

COUNCIL NEWS



Residents' satisfaction with council services increasing

SEE PAGES 4 & 5

FIGHT CRIME



New strategy to help drug users and target drug dealers

SEE PAGE 21

COUNCIL NEWS



Warm hubs and other winter support

SEE PAGES 7, 25

ISSUE THIRTY-FIVE // DECEMBER 2024



OUR EAST END



Thank you foster carers

Special event celebrates the heroes in our borough



Music ensemble

Our students enjoy memorable cultural experiences, linked to a rich, vibrant and creative curriculum that extends their learning beyond the classroom.



Societies trip: HMS Belfast



PSHE Drop Day



House Lake District trip

Amazing enrichment opportunities



Art workshop



Racing at Dunsfold

Sixth Form enrichment

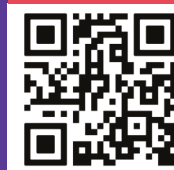
Sixth Form students participate in workshops, visits to universities, lectures, trips and arts events as well as a wide range of activities during their Wednesday afternoon enrichment sessions.

For more information about our amazing school follow the QR code or visit www.mulberryacademyshoreditch.org

📍 Mulberry Academy Shoreditch . Gosset Street . London E2 6NW
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SCAN ME





Past and present service users, families and staff joined the special 40 year anniversary celebrations

Celebrating 40 years of creativity and care

COUNCIL NEWS

A community centre has been offering opportunities for disabled people in Tower Hamlets for 40 years.

Create Community Hub marked the occasion with an event that brought together past and present service users, families, staff and carers to reflect on the day centre's

“

For 40 years, Create has been a place of support, creativity and care

impact over the last four decades.

Create offers a wide range of services for adults with learning disabilities in Tower Hamlets, including activities, training programmes, skills, and information and advice.

The celebration included a presentation from service users covering the hub's evolution and positive influence on the Tower Hamlets community over the years, and a service user-led DJ set from 'Bubble Club'.

Cllr Gulam Kibria Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Social Care, said: "This celebration is not just about looking back at what Create has achieved, but also about appreciating the strength of our community."

"For 40 years, Create has been a place of support, creativity and care,

and this event really captured the spirit of what our day centres are all about."

The hub first opened its doors as Coborn Opportunities Project on 14 October 1984, with 12 users and two staff members.

By 2007, it had grown to 40 users and nine staff members, and was renamed Create when the centre moved to Ronald Street in 2012.

Day centres are an important way for many people with a learning disability to learn new skills, take part in activities and meet new people.

They also provide families and carers with a break during the day, which can allow family members to work.

• For more information, visit www.towerhamletsconnect.org

A message from your Mayor

I am proud with what we have achieved this year, including bringing our leisure service in house to provide a better service for our residents.



We have opened three new youth centres for our young people, bringing the total number of youth centres in Tower Hamlets to 16, launching Young Tower Hamlets to further expand our young residents' opportunities to thrive.

We have also invested in our waste and recycling service, community safety and other services.

But there is always more we can do, and we will continue our ambitious plans, working with the government.

As winter sets in and temperatures drop, we are prioritising vital support for our elderly residents. We know that the national government's changes to Winter Fuel Allowance risks pushing more pensioners below the poverty line.

We are stepping in to plug the gap created to support vulnerable residents this winter, with warm hubs, the return of our popular cost-of-living booklet and support with pension credit.

I am proud to announce that we are introducing the Tower Hamlets Winter Fuel Payment of £175 per person who is eligible.

No-one should struggle this winter and I would encourage everyone to look after their friends, family and neighbours and reach out if you or them needs any support.

I wish you and your families a wonderful, festive season and a very Happy New Year.

Lutfur Rahman
Executive Mayor

Our East End is produced by:
Tower Hamlets Council

Editorial enquiries: 020 7364 4389

Email: communications@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Advertising enquiries: 020 7364 6005

Printed by: Reach Printing Services

Distributed by: London Letterbox Marketing

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Tower Hamlets beating local authorities

Survey also reveals that 90 per cent of residents say they get on well with each other

COUNCIL NEWS

Residents have given their approval to Tower Hamlets Council's work to improve their lives in the latest independent Annual Residents' Survey (ARS).

In one of the most upbeat survey results the council has ever seen, positive public sentiment has increased in almost every area, with the council also consistently above the local authority national average as measured by the Local Government Association (LGA).

In the past two years, the council has made significant investment in services to improve more lives and the quality of service it delivers.

This includes being the only local authority in the country to provide universal free school meals to all primary and secondary school children; a £13.7m investment in a new YoungTH youth service; insourcing of housing and leisure including reopening leisure centres under its new Be Well brand; and £5m additional investment into the council's insourced waste service.

The ARS, which is taken from a representative sample of residents based on the borough's demographics and carried out independently, shows that people are feeling the benefits.

Lutfur Rahman, Executive Mayor of Tower Hamlets, said: "These results show that residents are feeling more positive about both Tower Hamlets as a place and the work the council is doing.

"We are starting to see the results of our hard work and investment we have made into council services.

"Our aim is to be one of the best performing local authorities in the country and I am pleased that we score higher than the national average in almost every area.

"As a place, 84% of people are satisfied with the local area and 90% of residents say people from different backgrounds get on well with each other."

The council is aware that there are some areas where improvement is needed and will be working to address these.

• The Annual Residents Survey results are available to view on the council website at www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/residentsurvey

Annual Residents' Survey Results are in!

Tower Hamlets Council performing better than the national average



– **66%** trust the council (national average is 55%)

– **51%** feel the council provides value for money (national average is 40%)

– **59%** feel the council acts on residents' concerns (national average is 49%)



– **90%** of residents say they get on well with each other

– **84%** of residents agree Tower Hamlets is a good place to live

– **81%** of residents enjoy our parks and open spaces

Percentage of all residents satisfied with service (including non-service users):

- Waste collection: 69% - up 5
- Street cleaning: 63% - up 9
- Street lighting: 79% - up 10
- Parks and green spaces: 81% - up 14
- Council housing: 36% - up 9
- Social housing: 36% - up 10
- Recycling services: 73% - up 11
- My Council Tax account: 69% - up 21
- Parking services: 47% - up 12

Some of the general highlights include:

84% say they are satisfied with the local area (nat. average is 74%)

66% say they trust the council (nat. average is 55%)

90% say they get on well (nat. average is 77%)

51% feel the council provides value for money (nat. average is 40%)

65% feel the council keeps them informed (nat. average is 54%)

59% feel the council acts on concerns of residents (nat. average is 49%)

95% feel safe in the day (the nat. average is 92%)

Note: Nat. Average is the national local authority average measured by the LGA.

Authority average in most areas

They get on well with each other in our borough



Education

The survey showed high satisfaction rates for schools in the borough, at 82% for primary schools and 76% for secondary schools.

This follows new measures including:

- Universal free school meals
- 89.5% of secondary school pupils and 98.1% of primary school pupils securing a place at one of their top three school preferences
- 83% of students achieving grades 9-4 in GCSE English and 75% in Maths (equivalent to the old A* to C grades).



Cleaner, greener

The survey results showed that 73% of residents were satisfied with the council's recycling services, up 11% on last year. 69% were satisfied with waste collections, up 5% on last year, and 63% were satisfied with street cleaning, up 9% from last year

This follows £5m of additional investment into waste services, which included recruiting 72 new waste staff, putting 22 new vehicles into operation for street and park cleansing, and expanding the service to deliver a twice daily, seven-day-a-week cleansing on the 115 main streets in the borough.



Community safety

A total of 95% of residents feel safe during the day, above the national average of 92%

The council has invested heavily in its £3.9m CCTV systems to act as a strong deterrent and gather good quality evidence to bring offenders to justice.

There has also been £2.3million in funding for 40 more Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOs), along with other improvements such as upgrading street lighting.



Cost of living

Many people living in Tower Hamlets face significant challenges that have been exacerbated during the cost-of-living crisis. This is reflected in the survey results, where 40% of residents gave the cost-of-living crisis as their top area of concern.

The council's ongoing Cost of Living Help campaign has supported residents to access thousands of pounds of extra support and benefits. Recent new policies and announcements include targeted support for low-income households to pay their council tax bills, alongside a new pensioner household support scheme coming soon.



Friends of Meath Gardens were award winners for Outstanding Service to the Community at last year's awards

Nominate your civic heroes for award

The Civic Awards 2025 nominations are now open to honour those who dedicate their time and efforts to improve the lives of people across Tower Hamlets.

The Tower Hamlets Civic Awards are the borough's yearly opportunity to say a very special thank you to the local unsung heroes and heroines who live, work or study in the borough.

Nominations close on Sunday 12 January 2025 so there's still some time to think about who you

would like to recognise for their unique community efforts and achievements.

The winners will be chosen by a cross-party panel, chaired by the Speaker of the Council Cllr Saif Uddin Khaled, and include representatives from the across the community.

This year, there are sections for adults (age 26 and over) and for children and young people between the ages of 11 and 25.

In the section for adults, the

four nomination categories are: gives outstanding service to the community; has brought credit to the borough through sporting, artistic or cultural achievements; has improved the quality of life for local people by providing services beyond those they are paid to do; and has benefited the community through success in business and in community involvement.

The nominating sections for children and young people are: gives outstanding service to the

community; has brought credit to the borough through sporting, artistic or cultural achievements; special achievement as a young entrepreneur; someone who has provided outstanding peer support; and someone who has been an ambassador for the borough representing Tower Hamlets in the wider UK or abroad.

• Find out more about the awards and submit your applications at www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/civicawards

£175 winter fuel payments

COST-OF LIVING

Thousands of pensioners who were due to miss out on Winter Fuel Payments will be eligible for a new grant being introduced by the council.

Mayor Lutfur Rahman announced a Winter Emergency Fund at a Cabinet meeting at the end of last year to provide financial support for those who can no longer receive the Winter Fuel Payment.

The scheme will provide £175 to those eligible in the coming months, part of a £1m package of support, which includes funds from the government's Household Support Fund (HSF).

National government has made the Winter Fuel Allowance means tested, which will result in 1.5

million people being eligible - down from 11.4 million when the payment was available to anyone over the age of 66 regardless of financial situation.

Executive Mayor of Tower Hamlets, Lutfur Rahman, said: "Making the Winter Fuel payment means-tested will have a detrimental effect on pensioners who are already facing the rising costs of energy bills.

"This creates a risk that pensioners will not turn their heating on for fear of not being able to pay the bills, which is wrong.

"This is why we are stepping in and providing a £175 safety net for those who will be missing out."

The council will also work to increase uptake among the estimated 4,500 residents in the borough who are eligible for

Pension Credit but are not claiming.

A total of £17 million worth of Pension Credit benefit is going unclaimed in Tower Hamlets.

Pension credit is worth £3,900 per year on average and also gives access to cold weather payments, help to pay for healthcare items, and a free TV licence for those over 75.

If you have reached state pension age and your income is less than £218.15 per week (or £332.95 for couples), you may be eligible. The LBTH Outreach Team can support claims through the council's website.

Eligible residents have until 21 December to sign up for Pension Credit.

To claim, call the Pension Credit claim line on 0800 99 1234 or apply online at www.gov.uk/pension-credit.

Cllr Saied Ahmed, Cabinet

Member for Resources and the Cost of Living, added: "I would firstly encourage all those who are over the age of 66 to claim Pension Credit as it may give you extra income to which you could be entitled, and it can open doors to other benefits such as support with housing costs, Council Tax and heating bills."

There are an estimated 109,898 other missed benefits claims in Tower Hamlets totalling over £110million in unclaimed support.

• Check your eligibility using the council's Benefits Calculator at www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/costofliving

• To apply for the winter fuel payment visit towerhamlets.gov.uk/costofliving or call 0207 364 5040

Pick up your cost of living booklet for help and advice this winter

Don't forget to pick up your copy of the Cost of Living Help booklet, which provides information on saving money and keeping warm.

The booklet is back due to popular demand and is available both as a hard copy and digitally.

The booklet, which is now in its

third edition, provides a wealth of information including tips on saving money, staying warm, a directory of food banks, how to access support services, and much more.

The booklet can be translated and bulk copies can be ordered

by emailing communications@towerhamlets.gov.uk

You can pick up a copy from Idea Stores, Residents' Hubs and the Town Hall.

It is also important to check you are claiming all the benefits you're entitled to. The council's Benefits

Calculator is a quick and easy way to check what benefits you're eligible for as it can open the door to other support such as council tax reductions and reduced utility tariffs.

• Visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/costofliving

Warm up with a warm hub



Idea Stores have been turned into warm hubs, providing a safe and warm space for residents to socialise and have a hot drink

Thousands of residents have benefited from the council's warm hubs which are running at Idea Stores until March.

Idea Stores provide a safe warm space for people where they can socialise, have a hot drink and snack and not worry about putting the

heating on.

Warm hubs have been used by councils across the UK to help those impacted by the rising cost of living to access warm, safe and comfortable environments in their communities, especially during periods of extreme cold weather.

Visitors also use the hubs to connect with others, and to get additional support as well as information on advice services that could offer long term help.

In addition to the warm hubs, the council has offered hundreds of free energy packs which

included hats, socks and gloves as well as other items.

• Make sure you are aware of the range of support and advice on offer on the council's dedicated webpage: www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/costofliving

Council and government to work together on journey of improvement

COUNCIL NEWS

Envoys from the government will help Tower Hamlets Council to improve in areas identified by an inspection report.

Under the previous government, inspectors conducted a Best Value Review of Tower Hamlets Council between February and July this year.

The report, which was inherited by the new government, recognised the dedication of council officers and the progress the council had

made in areas including achieving financial stability; service delivery; putting external challenge and support in place through the Transformation Advisory Board; and running sound elections.

However, areas for improvement include the organisational culture, continuous improvement, partnership and community working and leadership including how all councillors work together for the good of the borough.

As a result, the government has chosen to send Envoys as part of a

support package to work with the council over the next three years to help improve those areas. This means no powers will be taken away from the council, and the improvements will be delivered and measured under the existing council structure.

The council has welcomed the support package.

Improvements will be delivered and monitored through changes to the council's existing Transformation Advisory Board which will be reconfigured into the

Transformation Assurance Board. The board is chaired by Executive Mayor Lutfur Rahman.

Steve Halsey, Chief Executive, said: "We believe external scrutiny is crucial to our improvement and we appreciate the new Government's approach to local government support.

"We look forward to working with the Ministerial Envoy to build on the Peer Review we received from the Local Government Association and Investors in People inspection silver rating."

Take control of your health

ONLINE

We have launched an online portal that gives you secure access to your health record.

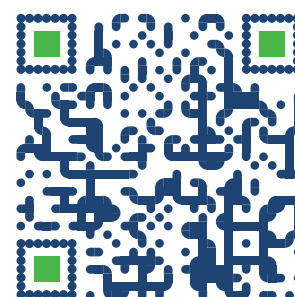
Once you sign up, you'll be able to see your personal information and check your hospital appointments.

It's free and easy to use for all Barts Health NHS Trust patients.

For more information and to sign up to **Patients Know Best**, please scan the QR code.



Or visit: bartshealth.nhs.uk/patients-know-best



WeCare
Our vision, values and behaviour





Deputy Mayor of Tower Hamlets, Cllr Maium Talukdar, and Deputy Young Mayor Iffat Bhuiyan officially opening one of the new youth centres

Two new youth centres open

Two new youth centres have opened in Tower Hamlets, expanding the network of safe, supportive spaces for young people across the borough from 13 to 15.

