

PULLING Together



Features:

Park life

Joanna Lumley loves Mile End Park

P3

Call me

The council is switching to a new phone provider

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It's easy being green

Become a green campaigner

P12



We need a hero
Are you a tower hamlets hero?
Find out more on p 6&7

Issue 126 October 2009

The magazine for Tower Hamlets Council's staff



Welcome

We can only make a difference if we all work together. It's a phrase anyone who works for the council will hear a lot, but how often do we stop to think about what it really means?

Our new campaign, Tower Hamlets Together, should inspire everyone who works here. Featuring heroes from the council and staff, it shows the very real difference every one of us can make to the borough if we work together to make Tower Hamlets a great place to live and work.

Running over the next 18-months, the campaign will highlight the good work that the council, its partner agencies and local residents are doing together to improve life for everyone in the borough.

And we are on the lookout for more heroes- if you know someone who really goes the extra mile then we need to hear about them. Visit the council's website and nominate your heroes. See pages 6 and 7 for more information.

But that's not to say that's its only in the community that we need to work together.

As you read through this month's Pulling Together you will see time and time again that staff need to work together to make the difference. From the staff survey, to switching to a new phone provider to something as simple, and vital, as staff signing up to be Green Campaigner, it's the co-operation, and desire to make things better, that makes this council such a great place to be.

And speaking of the staff survey, I would like to thank every member of staff who took the time to fill out the questionnaire. Your views really do count, and we will work with you to make the changes that you have said will make this a better place to work.

Kevan Collins, Interim Chief Executive

General news

Thanks for the view

A big thank you to all colleagues who took the time to tell the council what they thought in this year's staff survey.

The View from You, which ran from September 28 to October 8 was your chance to influence how the council shapes its policy and becomes an even better employer.

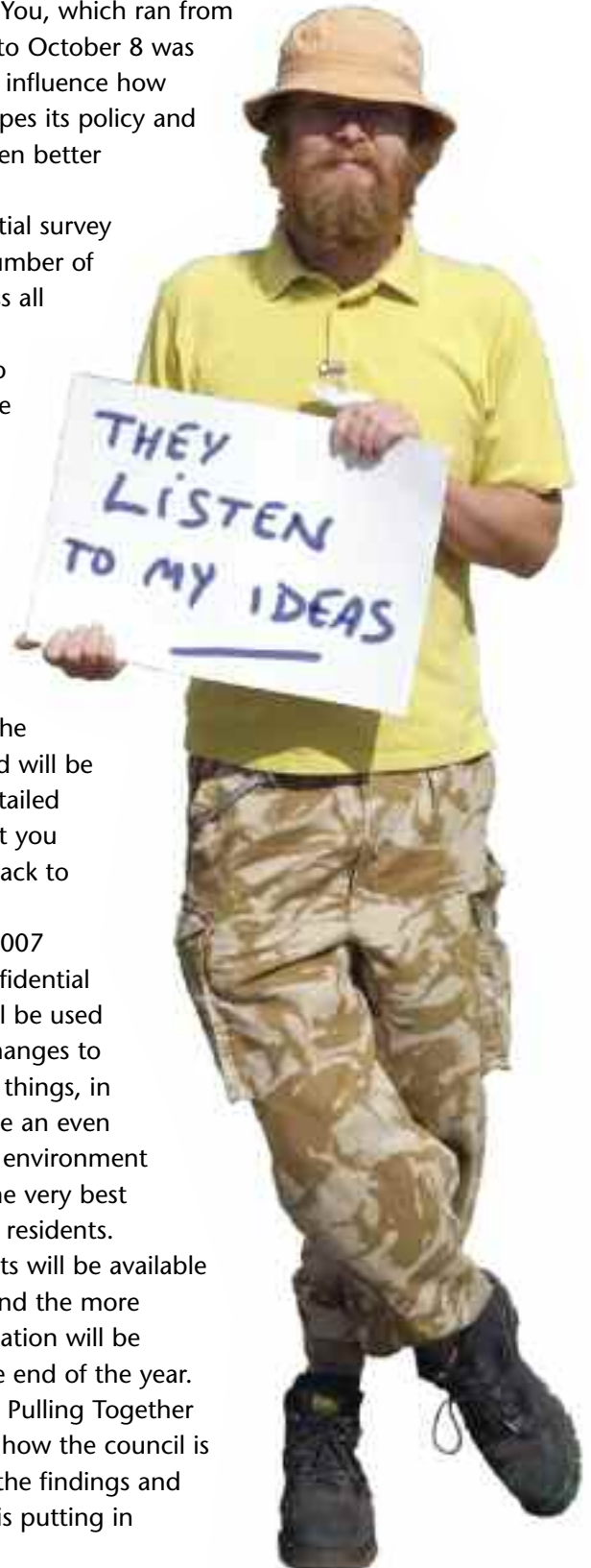
The confidential survey asked staff a number of questions across all aspects of their working lives to see what we are doing well and what we could do better.

