates, check our news pages at newham.gov.uk/news

How our money is currently being spent (2023/24)



Our 'net budget' is £363m and is the budget we have for the cost of our services. More than a quarter of this is funded from the local element of your Council Tax, which totals £91.8m, with an additional £10.6m raised through the Government's Adult Social Care precept. We also generate additional income, through fees and charges, to supplement the money received from the Government and Business Rates. The £363m is the revenue budget and does not include the additional money we spend on capital schemes such as repairing roads, building houses and improving infrastructure across the borough.



Homes for our residents

We want every resident in our borough to have a home that supports them to live happy, healthy and well lives. That's why we're committed to building more genuinely affordable housing and supporting you, whether you're a homeowner or renter, to improve your property.

Building more, higher quality homes

1,200 new properties are under construction with 233 completed so far

8 brand new homes built to highest environmental standards at Lucel Tate House

15 new homes built at Jack Leslie Point.

Acquiring properties to provide even more families with high-quality, genuinely affordable homes

43 flats purchased in New Market Place, East Ham

24 properties to be acquired at Olympus House and let at London Housing Allowance rent

265 properties to be acquired by the end of 2023.

Improving conditions for council tenants and leaseholders

£1.7m of funding to improve the energy efficiency of Hamara Ghar, our flagship nine-storey sheltered high-rise block of 124 units

The project is in conjunction with the borough's first Tenants' and Residents' Association and includes a pilot of infrared heating technology.

"Before coming here, my daughter and I have been going from pillar to post. Now we have this very good flat, and we are very happy. My daughter always looks forward to coming home."

Glenda, resident at New Market Place



How can we improve your housing estate?

If you have an idea, get in touch with our borough-wide Estate Improvement Programme. They've installed new signs and lighting, upgraded footpaths, resurfaced parking areas and much more. Share your ideas by emailing:

getinvolved.housing@newham.gov.uk

Together, we're standing up against violence

Starting on 25 November each year, 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an international campaign to challenge abuse. In Newham, we're supporting the movement to promote our zero tolerance approach and raise awareness of support services and learning opportunities for professionals.
newham.gov.uk/16days

We act

We launched the Domestic Abuse Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2025 last year to combat and prevent gender-based violence in the borough. Developed in consultation with survivors, residents, domestic abuse services and Newham services, it takes a community-based approach to understanding each survivor's lived experience, as well as the testimonies of family and friends.

We listen

Following resident and survivor feedback about wanting easier access to support, we now run domestic abuse drop-ins at Newham University Hospital, five children's centres, within housing services, and in our libraries. For residents and survivors who want to get involved in shaping services, we've created the Newham domestic abuse co-production group.

co-productionteam@newham.gov.uk
07970 406 126

We support

For confidential advice and support on Newham's domestic and sexual abuse services, contact Hestia, 24 hours per day, seven days per week:

0808 196 1482

InfoNewhamDSV@hestia.org
hestia.org

We know that financial challenges can make it difficult for anyone experiencing domestic abuse to leave. Please know there are services that can support you.

newham.gov.uk/costoflivingresponse

In 2022-23 there were 6,477 incidents of domestic abuse in Newham reported to the police.

*Data from Metropolitan Police

78% of perpetrators identify as men



We're here to help

We know many of our residents are still facing financial difficulty because of the high cost of living. From higher food prices to the cost of heating your home, we are here to help.

If you're worried about your finances, please contact Our Newham Money. You can also submit an application for Hardship Support. Visit ournewhammoney.co.uk or call **020 8430 2041**.

"We've helped over 30,000 households with food, energy and other essentials while supporting people to access benefits and grants."



We will continue our dedicated cost of living support, which includes resources and guides to manage rising costs. Read more at newham.gov.uk/costoflivingresponse

We know how important it is to speak to people who can help. That's why we've recruited over 800 Cost of Living Champions. These champions play a key part in helping residents know where support is available. If you would like to find out more about becoming a Cost of Living Champion, visit newham.gov.uk/costoflivingchampions

Our holiday activity and food (HAF) programme

Our HAF programme provides free, fun activities and a hot nutritious meal. Bookings are now open – the programme runs across the winter school holiday.

All school-aged children and young people in reception up to Year 11 (inclusive) who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals are eligible. There are some circumstances when children and young people not in receipt of benefit-related free school meals can still book a space. The programme is funded by the Department for Education (DfE).