The new centres are in Bigland Green, Shadwell Ward, and Christian Street, Whitechapel ward.

Three more centres are planned to open by the end of December, before this edition went to print.

On launch day, young people were encouraged to get involved in a range of free activities including henna, facepainting, and refreshments.

The Deputy Mayor of Tower Hamlets, Cllr Maium Talukdar, and Deputy Young Mayor Iffat Bhuiyan were on hand to cut the ribbon at Bigland Green Centre.

Deputy Mayor and Cabinet

Member for Education, Youth and Lifelong Learning, Cllr Maium Talukdar, said: "The new spaces represent our continued dedication to supporting young people's wellbeing and development."

They were opened during National Youth Work Week, which also saw young people get involved with a range of activities and sessions provided by youth centres and

partners. This included creating a sensory garden for young people with autism, a rap, song and spoken word workshop, and art-based projects exploring what diversity means to young people.

The new youth centres are part of Tower Hamlets Council's £13.7 million investment.

• Visit www.youngtowerhamlets.org.uk

Rogue letting agents convicted

COUNCIL NEWS

Five individuals and two companies have been convicted of a total of 15 offences following a six-month trial at Southwark Crown Court after being prosecuted by Tower Hamlets Council.

This followed an investigation and operation by Tower Hamlets' trading standards officers into rogue letting agents based within the borough.

They were involved in numerous illegal and unfair letting practices, including "bait and switch" advertising of rooms, placing

misleading adverts on platforms such as Spareroom, failing to protect or refund tenants' deposits, and issuing licences to occupy instead of assured shorthold tenancy agreements.

This denied tenants their legal rights such as protection from eviction without a court order.

The letting agents particularly targeted workers or students who were new to the UK and therefore unfamiliar with the rental market.

For years, the rogue letting agents would operate a vicious cycle: ceasing trading once they received complaints under one company and then starting up another company

with a new name to continue their illegal practices.

Throughout this, the same people were involved, and they mainly operated from the same location at 220 Bow Common Lane.

The trial began on 8 April 2024 and was supported by the National Trading Standards Tri Region Investigations Team.

Around 40 complainants provided testimony either in writing, orally, or via videolink from overseas.

Chanapol, an international student and a complainant in the case, said about the outcome: "I know what this means to all witnesses and this result will save many people who

might be victims in the future, especially international students like me, people in their first jobs, or people who try to find a proper place to stay."

Ivann Schlosser, another complainant in the case, added: "Hopefully this case will help improve the letting conditions for this segment of the market, where many vulnerable and young people find themselves coming to East London for studies, work and fun."

• You can report rogue traders and letting agents at: www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/tradingstandards



The tomb of George Green and St Leonard's Priory have been restored

Two historic sites restored

BOOST CULTURE

Two historic open spaces in the borough have been restored and repaired, thanks to support from the council, heritage groups and residents.

St Leonard's Priory, an open space in Bromley-by-Bow, has been refurbished using funding from the council's Historic Buildings Grant, along with a grant from the Heritage of London Trust (HOLT).

The former graveyard space is owned by the Diocese of London but is maintained by the council.

It is a small pocket of history and nature to the east of the borough.

Until recently, the vegetation was overgrown, the boundary wall was crumbling, and the listed gateway was on Historic England's Heritage at Risk register.

A few years ago, garden volunteers began to clear overgrown vegetation, plant flowers, install raised beds and add picnic benches. Work to the gateway was completed in August. The council's emergency walls and bridges fund paid to repair the wall.

Restoration work has also been carried out on the tomb of George Green, a shipbuilder and

philanthropist in Poplar between 1767 and 1849. He funded the construction of local chapels and almshouses and founded George Green School, which was once located in Poplar.

Buried in Trinty Gardens in Poplar, his tomb is located at the back of the park, surrounded by iron railings.

Students at George Green School visit the tomb every year on George Green's birthday to lay a wreath on the railings.

The tomb was, until recently, in a poor condition with broken railings and the inscription on the stone plaque illegible. Supported by the

council, the Heritage of London Trust, relatives of George Green, George Green's almshouses charity, and the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights, repairs including new finials, restored railings and a new stone plaque to replace the old one were completed in summer.

Students from George Green School, Mayflower School and relatives of George Green attended a celebration event in October, where pupils explained the history, read poems in memory of George Green and laid a wreath on the railings.

More awards for borough's parks

Parks and open spaces in Tower Hamlets have been honoured for their commitment, passion, and enthusiasm for making Tower Hamlets a greener and more pleasant place to live, work and visit.

Victoria Park, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park and Canary Wharf were amongst those recognised at the London in Bloom Awards 2024. Tower Hamlets won eight Gold awards including City of the

Year; Large Park over 25 acres and Heritage Park awards for Victoria Park; Large Cemetery, Heritage Site and Large Conservation Area awards for Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park; and Large Business, and Town and City Centre awards for Canary Wharf. Separately, Victoria Park was voted one of the top ten parks in the UK in the Green Flag People's Choice Awards 2024, for the 12th consecutive time.



Our parks and open spaces have won a number of awards

New cricket pitch coming to Vicky Park

Tower Hamlets Council is leading on the construction of a new natural turf cricket pitch at Victoria Park.

The pitch will be the first of its kind in the borough and has been welcomed by residents, cricket

teams and organisations.

The new pitch forms part of a commitment to bolster engagement and participation in cricket, and particularly aims to involve girls and women, promote inclusivity within

the sport, create healthier lifestyles, and strengthen social connections in the community.

The first phase of construction on the cricket square started in September. The second phase is due

to be completed by June next year in readiness for the start of the cricket season.

• Email your comments and views to Park.Projects@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Nine fires caused by batteries

CLEAN AND GREEN

Nine fires this year have been caused by residents disposing of batteries incorrectly.

Putting lithium batteries or other flammable items like gas canisters into your household waste bin or recycling bin means that when the vehicles collect the waste, they can crush it, causing an explosion and a fire.

Cllr Shafi Ahmed, Lead Member for Environment and Climate Emergency, said: "Following

guidance on how to properly dispose of batteries or other hazardous materials is not only important - it can be lifesaving.

"The fires caused by batteries or other dangerous materials exploding are dangerous and puts our frontline staff in harm's way and cause severe delays to resident collections. They also burn toxins into the air, polluting the local area.

"Together we can stop this. We are asking every resident to ensure they never put batteries of any type into their domestic waste or recycling bins."

What to do with your batteries

All batteries, including lithium batteries from e-bikes, e-scooters, mobile phones, and other re-chargeable devices and car batteries, can be taken to the Reuse and Recycling Centre at Northumberland Wharf.

Look out for battery recycling collection points when you are shopping.

Retailers selling more than 32kg of batteries each year must collect

household batteries for recycling from the public, so many big supermarket stores will have a battery recycling point, often near the cash registers.

Household batteries, including small lithium batteries like those from mobile phones, vapes, other small rechargeable electrical devices, can be recycled in special recycling containers at all Idea Stores and libraries in the borough.

• For more information, visit [towerhamlets.gov.uk/environment](https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/environment)

Collection of real Christmas trees

There will be a collection for the recycling of real Christmas trees from Monday January 6 to Friday January 17 2025.

If you currently receive a food and garden kerbside collection, kindly remove the pot and all decorations from your tree and leave out for collection on your scheduled day during this period.

If you do not have kerbside food and garden collections, please contact your property landlord or management company who can arrange collections from the nominated collection points. All collected trees will be turned into nutrient-rich compost to help grow fruit and vegetables in the UK.



Refuse trucks have to empty their waste onto the road when they have a fire, causing delays

We're dreaming of a green Christmas

Make sure you follow these recycling tips so you and your family - and the planet - can enjoy a cleaner, greener festive season this year.

Reduce

Remember to take bags with you for your festive shopping and visit your local markets and greengrocers to buy produce without plastic wrap.

Instead of a physical gift, why not gift an experience such as an excursion, show or meal? You could even make a donation to charity in the person's name.

Planning ahead and only buying food you need will reduce waste and save money. For unavoidable food waste, kerbside properties have a weekly collection service: www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/foodwaste

[towerhamlets.gov.uk/foodwaste](https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/foodwaste)

Reuse

You can avoid buying new lights and decorations every year by packing them away safely so they can be reused

Try furoshiki wrapping, a Japanese style of wrapping that eliminates the need for tape or wrapping paper as it uses fabrics instead, which can be reused over and over.

Recycle

Foil and glittery wrapping paper can't be recycled, so instead choose brown craft paper. Other wrapping paper can only be recycled if it stays crunched into a ball.

If you use a communal recycling



bin, flatten your cardboard boxes so more can fit in.

Empty and rinse your bottles, cans, and tubs.

Remember you can recycle paper,

cardboard, glass bottles and jars, cans, and plastic containers and bottles.

• Visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/LetsRethinkIt

Venue map



- 1 Meath Gardens Family Hub, 1 Smart Street, London, E2 0SN
- 2 Mowlem Children and Family Centre, Wadson Street, London, E2 9DL
- 3 Collingwood Children and Family Centre, St Bartholomew Gardens, Buckhurst Street, London, E1 5QT
- 4 Overland Family Hub, 60 Parnell Road, Bow, London, E3 2RU
- 5 Marnier Children and Family Centre, Devas Street, London, E3 3LL
- 6 Mile End Children and Family Centre, 9 Bede Square, Joseph Street, Off Bow Common Lane, London, E3 4GY
- 7 Overland (Olga site), 25 Medway Road, London, E3 5DS
- 8 Wapping & Bigland Children and Family Centre, 15 Richard Street, London, E1 2JP
- 9 John Smith Family Hub, 90 Stepney Way, London, E1 2EN
- 10 Ocean Children and Family Centre, Whitehorse Road, London, E1 0ND
- 11 Ocean (Shadwell site), 418 Cable Street, E1 0AF
- 12 Around Poplar Children and Family Centre, 115 Three Colt Street, London, E14 8AP
- 13 Chrisp Street Children and Family Centre, 45 Kerbey Street, London, E14 6AW
- 14 Isle of Dogs Family Hub, Millwall Park, Stebondale Street, London, E14 3BX

Four Family Hubs provide support and advice all in one place for our borough's parents

Families benefit from four Family Hubs offering range of support

ACCELERATE EDUCATION

More than 16,400 children and 17,500 parents visited a Family Hub in Tower Hamlets from July 2023 to summer 2024.

There are now four hubs in Tower Hamlets, which bring together local services and advice for children, young people, and their families, including Start for Life services for

children aged up to two.

With a wide range of services available, your local Family Hub is the first place to start when finding the right support for you and your family.

Family Hubs are facilitated by the Early Help and Children and Families Service.

Early Help, sometimes known as early intervention, is an approach to providing children, young people

and families with support to thrive and reach their full potential.

The service supports families at the earliest point when they first have challenges, stopping problems from escalating.

To deliver the best possible services, the borough is divided into four localities.

Each locality has a Family Hub and several Children and Family Centres, ensuring families have convenient

access to services close to home.

The Family Hub Network is made up of community partners including charities, voluntary groups, faith organisations, parent groups, healthcare services, early years services, schools, youth services, arts organisations and more.

• You can find Family Hubs at the addresses on the diagram above, or go online to see more information at thfamilyhubs.co.uk.



Abigail received help at a family hub

Help is all in one place

Through Family Hubs, Abigail received help with housing, support for her son with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), talking therapy for depression, and Stay and Play sessions for her daughter.

Through volunteering, she was

also able to secure employment in a field she loves.

She said: "Having all services in one place was essential for this support.

"I think I'd still be struggling to access things that I need, that I'll not be able to know which number

to call or where to go to access the right support for my kids or for myself.

"When you have a child with special needs it is a struggle to access the right thing. I came to the Family Hub, and they are like family."

Attending school helps children socially, mentally and physically

Attending primary school regularly provides a wealth of social, health and academic benefits for children.

The higher a pupil's attendance, the more they are likely to learn and perform better in exams and formal assessments.

Primary schools also offer a

range of extra-curricular activities to support children with their learning and help them find something they are passionate about.

Attending school provides opportunities for children to have fun, try new things, make friends, and socialise with pupils

from different backgrounds and communities.

All pupils in Tower Hamlets primary and secondary schools get a fresh, healthy lunch for free.

Eating a healthy, nutritious meal has been shown to improve behaviour and academic achievements, while

saving families an average of £550 per child, per year.

- If your child is struggling with attending school, or if you would like further help and support, you can find more information at www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/everydaymatters



The event reinforced the council's commitment to supporting its foster carers and acknowledging the life-changing work they do

Foster heroes thanked at event

ACCELERATE EDUCATION

More than 150 foster carers and staff were thanked at an annual awards ceremony, dinner and dance to celebrate the invaluable contributions of foster carers to the local community.

The evening, held by Tower Hamlets Council in October, provided an opportunity to bring foster carers together and thank them for providing stable and loving homes to children in need.

Foster carers also had the chance to share their experiences and engage with fellow carers.

Cllr Maium Talukdar, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Youth and Lifelong

Learning, presented long service awards to those who have made exceptional contributions over the years, along with special awards to carers who have gone above and beyond in their roles.

Cllr Talukdar said: "Our foster carers are the unsung heroes of our community, providing not just a home, but hope and a future for some of our most vulnerable children.

"Their dedication and compassion continue to inspire me, and I am incredibly proud of the positive impact they have in our borough.

"This event is just a small token of our immense gratitude for the care and commitment they show every single day."

Following the awards ceremony,



guests enjoyed a sit-down dinner and a disco, where foster carers, council staff and other attendees celebrated the achievements of the past year.

The event reinforced the council's commitment to supporting its foster



carers and acknowledging the life-changing work they do.

- For more information on foster caring in the borough, visit www.fosteringtowerhamlets.co.uk/

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OUR CURRICULUM

Our curriculum is designed to equip children with the essential knowledge and skills needed for success in adult life, embodying our motto: 'Learning for Life.' We go beyond the national curriculum by offering a creative, cross-curricular approach that ensures our students are well-prepared for the challenges of the 21st century.

SOME ACHIEVEMENTS

- Leading Parental Partnership Award
- Duke of Edinburgh Award for Year 10s
- Tower Hamlets Athletic tournaments
- Several students accepted on MENSA
- Several awards in National Maths Challenge
- Trips to Barcelona, Seville and Brussels
- International Schools Gold Award
- Eco Schools Silver Award



DR SOPHINA ASONG

"We are very proud of the children who have graduated here; they're doing their borough proud!"



DR MICHAEL HARPHAM

"A massive congratulations to the school! Fantastic results. Go forward for another 10 years!"



PRINCIPAL ASHID ALI

"There has been a lot of hard work and persistence. We were dreaming big; and we promised to deliver!"



MAYOR LUTFUR RAHMAN

"We want all our kids to do well! My passion is education, and I want our students to go to the best and top universities."



CLLR SIRAJUL ISLAM

"We've heard about the academic achievement through the academy, and it bodes well for the future of our children!"

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Four new schemes have been launched to support new businesses in the borough

Entrepreneurs benefit from £700,000 training programmes

JOBS AND SKILLS

Hundreds of local entrepreneurs are set to benefit from a £700,000 investment from partnership funding into four new programmes to help them achieve their business aspirations.

The investment is set to empower 250 individuals to become qualified entrepreneurs, establish 150 businesses, create 50 social enterprises, and support 50 women-led or owned businesses.

The first programme, the 'Lean Start Up Support Programme', which is funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, is designed for those looking to start a business without financial support and will be run by Rebel Business School.

