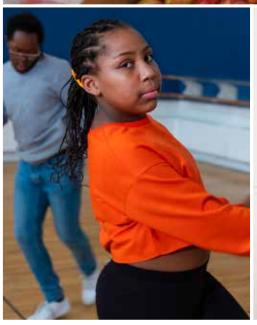


Issue 424 | **JUNE 2021**

WE ARE UNITED.











SPECIAL EDITION

p4 £1 billion **p6**

Year of the Young Person Mayor works for safer

Our amazing residents feature in our 'We Are Newham' campaign. See p16 for more about them.

NEWHAM MAG

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We are democratic - Newham voted

Find us online at www.newham.gov.uk/mag



Newham London

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@NewhamLondon

www.facebook.com/newhamcouncil

(C) @NewhamLondon

If you do not receive the Newham Mag at home, or know someone who doesn't, and you would like a copy email newham.mag@newham.gov.uk

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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR.



WE ARE NEWHAM.

PEOPLE VOTED TO KEEP A **DIRECTLY ELECTED MAYOR**AS YOUR VOICE ON 6 MAY.

I HAVE HEARD MANY OF YOU SAY YOU WANT **A DIFFERENT TYPE OF COUNCIL.**

STANDING WITH NEWHAM PEOPLE AND SPEAKING FOR **NEWHAM PEOPLE**.

TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE WE MUST BE **UNITED** TO CREATE A **BETTER NEWHAM**.

LET'S DO THIS.

Rokhsana Fiaz OBE Mayor of Newham

© @rokhsanafiaz







WE ARE BUILDING HOMES.

£1BN NEW HOUSING STRATEGY TO DELIVER THOUSANDS OF NEW HOMES

An ambitious new strategy to deliver thousands of new homes, protect renters and tackle homelessness has just been agreed by Newham Council's Cabinet.

The plan to provide 'Homes for People' between 2021 and 2025 has been developed after extensive consultation with residents, who have said how important it is to have a safe and secure home.

Newham already delivers the second highest number of new homes of any London borough, with 2,678 delivered between 2018 and 2019. But the plan is to build more housing to meet local needs.

Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz said: "This is an unashamedly ambitious plan to deliver thousands more homes and provide the housing security that our residents urgently need.

"At the heart of our new housing strategy is the right to access good quality, genuinely affordable council homes.

"We are beating our target of breaking ground on 1,000 new council homes by next year - and the strategy

sets out how we will deliver even more new social rent homes for our people across all our neighbourhoods. Our residents will be fully involved in this process – their voices are at the heart of what we are doing.

"From setting strong commitments in response to the climate emergency, to protecting renters' rights I want Newham residents to know that the Council is here to support them and that we are on their side. We are investing over a billion pounds to deliver the much needed homes our residents can afford."

The strategy also highlights progress with Carpenters Estate, one of the most significant estate restoration programmes in London, and sets out how a resident ballot will help shape the refurbishment of James Riley Point tower block, to deliver 132 social rent homes.

Additionally, a massive £96m three-year council home maintenance programme to repair and refurbish homes with the highest levels of safety and sustainability will take place, and homelessness will be tackled.

More than £3 million will be invested in a new Homeless Shelter facility to take people off the streets, and the Council's successful private rented sector licensing scheme will make sure that landlords meet our standards and respect renters' rights.









WE ARE PROTECTING PRIVATE SECTOR RENTERS.

EVICTION WORRIES? TALK TO US.

The government has confirmed that the evictions ban will end on 31 May 2021.

If you're worried about facing eviction, find out what support the Council can give you and tell us what we can do to help in our survey.

Councillor Shaban Mohammed, Cabinet Member -Housing Services said: "Access to a safe and secure home is fundamental.

"This survey will try to get to the heart of residents' concerns. I'd like people to engage with the survey and give their views in confidence and in the knowledge that their concerns will be listened to and acted on. It's key that this happens as soon as possible."

The Council wants to ensure private renters receive the right protection in relation to rent and the quality of their accommodation.

Newham has almost 50,000 privately rented homes and the COVID-19 pandemic has seen some private renters face job losses, and insecure and unsafe housing.

