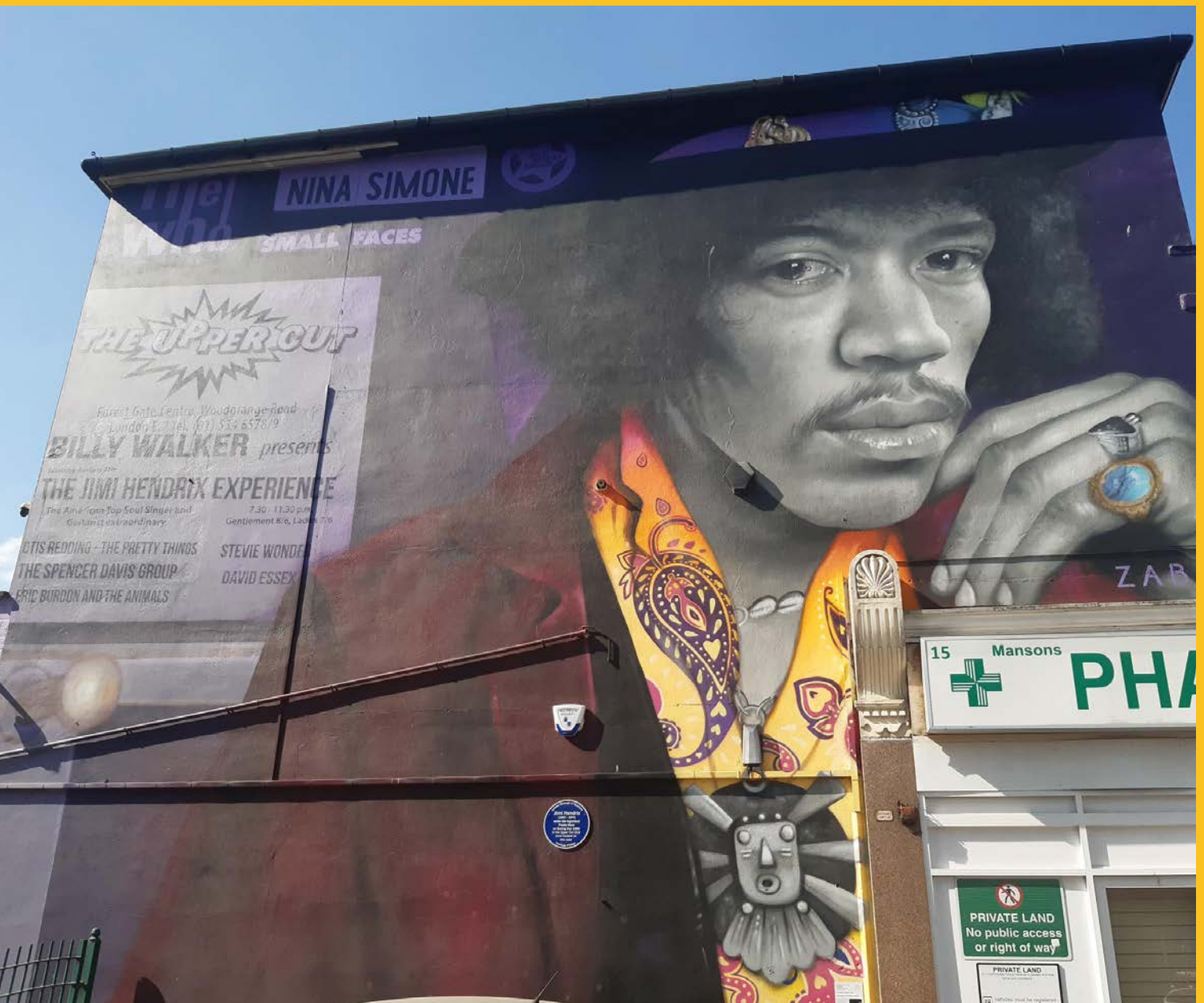


Forest Gate & Maryland Community Neighbourhood

Wards: Forest Gate North, Forest Gate South, Maryland
May 2026



Jimi Hendrix mural, Forest Gate

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Introduction

Wards

Forest Gate & Maryland Community Neighbourhood is made up of the following wards:

Forest Gate North
Forest Gate South
Maryland

About the area

Forest Gate & Maryland is a diverse multi-cultural neighbourhood with a strong community spirit. With the recent development of Crossrail, the area has seen an influx of new residents, including many young professionals and new cultural groups. These new residents have enriched the social fabric and architecture of the area. The area also has a vibrant food scene with a variety of cafés and pubs, such as The Wild Goose Bakery, Querky Café, The Holly Tree, Forest Tavern and The Wanstead Tap.



Woodgrange Clock, Forest Gate station

Transport

Forest Gate & Maryland railway stations are in Zone 3 on Elizabeth Line and locals can also reach nearby stations at Woodgrange Park and Wanstead Park. The key bus routes are numbers 58, 86, 308, 325, 330 and 425.

Community facilities

Key community facilities and spaces in the neighbourhood include Forest Gate Library, Forest Lane Park, Forest Lane Lodge Community Centre, Forest Gate Community Garden, Forest Gate Learning Zone, Durning Hall and several places of worship. Forest Gate is also known for its weekly resident-led Woodgrange Market, exhibitions by local artists at the library, annual Christmas switch on event, annual Forest Gate Festival and Forest Gayte Pride.



Forever Young at Forest Gate Library

Resident testimonials



Billie-Jean Holmes

“Maryland is, in a sense, new—once part of Stratford, it now sits between Forest Gate and Stratford New Town. It has an unpretentious, get-on-with-it energy, where people look out for one another in quiet but meaningful ways. Through my work on Greener Together, I saw this in practice—residents who didn’t know each other’s names became collaborators, advocates and even friends. There is a real appetite here to shape where we live, not just endure it. This instinct to do, grow and improve reflects one of Newham’s least celebrated but most quietly powerful qualities.



Catherine Stack

“I was born in Forest Gate and have seen it change greatly over the years. I love its strong community spirit today, from the Community Garden and craft groups to the WI, choirs, and library activities. Eco7’s community litter picks, Plastic Free work and workshops stand out. The staff at Forest Gate Library are really supportive.

Resident survey

The resident survey provides a borough-wide snapshot of residents' views. It was last carried out between November and December 2025, with 1,523 face-to-face interviews conducted across all eight of Newham's Community Neighbourhood Areas.

The findings below show how residents in Forest Gate & Maryland responded. For more information, visit the [Newham Resident Survey](#) website or scan the QR code.