The second programme, also funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, is the 'Supported Access to Finance Programme' and is aimed at those wanting to start a business while learning how to access and apply for funding.

This will be managed by Allia

Impact, and participants who finish this programme can apply for a £2,500 grant.

Both of these programmes are for new entrepreneurs who have never owned a business or registered as a sole trader.

The other two programmes, funded by the Strategic Investment Pot Inclusive Growth, focus on established businesses in the area and will be led by Sara Carter Training & Consultancy.

The 'Women in Business Programme' will support 50 small,

independent businesses owned by women, while the 'Social Enterprise Impact Programme' will help voluntary and community sector organisations.

The four new programmes were launched in September at an event held at the Town Hall. Council representatives and programme delivery partners were joined by 79 residents and local businesses.

• Visit towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgnl/business/business_support_and_advice/Projects-and-opportunities.aspx

Support to reach full potential



Cllr Musthak Ahmed, centre, with staff from OMG Education

At least 2,800 residents will benefit from a new employment and skills service operating out of the London Fruit and Wool Exchange.

OMG Education will run the new school, focusing on creativity and the arts to give equal opportunities to everyone. The official opening took place on 6 September.

Tower Hamlets Council obtained the unit in the London Fruit and Wool Exchange in 2018 through a Section 106 agreement, a legal contract between a developer and local council requiring the developer to contribute to the community either by money or providing community amenities.

OMG Education has pledged to engage with a minimum of 1,000

unemployed residents, provide upskilling and training for at least 817 individuals, and create personal action plans for no fewer than 1,000 residents.

The engagement efforts will prioritise residents from minority groups.

Jamal Miah, Founder and Director of OMG Education, said: "At OMG Education, we believe that every young person deserves the opportunity to thrive. Our innovative curriculum, focused on music, creativity and practical experiences, is designed to help students overcome challenges and reach their full potential."

• Email info@omg.school

For more information, visit

towerhamletsconnect.org

Or you can call **0300 303 6070** (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm)
or email **enquiry@towerhamletsconnect.org** and
an advisor will be able to help.



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SCAN ME



17,000 new leisure members

More than 17,000 people have taken out a membership to Be Well, the borough's new leisure centres, since the council took control.

In May, Tower Hamlets Council brought seven borough leisure centres in-house following the end of the contract with GLL (Better).

The council is committed to

increasing participation among women and girls, and has introduced new initiatives including free swimming for women and girls, and women-only gym and pool sessions.

Since launching the free swimming programme in July, more than 11,000 women, girls, and

residents over 55 have registered.

The council expanded its offerings in October with free swimming clinics for women and girls to build confidence and strengthen swimming skills.

The council is also investing more than £4.8 million to upgrade the spa at York Hall, Mile End Park

Leisure Centre football pitches, and essential systems across all six centres, including boilers, pool pump systems, heating and ventilation.

- If you would like to find out more about the leisure centres and activities, please visit be-well.org.uk



Fetuma Hassan, Tower Hamlets Young Mayor, cutting the ribbon to open the 'takeover' day

Encouraging women to get active

INVEST IN SERVICES

A day of free and fun activities for women was held at Tiller Leisure Centre on the Isle of Dogs on 9 November as part of a drive to empower women and girls in the borough to engage in fitness, health, and wellbeing activities.

More than 170 women took part in the 'takeover' day, organised by Be Well, Tower Hamlets Council's leisure service, which included boxercise and self-defence classes, as well as pool inflatables and swim clinics.

Local women's groups, including Shadwell Women's Group, took part in the day, with the all-female staffed Tiller Leisure Centre also offering a pop-up creche and access to wellbeing advice from Tower Hamlets Talking Therapies.

Fetuma Hassan, Tower Hamlets Young Mayor, officiated the event.

She said: "Remaining active isn't just a way of building lifelong habits for physical wellbeing but it's also a space for young women to find a community, make friends, reduce stress and improve mental health. By creating spaces for women, we can build a foundation for a healthier, more resilient community."

Cllr Kamrul Hussain, Cabinet Member for Culture and Recreation, said: "Be Well's vision is to create a community where women and girls have access to inclusive leisure services and reduce the barriers that were encountered previously."

"The council is committed to investing in its leisure offer to support healthier lifestyles and create spaces and initiatives that encourage greater participation from women."



Activities included self defence and boxercise

No place for hate in our borough

A week of training, awareness, public engagement and outreach activities took place in Tower Hamlets to mark National Hate Crime Awareness Week in October.

During the week, the council's Hate Crime Team trained and recruited 30 youth champions from the youth council who successfully completed the No Place for Hate Champions training.

There were also 27 new adult champions, who were given certificates for passing the training.

There were outreach activities at various locations across the borough including Idea Store Whitechapel, Town Hall, and leisure centres.

ELOP organised a peace walk from Altab Ali Park and Harca Spotlight delivered hate crime awareness workshops to their young service users.

The week ended with the No Place for Hate football match, where more than 55 players kicked hate crime out of Tower Hamlets.

The Hate Crime pledge competition also ran all week with residents and businesses encouraged to sign.



The peace walk, the football match and champions event organised for National Hate Crime Awareness Week

Shops fined

FIGHT CRIME

Businesses in Tower Hamlets have been fined a total of more than £16,000 for selling alcohol and vapes to underage teens.

These fines followed prosecutions by the council after test purchase operations by their Trading Standards team in August and December 2023 and February 2024.

In August 2023, Raj Singh Jani of Old Ford Supermarket sold a can of Malibu to a 15-year-old. He was fined £1,500, with additional costs and a victim surcharge totalling £3,828.

In December 2023, a grape-flavoured Elf Bar vape was sold to a 14-year-old at Shisha and Candy. The company was fined £230, while the director, Mr. Muhammed Dilwar Hussain faced a separate fine of £207. Mr. Hussain was also fined for failing to display a tobacco age restriction notice. The seller, Mr. Shahadat Hossain, was fined £650.

In February 2024, vapes and nicotine were illegally sold to 15-year-

olds at several locations including:

- CM Newsagents' Mr. Dulal Uddin was fined £400 and ordered to pay £740 in costs and a £160 victim surcharge. The company was fined £160, ordered to pay £740 in costs and a £64 victim surcharge.
- iFix's Mr. Mohammed Belal was fined £400 for the offence, ordered to pay £740 in costs and a £160 victim surcharge. The company was fined £160, ordered to pay £740 in costs and a £64 victim surcharge.
- Bismilla Halal Sweet and Ice Cream's Mr. Sufian Ahmed received a six-month conditional discharge. The company was fined £1,000 and ordered to pay £1609 in costs and a £400 victim surcharge
- Saz Clouds Ltd was fined £3,000 for selling a vape containing more than the legal 2ml limit of nicotine liquid. The company was also ordered to pay £900 in costs and a £1200 victim surcharge.



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Suspected cannabis cafe shut down as part of drug crackdown

Five men have been arrested after a suspected cannabis cafe in Bethnal Green was raided by police.

Four men were arrested on suspicion of being involved in the supply of Class B drugs, namely cannabis, and a fifth man was arrested for immigration offences.

Information from the local community made police officers aware of a suspected cannabis café operating out of Electric Pool on Bethnal Green Road.

After obtaining a warrant, officers from across neighbourhood police forced entry into the property on Wednesday 9 October.

The next day, officers successfully gained a closure order of the premises and with the support of Tower Hamlets Council, the building was securely boarded up.

This will prevent future use of the building for illegal activity and give the local community reassurance and ownership back over their local area. The full closure order is in place until 9 January 2025.

A cannabis café is an illicit, unlicensed and unregulated venue for the sale and consumption of cannabis. They often operate designed as commercial or social venues. In this case, the suspected

cafe was looked like a snooker or pool hall.

Cllr Abu Talha Chowdhury, Cabinet Member for Safer Communities, said: "These cafés pose a problem for our community due to the intrinsic link drug supply has to violence, exploitation, and organised crime.

"This latest warrant is part of a wider operation which has been running for the last 18 months closing down cannabis cafes across Tower Hamlets and focusing on the criminals who run them.

"We work closely with the police to tackle drug supply and substance use in Tower Hamlets, which is one of our top priorities, as outlined in our new substance misuse strategy.

"Alongside significant investment into community safety, we use all our resources including regular patrols by council enforcement officers and our recently upgraded CCTV suite, where more than 350 street-based cameras are monitored 24/7.

"We actively support criminal investigations through our information sharing arrangements, providing



Police obtained a warrant to search the property

reassurance patrols, and helping get people into treatment and recovery services.

"The council has invested nearly £7m to help people overcome addiction and rebuild their lives."

New knife bin making streets safer

A new knife amnesty bin has been installed in the Isle of Dogs, adding to four already in use across Tower Hamlets.

The bins, installed by charity Words4Weapons, allow people to dispose of knives and other weapons anonymously and safely.

The knives are destroyed and are not investigated by the police, even if they have been used in a crime.

So far, the bins have removed 767 knives and 150 other weapons from the streets of Tower Hamlets.

Other knife bins can be found in Barnet Grove, north of the Bethnal Green Road junction; Vallance Road opposite Underwood Road; Burslem Street between the recycling bins; and Brownfield Street next to number 107.

If you are depositing a knife in one of the amnesty bins, please make sure that it is safely wrapped.



The amnesty bins allow people to dispose of knives and other weapons safely



The strategy has three local priorities which will be delivered by the council, police, health services, community and voluntary sector and faith organisations

New strategy to tackle drug supply and substance use

FIGHT CRIME

Tower Hamlets Council has launched a new substance misuse strategy developed by its Combating Drug Partnership which brings together key partners to tackle substance misuse and drug supply in the borough.

Working alongside local police, health services, the community and voluntary sector, and faith organisations, the new strategy has three local priorities each set against the three national pillars that all Combating Drugs Partnerships are tasked with delivering:

- Break drug supply chains
- Deliver a world-class treatment and recovery system
- Achieve a generational shift in the demand for drugs

Tower Hamlets has the highest number of people in treatment for drug use across London, with 2,289 in 2024-25, and 52 per cent of those in treatment using opiates, also the highest in London. Additional challenges include a

growing proportion of those in treatment aged 50 plus, a cohort which will only face more complex health issues and worse outcomes from substance misuse, and related issues, as time goes on.

A critical part of the new approach is ensuring community views are central to the Combating Drugs Partnership.

A needs assessment was undertaken to look at the communities and places most affected by substance misuse and identify gaps. From this, a range of stakeholders including professionals, services users, residents and community members came together to shape priorities to ensure the strategy will drive action and have the greatest impact.

The Combating Drugs Partnership will oversee the outcomes of this strategy by measuring drug-related crime, as well as reduction in demand through early intervention and education, and by ensuring there are effective treatment, rehabilitation and recovery programmes across the

borough.

Lutfur Rahman, Executive Mayor of Tower Hamlets, said: "Our new substance misuse strategy will support continued work to effectively tackle drug supply and addiction in Tower Hamlets."

Cllr Abu Talha Chowdhury, Cabinet Member for Safer Communities, said: "Drugs plague our community in so many ways so I'm proud to be working alongside our partners and community leaders on a shared approach and commitment to change."

Detective Chief Superintendent James Conway, BCU Commander for Central East, said: "The drugs market is a core driver of organised crime, the exploitation of children, and violence which impacts across our communities."

"We have strong track record of disrupting and suppressing the organised crime groups dealing drugs across the borough."

"However, we will only be effective if we can work together with wider partners to reduce the risk of vulnerable adults and children being

exploited and do so in coordination with a public health approach to reduce substance misuse and dependency.

"This layered approach lies at the heart of this strategy."

The strategy includes:

- Redesigning treatment services to ensure they are culturally competent and meet the needs of local communities
- A dedicated council enforcement unit to disrupt drug supply and substance misuse
- New tools and materials to better support and educate young people
- New covert and overt law enforcement operations with the Met Police to target drugs addresses, drug lines and the sale and supply of drugs
- Delivery of religious led awareness events for affected communities

Improving housing standards

Tower Hamlets Council has referred itself to the Regulator of Social Housing to help improve services and meet all new consumer standards for social housing.

Following the insourcing of Tower Hamlets Homes in November 2023,

the council conducted two external reviews to assess its position against new regulatory requirements.

These reviews showed where there were performance gaps and areas of improvement needed.

In a proactive move and in the

spirit of co-regulation, the council decided to self-refer and will now be inspected by the regulator.

Improvements are already in progress, including making a £140m investment to address fire and building safety remedial

works, completing all fire risk assessments, and appointing key staff to lead on fire safety and complaints. Residents' homes are safe. There are no changes to tenancies, and the way people access services remains the same.

More support for homeless people

HOUSING AND REGENERATION

People who are homeless will get more dedicated help to access the right services and improve their housing outcome after Tower Hamlets Council joined the MEAM network.

As part of the network, Tower Hamlets will receive dedicated support from MEAM and access to a programme of events, training and learning.

The support will be used to help those experiencing multiple exclusion homelessness, which is

when there a combination of factors, such as substance use, domestic violence, contact with the criminal justice system, discrimination and mental ill health.

The network means they will be able to get support to access the right services.

Tower Hamlets is one of ten areas across the country to join the MEAM network, which is backed by the National Lottery Community Fund.

Tower Hamlets Council led on the bid, which was successful following a competitive assessment process. The bid was co-produced

with colleagues from Adult Social Care, Housing, the East London Foundation Trust, North East London Integrated Care Board and the voluntary and community sector.

Lutfur Rahman, Executive Mayor of Tower Hamlets, said: "It upsets me that more and more people are presenting as homeless in our borough. The picture is the same across London and as a council, we are doing all we can amid a severe housing crisis.

"By joining this network, we will be working to help people who often have very limited options.

"They need help from multiple

services and a joined-up approach. We're committed to transforming our services to achieve this so they can get the help they desperately need."

Earlier this year, Tower Hamlets carried out a public consultation on homelessness and rough sleeping, asking residents about the six key priorities of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-2029.

This updated strategy will lead efforts to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping in the borough and was discussed by Cabinet in November.

Tenants and residents association turns 70



Members of the TRA with some of Emmott Close Pensioners' Club

This year, the borough's longest serving Tenants and Residents Association (TRA) turned 70.

Ocean Tenants and Leaseholders Association (OETLA) was set up in 1954, two years after the first blocks were built on the estate in

Stepney Green. It has supported the residents of the estate ever since with advice, events, and supporting community groups and youth hubs.

Chair Brenda Daley said: "For me, it's not just about dealing with

issues and repairs, it's about the residents' groups and wider support we offer to residents. The TLA is about bringing the people on the estate together and helping forge a strong community."

OETLA has set up groups such as

a weekly women's coffee morning, and a youth club and also helps manage and support Emmott Close pensioners' club and an adjoining community garden.

There are 27 active TRAs in Tower Hamlets.

Life science cluster gets go ahead

HOUSING AND REGENERATION

A new world-class life sciences cluster is set to be built in Whitechapel after receiving permission from Tower Hamlets Council.

A number of vacant buildings and plots next to the Royal London Hospital will be redeveloped and brought back into use.

Five buildings will be constructed and one existing building will be retained, creating nearly 70,000 sqm of floor space for life sciences use.

Life science is the study of living organisms, including a wide range of disciplines like biology, genetics, cell biology and neurobiology.

The redevelopment will also include a space that can be used by the community and local schools to promote career opportunities in life sciences, as well as a café, public toilets and landscaped open space.

The development is part of the on-going regeneration of Whitechapel and is expected to create employment and training opportunities and the potential for up to 4,180 full-time jobs.