The confidential survey is open for four weeks from 10 May until 9 June. It can be completed online at www.newham.gov.uk/rentersurvey





WE ARE HELPING BUSINESSES.



Has your business suffered due to Covid? We currently have a range of business support grants.

If your business falls into one of the following categories then you may be entitled to an Additional Restrictions Grant*:

- Businesses which do not directly pay rates but which have had to close due to government restrictions
- Suppliers (both business ratepayers and nonratepayers) to businesses which were closed
- Businesses operating in both commercial and domestic properties

- Businesses which have been ineligible for other government support grants
- Grants for businesses, organisations and charities which support the Community Wealth Building Pledge.

Check to see if you are eligible, visit www.newham.gov.uk/arg

(*some restrictions do apply)



WE ARE YOUTHFUL.

WE'RE LAUNCHING THE YEAR OF THE YOUNG PERSON

The Year of the Young Person, (YoYP) has been launched by the Council to kick-start an exciting movement that champions our young people and recognises them as key influencers and change makers.

By putting young people at the heart of shaping the borough, we can work together to help make Newham the best place to grow up.

Newham has one of the youngest populations in the country and the borough is proud of the contribution young people make to its vibrancy and success.

A variety of opportunities and activities will run over the next 12 months, to inspire and encourage young people to participate in developing vital services with the Council.

The YoYP aims to empower young people to know that they can make a real difference and see themselves positively reflected throughout the community.

Cllr Carleene Lee-Phakoe, Cabinet Member for Brighter Futures said: "We want to turn up the volume of Young people's voices, embrace their interests to participate and ensure they are fully represented in all aspects of their community."

Geeta Subramaniam-Mooney, Children and Young People's Commissioner for Newham Council said: "My message to every Newham young person is this: you matter. Know that anything is possible and we will do all we can to support you to achieve your ambitions."

For more information, visit www.newham.gov.uk/yoyp

2021 NEWHAM YEAR OF THE YOUNG PERSON.





WE ARE SAFER TOGETHER.







SAFER COMMUNITIES FOR ALL

Fares Maatou and Abubakkar "Junior" Jah were young boys who lived, studied, and loved their families in Newham.

Their tragic murders have touched lives across our borough.

On Monday 17 May, the Mayor of Newham Rokhsana Fiaz held a virtual event to discuss community safety with residents. More than 120 people joined the session, from local residents to community leaders and senior police officers. The meeting reflected the grief and fear in our community and a real drive for solutions and a joint commitment to combat violent crime.

Police investigating the tragic murders spoke frankly about how they were focusing resources to confront violent crime by being a bigger part of schools and neighbourhoods.

Det. Chief Superintendent Richard Tucker welcomed the

community's efforts to hold the police to account over sensitive topics like stop and search or patrol routes, saying that officers were "here to be scrutinised".

Police and Council officers said that they fully intended to put people at the heart of everything they do and to be transparent and honest about their work.

Council officers then explained their approach to keeping the borough safe. Investment at every age and stage of childhood helps to prevent problems later in life that can lead to the kind of senseless violence that claimed the lives of Fares and Junior.

Summing up the session, the Mayor said that we all need to play our part in keeping each other safe. She said the Council needed to get better at listening to our communities and opening up to new ways of doing things.

There's much more to come as your Council resolves to do everything we can to build a more protective and inclusive borough - together.

WE ARE CARING.





COULD YOU BE A FOSTER CARER?

Being a foster carer is demanding, but the rewards for providing a stable home, love and a nurturing environment to children outweigh any bumps on the fostering path.

Carers like Delrose and John have been fostering teenagers for over nine years.

Delrose was attracted to fostering, having worked as a teacher and then in a bank where she mentored bright, but troubled adolescents all the way to university, and is still in touch with many of them.

Delrose said: "When a new child comes into your home you have to remember you are a stranger to them and it takes time and empathy to build trust. Past traumatic experiences may cause children to act up so you as the foster carer cannot reject them. Resilience, persistence and consistency are key.

"It's hugely rewarding when you do the best from your heart and see it returned with love and respect.

"It's hugely rewarding when you do the best from your heart and see it returned with love and respect."