Ten key findings for residents in Forest Gate & Maryland



83%

of residents are satisfied with their local area as a place to live



57%

are satisfied with how Newham Council runs things



64%

trust the Council



51%

feel informed about how the Council makes decisions



78%

feel safe in the local area during the day



47%

feel safe in the local area after dark



77%

are satisfied with the overall quality of their home



72%

say their housing costs are affordable or manageable



67%

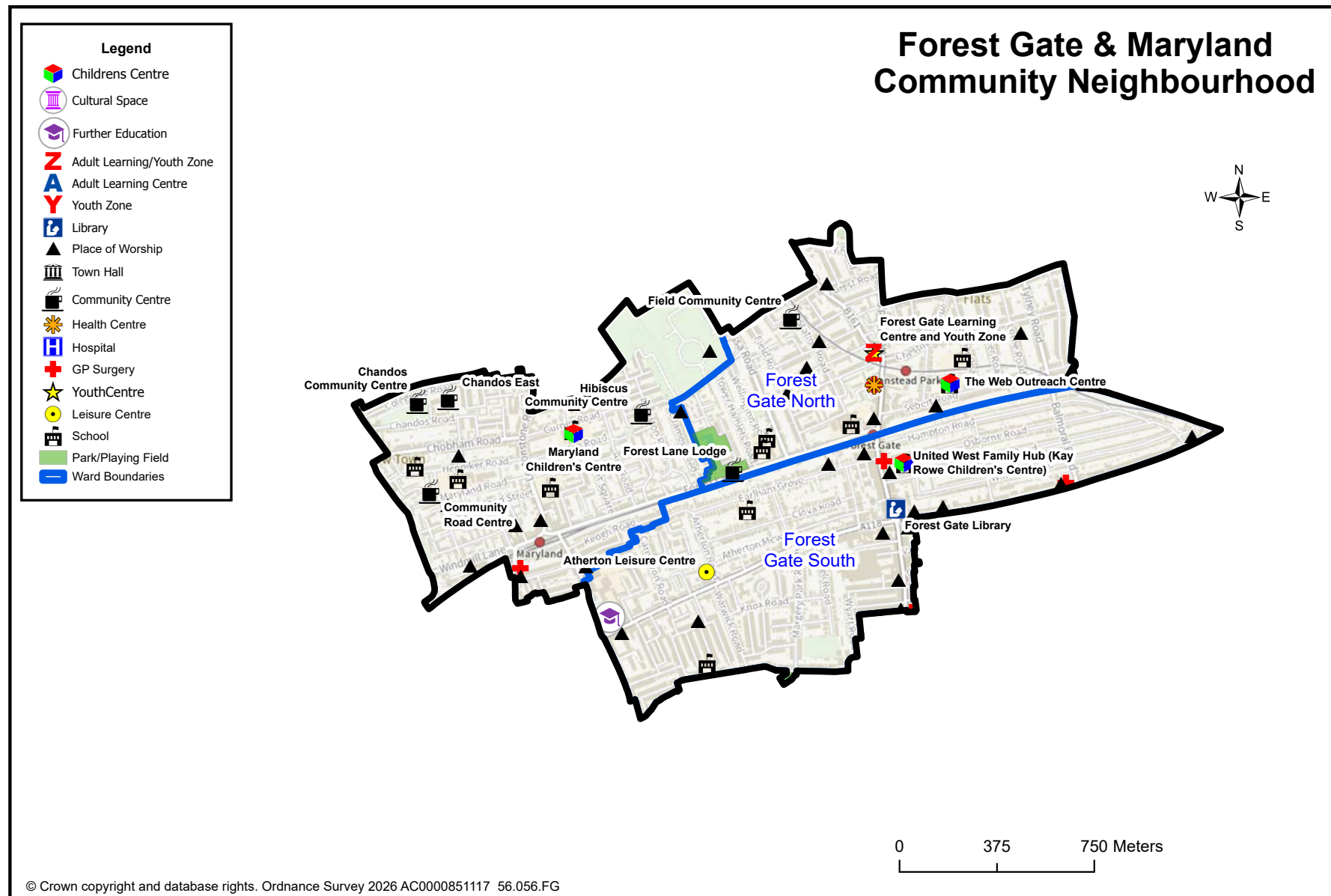
feel strongly that they belong to their local area



84%

agree people from different backgrounds get on well together

Neighbourhood map



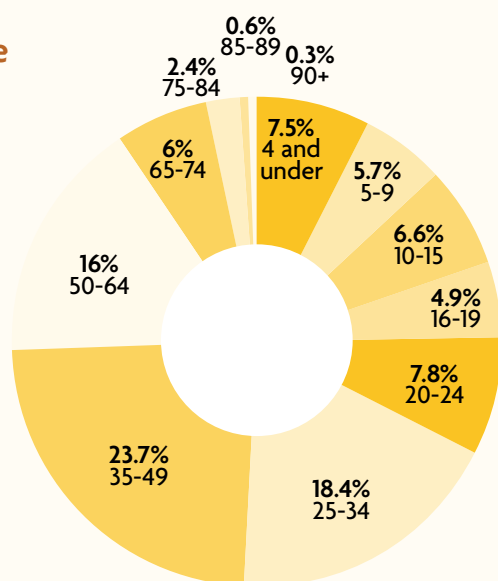
Forest Gate North

Population data

Population: **11,294** (3.0% of Newham's population)

Population data is from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Small Area Population Estimates (SAPE), based on mid-2024 ward-level estimates published in November 2025.

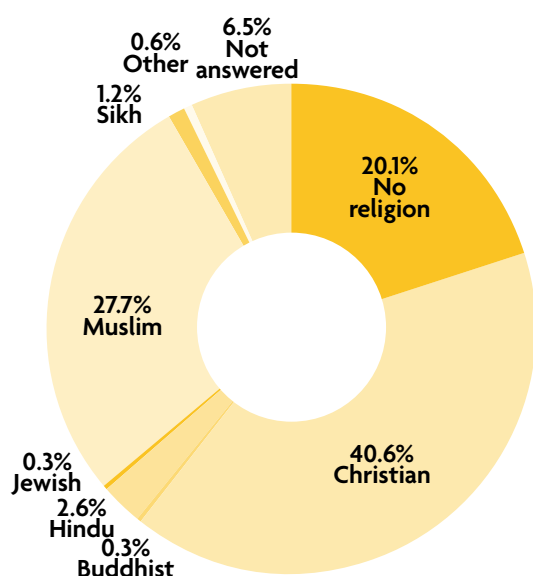
Age



Census data 2021

The UK Census takes place every ten years and provides the most comprehensive population data. The last census took place on 21 March 2021.