Lutfur Rahman, Executive Mayor of Tower Hamlets, said: "This is a boost for Whitechapel and the latest in a series of developments in the area that is putting Whitechapel on the map as a go-to area of London."

"The development will benefit local people now, with the creation of jobs opportunities, but it will also be a boost for the future."

"If our young people can see a world-class facility on their doorstep, it will help inspire our next generation of scientific talent."



Vacant buildings and plots near to the Royal London Hospital will be redeveloped for the new venture

Members of the Strategic Development Committee approved the application at a meeting in October.

Several planning conditions were set out, including that the site will provide space for education and health activities and an outreach programme for local schools and colleges.

Financial contributions totalling £6.9 million have also been agreed, including £2.5m towards community health and wellbeing projects and programmes and £1.7m towards employment skills and training initiatives.

In addition to the built development, there will be improvements to the streets around

the site to make them more pedestrian and cycle friendly. This includes widening footways, tree planting and a new public square between the hospital and St. Augustine with St. Philip's Church.

The application will now be referred to the Mayor of London before a final decision is issued.

Local plan consultation ends

A total of 139 residents, businesses and community groups in Tower Hamlets gave their feedback on the final draft of the new Local Plan.

The Local Plan is the council's most important planning document, used to guide and assess all development in the borough.

This means that if someone wants to develop a new building or change its use, they should make sure that it follows the policies of the Local Plan.

Currently, the council has a

final draft of the Local Plan, which includes all the feedback from earlier consultations, including Regulation 18, which took place from October to December 2023.

The current stage of the consultation process is called Regulation 19, and is required by law.

The aim of the consultation was to ensure that the Plan is legally compliant, the vision and objectives in the Plan can be achieved through the policies provided, and

that it meets the 'soundness' tests in the National Planning Policy Framework.

These tests cover whether the plan has incorporated feedback from all relevant stakeholders, whether the policies are grounded in solid and current evidence, whether they are feasible, and whether they are consistent with national and regional policies.

The consultation on the draft Local Plan under Regulation 19 closed at midnight of 28 October;

139 residents, businesses and community groups responded.

The Plan Making Team is now processing the responses and will provide an update about the next steps by the end of 2024.

All responses received have now been logged and assigned a respondent ID. If you would like to confirm if your response has started to be processed by the team you can find a link to a list of all respondents here: www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/localplan



Several events have been held at the town hall to encourage all residents to consider standing as councillors

Help improve your community

COUNCIL NEWS

Residents are being encouraged to think about standing as councillors in the borough.

Tower Hamlets Council supports the Local Government Association's (LGA) Be a Councillor campaign which raises the profile of councillors and encourages more people to play an active role in their communities by becoming a councillor.

The campaign is not affiliated to political parties and includes information about standing as an independent candidate.

As part of the Tower Hamlets campaign, 40 people who live or work in the borough attended a Be a Councillor Town Hall event in October to find out more about the campaign and the work of councillors.

Among the speakers and panel members were cross party

councillors from Tower Hamlets, representatives from the LGA, councillors from Epping Forest and Braintree District Councils, as well as 50:50 Parliament, which supports women to get involved in politics.

This was followed by another Be a Councillor Town Hall event on Saturday 30 November which focused on encouraging more women to consider becoming councillors.

The event included keynote speakers, a Q&A panel, networking opportunities and a chance to hear directly from people who are or have been councillors.

You can find out more about the Be a Councillor campaign at www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/beacouncillor which also includes links to additional Local Government Association guidance, advice and case studies.








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Just say hello to end isolation



With the colder months now upon us, it's important for us all to take better care of ourselves and look out for those who might be considered

vulnerable.

The 'Just Say Hello' campaign aims to ensure residents are connecting with one another. Whether it's a pop-up coffee morning, a local community activity or dropping into a new class, there are many opportunities to make new connections.

Having a chat with an old friend or checking in on your elderly neighbour can also make a big difference to their wellbeing.

Even the smallest gesture can create a meaningful connection for someone, especially if they're feeling lonely or isolated.

Warm hubs will also be available again across the borough, providing a warm space to connect with others over hot drinks, squash and biscuits.

Joining some of the free local community groups is a great way to meet people and make new friends.

Groups cover many interests, from sports and hobbies to wellbeing and

social causes.

If you're interested in getting involved in your community, you could take some time to volunteer.

It can be a rewarding way to give back, meet new people and use your skills in a different way.

- To find out more about the warm hubs, please see p7 of this Our East End edition

- To find out more about local community activities visit www.thconnect.org/just-say-hello

Health fairs help protect people

HEALTH

More than 200 people received their seasonal Covid-19 and flu vaccinations at recent health fairs at Tower Hamlets Town Hall.

The fairs, part of the council's efforts to support the NHS to vaccinate eligible residents, also provided stop smoking and mental health support, blood pressure checks, and more.

Getting the flu and Covid-19 vaccines are two of the most important things you can do to keep yourself and others around you safe.

You can get both for free if you are aged 65 and over, are pregnant or have a long-term health condition.

Children can get a flu vaccine if they are aged 2 to 16, or aged 6 months to 17 years old with certain health conditions.

If you are eligible, you can book your flu and Covid-19 vaccines online, via the NHS App or by calling 119. Many pharmacies in Tower Hamlets also offer a walk-in service with no need to book.

- Visit www.nhs.uk/bookflu or www.nhs.uk/bookcovid



Cllr Gulam Kibria Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Social Care

Stay warm and well this winter

There are little things we can all do to take care of ourselves over the colder months.

Our dedicated Keep Well in Winter webpage includes information and advice on how to stay well, heat homes better, minimise costs and access financial support, like grants.

- Stay warm: keeping warm can

help to prevent colds, flu and more serious health problems. Our warm hubs provide a free warm space for anyone who needs it (see p7).

- Get vaccinated: getting vaccinated is your choice, but staying up to date can help protect you and those around you in the colder months.

- Access support: the council has a whole host of grants and financial support available for those who need it, like our Winter Emergency Fund and Pension Credit support.
- Check your medicines cabinet: make sure you have enough prescription medicines, especially over the holiday period when pharmacies may be closed.

- Stay healthy: keeping active and eating a healthy balanced diet can help you feel your best.
- Stay connected: keep in touch with your friends, neighbours and family, and look out for anyone who might be vulnerable or lonely.

Visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/winter

3,400 trees planted in 2 years

CLEAN AND GREEN

More than 3,400 trees have been planted across Tower Hamlets in the past two years.

1,451 trees have been delivered as part of a £1m council programme, surpassing the council's pledge to plant 1,000 new large trees across a three-year period, set in 2022.

These trees can be spotted across the borough with 702 new street trees, 455 new trees in parks and 294 trees across housing estates.

In addition to this, a further 1,976 smaller trees have been planted across parks funded by a mix of external grant funding.

A pledge to plant a further 200 large trees across streets and parks, paid for by the council, is due to be carried out across the current

planting season this winter and spring.

Cllr Shafi Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Emergency, said: "Trees have such an important role to play in beautifying our public spaces, making our streets and parks better for all. Trees also help to make our borough more resilient against climate change and improve air quality by absorbing pollutants such as carbon dioxide and sulphur dioxide.

"We plan to go further – planting more trees, especially in areas that need more greenery, and ensuring that all our residents can enjoy the health and environmental benefits that trees provide for us."

Interested in getting involved in planting more trees? The council partners with the charity Trees for



A further 200 trees are being planted this winter and spring

Streets which supports residents and businesses to sponsor trees in their local neighbourhood.

• You can find out more information here: www.treesforstreets.org/towerhamlets

Fierce competition to crown the Mayor's football and cricket cup winners



The winners of the Mayor's Cricket Cup and Football Cup have been crowned after a summer of tournaments.

It is the first year a cricket competition was organised, which took place in Victoria Park.

The inaugural competition focused on under 11s to adults, including women and girls, bringing players of all ages, genders, and ethnic backgrounds together to celebrate recent council investments in cricket facilities across the borough.

There were more than 40 matches played across three days with more than 220 players, including 52 girls and women, taking part in the competition this year.

Held over two weekends, this year's Mayor's Football Cup attracted more than 60 teams with more than 400 players across eight age categories.

Cllr Kamrul Hussain, Cabinet Member for Culture and Recreation, said: "It was thrilling to see football clubs and players of all ages compete in this year's annual tournament, which helps fund grassroots football and encourages residents to foster healthy, active lifestyles.

"We would like to thank all

participants, managers and parents for their support and for taking part in this year's Mayors Cup 2024 football competition.

"I would like to thank our delivery partners Capital Kids Cricket and the VPCCL for supporting council officers in running our inaugural competition."

Winners of the inaugural Mayor's Cricket Cup competition 2024 were:

- Tower Hamlets Tigers - Under 11s
- Tower Hamlets Lions - Under 13s;
- Tower Hamlets Hawks - Under 16s
- Tower Hamlets Hawks - Women
- Tower Hamlets Titans - Men

Winners of the Football Cup 2024 were:

- U8s - Keko FC
- U9s - Mindset FC
- U10s - Prostar Youth FC
- U11s - Vallance FC
- U12s - Aberfeldy FC
- U13/14s - Victoria Park FC
- U15/16s - Westward Boy's FC
- Open Age Adults - ACE FC





Cllr Saied Ahmed visited the Holiday Activities and Food club at Poplar Baths

Thousands of children enjoy free activities and food over holidays

COST-OF LIVING

Thousands of children benefited from Tower Hamlets Holiday Activities and Food programme, run by Tower Hamlets Council, which provides meals alongside fun activities for young people to enjoy.

In partnership with local organisations and funded by the Department for Education, Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) clubs provided opportunities for young people aged 4-16 to access sports, arts activities and day trips during the summer break.

As part of the council's Cost of Living Help campaign, the HAF clubs were based in areas identified as high need and are designed to offer places for children eligible for benefits-related free school meals.

Beyond the Bias, a social mobility organisation tackling the lack of

opportunities open to young people from ethnic minority backgrounds, ran four weeks of sporting activities at Poplar Baths Leisure Centre.

Six-year-old Adam, who took part in the HAF club at Poplar Baths, said: "If I wasn't at sports camp I would be really bored at home."

"It has been fun to try new sports and make new friends."

Cllr Saied Ahmed and Cllr Gulam Kibria Choudhury visited Poplar Baths to see firsthand how young people had benefited from the club and met with youngsters and staff.

Cllr Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Resources and the Cost of Living, said: "Summer holidays can be hard for families with increased costs of childcare and the ongoing cost of living crisis."

"Many children are unable to access organised out-of-school activities and experience unhealthy holidays in terms of nutrition and

physical health.

"To address this we delivered the HAF summer programme which has been a big success and benefited thousands of young people."

"I was lucky enough to visit some of the sessions held in the borough and spoke to our young people enjoying a range of activities and joined in a game of basketball."

"It is fantastic to see so many young people taking part in sports and the amazing work our providers do to deliver activities during the holidays."

"I look forward to more young people participating in HAF clubs over the Christmas break."

• **Find out more about the HAF scheme and when the next sessions will be available on the council website at www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/haf**



If I wasn't at sports camp I would be really bored at home

Ibrahim, 17, is juggling his A-level studies with coaching with Beyond the Bias. He said: "I am really pleased to be a part of the HAF scheme and helping young people engage in positive activities."

"I know how hard it can be during the long holidays where there is no structure or routine and how easy it can be to fall into bad habits. I have really enjoyed my experience as a coach and hope to do it again."

Looking for a unique space for your East London event?

TOWER
HAMLETS
VENUES

The Art and Ecology Pavilions in Mile End Park are the perfect venue for your wedding, mehndi, private party, conference or exhibition.

Our stunning pavilions in the tranquil setting of the park are next to the Regents Canal. A few minutes from Mile End Station and a short hop to Canary Wharf.

With floor to ceiling windows your guests can take in the views of our lake, reedbeds and resident swans. The Art Pavilion comes with exclusive access to outside space and you can park your street food trucks right outside.

Our accessible venues are flexible spaces for you to decorate as you like. Bring in your own catering and suppliers, at no extra cost. With a capacity of up to 260 we take bookings seven days a week.



Find out more about The Pavilions at
www.thevenues.co.uk/pavilions



Do something amazing by becoming a foster carer



Local children need loving and supportive foster carers now.

Tower Hamlets Council offers carers lots of support including fantastic training opportunities and financial support of up to **£850 per week** (per child depending on age). Foster carers also receive 50% off their council tax bill and a generous referral scheme offering £1,000 for every carer who they refer on to be successfully approved to foster.



Call: 020 8496 3437
www.fosteringtowerhamlets.co.uk

Celebrating the vibrant legacy of Black music



The new exhibition at Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives explores Black music in the borough from the 1970s to 1990s

HISTORY

Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives celebrates its musical heritage with “Wh’Appen?”, an exhibition that chronicles the vibrant legacy of Black music in the borough from the 1970s until the late ‘90s.

The exhibition features personal stories, memorabilia, photographs and oral histories that highlight the community’s deep-rooted connection to music.

From the legendary Easy Street Studios in Bethnal Green to the rise of Grime in Bow, the narrative reflects the experiences of local residents who enjoyed music in various settings, be it at home, in clubs, or at blues (house parties).

Local community worker Nick Friday recalls: “The first big record shop in Tower Hamlets was Smitty’s, run by an old Jamaican on Roman Road, and then Paul for Music on Cambridge Heath Road.”

These shops served as cultural hubs for music lovers, offering a diverse selection of records, as well as the much coveted exclusive 7” vinyl imports from Jamaica.

The exhibition also highlights the critical role of local youth clubs, arts centres, and churches in nurturing



young talent and supporting the wider Black community, who often faced significant racism and hardship in their daily lives.

These spaces provided essential support, fostering creativity and resilience.

“The sort of music we wanted to listen to you wouldn’t find on the radio,” local resident Lenny Blasse notes. “If you knew a band was playing, like a sound system, we’d

follow ‘em. Especially if they were coming round somewhere where you knew locally... Cause you always knew the music’s gonna be good.”

“Wh’Appen?” aims to capture the essence of these memories that serve as a powerful reminder of the significant role music and spaces play in shaping identity and community in Tower Hamlets.

The free exhibition, drawn from the collections of Tower Hamlets

Local History Library & Archives and co-curated by volunteer Keira Blasse and Nick Friday, is on show until 21 February 2025.

Venue: Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives, 277 Bancroft Road, E1.

Nearest tube: Stepney Green or Mile End.

• For opening times and more information, visit: www.ideastore.co.uk/local-history

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action!**

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✉ info@mulberrylondondock.org

✉ @MulberryDock

🌐 www.mulberrylondondock.org

Part of the
Mulberry
Schools Trust

Christmas and New Year (2024-2025)

Waste collection schedule

Over the bank holiday period there will be changes to your normal rubbish, recycling, food and garden waste collection arrangements.