For more information, visit newham.gov.uk/haf



Last year, we know it made a difference to have a safe, welcoming and warm space to go to. So this year, we will again open all of our 10 libraries for longer hours until the end of March 2024.

They will be designated as Warm Havens with free wi-fi and hot drinks. As well as a warm welcome, all our libraries offer a busy schedule of activities open to all. Please pop into your local library to find out more.



Warm Havens

We visited Warm Havens Carpenters and Docklands Centre, and St Bartholomew's, to speak to local visitors.

"Lovely people who look after us and I am so grateful to have somewhere like this."

Visitor, Carpenters and Docklands Centre

"This is a place where I can come, feel safe, relax and not worry about anything for a while."

Visitor, Carpenters and Docklands Centre

"Great food and company and most of all it's great to have a hot shower."

Visitor, Carpenters and Docklands Centre

"Everything has gone up. I only turn on my heater when my grandchildren come to visit. I like coming to this space because I feel part of a family here."

Visitor, St Bartholomew's

Keeping well in winter

We recommend these five steps to help keep well:

- 1 Get vaccinated:** Protect yourself against COVID-19 and flu with vaccines available from your local GP
[nhs.uk/live-well/seasonal-health](https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/seasonal-health)
- 2 Stay warm:** Check the weather before you leave the house and wrap up – or stay home until it gets warmer
- 3 Be prepared:** Make sure you have supplies of any repeat prescriptions you need
- 4 Get advice:** If you're suffering with a cold, sore throat, cough or earache, speak to your pharmacist, GP, call NHS 111 or visit [nhs.uk](https://www.nhs.uk) for advice
- 5 Check in:** People can often feel isolated during winter. Calling or visiting a neighbour or relative who could be at risk will help them feel cared for.

Find more support at [wellnewham.org.uk/advice/winter-wellness](https://www.wellnewham.org.uk/advice/winter-wellness)



We want to help you stay healthy, particularly in the winter months when shorter days and colder weather have an impact on our health and wellbeing.

Stay active

Active Newham runs free exercise classes locally. Membership gives you access to leisure centres so you can swim, run, dance, and more. You can also use 'exercise at home' cards to stay active indoors. Find out more at [wellnewham.org.uk/keeping-active](https://www.wellnewham.org.uk/keeping-active)

Stay connected

The Be Connected programme includes local services that can help you connect with others and your community. Visit [newham.gov.uk/beconnected](https://www.newham.gov.uk/beconnected)

Get your vitamins

Newham residents aged 60 or over are eligible for free vitamin D supplements to stay healthy, visit [wellnewham.org.uk/vitamin-d](https://www.wellnewham.org.uk/vitamin-d) All pregnant women, new mothers, and children under four years old can get Healthy Start vitamins, visit [wellnewham.org.uk/healthy-start](https://www.wellnewham.org.uk/healthy-start)

There is so much going on across our borough to help residents keep active, healthy and well. To find out more about over 450 services available, go to [wellnewham.org.uk](https://www.wellnewham.org.uk) or visit one of our Well Newham Hubs. Find your local hub on the Well Newham website or by calling **020 8430 4841**.

Staying warm at home

We know the cost of living can make it hard to keep the heating on. But, being warm at home is critical to staying well. If you're struggling, follow this check list:

- Have you checked you're receiving all the benefits you could be entitled to?
- Are you keeping heat in by closing curtains, doors and blocking draughts?
- If you feel cold, add another thin layer of clothes, which keeps you warmer than one chunky layer.
- Try to keep active at home. Standing and moving around will help.
- Do you know how warm your house is? To stay healthy, your bedroom should be 18°C (65°F) and your living room 21°C (70°F).
- Is your home being heated safely and efficiently? Consider insulating your hot water cylinder, and make sure your boiler has been checked recently by a Gas Safety Registered Engineer. Have working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and, where you have free standing heaters, make sure they are properly guarded. For more advice, visit [london-fire.gov.uk/safety/the-home](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety/the-home)

Find out more about saving energy and keeping warm at [newham.gov.uk/energy](https://www.newham.gov.uk/energy)





Here for you: Helping our children attend school



Local and national research shows that there are real concerns about absence in both primary and secondary schools due to a wide range of factors including mental health issues, bullying and issues in particular communities.