Religion

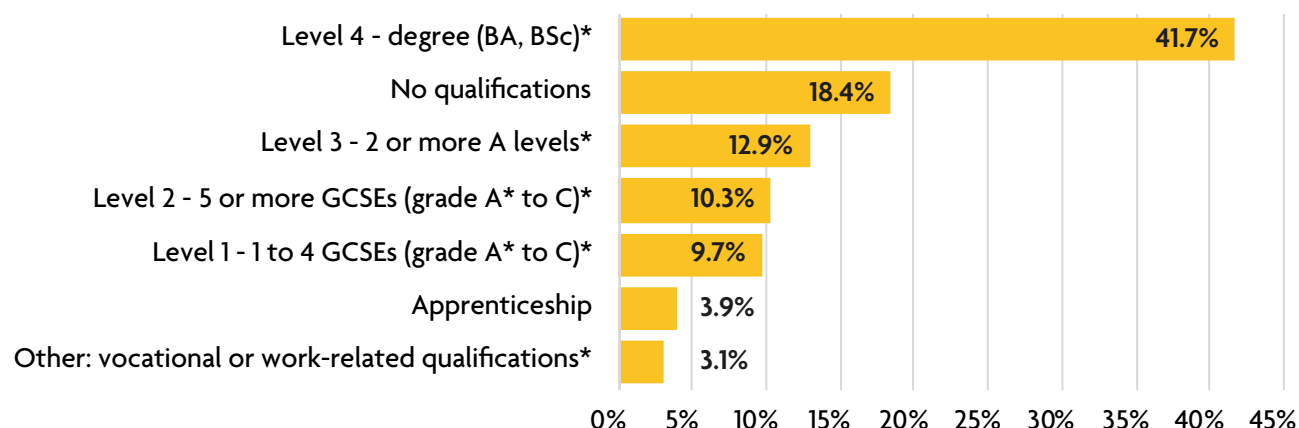


Ethnicity

The Census 2021 gave residents the choice to identify themselves through one of 19 available response options, which included categories with write-in response options. For Newham, there were over 200 additional ethnic identifications as a result.

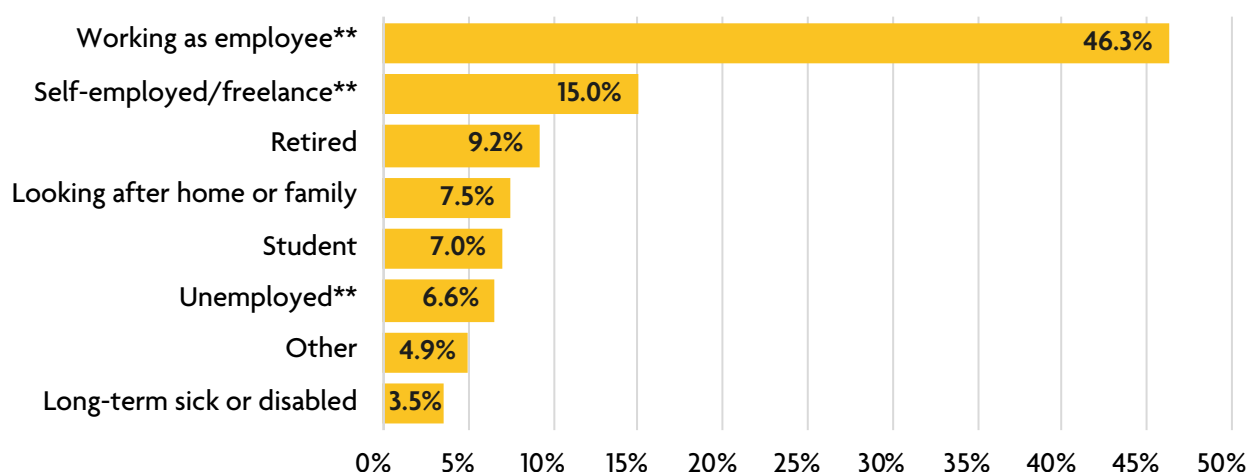
Ethnicity	Percent
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh	29.1%
Bangladeshi	14%
Chinese	0.4%
Indian	5.3%
Pakistani	6.6%
Other	2.9%
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African	20.2%
African	11.3%
Caribbean	6.6%
Other	2.3%
Mixed or Multiple ethnic	6%
White and Asian	1.2%
White and Black African	1.1%
White and Black Caribbean	1.6%
Other	2.1%
White	40.8%
English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British	23.5%
Irish	1.2%
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0.1%
Roma	0.6%
Other	15.4%
Other	3.8%
Arab	0.6%
Other	3.2%

Qualifications



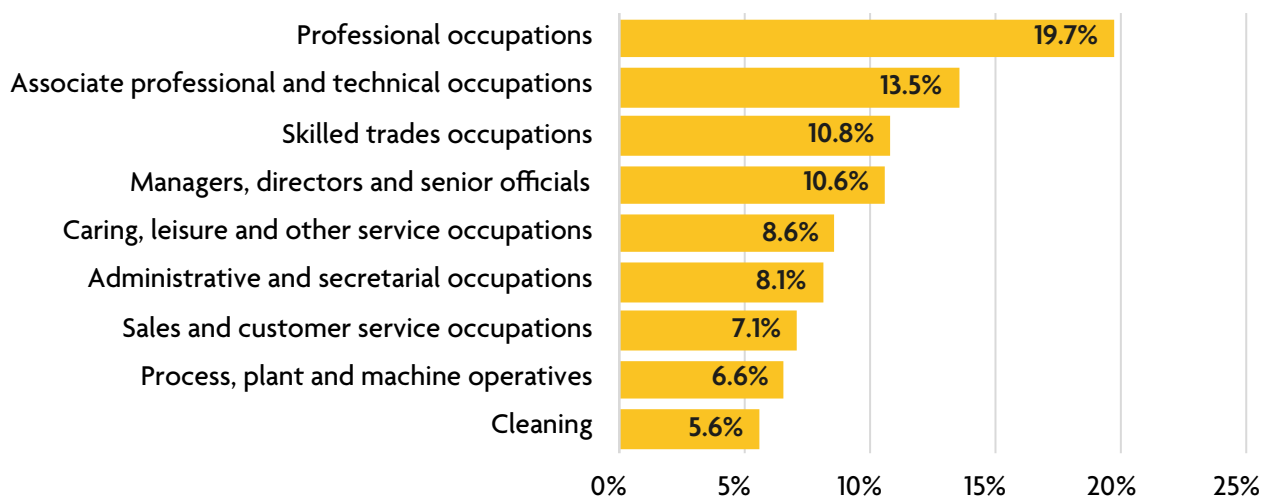
*Or equivalent

Economic activity



**Including full time students

Occupation***



***Percentages do not sum to 100. Remaining residents (not shown) work in security, sales, and other 'Elementary' occupations (Census 2021).