"I remember my own teenage years and experiencing things I could not share with my parents, which left me feeling misunderstood and led to me acting up. I feel I'm better equipped in both dealing with and relating to teenagers and seeing past the barriers they put up."

Destiny has been in foster care with Delrose and John since she was 9 years old and is now 18.

Destiny said: "When I first came to live with Delrose and John they made me feel very comfortable but also gave me boundaries. At first, I poked at this a bit but they sat me down and told me what I could and couldn't do and I listened to them. People who want to foster need to understand that some children will be misunderstood, you need to listen and support them no matter what."

Potential foster carers go through a robust assessment process, and receive ongoing training and support from the Council's fostering team, to help deal with any challenging situations.

If you need more advice and support, there is help in Newham for you. Fostering United Newham (FUN) group forum, which is run solely by foster carers for foster carers and offers practical advice and answers to any issues relating to issues you may have.

Visit our pages at www.newham.gov.uk/fostering or call **0800 0130 393**

WE ARE CELEBRATING DIVERSITY.



18 JULY- 17 AUG 2021

South Asian Heritage Month seeks to raise the profile of British South Asian heritage and history in the UK through education, arts, culture and commemoration, with the goal of helping people to better understand the diversity of present-day Britain and improve social cohesion across the country. It had its inaugural year in 2020.

WE'RE CELEBRATING SOUTH ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH

Newham is, officially, the most ethnically diverse place in the country.

To mark South Asian Heritage Month, we're planning a variety of free educational, arts and cultural events, working with local artists and organisations to showcase food, literature and history.

Cllr Muzibur Rahman, Deputy Cabinet Member for

Communities said: "This is an opportunity to highlight what it means to be South Asian in the 21st century, as well as look to the past to see how Britain became the diverse country it is today.

"We invite everyone to join in and celebrate the rich history and diversity of South Asian people who have made the borough their home."

South Asian Heritage Month runs from 18 July to 17 August.

For more information please visit

https://bit.ly/3u6oee1



WE ARE FOSTERING.





For further information please visit www.newham.gov.uk/fostering or call 0800 0130 393

People at the Heart of Everything We Do

WE ARE HELPING.

STARTING WITH FOOD

As you flip through this magazine, take a few minutes to think about what you've eaten today.

If you're one of the luckier residents in Newham, you'll have had a healthy and nourishing breakfast, and can look forward to another couple of square meals as the day goes on. But we want everyone to know that we are doing all we can to ensure that every household in the borough has enough to eat.

COVID-19 shone a light on the inequalities faced by

many of us, both in Newham and across the UK.

Together, community organisations and the Council, through the Newham Food Alliance, have worked tirelessly to deliver essential food throughout the pandemic.

Thousands of life-saving free meals have been served up to vulnerable children and adults, while volunteers have focused on finding those in need or delivering meals.

If you want to get in touch with the Food Alliance team to make a referral or find out more about the scheme, call us Monday-Friday at **07790 975 086** or email at

frontdoor@newhamfoodalliance.org













WE ARE HELPING PEOPLE IN THESE TOUGH TIMES WITH FINANCIAL PROBLEMS. CONTACT OUR NEWHAM MONEY AT WWW.OURNEWHAMMONEY.CO.UK OR 020 8430 2041

WE ARE NEWHAM.

Need help or advice with your finances? **Go to www.ournewhammoney.co.uk**

WE ARE HEALTHY.

NEWHAM CELEBRATES THE LAUNCH OF NEW HEALTHY **SCHOOL STREETS**

Healthy School Streets restrict vehicle access outside schools to improve road safety and reduce air pollution. The new zones are now in operation outside 11 schools at drop off and pick up times.

Pupils at Sheringham Nursery and Primary, Park Primary, Hartley Primary, Brampton Primary and Kay Rowe Nursery are the latest to benefit.

Emergency services, black cabs and residents who live in the zones can drive on the streets at all times, but other drivers who enter at the designated times will be automatically issued with a ticket.

Head teacher at Sheringham Nursery, Julian Grenier said: "I'm absolutely delighted by the success of our Healthy School Street on Sheringham Avenue.

"We know that pollution leads to children having breathing difficulties, developing asthma, and it can affect children's learning and emotional development too.