That's why we're launching a dedicated campaign that focuses on the support available to help get children back into class. The campaign is based on feedback from children, parents/carers and teachers about the reasons for persistent absence – which means children missing one day in ten of school or more.

We want to help. If your child or a child you know is experiencing difficulties in regularly attending school, please get in touch with their school as a first step. Alongside, we can provide support and resources.

Every child is entitled to additional support to help them attend school. This can start with speaking to a teacher at school or a Pastoral Leader, Home School Liaison Officer, Attendance Officer or Teaching Assistant, or any other professional who works with you.

When asking for help, it is worth remembering to:

- **Be prepared** – find out more and be ready to have an open and honest conversation. The more information you can give the school, the more they can help you and give you the right support for you and your child, which may include an individual attendance action support plan.
- **Bring information with you** – the more detail you can give your school the better: names, telephone numbers, documents, contact details, for example, GP details, housing officer etc. This will allow the school to set up a network of support for you.

Find out more at newham.gov.uk/schoolattendancecampaign



Creating space together at Stratford Youth Zone

Our borough is shaped by the dynamism of our communities, young people and, in recent years, the growth of our creative and arts economy. It presents real opportunity for the borough and is why we're delighted to celebrate a new partnership between Stratford Youth Zone and the University of East London (UEL).

The partnership recently launched with an event at the flagship Stratford Youth Zone. The event showcased the artistic and creative talent of young people from Newham's Youth Empowerment Service with students from UEL's School of Arts and Creative Industries. Over 300 people enjoyed music and dance with guest performances from UEL Musical Theatre, Tommy Featherstone, and other artists.

Over the next 10 years, Stratford Youth Zone, in collaboration with UEL, will invest £733,000 a year in creative and performing arts

opportunities to nurture young and emerging talent from across the borough. UEL will work with the Council's Youth Empowerment Service to deliver a cultural programme that will re-invigorate Stratford Youth Zone, enhance the cultural curriculum, and provide peer to peer opportunities to accelerate learning.

Alongside our Universal Youth Empowerment curriculum, the partnership will deliver a truly transformed experience that will support young people both to realise talent and develop their pathway to a career in the creative industries through volunteering, further studying and placements. We are delighted to be working with UEL. Recently shortlisted as 'University of the Year', UEL has an exceptional 125 year history, with world leading expertise in cultural and arts programming. They also bring partnerships with leading organisations based within the

borough including East London Dance, V&A East, Newham Music Education Hub, Rosetta Arts, and the Royal Docks.

Together, our partnership is dedicated to breaking down barriers and unlocking the boundless potential of our young people.

Through our expanded impactful arts and cultural programs, they'll embark on a journey of self-expression and skill development. Our state-of-the-art recording studio becomes a canvas for musical dreams, while dance unleashes their creative spirits. Additionally, by honing skills in set design, lighting, and sound, we're paving pathways to promising careers in the arts and cultural sector. We're not just providing access, we're forging a future where every young person in Newham can be the best version of themselves, enriched by the transformative power of the arts underpinned by universal youth service provision.

David Andries from Stratford Youth Zone said, "I had the privilege to host, perform, and connect with numerous new faces at the launch event.

The entire experience was nothing short of amazing, and it allowed me to explore new horizons. I'm eagerly looking forward to the exciting opportunities that the future holds!"

We chatted to Francesca Redighieri, a student at UEL studying for a degree in applied theatre and performing arts.

She said, "I'm excited about the chance to collaborate with young people from across Newham as well as mature university students. I think it is great that we get to be exposed to pathways into the creative industries through higher education at a much earlier age."

Francesca is looking forward to rehearsing and using the public space at Stratford Youth Zone to perform. She has already been working with young people all over in the borough, including with live performances outside on the street around the youth zone. She loves that performing arts allows interaction and breaks down silos between people.



The Council's Youth Empowerment Service will now work with UEL to develop a programme of creative and cultural activity to facilitate the re-ignition and enrichment of the Stratford Cultural Quarter and aims to achieve the following:

- Fully animate the theatre spaces within Stratford Youth Zone.
- Utilise the existing youth zone curriculum and enhance and expand this through the facilities and work of UEL.
- Provide existing UEL students with opportunities for volunteering in community outreach programmes.