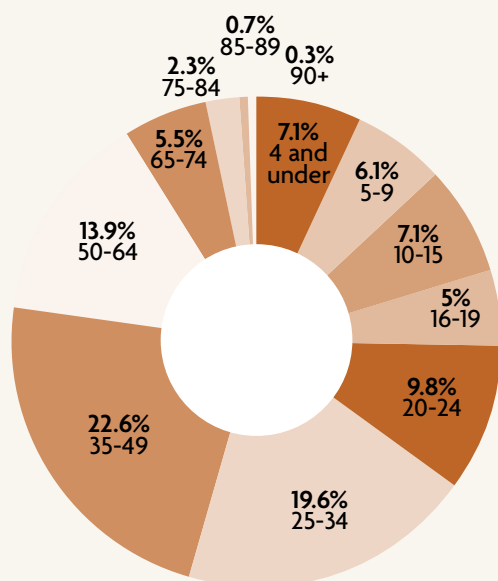
Forest Gate South

Population data

Population: **18,656** (5% of Newham's population)

Population data is from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Small Area Population Estimates (SAPE), based on mid-2024 ward-level estimates published in November 2025.

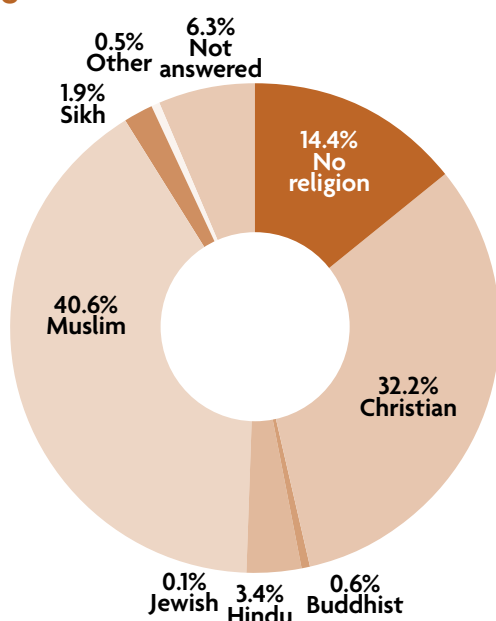
Age



Census data 2021

The UK Census takes place every ten years and provides the most comprehensive population data. The last census took place on 21 March 2021.

Religion

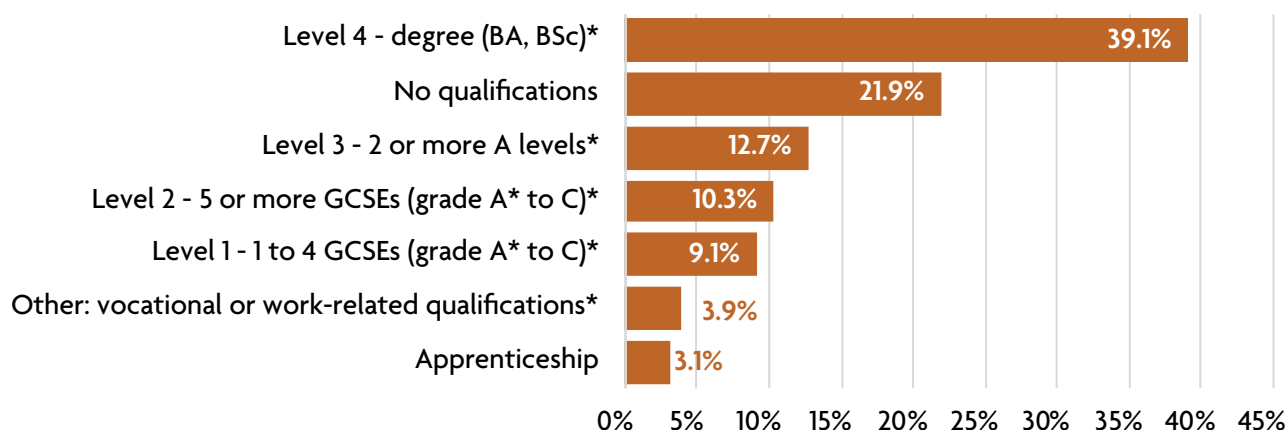


Ethnicity

The Census 2021 gave residents the choice to identify themselves through one of 19 available response options, which included categories with write-in response options. For Newham, there were over 200 additional ethnic identifications as a result.

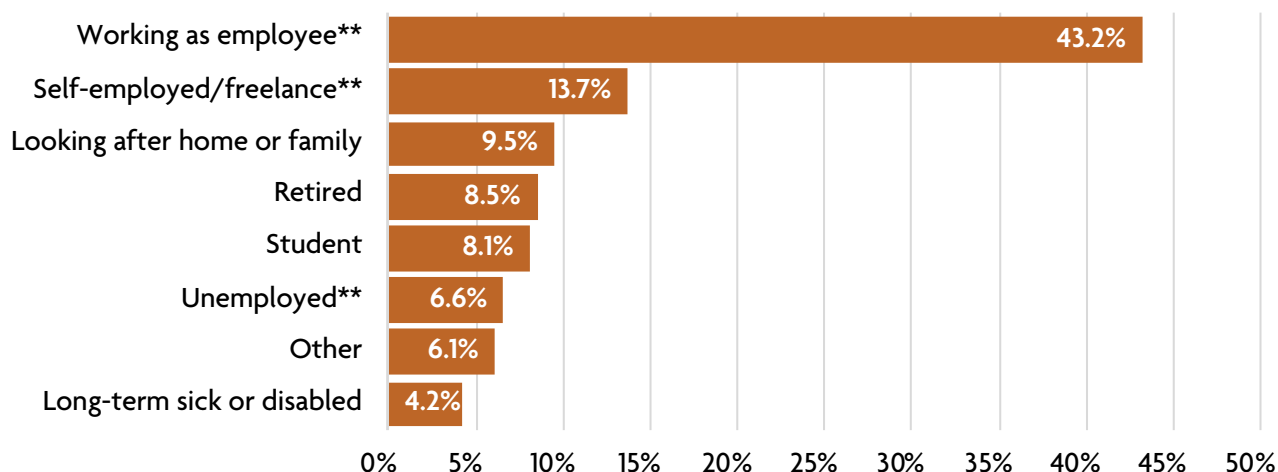
Ethnicity	Percent
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh	44.8%
Bangladeshi	22.4%
Chinese	0.6%
Indian	10.6%
Pakistani	7.9%
Other	3.3%
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African	17.3%
African	10%
Caribbean	4.9%
Other	2.4%
Mixed or Multiple ethnic	5%
White and Asian	1%
White and Black African	1.1%
White and Black Caribbean	1.3%
Other	1.6%
White	28.4%
English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British	13.2%
Irish	0.5%
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0%
Roma	0.7%
Other	14%
Other	4.5%
Arab	1%
Other	3.5%