"By keeping cars off our streets at the beginning and end of the day, we are taking another positive step to ensure our children are healthier, happier and safer when they come to their nursery."

Newham has the worst air quality in the country with seven out of every 100 deaths being linked to dirty air and some of the highest asthma rates amongst the under 18s.

Air quality monitoring at the first phase of Healthy School Streets has shown up to a 32% drop in nitrogen dioxide.

The schemes have been introduced under Experimental Traffic Orders that can run from six to 18 months. During the first six months residents can formally comment on the scheme.

Deputy Cabinet lead for Environment Highways and Sustainable Transport, Councillor Nilufa Jahan said: "Newham Council is committed to creating the best possible street environments outside all schools across the borough.

"We want to make sure that children breathe cleaner air, are safe from cars near the school gates and choose to walk and cycle to school.

"We would like parents and teachers who think a scheme in their area would be a good idea to get in touch and let us know"

To see details of all the Healthy School Streets restricted access zones in the borough visit: www.newham.gov.uk/HealthySchoolStreets or share your views on the consultation at HealthySchoolStreets@newham.gov.uk



WE ARE EDUCATING.

Better communications for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Newham have been launched.

Being able to access the right support at the right time

as early as possible makes a huge difference when your child has special educational needs.

We've opened a new dedicated **SEND Contact Us line** to give you

the answers you need to questions about statutory assessments and plans.





The service aims to:

- Answer your call, listen and if we can't answer the query immediately, either signpost you to the right person or get someone to come back to you within 3 working days.
- Tell you what the next steps will be, with a promise to contact you if we encounter any problems along the way.
- Always ask for your contact details so we can get back to you at a later date/time.
- Keep a log of all calls to the **SEND Contact Us line** to help us further improve the service.

The telephone number for our SEND Contact US line is **020 3373 6472**. Lines are open between 10am-4pm from Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays). For further information and updates visit our Rights Awareness and Coproduction page on the SEND Local Offer website **www.newham.gov.uk/SENDlocaloffer**

WE ARE GREEN.

Greening the borough voted top issue for first Citizen's Assembly

Greening Newham is the top issue chosen by residents for the first permanent Citizens' Assembly in England to discuss this summer

In a historic opportunity to help shape the borough, residents voted on the two most important local issues from a shortlist of themes via the Council's website.

Thirty one per cent chose 'greening the borough', closely followed with 30 per cent selecting 'the 15 minute neighbourhood', which will be debated at the second Citizens' Assembly in the autumn.

Mayor, Rokhsana Fiaz said: "People have a right to have their say about our Newham community and my job as Mayor is to make sure their voice is heard.

"So many residents have told me how important parks and green spaces have been to their mental and physical wellbeing during lockdown, and it is no surprise that they have decided they want the first Citizens' Assembly to examine how we can make the borough's green spaces more attractive and enjoyable for people.

"People want to live in vibrant communities where they can easily work, meet, shop, and access the everyday services they need, but are concerned that some of our high streets are struggling. The 15-minute neighbourhood discussion will allow people to have their say on the neighbourhoods they want."

Nineteen per cent of residents voted for tackling health inequalities, 15% for a new deal for young people and 5% for good work and taking advantage of new technology.

Between mid-June and end of July Citizens' Assembly participants will take part in Covid compliant events to discuss the best way to green the borough. For more information on the Citizens' Assembly visit

www.newham.gov.uk/citizensassembly



WE ARE CREATIVE.

Shape Newham is the Council's £1.5m initiative to enhance public spaces across the borough. It has reached another milestone with the completion of two more projects.

Beckton and Forest Gate have beautiful new murals thanks to the fantastic input of young people from the Beckton Youth Zone and the Forest Gate Youth Zone.

Beckton's mural at the Beckton Globe Library is called

"Everyone is Welcome" and it celebrates the importance of the Beckton Globe and Youth Zone. Young people joined artist Van Dang and Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz at an open day in April, to paint the mural together.

Over in Forest Gate at the Youth Zone, the recently installed mural is called "The Voice of the Youth". The words used in the mural - Empower, Experience, Educate, Family and Growth – were chosen by the young people to describe their feelings about the Youth Zone.