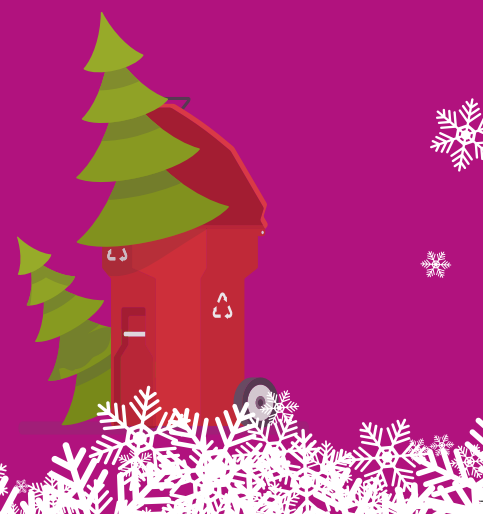
| Scheduled collection date | Service status | Revised collection day |
|--|--|---|
| Monday 23rd December | Normal service | |
| Tuesday 24th December | Normal service | |
| Wednesday 25th December – Christmas Day | No service | Wednesday collections will take place on Thursday 26th December |
| Thursday 26th December | Service (one day behind normal schedule) | Thursday collections on Friday 27th December |
| Friday 27th December | Service (one day behind normal schedule) | Friday collections on Saturday 28th December |
| Saturday 28th December | Normal service and Friday collections service | |
| Sunday 29th December | No service | |
| Monday 30th December | Normal service | |
| Tuesday 31st December | Normal service | |
| Wednesday 1st January – New Year's Day | No service | Wednesday collections will take place on Thursday 2nd January |
| Thursday 2nd January | Normal service and Wednesday collections service | Thursday collections on Friday 3rd January |
| Friday 3rd January | Normal service and Thursday collections service | Friday collections on Saturday 4th January |
| Saturday 4th January | Normal service and Friday collections service | |
| Sunday 5th January | No service | |

*Please ensure your waste and recycling (including food and garden waste) is available for collection before 7am on your scheduled collection day.

Christmas tree recycling

There will be a collection for the recycling of real Christmas trees from Monday, January 6th to Friday, January 17th 2025.

If you currently receive a food and garden kerbside collection, kindly remove all decorations from your tree and leave out for collection on your scheduled day during this period. If you do not have kerbside food and garden collections, please contact your property landlord or management company who can arrange collections from the nominated collection points.



V&A East Storehouse opening soon

A new V&A free visitor attraction will open in May 2025 as part of East Bank, the new cultural quarter in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

Spanning four levels, and bigger than 30 basketball courts, V&A East Storehouse is home to more than 250,000 objects, 350,000 library books and nearly 1,000 archives.

Through a revolutionary new seven-day-a-week Order an Object service, V&A East Storehouse will make it easy for everyone to access all objects onsite by booking in advance online for a time that suits them.

Also, through an extensive self-guided experience, visitors can explore why objects are collected, how they are cared for, conserved and displayed, and the latest research emerging from the collections, as well as newly commissioned works and performances inspired by them. Alongside experiential installations and more than 100 small curated displays, there will be a programme of live events and

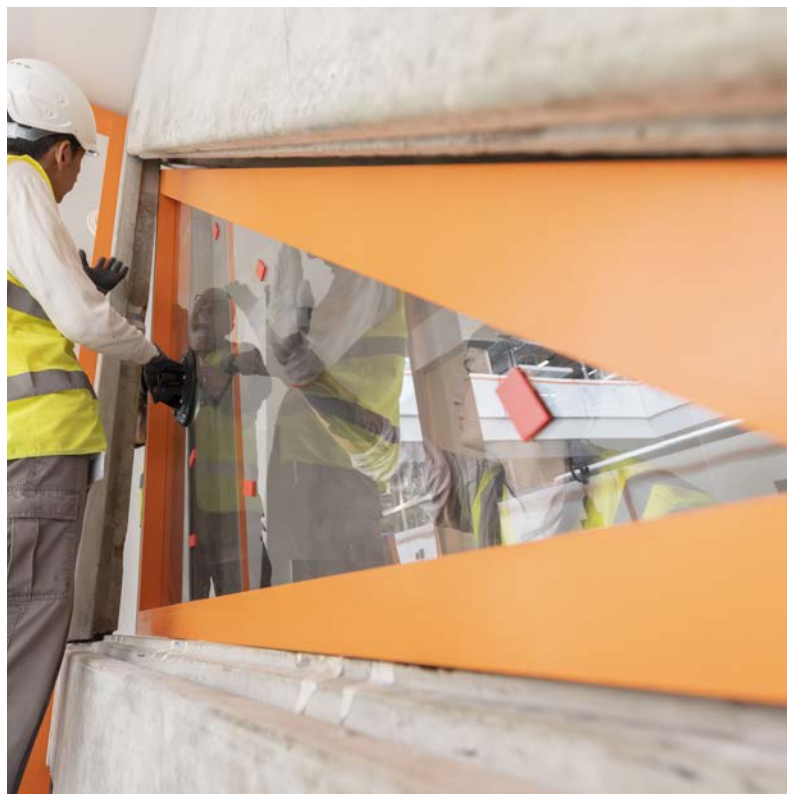
creative workshops and activities across two studios and two workshop spaces. There will also be spaces to relax and socialise.

Anchoring the venue's Collections Hall are six large-scale objects, many of which have not been on display for decades due to their size.

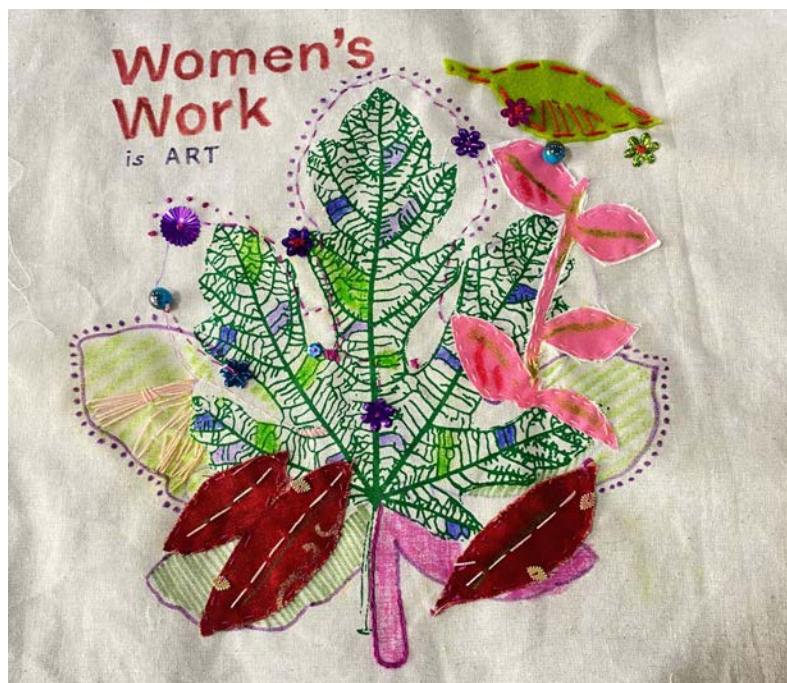
Following major conservation, these include an architectural fragment from Robin Hood Gardens, a former residential estate in Poplar.

Robin Hood Gardens' displays will also include oral history recordings, produced in collaboration with community leaders and former residents, documenting the personal experiences and perspectives of the people who lived there, and a film co-produced with young creatives, to spark conversations around social housing and city-living today.

- Find out more about the new visitor attraction at vam.ac.uk/east



A fragment of Robin Hood Gardens, a former residential estate in Poplar, designed by Alison and Peter Smithson, is installed in the V&A Storehouse. Copyright: Victoria and Albert Museum



Get involved in Women's History Month

Apply for Women's History Month 2025

March is Women's History Month. The Brady Arts and Community Centre in Whitechapel will host a public exhibition to celebrate the talent and creativity of women in Tower Hamlets.

The council is calling on women of all ages who live, work or study in Tower Hamlets to submit art work for the exhibition, which can be a drawing, printmaking, photography or other medium. You do not need to be a professional artist.

The deadline for submissions is 5pm on Friday 6 January.

Visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/arts

Community organisation Alternative Arts will be celebrating women artists, activists, writers, performers, community groups and organisations with a diverse programme of exhibitions and events across East London for Women's History Month.

If you are planning a relevant exhibition, performance, event or workshop during March 2025, you can get it included in the widely-publicised programme for free.

Deadline is 14 January 2025.

- Email info@alternativearts.co.uk or call 07852 372362 for more information.

Reflect on a better future this Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day takes place on 27 January each year as an important reminder of how we can learn both from and about the Holocaust, and more recent

genocides, for a better future.

A series of events is due to take place in the borough from 23 to 26 January.

Residents are invited to reflect on

'For a Better Future', the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2025.

This Holocaust Memorial Day marks the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau,

the largest Nazi concentration camp complex, and the 30th anniversary of the genocide in Bosnia.

- Visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/HMD

Exhibitions

Poetry in Wood

Poetry in Wood is a Tower Hamlets based neurodivergent arts charity specialising in woodwork. This exhibition will showcase the works of their talented artists from the past year.

Free exhibition. All welcome.
9 December - 29 January 2025
Monday to Friday 9am - 7pm
Saturday 10am - 4pm
Sunday closed
Brady Arts and Community Centre, 192-196 Hanbury Street, Whitechapel E1 5HU
poetryinwood.squarespace.com



Poetry in wood

Tunnel Lore

A two-person exhibition by CJ Calderwood and Francisco Zhan, bringing together a new body of ceramic and fresco works. Kindly supported by the Grand Plan Fund.

Until 21 December
Free
The Residence Gallery, 229 Victoria Park Road, E9 7HD
www.theresidencegallery.com

Connecting Narratives - THAT Network Annual Art Exhibition

Connecting Narratives is an art exhibition showcasing the creativity of students across schools and colleges across Tower Hamlets. Work ranges from key stage 2 up to A level.

5 - 13 March (11am - 6pm daily), 14 March (11am - 4pm)
The Art Pavilion, Mile End Park, Clinton Road, E3 4QY
www.thatnetworklondon.wordpress.com



THAT annual art exhibition

In the footsteps of the East London Group

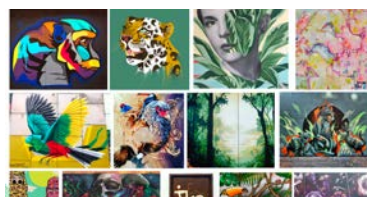
An exhibition exploring the past and present of East London, bringing together the historical paintings of the East London Group with their 21st century contemporaries, all under a newly commissioned sound piece recorded in East London by artist Felix Taylor.

Until 22 December
Free
Tues to Sun, 10am - 4pm
Nunnery Gallery, Bow Arts, 181 Bow Road, E3 2SJ

The Nature Show

Twenty five artists will all interpret the theme of nature in their own unique way. A programme of events including an evening of spoken word poetry, talks about environmental issues and a series of art workshops, will run through the half term.

Free
13 - 23 February 2025, 11am to 6pm daily
The Art Pavilion, Mile End Park, Clinton Road, E3 4QY



The Nature Show

The Women's Spring Open Exhibition 2025

A mixed media group show, the exhibition will celebrate the work of Tower Hamlets-based women artists and will include work from across the generations.

The exhibition is part of Women's History Month in East London.
7 March onwards
Monday to Friday 9am - 7pm
Saturday 10am - 4pm
Sunday closed
Brady Arts and Community Centre, 192-196 Hanbury Street, Whitechapel E1 5HU

Poplar Consortium Exhibition: Celebrating 10 Years

Artwork created over the past year by children and staff from local primary schools alongside Bow Arts artists.

Wednesday 19 March, 11am-

6pm

Thursday 20 March, 11am-3pm
The Art Pavilion, Mile End Park, Clinton Road, E3 4QY
bowarts.org

Urban Sketchers

Urban Sketchers London (USKL) hosts its second exhibition at the Art Pavilion.

Featuring 300-400 exhibits depicting London drawn, sketched, and painted on location.

Entry to the exhibition and all activities are free. Schools and other local organisations are welcome to contact USKL in advance to plan visits.

22 - 29 March 11am - 6pm
30 March 11am - 3pm
The Art Pavilion, Mile End Park, Clinton Road, E3 4QY
Email urbansketcherslondon@gmail.com
urbansketcherslondon.co.uk

Events

Urban Makers Christmas Market

There will be 50 different designers each day, showcasing a variety of unique and handcrafted items including Christmas gifts and decorations, homewares, jewellery, art, candles, food and more.

14 and 15 December, 11am-5pm
Ecology Pavilion, Mile End Park, Grove Road, E3 5TW



Urban makers

Winter Market

From fashion and home decor to gourmet food and gifts, this market is the perfect place to support local businesses and discover one-of-a-kind items. With live entertainment, free gifts for children and special surprises for early attendees.

8 December (12noon - 5.30pm)
Free entry for everyone.
Ecology Pavilion, Mile End Park, Grove Road, E3 5TW

Over 50s Festive Tea Dance

Top London jazz and swing band The Sunshine Kings are back to provide live music and festive cheer with New Orleans, Dixieland, 20s, traditional and vintage style sounds with Tony Lane leading the dancing.

This event is free but advance booking is essential.

12 December (1.30 - 4.30pm,)
The Art Pavilion, Mile End Park, Clinton Road, E3 4QY
Email festivalsandevents@towerhamlets.gov.uk to book your place or call 020 7364 3115 or 020 7364 7900 10am to 2pm
Monday to Friday only
Please book as a group if you want to sit with friends.
Maximum 10 people per group.

Drama and writing workshops

Free weekly drop-in drama and creative writing workshops for adults affected by or at risk of any form of addiction. The workshops are suitable for those who may have little or no experience of drama or writing and/or are in the early stages of their recovery.

Tuesdays, starting on 7 January 2025

Brady Arts and Community Centre, 192-196 Hanbury Street, Whitechapel E1 5HU
Register your interest by calling 020 7371 8020 or at edgetc.org/participation/join/



Drama and writing workshops

Art Classes

Students will have the opportunity to exhibit their work in local cafes and galleries.

Classes cost £8. Drop-in or sign-up in advance by email ginnyhawke5@hotmail.co.uk
Wednesdays from 1 - 3pm and 6.30 - 8.30pm, starting 22 Jan
Brady Arts and Community Centre, 192-196 Hanbury Street, Whitechapel E1 5HU

Creative textile workshop

A Team Arts Education is celebrating International Women's Day and the theme "accelerate action". Come and make artworks that will form part of an exciting community project. Open to all.

8 March
Brady Arts and Community Centre, 192-196 Hanbury Street, Whitechapel E1 5HU
Free but advance registration required at ateamartseducation@gmail.com or call 07956 377537



KNOW YOUR COUNCIL

BETHNAL GREEN EAST



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IVE, 5 INDEPENDENT

Tower Hamlets Council has a system of governance in which the elected mayor, **Lutfur Rahman** (Aspire, right), has personal responsibility and executive powers. Mayor Rahman is responsible for determining and delivering a wide range of policies and priorities. He is advised by his cabinet of councillors and by council officers.