ORC, the company that ran the survey for the council, is now collating the information and will be compiling a detailed analysis of what you think to send back to the council.

As with the 2007 survey, the confidential information will be used to make real changes to the way we do things, in order to provide an even better working environment for staff, and the very best services for our residents.

Top line results will be available in November and the more detailed information will be available by the end of the year.

Keep reading Pulling Together for updates on how the council is responding to the findings and the changes it is putting in place.



Lumley gives ab fab park tour

Joanna Lumley will help staff have an absolutely fabulous time when they visit Mile End Park, thanks to a new audio trail she has voiced.

As patron of Mile End Park, the actress and campaigner lent her dulcet tones to the tour of the park. Visitors can download the audio trail onto their ipods or mp3 player, and listen while they walk.

Joanna said: "I'm very pleased to support the new audio trail through the park and hope that it opens it up to a whole new audience. It is marvellous to think that I will be accompanying each and every one of you on your stroll through the park."

The one and a half mile step free tour runs from Bow Wharf at the north end of the park to the Children's Play Park in the south.

Listeners will be able to find out about the ecology park and its 158 species of spider, the green bridge over Mile End Road, the



Ragged School Museum, which was Dr Barnardo's largest Ragged School, and lots more.

Park Director Michael Rowan, pictured with Joanna said: "Mile End Park has star quality, and it's fantastic that we have such a well-loved celebrity providing the voice for our guided walk.

"We hope the audio trail encourages more people to enjoy and explore Mile End Park."

The audio trail was officially launched at the International Day for Disabled People at Mile End Park's Ecology Park, on Thursday 17 September.

The event highlighted the park's enabling maps, which highlight easy access routes from key transport links into the park for people with disabilities. To download the audio trail visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/mileendpark

Making the right call

The council is changing its telecoms provider to BT in November.

As well as saving tax payers £2.5 million over the term of the deal, the new system will offer staff a better quality of service and easier logging on and call management.

So far, over three thousand phones have been installed on desks across council buildings, and the remaining phones will be installed over the next five weeks.

Staff who want to get a feel for the new machines should visit the council's intranet where there is a guide to the new phones. There

will also be instruction guides placed at every desk on the day the new phones go live.

Key users will be contacted by ICT who will provide additional training to make sure they are comfortable with the new system.

After the switchover, staff will still have their old Siemens phones on their desks. Please be patient while telecoms staff remove these machines. All Siemens phones should be removed from desks by the end of the year.

Staff should also check that their details are correct on the intranet's staff directory as this is the information that will be

transferred over. If your details are incorrect you can simply change them on screen by following the simple prompts on the page.

And departments that use fax machines could also face changes as they could switch to a centralised system. Use of the fax machines is currently being monitored and departments that send or receive fewer than ten faxes per day will be transferred to a central fax or transferred over onto an e-fax system to free up valuable desk space.

For more information visit: http://townetnet/Intranet/staff_services/ict_catalogue/telecommunications.aspx

Pay-as-you-go car-share scheme

The council has launched 160 new on-street Carclub parking bays across the borough, as part of an effort to cut down on local car use and to make the borough 'greener'.

The first on-street locations will be divided between each of the four Carplus accredited operators in the borough: City Car Club, Connect by Hertz, Streetcar and Zipcar.

Since the Carclub launched in 2005, more than 3,500 local residents and businesses have signed up to the scheme, where members share cars on a pay-as-you-go basis.

Streetcar is the UK's largest Carclub. It now has 56 extra cars based in 34 new on-street parking bays, taking the total number of cars to over 100.

For more information about Carclubs ring ext. 5009 or visit www.carplus.org.uk or www.carclubs.org.uk.

For more information on the council's sustainable transport strategy 'Making Connections' visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/makingconnections



General news

Travel awareness officer scoops award

Travel awareness officer Sam Margolis has scooped an award at a prestigious transport conference in Reading.

Sam won the Best Paper by a Young Professional for his presentation at the seventh Transport Practitioners Conference.

The annual conference is held for all transport engineers, planners and urban transport designers, and Sam spoke about the council's work with NHS Tower Hamlets on the borough's healthy town status.

Sam organises a range of activities such as cycle buddying, cycle training, fun cycling and walking events for the community.

He said: "The wide-ranging set of programmes we have worked

on are dedicated to boosting physical activity through encouraging more walking and cycling, has already shown exciting increases in cycling levels. The remaining two years of the programme will build on and extend the successes so far."