The artists set out to connect the wider community to the centre by improving the look and feel of the area outside it and attract more young people to become involved with the Youth Zone. We think the results speak for themselves.

Twitter: @NewhamShape

(O) Instagram: @shapenewham

www.shapenewham.co.uk









COVID-19 SUPPORT.

2020 will be remembered for generations, a year that required emergency responses from local authorities across the country, including Newham. Our response had to be mobilised quickly back in March 2020, ensuring we served our residents and found new ways of working – at a pace which was unprecedented.

Together with our health colleagues, voluntary, community and faith sectors, we were able to provide a range of support to our communities – many of which have been a vital lifeline for our residents, particularly those most affected by COVID-19.

MORE THAN
30,000
PARCELS OF
FOOD DELIVERED

As an older resident, Iris was shielding during lockdown. She received weekly parcels with essential food items.

"People were lovely. Delivered every week ... I was excited to see them."

- Our **COVID-19 Health Champions** network empowered thousands of Newham residents to remain up to date on the latest advice about COVID-19.
- Over **300** council staff were redeployed to our befriending service in response to the first lockdown.

"Calls to vulnerable residents were a lifeline. I ended up singing hymns with a lady each week. Kept her going. It was amazing and really rewarding." **Befriending volunteer.**

 We delivered more than 650 sport and physical activity sessions over the summer (2020) across our parks and open spaces.

"Fun while exercising. You can do from the comfort of your home."

"The sessions are convenient. I don't need to leave my house and it's free too."

Participants of our Get Newham Moving programme.

 Almost 1,000 attendances on our social welfare training programme, for those in the borough who are regularly having conversations with residents who are presenting with a range of social welfare issues.

DELIVERED
JUST UNDER
15,000
PRESCRIPTIONS



• Set up 4 walk through test sites, 3 mobile test sites, 10 vaccine sites and 12 rapid testing sites across Newham.

We can provide support and advice on a range of topics including how to get a COVID-19 test, where to get vaccinated in the borough, and help accessing support including food, financial help and help to isolate.

If you need help and support, call our COVID-19 Helpline on **020 7473 9711** or email **covidhelp@community-links. org** (9am-7pm, 7 days a week) or visit **www.newham.gov. uk/coronavirus**

Together we can get back to doing the things we love.



WE SPOKE TO OVER 30,000 RESIDENTS DURING THE FIRST LOCKDOWN



OVER 130,000
RESIDENTS HAVE
RECEIVED
VACCINES SO FAR



WE ARE SAFER.





WE ARE OFFERING FREE CHILDCARE



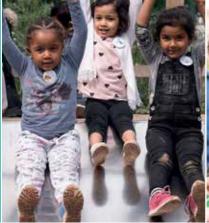
15 HOURS AGE 3-4

ARE YOU MISSING OUT ON FREE CHILDCARE?

All 3 and 4-year-olds are entitled to 15 hours of free childcare

Contact providers directly to register your child A list of providers is available at **newham.gov.uk/threefouryearold**

Contact the Best Start in Life Team on 020 3373 0980





People at the Heart

WE ARE NEWHAM.

To find out more about **FREE** early years education and childcare options in Newham visit **www.newham.gov.uk/children-families/childcare-early-years-education**

WE ARE NEWHAM.

MEET SOME OF THE AMAZING PEOPLE FEATURED IN THE COUNCIL'S NEW 'WE ARE NEWHAM' BILLBOARD CAMPAIGN.





WE ARE BACKING TALENT:

Talented young musician, Nathan-Asher Oriakhi, 12, is photographed practising his saxophone at the Council's new flagship Stratford Circus Youth Zone. Nathan has been learning to play multiple instruments including the piano, guitar, and percussion with Newham Music, the borough's award winning music hub since the age of 3. Newham Music works with over 15,000 children and young people each year, providing transformational and lifeenhancing music opportunities to thousands of young people across the borough.

Nathan said: "I feel proud to be a part of this campaign as I love music and playing different instruments. I've been given lots of opportunities through Newham Music and I've performed at the Theatre Royal Stratford East, Rich Mix, Troxy and the Royal Albert Hall." His image aims to explain how the Council's £1 million Youth Empowerment Fund is helping under-25s achieve their potential through grants to support their ambition.