Qualifications



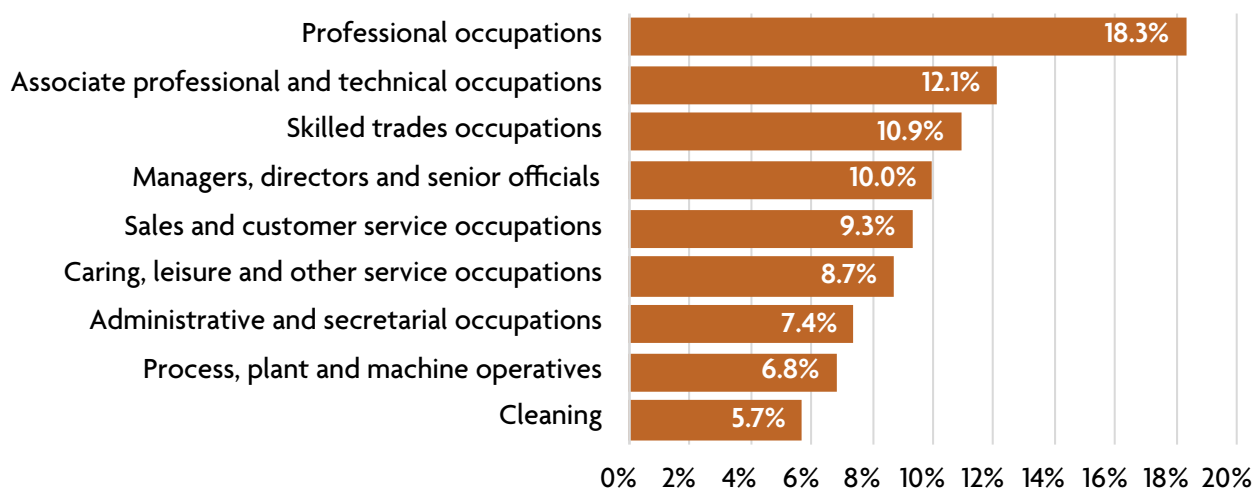
*Or equivalent

Economic activity



**Including full time students

Occupation***



***Percentages do not sum to 100. Remaining residents (not shown) work in security, sales, and other 'Elementary' occupations (Census 2021).

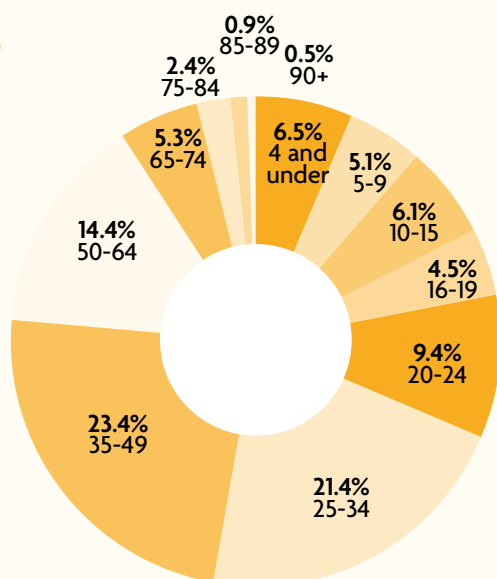
Maryland

Population data

Population: **13,032** (3.5% of Newham's population)

Population data is from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Small Area Population Estimates (SAPE), based on mid-2024 ward-level estimates published in November 2025.

Age



Ethnicity

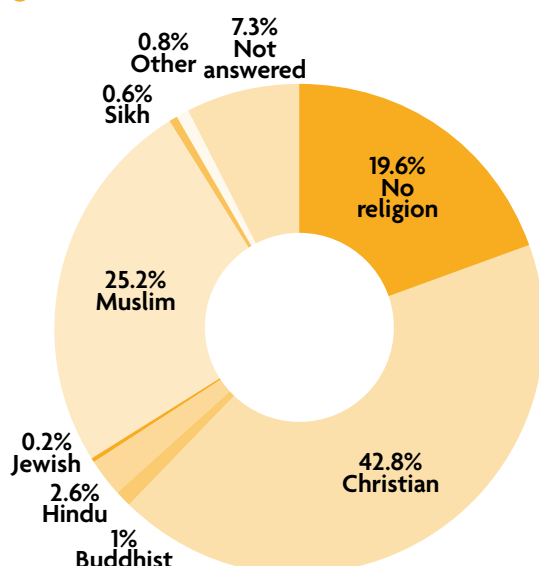
The Census 2021 gave residents the choice to identify themselves through one of 19 available response options, which included categories with write-in response options. For Newham, there were over 200 additional ethnic identifications as a result.

Ethnicity	Percent
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh	26.3%
Bangladeshi	12%
Chinese	1.5%
Indian	4.8%
Pakistani	5.2%
Other	2.7%
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African	21.3%
African	12.7%
Caribbean	6.4%
Other	2.2%
Mixed or Multiple ethnic	5.6%
White and Asian	1%
White and Black African	1.3%
White and Black Caribbean	1.5%
Other	1.9%
White	41.7%
English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British	18.8%
Irish	0.9%
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0.1%
Roma	1.2%
Other	20.8%
Other	5.1%
Arab	1.2%
Other	4%