The members of the Cabinet are:

Cllr Maium Talukdar, Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Youth and Lifelong Learning
Cllr Saied Ahmed, Resources and the Cost of Living
Cllr Kabir Ahmed, Regeneration, Inclusive Development and Housebuilding
Cllr Abu Talha Chowdhury, Safer Communities
Cllr Shafi Ahmed, Environment and the Climate Emergency
Cllr Gulam Kibria Choudhury, Health, Wellbeing and Social Care
Cllr Musthak Ahmed, Jobs, Enterprise, Skills and Growth
Cllr Abdul Wahid, Customer Services, Equalities and Social Inclusion
Cllr Kamrul Hussain, Culture and Recreation

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প্রায় প্রতিটি ক্ষেত্রে দেশের স্থানীয় কর্তৃপক্ষগুলির গড়ের চেয়ে ভালো করছে টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস

HARMONY
BENGALI & SOMALI NEWS

Tower Hamlets beating local authority authority average in most areas - page 4

টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস কাউন্সিল বারার বাসিন্দাদের জীবনমান উন্নত করার জন্য যে কাজ করছে, তা বাসিন্দারা সাম্প্রতিক স্বাধীন বার্ষিক বাসিন্দা জরিপে (এআরএস) অনুমোদন দিয়েছেন।

কাউন্সিলের ইতিহাসে অন্যতম আশাব্যঞ্জক জরিপ ফলাফলে, প্রায় প্রতিটি ক্ষেত্রেই ইতিবাচক জনমত বৃদ্ধি পেয়েছে এবং স্থানীয় সরকার সমিতি (লকাল গভর্নমেন্ট এসোসিয়েশন - এলজিএ) দ্বারা পরিমাপ অনুযায়ী, কাউন্সিল ধারাবাহিকভাবে জাতীয় গড়ের চেয়ে উপরে রয়েছে।

গত দুই বছরে, কাউন্সিল পরিষেবার মান এবং আরো মানুষের জীবন উন্নত করতে উল্লেখযোগ্য বিনিয়োগ করেছে। এর মধ্যে রয়েছে, দেশে একমাত্র স্থানীয় কর্তৃপক্ষ হিসেবে সব প্রাইমারি ও সেকেন্ডারি স্কুলের জন্য সার্বজনীন বিনামূল্যে স্কুল মিল প্রদান; ইয়াংটাওয়ারহ্যামলেটস নামের নতুন যুব পরিষেবা ১৩.৭ মিলিয়ন পাউন্ড বিনিয়োগ, হাউজিং ও লেজার পরিষেবা কাউন্সিলের অধীনে নিয়ে আসা, নতুন 'বি ওয়েল' ব্র্যান্ডের অধীনে লেজার সেন্টারগুলো পুনরায় চালু করা এবং কাউন্সিলের বার্ষিক পরিষেবা অতিরিক্ত ৫ মিলিয়ন পাউন্ড বিনিয়োগ।

বসবাসকারীদের প্রতিনিধিত্বশীল নমুনার ওপর ভিত্তি করে তৈরি বার্ষিক রেসিডেন্ট সার্ভের ফলাফলে এটা দেখা যায় যে মানুষ সুবিধাগুলো ভোগ করছেন।

www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/residentsurvey - কাউন্সিলের এই

ওয়েবসাইটে গিয়ে বার্ষিক রেসিডেন্টস সার্ভের পূর্ণাঙ্গ ফলাফল দেখা যাবে।

নির্বাহী মেয়র লুৎফুর রহমান বলেছেন, “এই ফলাফলগুলি দেখায় যে বাসিন্দারা টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসকে একটি স্থান এবং কাউন্সিলের কাজ উভয় ক্ষেত্রেই আরও ইতিবাচক বোধ করছেন। আমরা আমাদের কর্তার পরিশ্রম এবং কাউন্সিল পরিষেবাগুলিতে বিনিয়োগের ফলাফল দেখতে শুরু করেছি। আমাদের লক্ষ্য হল দেশের অন্যতম সেরা স্থানীয় কর্তৃপক্ষ হওয়া এবং আমি আনন্দিত যে আমরা প্রায় প্রতিটি ক্ষেত্রে জাতীয় গড়ের চেয়ে উচ্চতর স্কোর করেছি।”

মেয়র বলেন, “একটি জনপদ হিসাবে, ৮৪% লোক স্থানীয় এলাকা নিয়ে সন্তুষ্ট এবং ৯০% বাসিন্দা বলেন যে বিভিন্ন পটভূমির মানুষ একে অপরের সাথে ভালভাবে মিশে থাকেন। টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস ইতিমধ্যেই দেশের সবচেয়ে ঘনবসতিপূর্ণ এবং দ্রুত বর্ধনশীল স্থান, এবং এই ফলাফলগুলি এর কারণটি নিশ্চিত করে।”

চ্যালেঞ্জসমূহ মোকাবেলা করা

টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসে বসবাসকারী অনেক মানুষ উল্লেখযোগ্য চ্যালেঞ্জের মুখোমুখি হচ্ছেন, যা জীবনযাত্রার ব্যয় সংকটের সময় আরও তীব্র হয়েছে। ইনার লন্ডনের এই বরো এখনও বৈষম্যমূলক সম্পদ এবং গৃহস্থালির আয়ের ক্ষেত্রে বৃহৎ বৈষম্যযুক্ত স্থান। এটি জরিপের ফলাফলে প্রতিফলিত হয়েছে যে, যেখানে ৪০% বাসিন্দা জীবনযাত্রার ব্যয়কে তাদের প্রধান উদ্বেগের বিষয়

হিসাবে দিয়েছেন, যা এই বছর অপরাধের (৪২%) ঠিক পিছনে রয়েছে।

কাউন্সিলের চলমান ব্যয় সংকট সহায়তা প্রচারাভিযানটি বাসিন্দাদের অতিরিক্ত সহায়তা এবং সুবিধাগুলিতে অ্যাক্সেস করতে সহায়তা করেছে। সাম্প্রতিক নতুন নীতিমালা এবং ঘোষণাগুলির মধ্যে রয়েছে নিম্ন আয়ের পরিবারের জন্য তাদের কাউন্সিল ট্যাক্স বিল পরিশোধে সহায়তা, পাশাপাশি শীঘ্রই একটি নতুন পেনশনভোগী পরিবার সহায়তা প্রকল্প চালু হতে যাচ্ছে।

কাউন্সিলের যুগ্মকারী সার্বজনীন বিনামূল্যে স্কুল খাবারের নীতি এটিকে দেশের একমাত্র স্থানীয় কর্তৃপক্ষ হিসাবে প্রতিষ্ঠিত করেছে, যার আওতায় প্রতিটি প্রাথমিক ও মাধ্যমিক শ্রেণির শিক্ষার্থীর জন্য বিনামূল্যে খাবার সরবরাহ করে। এর ফলে প্রতি পরিবারের গড়ে প্রতি শিশুর জন্য বছরে ৫৫০ পাউন্ড সাশ্রয় হয়। গত বছর বিনামূল্যে মাধ্যমিক স্কুল খাবার চালু হওয়ার পর থেকে, শিক্ষার্থীরা ইতোমধ্যে ১০ লাখেরও বেশি গরম খাবার পেয়েছে।

অতিরিক্তভাবে, উচ্চতর শিক্ষায় সহযোগিতা করতে যোগ্য তরুণদের ৬০০ পাউন্ড এডুকেশন মেইনটেন্যান্স অ্যালাউন্স এবং ১,৫০০ পাউন্ড বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় বৃত্তি প্রদান করা হয়, যা তাদের শিক্ষাগত খরচ বহনে সহায়তা করে এবং উচ্চশিক্ষায় অগ্রগতি নিশ্চিত করে।

কমিউনিটির নিরাপত্তার বিষয়ে, কাউন্সিল ৩.৯ মিলিয়ন পাউন্ড সিসিটিভি সিস্টেমে ব্যাপক বিনিয়োগ করেছে, যা অপরাধীদের বিচারের

আওতায় আনার জন্য একটি শক্তিশালী প্রতিরোধক এবং ভাল মানের প্রমাণ সংগ্রহের মাধ্যম হিসেবে কাজ করে। টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস এনফোর্সমেন্ট অফিসার (টিএইচইও) আরও ৪০ জনের জন্য ২.৩ মিলিয়ন পাউন্ড তহবিল, পাশাপাশি রাস্তার আলো উন্নত করার মতো অন্যান্য উন্নতিসমূহও করা হয়েছে।

জরিপের প্রধান বিষয়গুলির মধ্যে রয়েছেঃ

- ৮৪% বলেছেন যে তারা স্থানীয় এলাকা নিয়ে সন্তুষ্ট (জাতীয় গড় ৭৪%)
- ৬৬% বলেছেন যে তারা কাউন্সিলকে বিশ্বাস করেন (জাতীয় গড় ৫৫%)
- ৯০% বলেছেন যে তারা ভালভাবে মিলেমিশে চলে (জাতীয় গড় ৭৭%)
- ৫১% মনে করেন যে কাউন্সিল তাদের অর্থের মূল্য প্রদান করে (জাতীয় গড় ৪০%)
- ৬৫% মনে করেন যে কাউন্সিল তাদের নিয়মিত তথ্য জানায় (জাতীয় গড় ৫৪%)
- ৫৯% মনে করেন যে কাউন্সিল বাসিন্দাদের উদ্বেগের বিষয়ে পদক্ষেপ নেয় (জাতীয় গড় ৪৯%)
- ৯৫% দিনে নিরাপদ বোধ করেন (জাতীয় গড় ৯২%)



Mayor Lutfur Rahman honors the outstanding students of Tower Hamlets at the Education Awards

১৮৫ জন মেধাবী শিক্ষার্থীকে দেয়া হলো এডুকেশন অ্যাওয়ার্ডস 185 students honoured at Tower Hamlets Education Awards

টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস বারার তরুণদের পরিশ্রম ও সাফল্যকে স্বীকৃতি দেওয়ার জন্য আয়োজিত ২৮ নভেম্বর রাতে আয়োজিত এক পুরস্কার বিতরণী অনুষ্ঠানে ১৮৫ জন শিক্ষার্থীকে সম্মাননা জানানো হয়।

টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস এডুকেশন অ্যাওয়ার্ডস ছিল বারার মেধাবী ছাত্রছাত্রীদের সাফল্য উদযাপন এবং এই সাফল্য অর্জনে তাদের সহযোগিতা করা শিক্ষকদের ও অভিভাবকদের ধন্যবাদ জানানোর এক অনন্য সুযোগ।

অনুষ্ঠানটি বারার ঐতিহ্যবাহী ভেন্যু ট্রিক্সি হলে অনুষ্ঠিত হয়।

এটা সম্বলনা করেন বিবিসি নিউজ এর উপস্থাপক সামান্থা সিমন্ডস এবং আইটিভি নিউজ এর সাংবাদিক মাহাথির পাশা। জিসিএসই-তে সেরা অর্জনকারী, এ-লেভেল এ সেরা অর্জনকারী, অসাধারণ সাফল্য এবং ব্যতিক্রমী প্রচেষ্টা - এই চার ক্যাটাগরিতে পুরস্কার প্রদান করা হয়। বারার সকল শিক্ষাপ্রতিষ্ঠান থেকে ছাত্রছাত্রীদের মনোনয়ন আহ্বান করা হয়, এবং বিজয়ীদের হাতে আনুষ্ঠানিকভাবে তুলে দেয়া হয়

সার্টিফিকেট ও ডাউচার। বারার শিক্ষা ও তরুণদের জন্য নিবেদিত সার্ভিসসমূহের উন্নয়নে টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস কাউন্সিলের বিপুল বিনিয়োগের অংশ হিসেবে আয়োজিত এই পুরস্কার বিতরণী অনুষ্ঠান হচ্ছে কাউন্সিলের শিক্ষা খাতে চলমান কাজ ও বিনিয়োগের প্রতিফলন। অনুষ্ঠানে মেয়র লুৎফুর রহমান, ডেপুটি মেয়র কাউন্সিলর মাইয়ুম তালুকদার, হেডটিচার তেরোনিকা আর্মসন, কাউন্সিলের এডুকেশন ডিরেক্টর স্টিভ রেডি, অনুষ্ঠানের 'গোল্ড' স্পন্সর আইকন কলেজের

এওয়ার্ডের জন্য সেরা নাগরিকদের মনোনয়ন করুন Nominate your civic heroes for award - page 6

২০২৫ সালের সিভিক এওয়ার্ডের মনোনয়ন এখন উন্মুক্ত! টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস জুড়ে মানুষের জীবনযাত্রার মান উন্নত করতে যারা নিজেদের সময় ও প্রচেষ্টা উৎসর্গ করে যাচ্ছেন, তাদের সম্মান জানাতেই দেওয়া হয় এই সিভিক এওয়ার্ডস নামের বিশেষ সম্মাননা পুরস্কার।

টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসের সিভিক এওয়ার্ডস হল এই বারার একটি বার্ষিক অনুষ্ঠান, যেখানে আমরা স্থানীয়ভাবে নিরবে নিভুতে জনপদ ও মানুষের কল্যাণে কাজ করে যাওয়া ব্যক্তিদের বিশেষ ধন্যবাদ জানাই। এই তারকা নাগরিকরা বারাতে বাস করেন, কাজ করেন অথবা গড়াশোনা করেন।

মনোনয়ন জমা দেওয়ার শেষ তারিখ ২০২৫ সালের ১২ জানুয়ারি, রবিবার। সুতরাং, আপনি কাকে কমিউনিটির কাজ ও অর্জনে তার অনন্য অবদানের জন্য সম্মানিত করতে চান, তার নাম মনোনয়ন দিতে পারেন। একটি ফ্রস-পার্টি প্যানেল মনোনীতদের মধ্যে থেকে বিজয়ীদের নির্বাচন করবেন। এই প্যানেলের সভাপতিত্ব করবেন কাউন্সিল স্পিকার কাউন্সিলর সাইফ উদ্দিন খালেদ। প্যানেলে বিভিন্ন কমিউনিটির প্রতিনিধি থাকবেন। এ বছর, বয়স ভিত্তিক দু'টি গ্রুপে পুরস্কার প্রদান করা হবেঃ

প্রাপ্তবয়স্কদের (২৬ বছর এবং তার বেশি বয়সী) জন্য এবং ১১ থেকে ২৫ বছর বয়সী শিশু ও তরুণদের জন্য।

প্রাপ্তবয়স্ক বিভাগে মনোনয়নের চারটি বিভাগ রয়েছেঃ যারা কমিউনিটির জন্য অসামান্য সেবা প্রদান করেন; যারা ক্রীড়া, শিল্পকলা বা সাংস্কৃতিক অর্জনের মাধ্যমে বারার সম্মান বৃদ্ধি করেছেন; যারা তার বাইরে গিয়েও স্থানীয় মানুষের জীবনযাত্রার মান উন্নত করেছেন; এবং যারা ব্যবসায়িক সাফল্য ও কমিউনিটির কাজে জড়িত হয়ে কমিউনিটির সার্বিক উপকার করেছেন।

শিশু ও তরুণদের বিভাগে মনোনয়নের ক্যাটাগরিগুলি হলোঃ যারা কমিউনিটির জন্য অসামান্য সেবা প্রদান করেন; যারা ক্রীড়া, শিল্পকলা বা সাংস্কৃতিক অর্জনের মাধ্যমে বারার সম্মান বৃদ্ধি করেছেন; তরুণ উদ্যোক্তা হিসেবে বিশেষ অর্জন; যারা সহপাঠীদের অসামান্য সহায়তা করেছেন; এবং যারা যুক্তরাজ্যের বৃহত্তর অংশে বা বিদেশে টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসের প্রতিনিধিত্ব করে বারার রাষ্ট্রদূত হিসেবে কাজ করেছেন।

সিভিক এওয়ার্ডস সম্পর্কে জানতে এবং আপনার মনোনয়ন জমা দিতে ভিজিট করুনঃ www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/civicawards



টাইন হল অনুষ্ঠিত হলো ইসলামোফোবিয়া সচেতনতা সম্মেলন More than 100 people attend Islamophobia Awareness conference