WE ARE HELPING:

While furloughed, Andrzej Kamieniecki, 46, volunteered every day for the Council's Newham Food Alliance, which is working with over 150 local community organisations and faith groups to distribute food and tackle food insecurity faced by vulnerable residents through the pandemic.

Andrzej, a father-of-two said: "At a time when so many people were struggling through financial harship, I felt privileged to be able to give something back to the community. After being furloughed, I didn't want to stay at home doing nothing, so I volunteered with the Food Alliance, helping to put together food parcels. It felt good to be part of the team of volunteers and help get food to people who needed it most. It also gave me the opportunity to show my daughters that we can all do something to make a positive difference."

WE ARE NEWHAM.

Their images help to show how the Council is changing lives in Newham by supporting and empowering young people to realise their talents and reach their potential through our youth hubs and Youth Empowerment Fund, protecting people from COVID-19, helping to feed the vulnerable through the pandemic and building homes for families.





WE ARE SUPPORTING:

The Council is investing millions of pounds so that young people like sisters Rufaidah, 11, and Ruzaina Ramzeen, 14, can access a range of enriching activities in the Youth Zone where they can be safe, creative and achieve their dreams. They are taking part in a photography project for young people's wellbeing and resilience at the Council's new Stratford Circus Youth Zone. It gives them the opportunity to explore their emotions through the lens of the camera.

The sisters said: "Learning about photography is building our confidence and it's great to have somewhere to go and have fun with other young people. We really love it."

WE ARE BUILDING HOMES:

The Council is tackling the housing crisis by building new council homes for people like the Hireche family. It is investing £1 billion in new house building so that residents can make Newham their home. Mrs Mouni Hireche, 54, her husband Moussa, 56 and their children had waited over 20 years for a home to call their own.

Mrs Hireche said: "I thought I was dreaming when we were told we would be able to move into a brand new 3-bedroom home here in East Ham. I was just so happy. I love everything about our home. I have a good size kitchen where I can cook for the family, a lovely lounge, space outside on our patio for our plants, along with communal gardens. It just feels fantastic after waiting so long to finally have a home of our own."

WE ARE DEMOCRATIC.

If you've made it this far in the magazine, you'll have read a great deal about how we put people at the heart of everything we do. In this final section, we'll focus on the individuals who have to take that duty most seriously – your Councillors.

All of the faces you can see here are people that have raised their hands to serve Newham, and you, as voters, have appointed them to represent your interests, your communities, and your voices.

A few weeks ago, Farah Nazeer joined our ranks when she was elected in the East Ham Central by-election.

BECKTON WARD



BOLEYN WARD







CANNING TOWN SOUTH WARD



CUSTOM HOUSE WARD



















EAST HAM

SOUTH WARD



FOREST GATE



EAST HAM CENTRAL WARD



EAST HAM NORTH WARD







FOREST GATE SOUTH WARD















NEWHAM GOES TO THE POLLS

Following a referendum, voters in Newham have opted to retain the role of directly elected Mayor rather than move to a Committee model.

In the London Mayor and Greater London Authority Elections, Mayor of London Sadiq Khan was re-elected and for City and East London Assembly member Unmesh Desai was successfully re-elected.

All our Councillors have remote ways of helping you with any issues you face. Please feel free to contact them, details are on our website.

GREEN STREET EAST WARD



GREEN STREET
WEST WARD



LITTLE ILFORD WARD



MANOR PARK WARD



PLAISTOW NORTH WARD









Cll Mariam Davood













PLAISTOW SOUTH WARD



ROYAL DOCKS WARD



STRATFORD AND NEW TOWN WARD



WALL END WARD



WEST HAM WARD



















Cilr Omana Gangadharan Labour

Cll John Whitworth Labour



5 STEPS FOR COVID WELLBEING.



STAY SAFE

Do the basics – Hands, Face, Space, Fresh air



BE KIND

Look after yourself and those around you



STAY HOME

If you have symptoms, test positive or are a contact – we can help



GET TESTED

Know your COVID-19 status



GET VACCINATED

Protect yourself and others

www.newham.gov.uk/coronavirus