- Provide Youth Zone members the opportunity to get on to university courses, work experiences and access to mentors.
- Provide peer to peer support for 2024, which will be complimented by the resources and expertise of ACI to provide young people in Newham with a wealth of new opportunities in the performing arts.

Find out more at uel.ac.uk/creating-space

We're making school meals healthy for our children

Imagine cooking up around one million meals for Newham's pupils – and healthy ones at that.

Shirley Sullivan is marking that milestone after spending 34 years in our school kitchens.

Born and raised in the borough, she feels her role as a Chef has allowed her to see the impact of wholesome, nutritional food on our young people.

"23,000 meals are prepared and served to primary and secondary schools."

"The choices available are better now."

Since returning to Keir Hardie Primary School in Canning Town following the long summer break, Shirley's been reflecting on the last few decades. She said: "The meals we are dishing out today are so much healthier than what they were 34 years ago.

"I would never have dreamed of using the herbs and spices I do now. When we first started, everything was put into the oven." Newham's award-winning school meals provider, Juniper Ventures, prepares and serves over 23,000 meals daily to almost 60 primary and secondary schools in Newham. That's largely thanks to its staff, 80 per cent of which

are residents. The company also provides Newham Council's Eat for Free scheme to 75 per cent of primary schools across the borough.

Shirley doesn't have any plans to throw the towel, or rather, apron, in. A usual week will see her serving up a range of dishes, including jerk chicken, curries and roast dinners. The 65-year-old welcomes the changes. She said: "It's been positive for the children. The choices available are better now."

If you want to know more about Newham's school meals, visit newham.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals



Shirley Sullivan



We're leading the way in people powered democracy

We want Newham to be a place where residents are front and centre in shaping the transformation of the borough.

As a resident, you'll regularly be asked to be part of consultations on strategic decisions, such as housing developments.

We also run one of the UK's largest participatory budgeting programmes, which this year was relaunched as People Powered Places. This innovative programme asks residents and voluntary, community and faith sector organisations, to determine what their local areas need, then develop ideas to be funded by us to make lasting improvements.

People Powered Places makes sure that communities can direct investment to what their neighbourhoods need – and is making a huge difference. This year, over 700 residents got together to identify the priorities in their communities, then developed ideas for projects. Individuals and teams could apply for up to £5,000, which increased to £20,000 for voluntary, community and faith sector organisations. In total, we received 360 project applications, which were then voted on by residents to determine which were funded.

Thousands took part in the vote last month. We wish everyone involved the very best of luck and look forward to announcing and updating you on the projects underway in the new year. If this year is like last, we are set for another wave of incredible transformation led by our residents.

This year, we've achieved:

Number of participants 2022/3

5,537

Number of projects funded

76

Total investment

£800,000

Project highlights

The Barber Connect Project, Youth Football Club, Drug Curtailment, and Support for Ethnic Minority Stigmatised Families

Find out more at newhamco-create.co.uk/peoplepoweredplaces



We're transforming Canning Town Old Library

Christopher Laing, an advocate for inclusivity in architecture, is working with us to redevelop a local historic Grade II listed building.

Christopher has been involved in redeveloping Canning Town Old Library into Newham's first heritage and digital learning centre since last November. He said: "I am proud to work on such a beautiful building and be part of preserving its character for the people of Newham".

Society needs to be more inclusive

Christopher is the founder of Deaf Architecture Front, a platform that aims to break down barriers for deaf people working within the field of architecture. He feels accessibility and inclusivity within society needs to be more visible. He said "a lot more work needs to be done to enable deaf people to use their native language, British Sign Language."