ইসলামোফোবিয়া মোকাবেলা করার জন্য সচেতনতা বৃদ্ধি, ভুক্তভোগীদের সহায়তা এবং অংশীদার সংস্থাগুলোর সঙ্গে ঘনিষ্ঠভাবে কাজ করা টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস কাউন্সিলের অন্যতম প্রচেষ্টা। টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস কাউন্সিল, ইস্ট লন্ডন মসজিদ, কাউন্সিল অব মসক এবং দারুল উম্মাহর সহযোগিতায় ১৮ নভেম্বর সোমবার টাইন হলের গোসার্স উইংয়ে আয়োজিত “সিডস অব চেঞ্জ” নামের ইভেন্টে ১০০ জনেরও বেশি মানুষ অংশগ্রহণ করেন।

নভেম্বর মাস জুড়ে দেশব্যাপি উদযাপিত ইসলামোফোবিয়া সচেতনতা মাসের অংশ হিসেবে এই আয়োজনের মূল লক্ষ্য ছিল ইসলামোফোবিয়া সম্পর্কে সচেতনতা বৃদ্ধি করা এবং সমাজে মুসলমানদের ইতিবাচক অবদানের উদাহরণ তুলে ধরা। অংশগ্রহণকারীরা স্থানীয় ও জাতীয়ভাবে ইসলামোফোবিয়ার বর্তমান অবস্থা সম্পর্কে অবহিত হন এবং মেট্রোপলিটান পুলিশের প্রতিনিধি, কাউন্সিল সদস্য এবং অন্যান্য অতিথিদের বক্তব্য শুনেন।

এই শীতে সাহায্য ও পরামর্শের জন্য আপনার কস্ট অব লিভিং পুস্তিকাটি সংগ্রহ করুন

Pick up your cost of living booklet for help and advice this winter - page 7

অর্থ সাশ্রয় এবং শীতকালে গরম থাকার টিপস জানতে আপনার 'Cost of Living Help' বইটি সংগ্রহ করতে ভুলবেন না।

জনপ্রিয় চাহিদার কারণে পুস্তিকাটি এবারও প্রকাশ করা হয়েছে এবং এটি হার্ড কপি (মুদ্রিত কপি) এবং ডিজিটাল উভয় ফর্ম্যাটেই পাওয়া যাচ্ছে।

“কস্ট অব লিভিং বুকলেট” এর তৃতীয় সংস্করণে অর্থ সঞ্চয়, গরম থাকা, ফুড ব্যাংক (যেখান থেকে ফ্রি খাবার সংগ্রহ করা যায়) তালিকা, সহায়তামূলক সার্ভিসগুলিতে অ্যাক্সেস করার পদ্ধতি এবং আরও অনেক কিছু সম্পর্কে পরামর্শ সহ প্রচুর তথ্য সরবরাহ করা হয়েছে।

communications@towerhamlets.gov.uk এ ইমেলে যোগাযোগ করে পুস্তিকাটির অনুবাদকৃত কপি পাওয়া যাবে এবং বৃহৎ পরিমাণে কপি অর্ডার করা যাবে।

আপনি আইডিয়া স্টোর, রেসিডেন্টস হাব এবং টাইন হল থেকে একটি করে কপি সংগ্রহ করতে পারেন।

এছাড়াও, আপনি যে সমস্ত বেনিফিট পাওয়ার অধিকারী, সেগুলি আপনি পুরোপুরি দাবি করছেন কিনা তা পরীক্ষা করা গুরুত্বপূর্ণ। কাউন্সিলের বেনিফিট ক্যালকুলেটরটি আপনি কোন কোন বেনিফিটের জন্য যোগ্য তা পরীক্ষা করার একটি দ্রুত এবং সহজ উপায়, কারণ এটি কাউন্সিল ট্যাক্স হ্রাস এবং হ্রাসকৃত ইউটিলিটি ট্যারিফের মতো অন্যান্য সহযোগিতার দরজা খুলতে পারে।

অনলাইনে সকল তথ্য জানতে ভিজিট করুন: www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/costofliving

হাউজিং মান উন্নত করতে পদক্ষেপ নিচ্ছে কাউন্সিল Council takes action to improve housing standards

সামাজিক হাউজিং সার্ভিস সমূহের মান উন্নত করতে এবং নতুন ভোক্তা মানদণ্ড পূরণের লক্ষ্যে, টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস কাউন্সিল নিজেকে সোশ্যাল হাউজিং নিয়ন্ত্রকের কাছে রেফার করার সিদ্ধান্ত নিয়েছে।

গত বছরের নভেম্বর মাসে টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস হোমস (টিএইচইএচ) ইনসোর্স করার পর, কাউন্সিল একটি পর্যালোচনা পরিচালনা করে নতুন নিয়ন্ত্রক প্রয়োজনীয়তাগুলির সঙ্গে তাদের অবস্থান মূল্যায়ন করে। এই পর্যালোচনা সার্ভিসসমূহের পারফরম্যান্সের ঘাটতিগুলো এবং উন্নতির প্রয়োজনীয় ক্ষেত্রগুলো সম্পর্কে আরও গভীর ধারণা প্রদান করেছে, যা বাসিন্দাদের চাহিদা এবং নতুন ভোক্তা মান পূরণে সহায়ক। স্ব-উদ্যোগ

পদক্ষেপ হিসেবে এবং যৌথ নিয়ন্ত্রণের মানসিকতায়, কাউন্সিল সেক্স-রেফার করার সিদ্ধান্ত নিয়েছে এবং উন্নতির পরিকল্পনা দেখানোর জন্য একটি রেগুলেটরি অ্যাসিওরেন্স অ্যাকশন প্ল্যান তৈরি করেছে।

সোশ্যাল হাউজিং রেগুলেটর বর্তমানে এই স্ব-রেফারেল টি পর্যালোচনা করছে। বাসিন্দাদের বাড়িগুলি নিরাপদ রয়েছে, ভাড়ার চুক্তিগুলিতে কোনও পরিবর্তন নেই এবং পরিষেবাগুলিতে অ্যাক্সেস করার পদ্ধতিও আগের মতোই রয়ে গেছে। শেষ পর্যন্ত, এটি পরিষেবার মান উন্নত করার একটি ইতিবাচক পদক্ষেপ।

কাউন্সিলের চিফ এক্সিকিউটিভ সিডি হ্যালসি বলেছেন: “টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসে

বসবাসরত প্রতিটি মানুষ একটি উষ্ণ, নিরাপদ এবং ভালোভাবে রক্ষাব্যবস্থিত বাড়ি পাওয়ার অধিকার রাখে। এটি নিশ্চিত করা আমাদের দায়িত্ব, এবং আমরা সর্বোচ্চ মানের পরিষেবা প্রদানের জন্য প্রতিশ্রুতিবদ্ধ। এ কারণেই ২০২৩ সালের নভেম্বর মাসে হাউজিং ম্যানেজমেন্ট সরাসরি কাউন্সিলের নিয়ন্ত্রণে আনার সিদ্ধান্ত নেওয়া হয়, যা আমাদের ভাড়াটে এবং লিজহোল্ডারদের দ্বারা দৃঢ়ভাবে সমর্থিত হয়েছিল। আমরা বুঝতে পেরেছিলাম যে আমাদের বাসিন্দাদের প্রতি আরো বেশি জবাবদিহি হওয়া এবং নতুন গ্রাহক মান ও বিন্দিং সেফটি অ্যান্ড এর প্রয়োজনীয়তাগুলোর অধীনে আরো বেশি নিয়ন্ত্রণ ও তদারকি থাকা প্রয়োজন।”

১৭৫ পাউন্ড উইন্টার ফ্যুয়েল পেমেন্ট পাবেন বারার পেনশনভোগীরা

£175 winter fuel payments - page 6

টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস বারায় ৪ হাজার ৬৯৬ পেনশনধারী - যারা কেন্দ্রীয় সরকারের আর্থিক কর্তনের কারণে উইন্টার ফ্যুয়েল পেমেন্ট অর্থাৎ শীতকালীন জ্বালানি সহায়তা পাবেন না - তাঁরা টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস কাউন্সিল কর্তৃক প্রবর্তিত নতুন একটি অনুদানের জন্য যোগ্য হবেন।

এই সব পেনশনভোগীকে ডিসেম্বর মাসে শীতকালীন জ্বালানি ভাতা হিসেবে ব্যক্তি প্রতি ১৭৫ পাউন্ড প্রদান করা হবে। কাউন্সিল এই তহবিলের জন্য প্রায় ১ মিলিয়ন পাউন্ড সংরক্ষিত করেছে।

গত অক্টোবরে অনুষ্ঠিত টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস কাউন্সিলের কেবিনেট মিটিংয়ে নির্বাহী মেয়র লুৎফুর রহমান শীতকালীন জরুরি তহবিল গঠনের ঘোষণা করেন, যা কেন্দ্রীয় সরকার কর্তৃক শীতকালীন জ্বালানি ভাতা পরিবর্তনের ফলে ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত পেনশনধারীদের আর্থিক সহায়তা প্রদান করবে।

কেন্দ্রীয় সরকার শীতকালীন জ্বালানি ভাতাকে আয়ের ভিত্তিতে যাচাই করার সিদ্ধান্ত নিয়েছে, যার ফলে মাত্র ১ দশমিক ৫ মিলিয়ন মানুষ এবার এই ভাতার জন্য যোগ্য হবে। এটি ৬৬ বছরের বেশি বয়সীদের জন্য উন্মুক্ত ছিল, এবং বিগত বছরে ১১ দশমিক ৪ মিলিয়ন মানুষ এই ভাতা পেতেন।

এছাড়াও, টাওয়ার

হ্যামলেটস বারায় ৪,৩০৮ জন পেনশনভোগী - যারা পেনশন ফ্রেডিটের জন্য যোগ্য, কিন্তু বর্তমানে দাবি করছেন না তাদের জন্যও একটি উদ্যোগ নেয়া হবে, যাতে তারা ওয়ার্ক এন্ড পেনশন ডিপার্টমেন্ট (ডব্লিউপিডি) এর কাছ থেকে প্রাপ্য পেমেন্ট গ্রহণ করতে সক্ষম হন। এই দুটি উদ্যোগের মাধ্যমে, কাউন্সিল শীতকাল জুড়ে প্রায় ৯,০০০ পেনশনভোগীকে সহায়তা করবে।

নির্বাহী মেয়র, লুৎফুর রহমান এ উদ্যোগ সম্পর্কে বলেন, “শীতকালীন জ্বালানির অর্থ প্রদান অর্থনৈতিক যাচাইয়ের ভিত্তিতে করা হলে, এর খারাপ প্রভাব পেনশনধারীদের উপর পড়বে, যারা ইতোমধ্যে বিদ্যুতের খরচ মেটানোর ক্ষেত্রে চাপের মধ্যে আছেন। একারণে অনেক পেনশনধারী জ্বালানি বিল পরিশোধের ভয়ে ঘর গরম করার ব্যবস্থা চালু করতে পারবেন না, যা একেবারেই অযৌক্তিক। এই কারণে আমরা উদ্যোগ নিচ্ছি এবং যারা কেন্দ্রীয় সরকারের কর্তনের ফলে প্রয়োজনীয় সাহায্য থেকে বাদ পড়বেন, তাদের জন্য আমরা ব্যক্তি প্রতি ১৭৫ পাউন্ড মূল্যের সুরক্ষা প্রদান করছি।”

কাউন্সিলের কেবিনেট মেম্বর ফর রিসোর্সেস এন্ড দ্যা কস্ট অব লিভিং, কাউন্সিলের সাইদ আহমেদ বলেন, “প্রথমে আমি ৬০ বছরের বেশি সকলকে

ডব্লিউপি পেনশন ফ্রেডিট দাবি করার জন্য উৎসাহিত করব, কারণ এটি আপনাকে একটি অতিরিক্ত সুবিধা দেবে, এবং এটি আবাসন খরচ, কাউন্সিল ট্যাক্স এবং ঘর গরম করার বিলের জন্য অন্য সুবিধার দ্বার খুলে দিতে পারে।

তিনি বলেন, “আমাদের জনপ্রিয় ওয়ার্ম হাবগুলো অর্থাৎ তীব্র শীতের সময়ে যে উষ্ণ কেন্দ্রগুলো লোকজনকে উষ্ণতার পাশাপাশি সময় কাটানোর সুযোগ দিয়েছে, সেগুলো এই শীতে আবার চালু হবে। এই সব ওয়ার্ম হাবগুলি বাসিন্দাদের জন্য নিরাপদ স্থান সরবরাহ করবে যেখানে তারা গরম পানীয় নিতে পারে এবং সহায়তা পেতে পারে, অথবা শুধু একটি বই পড়তে ও সামাজিকতার সুযোগ পাবে।”

উল্লেখ্য, টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসে ১০৯,৮৯৮টিরও বেশি মিসড বেনিফিট ক্রেম রয়েছে, যার মোট পরিমাণ ১১০ মিলিয়ন পাউন্ডেরও বেশি। আপনার সম্ভাব্য প্রাপ্য নিশ্চিত করতে আমাদের বেনিফিট ক্যালকুলেটর www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/costofliving ব্যবহার করে মাত্র ১০ মিনিট সময় ব্যয় করে আপনি হেলদি স্টার্ট, ফ্রি স্কুল মিলস, চাইল্ড বেনিফিট, ফ্রি চাইল্ডকেয়ার এবং আরও অনেক কিছু দাবি করতে পারেন।

উন্নয়নের যাত্রায় কাউন্সিল ও সরকার একসঙ্গে কাজ করবে

Council and government to work together on journey of improvement - page 8

বেস্ট ভেলু ইমপেকশন এর পরিদর্শকদের দেয়া রিপোর্টে টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস কাউন্সিলের যেসকল ক্ষেত্রেই চিহ্নিত করা হয়েছিলো, সেগুলির উন্নয়নে কাউন্সিলকে সহযোগিতা করবেন সরকারের এনভায় বা দূতরা।

সাবেক সরকারের অধীনে, পরিদর্শকরা চলতি বছরের ফেব্রুয়ারি থেকে জুলাইয়ের মধ্যে টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস কাউন্সিলের সামগ্রিক কার্যক্রম নিয়ে একটি বেস্ট ভেলু ইমপেকশন পরিচালনা করেছিলেন।

এই পরিদর্শন রিপোর্ট, যা বর্তমান নতুন সরকার উত্তরাধিকার সূত্রে পেয়েছে, সেখানে, কাউন্সিলের কর্মকর্তা-কর্মচারীদের নিষ্ঠা; আর্থিক স্থিতিশীলতা অর্জন; বেশিরভাগ সার্ভিসে সন্তোষজনক এবং কিছু ক্ষেত্রে উন্নত কর্মদক্ষতা প্রদর্শন এবং যেখানে দুর্বলতা দেখা দিয়েছে সেখানে কার্যকর পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণ, ট্রান্সফর্মেশন এডভাইজরি বোর্ডের মাধ্যমে বাইরের চ্যালেঞ্জ ও সহায়তা ব্যবস্থা স্থাপন এবং সুষ্ঠু নির্বাচন পরিচালনা ইত্যাদি বিষয়ে প্রশংসা করা হয়েছে।

যাহোক, উন্নতি করার প্রয়োজন এমন ক্ষেত্রগুলির মধ্যে রয়েছে, প্রতিষ্ঠানিক সংস্কৃতি, উন্নতির ধারা অব্যাহত রাখা, কাউন্সিলেরা কিভাবে বারার কল্যাণে একসাথে কাজ করবেন, সেটা নিশ্চিত করা সহ, নেতৃত্ব, অংশিদারিত্ব ও কমিউনিটির সাথে একযোগে কাজ করা।

ফলস্বরূপ, সরকার এই ক্ষেত্রগুলির উন্নতিতে সহায়তা করার জন্য আগামী তিন বছর কাউন্সিলের সাথে কাজ করতে একটি সহায়তা প্যাকেজের অংশ হিসাবে দূতদের পাঠানোর সিদ্ধান্ত নিয়েছে। এর অর্থ কাউন্সিলের কাছ থেকে কোন ক্ষমতা কেড়ে নেওয়া হবে না এবং উন্নতিগুলি বিদ্যমান কাউন্সিল কাঠামোর অধীনে সরবরাহ এবং পরিমাপ করা হবে।

এই সহায়তা প্যাকেজকে স্বাগত জানিয়েছে কাউন্সিল। কাউন্সিলের বিদ্যমান ট্রান্সফর্মেশন অ্যাডভাইজরি বোর্ডে পরিবর্তনের মাধ্যমে উন্নতিগুলি সরবরাহ এবং পর্যবেক্ষণ করা হবে যা ট্রান্সফর্মেশন অ্যাসুরেন্স বোর্ড হিসেবে কনফিগার করা হবে।

Hubi in aad si hagaagsanu tuurto baytariyadaada

HARMONY SOMALI NEWS

Sagaal dab oo qabsaday sanadkan ayaa sababay dadka deegaanka oo si khaldan u tuuraya baytariyada.