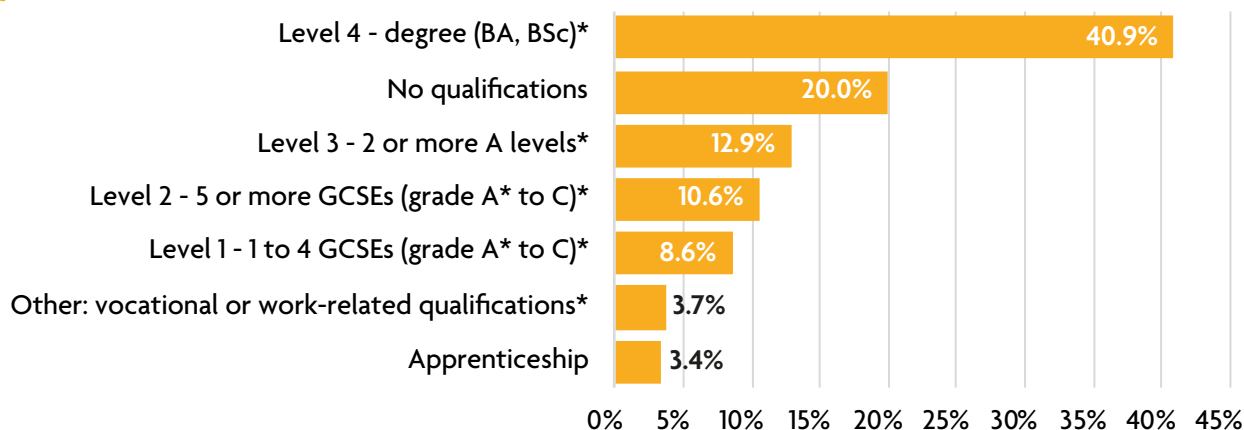
Census data 2021

The UK Census takes place every ten years and provides the most comprehensive population data. The last census took place on 21 March 2021.

Religion

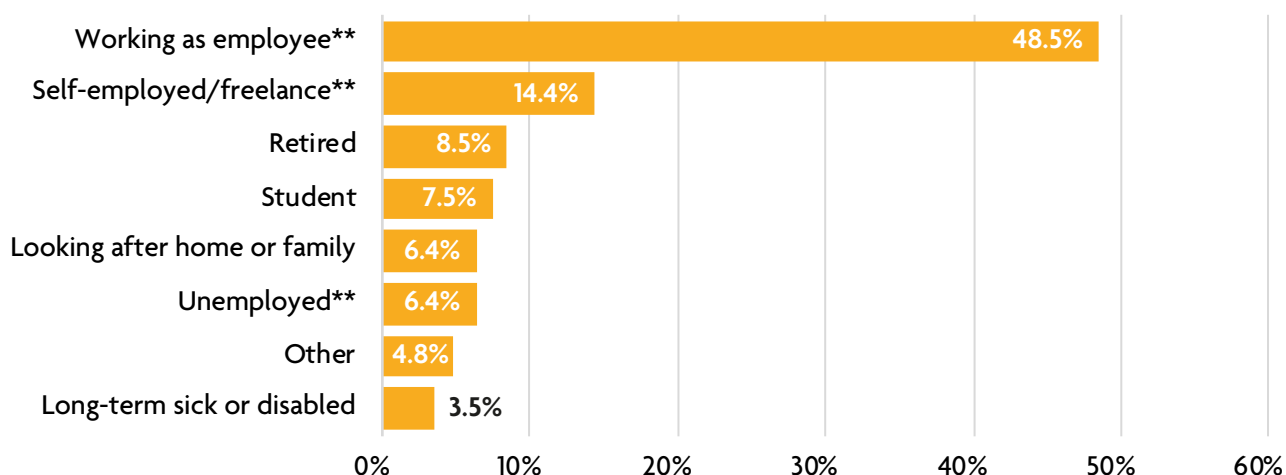


Qualifications



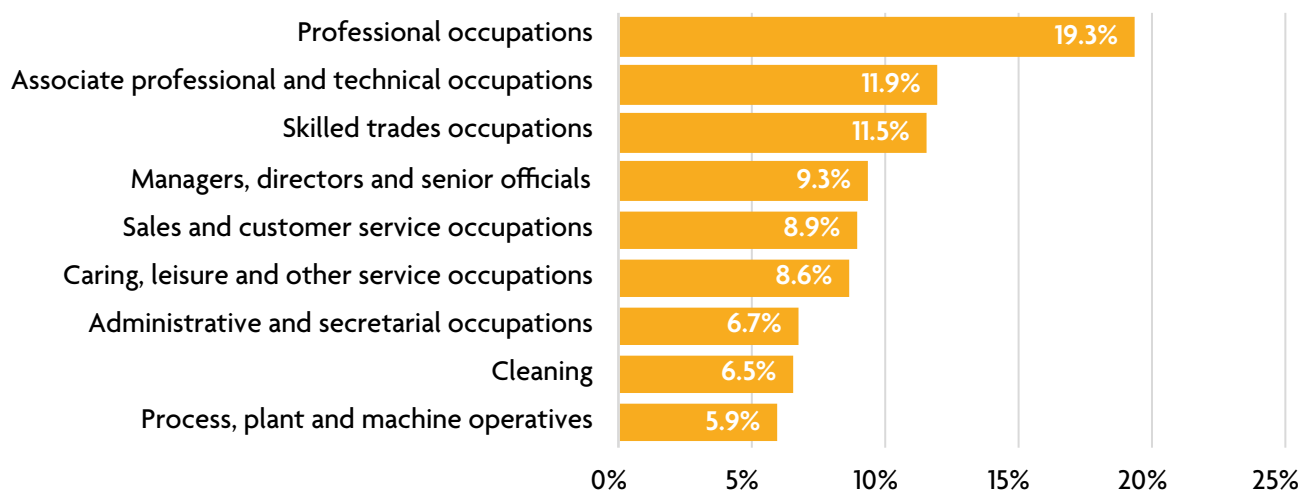
*Or equivalent

Economic activity



**Including full time students

Occupation***



***Percentages do not sum to 100. Remaining residents (not shown) work in security, sales, and other 'Elementary' occupations (Census 2021).

People Powered Places



Love E15 – Anti-fly tipping project

Overview

People Powered Places (PPP) is Newham Council's flagship participatory budgeting programme and one of the largest of its kind in the UK. Since launching in 2018, PPP has funded over 400 community-led projects, embedding co-production into local decision making and giving residents a direct role in shaping neighbourhood investment.

The 2025-27 cycle is delivered through a borough-wide model of resident participation. 120 resident Working Group members were recruited across Newham's eight Community Neighbourhoods to support the assessment and decision-making process, alongside 15 Youth Advisory Board members appointed in May 2025 to ensure young people influence programme design and approach.

In June 2025, 2,916 residents took part in setting neighbourhood priorities online and through activity in libraries and community centres. Our Ideas events were held across all community neighbourhoods between June and July, attended by 844 residents, where communities developed project ideas and explored solutions together. In September, 474 funding applications were received and assessed through resident-led scoring and feasibility checks carried out by Council services.