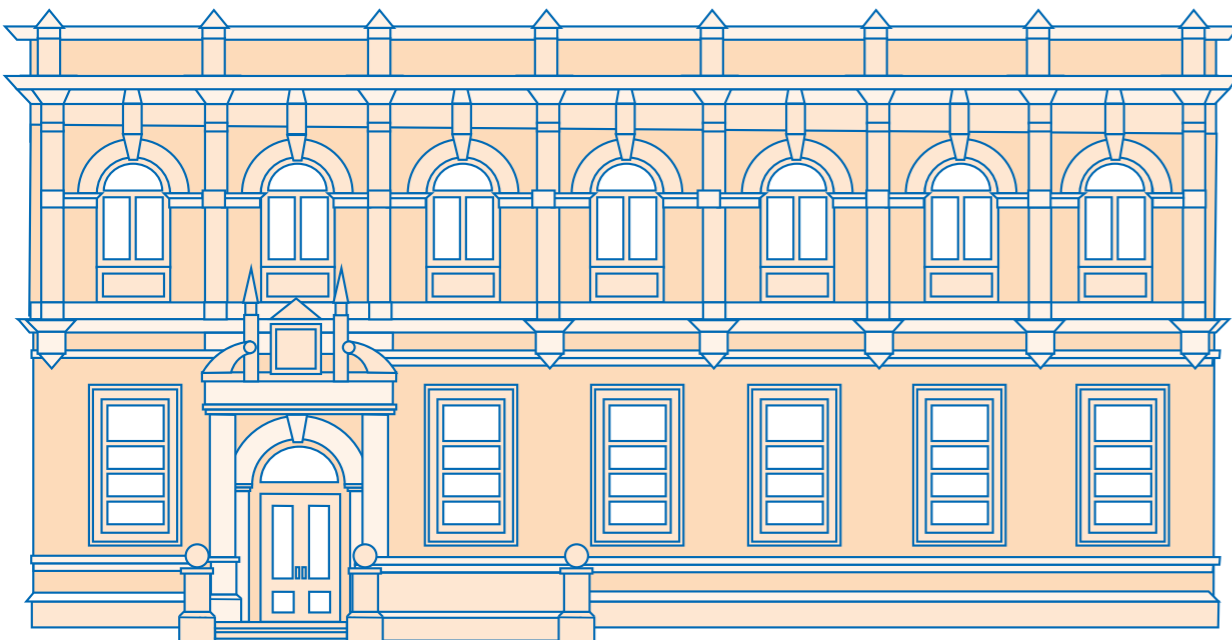


"I am proud to work on such a beautiful building and be part of preserving its character for the people of Newham."

The 31-year-old's journey into architecture was particularly challenging. He believes that's down to the "distinct lack of opportunities and role models within the industry, as well as the barriers to accessible information and resources". Christopher can be seen sharing his experiences in the BBC Documentary 'Rose Ayling-Ellis: Signs for Change'.

Get Involved

The Newham Co-Production Forum works together with residents to design and evaluate our services. We are currently reviewing our British Sign Language offer and are keen to gather input from deaf and hard of hearing residents. To find out more about co-production and how to get involved, email co-productionteam@newham.gov.uk or call/text **07976 716 741**.



Ending problems of damp and mould



We believe every resident deserves a decent home. That's why we're working hard to tackle damp and mould because it makes homes unhealthy and, without intervention, could cause serious health issues.

In 2021, we set up a dedicated Damp and Mould Taskforce that has already invested £6million to improve council homes. Alongside, we've increased inspections of council blocks and private households where our data shows risk of damp and mould. We're investing in upgrading buildings and using our private rented sector property licensing scheme to apply inspection and enforcement powers to tackle damp and mould in private rented properties. Every month, we inspect 800 rented homes to ensure they meet license terms, including being free from damp and mould.

If you're worried about damp and mould in your home, find out more at [newham.gov.uk/damp](https://www.newham.gov.uk/damp) or call **020 8430 2000**.

Tips for reducing condensation that causes damp and mould

Heat efficiently: Keep the temperature to 18°C in bedrooms and 18-21°C in the living room

Ventilate: Open windows regularly, especially when cooking or showering. Use the extractor fan in your kitchen and bathroom.

Keep surfaces clean: Wipe kitchen, bathroom and internal window frames clean using an approved mouldicide or fungicidal wash to reduce mould. Always wear a face covering and rubber gloves when applying.

Report persistent damp and mould: If you are a council tenant, report issues online or by emailing dampandmouldtaskforce@newham.gov.uk If you are a private tenant, contact your landlord in writing to make them aware of the issue. If they fail to act, contact us at privatehousing@newham.gov.uk or call **020 3373 1950**.