Alaabada dhagxanta lithium-ka ah ama alaabada guban kara sida kaniiniyada gaaska lagugu shubo ama qashinka dib u warshadaynta ayaa ka dhigan in marka baabuurta ay soo ururiyaan qashinka ay burburin karaan, taas oo sababeysa qarxid iyo dab ka kaca.

Dhammaan baytariyada, oo ay ku jiraan baytariyada lithium-ka ee ka yimaada baaskiillada elektarooniga ah, mootooyinka elektarooniga ah,

telefoonada gacanta, iyo aaladaha kale ee dib loo isticmaali karo iyo baytariyada baabuurta, waxaa la geyn karaa Xarunta Reuse-ka iyo Dib-u-warshadeynta ee ku taal Northumberland Wharf.

Qaar badan oo ka mid ah bakhaarrada waaweyn ee dukaamada waaweyn ayaa sidoo kale yeelan doona barta dib u warshadaynta batteriga, oo badanaa u dhow diiwaangelinnada lacagta caddaanka ah.

Baytariyada reerka, oo ay ku jiraan baytariyada lithium-ka yar-yar sida kuwa telefoonada gacanta, vapes-ka, aaladaha kale ee korontada ah ee dib loo buuxin karo, ayaa dib



Baabuur qashinka qaada ah oo ku qasbanaa inuu daadiyo qashinka dab ka dib

looga isticmaali karaa weelasha dib-u-warshadaynta khaaska ah ee dhammaan Dukaamada Idea-ga iyo maktabadaha ee xaafadda.

Wixii macluumaad dheeraad ah booqo towerhamlets.gov.uk/environment

Golaha iyo xukuumadda inay ka wada shaqeeyaan geeddi socodka hagaajint

Ergooyin ka socda dawlada ayaa golaha Tower Hamlets ka caawin doona sidii ay u hagaagi lahaayeen deegaanada ay warbixinta kormeerka ku caddaysay

Dawladdii hore, kormeerayaashu waxay sameeyeen qiimayn qiimo u fiican oo ay ku sameeyeen Golaha Tower Hamlets inta u dhaxaysa Febaraayo iyo Luulyo ee sanadkan.

Warbixintan oo ay dhaxalsiisay xukuumadda cusub ayaa waxaa lagu garwaaqsaday furitaankii ay masuuliyiinta golayaasha deegaanka iyo horumarkii goluhu ka sameeyeen dhinacyo ay ka mid tahay gaarista xasilloonida dhaqaale;

bixinta adeegyada; dhigista caqabad dibadda ah iyo taageero si xawli ah iyadoo loo marayo Guddiga La-talinta Isbeddelka; iyo doorasho cod ah oo qabsooma.

Si kastaba ha ahaatee, meelaha wax lagaga qabanayo waxaa ka mid ah dhaqanka ururada, horumar joogto ah, iskaashiga iyo ka shaqeynta bulshada iyo hoggaanka oo ay ka mid yihiin sida dhammaan golayaasha golaha deegaanka ay uga wada shaqeeyaan arrimaha wanaagsan ee degmadda.

Sidaas awgeed, dowladda ayaa dooratay Ergooyin qeyb ka ah baaq taageero oo qeyb ka ah wax qabadyo

taageero ah oo ay kula shaqeeyaan golaha saddexda sano ee soo socota si ay gacan uga geystaan horumarinta degaannadaas. Taas macnaheedu waxa weeye in aan awoodaha golaha laga qaadi doonin, hagaajintana lagu fulin doono oo lagu cabbiri doono qaab-dhismeedka golayaasha ee jira.

Golaha ayaa soo dhaweeyay baaqa taageerada. Horumarin iyo kormeer ayaa la gaarsiin doonaa laguna socon doonaa iyada oo loo marayo isbeddelka Guddiga La-talinta Isbedelka ee golaha ee jira, kaasoo dib-u-habayn lagu sameyn doono Guddiga Xaqiijinta Isbedelka. Guddiga waxaa guddoomiye ka ah

duqa fulinta Lutfur Rahman.

Steve Halsey, Madaxa Fulinta, ayaa yiri: "Waxaan aaminsannahay in baaritaanka dibedda ka baxsani ay muhiim u tahay horumarkeena, waxaana bogaadinaynaa habka dowladda cusub ay ku taageereyso dowladda hoose.

"Waxaan ku hanwaynahay in aan la shaqayno Ergeyga Wasiirka si aan u dhisno dib u eegista Asxaabta ee aan ka helnay Ururka Dawladaha Hoose iyo Maalgashadayaasha horumarsan ee kormeerka qiimeynta heerka silver ah."

Caawimaadda dhibaataada kharashka nolosha

Waxaa jira dhowr tashi oo lagu caawinayo dadka degan jiilaalkan:

Buug yaraha qiimaha living help waxaad ka helaya macluumaad ku saabsan keydinta lacagta iyo helista diirrimaad. Nuqulka waxaa laga soo qaadan karaa bakhaarrada idea, xarumaha dadka deegaanka iyo guriga degmada ama waxaad ka soo dejin kartaa www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/costofliving

Xarumo diiran ayaa ka jira dhamaan Bakhaarada Idea ee ku yaala degmadaasi. Dukaamada Idea waxay dadka siiyaan meel diiran oo nabdoon oo loogu talagalay dadka si ay uwada xiriiraan, oo ay u helaan

cabitaan kulul iyo cunto fudud oo aanay ka walwalin in kulayliyaha shitaan.

Hubi in aad sheeganayso oo dhan faa'iidooyinka aad'xaq u leedahay. Xisaabiyaha faa'iidooyinka ee golaha waa hab deg deg ah oo sahlan oo lagu hubin karo waxa aad ka helayaan faa'iidooyinka aadadigu kaxaqa u yeelanayso maadaama uu albaabka u furi karo taageero kale sida dhimista cashuurta golaha iyo yaraynta tariifada biilasha adeega.

Golaha Tower Hamlets ayaa sidoo kale siinaya dadka hawlgabka ah ee ay ugu wacnayd in ay ka maqnaadaan

lacagta shidaalka jiilaalka ee £175 oo qeyb ka ah Sanduuqa Gurmadka Deg Degga ah ee Jiilaalka. Waxaa goor dhow la soo saari doonaa macluumaad ku saabsan sida loo saxiixi karo sanduuqan.

Lacag Isugeyn dhan £17 milyan oo lacagta hawlgabka ah ayaa ayaan weli laga codsanin deegaanka Tower Hamlets. Lacagta hawlgabka waxay u qalantaa £3,900 sanadkiiba celcelis ahaan sidoo kale waxay bixisaa helitaanka lacagta qabow ee cimilada, caawimaad ay ku bixiyaan alaabta daryeelka caafimaadka, iyo rukhsad TV-ga oo lacag la'aan ah oo loogu talagalay dadka ka weyn

75 sano. Haddii aad gaartay da'da hawlgabka ee dowladda, dakhligaaguna uu ka yar yahay £218.15 toddobaadkii (ama £332.95 lammaane), xaq ayaad u yeelan kartaa lacagtaas. Kooxda LBTH Outreach waxay taageeri kartaa sheegashooyinka iyada oo loo marayo bogga internetka ee golaha. Dadka xaq u leh lacagta hawlgabka waxay haystaan ilaa 21 Disember si ay u codsadaan lacagta hawlgabka. Si aad u dalbato, wac khadka sheegashada lacagta hawlgabka ee 0800 99 1234 ama ku dalbo internetka www.gov.uk/pension-credit

USEFUL INFORMATION SERVICES AND CONTACTS

Advice

Account 3 (welfare and debt advice)

3 Birkbeck Street, E2.
020 7739 7720
www.account3.org.uk

Age UK East London

82 Russia Lane, E2.
Caxton Hall, Caxton
Grove, E3.
Royal London Hospital
14F Wards.
info@ageukeastlondon.
org.uk
www.ageuk.org.uk/
eastlondon
020 8981 7124

Bromley by Bow Centre

St Leonard's Street, E3.
020 8709 9700

Carers Centre Tower Hamlets

21 Brayford Square, E1
OSG
enquiries@ccth.org.uk
www.ccth.org.uk
020 7790 1765

Citizens Advice Bureau

32 Greatorex Street, E1.
020 7247 1050
towerhamlets@eastend-
cab.org.uk
www.eastendcab.org.uk

Island Advice Centre

Island House, Roserton
Street, Isle of Dogs, E14.
020 7987 9379
www.island-advice.org.uk

Legal Advice Centre

University House,
104 Roman Road, E2.
020 8980 4205
www.legaladvicecentre.
london

Limehouse Project

789 Commercial Road,
Unit 2, St Anne Street, E14.
020 7538 0075
www.limehouseproject.
org.uk

Praxis (New Residents) Immigration, benefits and general advice

Pott Street, E2.
General Helpline:
020 7729 7985
Immigration advice:
020 7749 7608
www.praxis.org.uk

Tower Hamlets Community Advice Network

thcan@island-advice.org.
uk
www.thcan.org.uk

Tower Hamlets Law Centre

Unit 1, St Anne's Street,
E14. 020 7538 4909
www.thlc.co.uk

Careers

Adult education services

Shadwell Centre,
455 The Highway, E1.
020 7364 5665

WorkPath

Employment and Skills
Centre, 55 Upper Bank
Street, E14. 020 7364 3727
workpath@towerhamlets.
gov.uk

Young WorkPath/Tower Hamlets Careers Service

Employment and Skills
Centre, 55 Upper Bank
Street, E14.
youngworkpath@
towerhamlets.gov.uk

Council

Town Hall

160 Whitechapel Road,
London, E1 1BJ.
www.towerhamlets.gov.uk
General enquiries
020 7364 5000

Debt

Fair Money Advice

18 Ashwin Street, E8.
020 3475 8811
www.fairfinance.org.uk

Island Advice Centre

Island House, Roserton
Street Isle of Dogs, E14.
020 7987 9379
www.island-advice.org.uk

Toynbee Hall Advice Service

28 Commercial Street, E1.
020 7392 2953
advice@toynbeehall.org.
uk
www.toynbeehall.org.uk

Health & wellbeing

Alzheimer's Society

Robinson Centre, Mile
End Hospital, Bancroft
Road, E1.
020 8121 5626

BYM Bangladesh Youth Movement Women's Centre of Excellence

Whitechapel Centre, Units
1 & 2, Myrdle Street, E1.
020 7377 8668
www.bym.org.uk

East London Parkinson's Support Group

hello@parkinsons.org.uk
0808 800 0303

Free home fire safety advice

08000 284428

Health hotline

020 7364 5016

Healthwatch Tower Hamlets

Mile End Hospital, Ban-
croft Road, E1.
0800 145 5343
info@healthwatchtower
hamlets.co.uk
www.healthwatchtower
hamlets.co.uk

LinkAge Plus

Toynbee Hall, Commercial
Street, E1.
020 7392 2913

Reset

Tower Hamlets Drug and
Alcohol Service
183 Whitechapel Road, E1.
020 3889 9510
reset.towerhamlets@
cgl.org.uk

Safe East (under-19s)

compass.towerhamlets
yphws@nhs.net
020 3954 0091

Stop Smoking services

www.quitrightth.org
020 7882 8230

Tower Hamlets

Advocacy Real
020 7001 2170
hello@real.org.uk

Housing

Choice-based lettings and housing advice

Phone: 020 7364 7474
Homelessness services
Phone: 020 7364 7474
Out of hours: 020 7364
4079

Homeseekers

www.thhs.org.uk

Housing services, including repairs

Phone: 020 7364 5015
Freephone: 0800 376 1637

Idea Stores and libraries

Bow

Gladstone Place, E3.

Canary Wharf

Churchill Place, E14.

Chrisp Street

Vesey Path, E14.

Whitechapel

321 Whitechapel Road, E1.

Local History Library and Archives

277 Bancroft Road, E1
localhistory@
towerhamlets.gov.uk
Visit www.ideastore.
co.uk/home

Leisure centres

John Orwell Sports Centre

Tench Street, Wapping, E1.
0207 364 5100

Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium

190 Burdett Road, E3.
0207 364 5100

Poplar Baths

170 East India Dock Road,
0207 364 5100

Tiller Leisure Centre

Tiller Road, Isle of Dogs
E14. 0207 364 5100

Whitechapel Sports Centre

55 Durward Street, E1.
0207 364 5100

York Hall Leisure Centre

5-15 Old Ford Road, E2.
0207 364 5100

For the latest information
and updates, including
details of opening hours or
temporary closures, visit
www.towerhamlets.gov.uk
or **be-well.org.uk**

Parent & child

Family Information Service

30 Greatorex Street, E1.
fis@towerhamlets.gov.uk
020 7364 6495

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

If a child is at risk of harm:
020 7364 5006 (option
3, open Mon to Fri, 9am -
5pm)
020 7364 4079 (out of
hours emergency duty
team)

Tower Hamlets National Childbirth Trust

0300 330 0700
www.nct.org.uk

Report it

**Anti-fraud (housing and
tenancy related fraud)**
0800 528 0294

Childline

0800 1111

Domestic Violence Team

0800 279 5434

**Environmental
Protection (Noise) Team**
020 7364 5000

**Haven Whitechapel
(sexual assault referral
centre)**

020 3299 6900 /
020 3299 1599

**Karma Nirvana (honour-
based abuse helpline)**

0800 5999 247

Men's Advice Helpline
0808 8010 327

**National LGBT domestic
abuse helpline (Galop)**

0800 999 5428 /
0300 999 5428

**Non-emergency crimes
101 Textphone**

18001 101

**NSPCC Child Protection
Helpline**

0800 800 5000

**Respect (for
perpetrators)**
0808 802 4040

Rights of Women
020 7251 6577

Samaritans

116 123

Shelter

0808 800 4444

**Tower Hamlets
Mediation Service
(free service for
council tenants and
leaseholders)**

020 7364 7474

**Victim Support Tower
Hamlets**

0808 168 9291 /
0808 168 9111

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Tower Hamlets
news

Find out what's on,
get Tower Hamlets
news, take part in
competitions and
receive local offers
straight into your
inbox!

Visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/signup

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31st January 2022

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☎ 020 7790 6361

✉ mail@mulberrystepneygreen.org

✉ @MSGreenCollege

🌐 www.mulberrystepneygreen.org

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