The Big Vote, held in November 2025, saw 11,139 residents cast their votes online, in community venues and through outreach sessions. PPP continues to evolve through innovation, including AI supported translation at hybrid events to improve accessibility and inclusive participation. Over 130 community-led projects will be delivered across Newham over the next year.

In Forest Gate & Maryland, 13 community-led projects will be delivered over the next year, contributing to over 130 projects being delivered across Newham.

To find out more about the programme and the successful projects visit:

newham.gov.uk/peoplepoweredplaces



Neighbourhood priorities

Forest Gate & Maryland neighbourhood's priorities for the 2025-27 cycle are:

Priority	Description
1. Health & Wellbeing	Improving health and social care of residents by tackling health inequalities.
2. Community Safety	Initiatives to improve local safety, tackle crime, anti-social behaviour, and related issues.
3. Environment & Public Spaces	Actions and initiatives to create safer, cleaner neighbourhoods and a greener environment.

Community grants

Overview

The Community Grants programme brings together a range of small internal and externally funded grant schemes to support hyper local, grassroots and resident led activity. Through grants of £1,000 - £5,000, the programme helps community groups get projects off the ground that respond directly to neighbourhood priorities and local needs.

Neighbourhood Small Grants

The Neighbourhood Small Grants programme supports VCFSE organisations delivering local projects that address identified community needs. It focuses on small and emerging groups who may not have accessed larger funding streams, helping to build capacity and promote equitable access to funding.

In 2025-26, 45 projects received grants of up to £1,000, totalling £44,000 borough-wide.



Lyle's Local Fund

The Lyle's Local Fund, established by Tate & Lyle Sugars and administered in partnership with Newham Council, supports projects that help create safe, prosperous and healthy local communities. Grants of up to £5,000 are available to not for profit organisations whose work benefits Newham residents.

In 2025-26, £50,000 was available, supporting 10 projects across the borough.

Genting Good Causes

The Genting Good Causes Fund, delivered in partnership with Newham Council, provides funding for projects that strengthen local communities and improve wellbeing. Grants of up to £5,000 are available to voluntary, community and faith organisations, schools and charities based in Newham.

In 2025-26, £81,000 was awarded to 20 projects across Newham.

Enlighten Tomorrow: Thrive Sessions for Youth

Organisation: Yes I Can Campaigns CIC

Project: Mama's Song

Grant Amount: £1,000

Yes I Can Campaigns CIC received £1,000 to deliver Enlighten Tomorrow, a four week pilot programme supporting vulnerable young people aged 16 to 30 in Forest Gate and Maryland. The project focused on young people not in education, employment or training, refugees, young carers and ethnic minority residents experiencing low confidence and anxiety.

Through weekly in person sessions, participants received mental wellbeing support, CV and interview training, peer discussion opportunities and one to one coaching. Guest speakers and practical resources supported the development of employability skills and emotional resilience. Feedback showed increased confidence, motivation and engagement with local services, demonstrating strong potential for future expansion and longer term youth empowerment.

Partner organisations

Overview

We work closely with Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) organisations to connect with residents and respond to local needs. Partners deliver vital support including food provision, advice services, befriending activities and community events, helping to address poverty, isolation, health inequalities and financial hardship.

VCSE partnerships

VCSE organisations play a key role in mobilising volunteers, attracting external funding into the borough, amplifying resident voice and supporting prevention and early help. Many partners have also been successful in applying for People Powered Places and Community Grants funding and are pivotal in delivering these projects. The sector is fundamental to fostering active citizenship, community resilience and strong neighbourhoods across Newham.

Some examples of VCSE partnerships

- **Forest Gate Community Gardening Group (FGCGG)**
The FGCGG provides local community members the opportunity to develop gardening skills through volunteering and is a green oasis in Forest Gate.
- **Exhibitions at Forest Gate Library**
Forest Gate Library offers an excellent space for independent local artists to exhibit their work. Showcasing the creativity of the area, these exhibitions celebrate local talent and provide the community with opportunities to enjoy and engage with art.
- **Woodgrange Saturday Market**
The market offers local stall holders the opportunity to sell a variety of produce, arts and crafts, while providing the community with a vibrant space to shop, connect, and support local businesses.
- **Forest Gate Festival**
The annual Forest Gate Festival is a vibrant street event attracting around 3,000 visitors each year. It celebrates the area's diversity, creativity, and community spirit with live music, dance performances, local food stalls, arts and crafts, children's activities, and interactive workshops for all ages.
- **Supporting Humanity**
A local charity, based at Durning Hall, providing practical assistance to people in need, including food, clothing and social support. It works to improve wellbeing, reduce hardship and strengthen community connections across Forest Gate and the surrounding area.

Faith partnerships

Newham is one of the UK's most religiously diverse boroughs, with faith institutions playing a vital role in community life. Faith groups provide trusted spaces for worship, support and connection, and are often among the first to respond to local needs. They deliver food provision, advice, wellbeing activities, youth work and volunteering opportunities, while promoting social cohesion and mutual understanding.

The Council works in partnership with faith organisations across neighbourhoods, recognising their contribution to community resilience, civic participation and early help. These relationships support inclusive engagement, strengthen local networks and help ensure services reflect the needs of Newham's diverse communities.

Some examples of faith partnerships

- **ARC church**
Vibrant local church offering spiritual guidance and practical support to the local community. Specifically for young people and families
- **Emmanuel Church**
A vital community hub offering a safe space, food bank and essential services. It provides practical help, social support and an inclusive environment for all ages, strengthening connection and wellbeing across the Forest Gate community.
- **Minhaj Mosque**
The Mosque promotes community engagement and understanding through workshops, outreach programmes, and a youth programme, encouraging collaboration and dialogue across diverse groups and supporting inclusivity and personal development.
- **Radha Krishna Hindu Temple**
The Temple serves as a spiritual and cultural hub, offering faith, learning, and service opportunities, alongside community outreach in partnership with Newham Public Health and an open Elders Group.
- **Woodgrange Baptist Church**
The Church runs a food bank, a lunch club for elders and a range of services for local families in Forest Gate.

Volunteering

Overview

Newham's Volunteers Programme is an established Council led service that supports residents and organisations to benefit from high-quality volunteering. Open to residents aged 16+, the programme welcomes people from all backgrounds, including working professionals, young people, older residents, people with disabilities, and refugees and asylum seekers.