Recycling & waste collections: Christmas & New Year

NORMAL COLLECTION DAY	REVISED COLLECTION DAY
Monday 25 December 2023 (Christmas Day)	Wednesday 27 December 2023
Tuesday 26 December 2023 (Boxing Day)	Thursday 28 December 2023
Wednesday 27 December	Friday 29 December 2023
Thursday 28 December 2023	Saturday 30 December 2023
Friday 29 December 2023	Tuesday 2 January 2024
Monday 1 January 2024 (New Year's Day)	Wednesday 3 January 2024
Tuesday 2 January 2024	Thursday 4 January 2024
Wednesday 3 January 2024	Friday 5 January 2024
Thursday 4 January 2024	Saturday 6 January 2024
Friday 5 January 2024	Monday 8 January 2024
Monday 8 January 2024	Tuesday 9 January 2024
Tuesday 9 January 2024	Wednesday 10 January 2024
Wednesday 10 January 2024	Thursday 11 January 2024
Thursday 11 January 2024	Friday 12 January 2024
Friday 12 January 2024	Saturday 13 January 2024

Revised dates for businesses can be found at [newham.gov.uk/commercialwaste](https://www.newham.gov.uk/commercialwaste)



Recycle your real Christmas tree so it can be composted for a new life growing trees and plants

FROM LATE DECEMBER, OUR RECYCLING TEAMS CAN COLLECT YOUR REAL CHRISTMAS TREE FOR FREE.

Once the festivities are over, plant your real Christmas tree at home or recycle it for free. The trees are composted into soil that can then be used to grow new trees and plants.

Book your free real Christmas tree collection

- 1) Visit [newham.gov.uk/christmastreecollection](https://www.newham.gov.uk/christmastreecollection) to book your free collection. This service is for Christmas trees only, any other green garden waste presented will be left.
- 2) Place your Christmas tree as close to the pavement as possible, for example next to your gate or at the end of your drive, before 6am on your collection date.

- 3) Remember to remove all tinsel and decorations and any pots or stands.

What about my artificial tree?

Artificial trees are made from a combination of materials and therefore cannot be recycled. However, unwanted artificial trees in good condition may be accepted by charity shops for re-sale and re-use.

Let's celebrate Christmas together

As the weather turns colder, and nights longer, thoughts turn to the festive season. For many this may feel challenging because of worry about money or feeling alone. We want to help, and this year, we will be repeating our campaign 'Let's celebrate Christmas together'. This will include free events and activities across the borough for every resident. We hope to see you there.

Let's celebrate Christmas together

Christmas activities in libraries:

Location	Date	Time	Overview of activities
Canning Town Library, 18 Rathbone Market, E16 1EH	Wednesday 6 December	3.30-6pm	All things festive, including: Christmas workshops, Santa's Grotto carolling
Beckton Library, Kingsford Way, E6 5JQ	Friday 8 December	4-6pm	Christmas foods from around the world, face painting, performances and lots more activities
Stratford Library, 3 The Grove, E15 1EL	Friday 8 December	4-6pm	Face painting, arts & crafts, fashion show – come dressed up and take part, and more
Green Street Library, 337-341 Green St, E13 9AR	Saturday 9 December	2-4pm	Face painting, Christmas crafts, letters to Santa
Manor Park Library, 685-693 Romford Rd, E12 5BS	Saturday 9 December	3-6pm	Mini Christmas outdoor market, face painting, Christmas arts & crafts, snow globe
Custom House Library, Prince Regent Lane, E16 3JJ	Tuesday 12 December	3.30-5.30pm	Christmas crafts, Santa's grotto, carolling with local schools, refreshments
Plaistow Library, North Street, E13 9HL	Thursday 14 December	11am-1pm	Christmas coffee morning including: adult crafts, school carols
North Woolwich Library, Pier Parade, E16 2LJ	Thursday 14 December	4-6pm	Santa's grotto, arts & crafts, face painting, carolling with local partners



Christmas light switch on events

Woodgrange Market

Saturday 2 December, 4-5pm, switch on at 4.30pm
Forest Gate, Woodgrange Market, corner of Sebert Road and Woodgrange Road, E7 0NQ.

Arts & crafts, choir, refreshments.

*Detail of events correct at time of print.

Queen's Market

Friday 8 December, 3-5pm, switch on at 5pm
Queen's Market, Queens Square, Green Street, E13 9BA.

School choir, Santa's Grotto, outdoor performances, face painting.



"Street cleanliness has a severe and far reaching impact on our community. There is no one-size-fits-all solution. It needs the Council, residents, community organisations, and local businesses to work together."

Emma, resident