Each year, over 500 active volunteers contribute over 19,000 hours across more than 300 opportunities, supporting activity within Community Neighbourhoods, libraries, community centres and wider council led programmes. Opportunities are also delivered through VCFSE organisations across Newham.

The programme works closely with VCFSE partners to help them develop meaningful volunteering roles and supports recruitment through a brokerage offer that matches residents to opportunities that suit their interests, skills and availability. Flexible short and long term options enable people to get involved in ways that work for them. The service is recognised for best practice and accredited with the Investing in Volunteers quality standard.

Volunteering across Newham

Pathways into employment

Volunteering supports residents to build confidence, develop skills and gain UK work experience. Through tailored support, including registration and DBS checks, volunteering can act as a pathway into training and paid employment.

Recognising and valuing volunteers

Volunteers are recognised for their time and commitment through the Tempo Time Credits rewards scheme. Credits can be exchanged for activities such as transport, fitness, cultural experiences and local attractions, helping to motivate and sustain long term involvement.



For more information about the programme please visit:
newham.gov.uk/volunteering

Gardening Session at Forest Gate Library

The Gardening Session at Forest Gate Library offers volunteers the opportunity to support community led activities that help create welcoming and engaging spaces for residents. Volunteers assist with gardening and arts and crafts sessions, support events, and help deliver activities that promote learning, wellbeing and social connection within the library setting.

One long standing volunteer, Tahira, has been supporting Forest Gate Library for many years and is a highly valued member of the team. She regularly contributes to Gardening and Arts and Crafts sessions and also leads Rhyme Time and story sessions. Her enthusiasm, reliability and commitment help strengthen community connections and ensure activities remain inclusive, vibrant and well attended.



Other initiatives



The Up Garden

‘Community Connections’ Themed Coffee Mornings at Forest Gate Library

Collaboration with local stakeholders to share information about services that benefit the community, particularly those that improve health outcomes, strengthen community cohesion, and support the local environment.

University of East London (UEL) – The Neighbourhood Health Hub

Provides a local space for residents to access health and wellbeing support, offering guidance, activities, and information to promote healthy lifestyles and strengthen community connections.

Community Gardens

Forest Gate’s community gardens are welcoming green spaces where residents of all ages are encouraged to explore nature and outdoor environments.



Forest Gate Community Garden

NHS Neighbourhoods programme

The NHS Neighbourhoods programme will bring together GPs, community health, mental health, social care, public health, and the VCFSE sector to work jointly for local people.

Newham will be split into four localities, each with two neighbourhoods, to bring services closer to residents' daily lives. This model supports the ambition of the 10 Year Health Plan for England.

Well Newham

Well Newham is a borough-wide health and wellbeing programme that brings together information, services and support to help residents live healthier lives. It focuses on both medical and non medical factors that affect health, from mental wellbeing to housing and money. Delivered in partnership between the Council, NHS and the voluntary sector, it forms part of Newham's wider approach to reducing health inequalities.

Through a single, resident friendly website, Well Newham helps residents find local services and health advice that match their needs. The website has over 200 pages one can access depending on their requirement. It also features a dedicated events page whereby residents can find events and activities that they can participate in. The website is accessible through this link: wellnewham.org.uk



Well Newham Directory of Services (powered by Joy)

The Well Newham Directory of Services, powered by Joy, is an online directory of all local health and wellbeing services available across Newham in one place. There are over 600 local services listed on the platform, from stop smoking to physical activities and support for children, young people and families. The directory allows residents to search for support near them and self refer to most of the services. Some referrals can be made only by professionals such as GPs and social prescribers. Over a thousand referrals are made every month through this platform. It plays an important role in making local services easier to find and access, while also helping partners understand demand and service gaps across neighbourhoods.

Access the directory here:

wellnewham.org.uk/advice/well-newham-directory-services-powered-joy



Newham Food Alliance (NFA)

Newham Food Alliance is an open collaboration of over 40 VCFSE partners ranging from large and long established to smaller grassroots organisations. These span Newham's geography, food cultures and social need. NFA partners run food banks, food clubs and the community hot meals programme. If someone is experiencing financial challenges that are preventing them from getting the food they need, please visit this website to make a referral to the Newham Food Alliance:

newham-self.achieveservice.com/service/NFA_Referral



VCSE Forum

Local VCSE organisations and groups are working collaboratively by joining the network, increasing community cohesion and partnership working.



Nutrition Kitchen at Forest Gate coffee morning



Best Start Family Hubs

Best Start Family Hubs

Best Start Family Hubs are part of Best Start in Life, a UK government backed approach supporting children from conception through early childhood. The programme is funded until 2029 and focuses on helping children to be healthy, supported and ready for school, with a target nationally to increase the number of 5-year-olds achieving a 'good level of development' (GLD) by 2028.

In Newham, four Family Hubs operate from Shipman Youth Zone, East Ham Library, Manor Park Children's Centre, and United West Family Hub (working across Rebecca Cheetham and Kay Rowe Children's Centres). Alongside ten additional community access points, they form a borough-wide Family Hub Network delivering services in-person and online.

Expanding since 2023, Newham's Family Hubs provide universal, early support for families with children up to age 18 (25 for those with additional needs). Support is delivered through strong partnerships with children's services, health, and the voluntary and faith sectors, offering joined up early intervention and improved access to community services.

Community kitchen

Highway Vineyard Church provides community kitchen sessions for people seeking sanctuary without access to kitchens. The sessions are run on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and residents can book 2-hour slots. Highway Vineyard Church also provides wraparound support, such as free baby clothes and equipment, via their Growbaby project, volunteering opportunities and free activities.

For any support, please email matthew@highwayvineyard.org or phone 020 8534 4019.

Mayor and Councillors

Mayor of Newham



**Mayor
Forhad
Hussain**
Labour Group

Forest Gate North



**Councillor
Dr Matthew
Carlile**
Green Group



**Councillor
Rachel Tripp**
Labour Group
Chair of Strategic
Development Committee

Forest Gate South



**Councillor
Arshan
Baskaran**
Green Group
Leader of the Green
Group



**Councillor
Zahra Kheyre**
Green Group



**Councillor
Dr Jack Pickard**
Green Group

Maryland



**Councillor
Kelly Drake**
Green Group
Chair of Education
Children and Young
People Scrutiny
Committee



**Councillor
Ren Tilbury**
Green Group

For more information, click [here](#).

Contact us

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Glennette Bowles-Dove

Community Neighbourhood Senior Officer

☎ 020 3373 0856

✉ CN.Forestgate@newham.gov.uk