Tower Hamlets is one of nine 'Healthy Towns', selected following a successful bid to the *Healthy Community Challenge Fund* (Department of Health and Department of Children, Schools and Families).

Healthy Tower Hamlets aims to make it easier for people in the borough to take regular physical activity and make healthy food choices easier, with the goal of preventing overweight and obesity. It focuses primarily on children and families.

Tower Hamlets riding high

Tower Hamlets Council staff are riding high in the list of workforces using bikes, after registering the highest number of miles cycled during this year's London Cycle Challenge.

Of the 24 London councils to take part in the challenge, where staff all recorded the number of miles they cycled throughout the month of June, Tower Hamlets Council staff clocked 23,227 ahead of their nearest rivals at Islington Council who recorded 22,606.

The next council to clock in the top three was Camden where staff cycled 18,800.

The amount cycled by Tower Hamlets staff is the equivalent to 27 journeys back and forth from John O'Groats to Lands End.

Of the 250 organisations across London who took part – including public and private sector – Tower Hamlets Council came ninth on the chart.

For information on cycle training, which is free to anyone who works, studies or lives in the borough, contact Tower Hamlets Council's cycle training provider, Bikeworks, on 020 8980 7998 or cycletraining@bikeworks.org.uk. For further details see www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/cycling

Strike night

The first bowling evening organised by Kash Patel on June 23 proved to be a huge success with over 80 council staff taking part at the Hollywood Bowl in Surrey Quays.

Organiser, Kash said: " I was very impressed with the staff turn out and it was refreshing to be with such good company, everyone seemed to truly have a good time. More importantly, the event gave staff a chance to meet people from all areas of the council".

The second event – Strike Night – will take place on Tuesday 13 October from 6pm and costs £15 per person which includes two games of bowling, one free drink, food and a disposable camera to capture everyone's backswing! Medals will be awarded to the winning team, best female and best male.



Team 2012 left to right: Rob Ellwood, Tunde Awofolaju, Dyana Browne, Pat Holmes, Nick Smales and Paul Armitage

The event is open to all council staff – and this time, you can bring friends, family and ex work colleagues. Please note, limited spaces available and places are going fast.

For more information, contact Kash Patel on x 1648 or email him at rakesh.patel@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Winners from the first bowling competition:

Female: Ilva Cunka with 105 points

Male: Abul K Ali with 159

Best team: Team 2012 (pic) with 559

Training Courses

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 01/10/09 AM | Equality and Diversity Theatre Workshop |
| 01/10/09 PM | Equality and Diversity Theatre Workshop |
| 07/10/09 AM | Effectively Using Performance Data |
| 07/10/09 PM | PDR - Briefing for Staff |
| 08-09/10/09 | Handling Customers and Difficult Situations |
| 13/10/09 | Sexuality Awareness |
| 20/10/09 PM | Intro to Cust. Service 1 hour lunchtime session |
| 21/10/09 | New Managers' Programme |
| 22/10/09 AM | Councillors and Officers Working Together |
| 02/11/09 | Procurement Module 2 - Letting Contracts |
| 09/11/09 | Equality Impact Assessment Training |
| 17/11/09 | Procurement - The Sustainability Agenda |
| 18/11/09 PM | Data Quality Workshop |
| 20/11/09 | Hate Crime Awareness |
| 24/11/09 AM | Overview of Local Government Pension Scheme |
| 26/11/09 | Domestic Violence Awareness |
| 30/11/09 | Information Governance |

News in brief

> On their bikes

20 council staff and their family and friends took part in the London to Brighton bike ride on 19 July - 59 miles! They raised £522 for the British Heart Foundation. They did it last year too and this year's amount added to last year's tally means they have so far raised £1,500 for charity.

> Better safe than sorry

Councils have been hitting the headlines for all the wrong reasons lately, so it's more important than ever that every member of staff takes risk management seriously.

If staff act together, and flag up potential problems as soon as they arise the council will be better positioned to manage them.

At Tower Hamlets we have established policies and strategies around risk management, but risk management can only be effective when risks are identified, evaluated, and actions taken to reduce them to an acceptable level. This is why it is important to flag your risks up to the appropriate person.

Further information on risk management within the Council can be found at:

http://towernet/Intranet/staff_services/business_planning/risk_management.aspx

Have you got the 'H' Factor?

If everyone works together we can make a real difference to life in Tower Hamlets, that's the message of our new campaign.

Tower Hamlets Together, which launched last week, is an 18-month campaign aimed at highlighting what can be achieved when residents, groups and other agencies work with council staff to improve living conditions in the borough.

The campaign is based on the six key themes that residents are concerned about: raising educational standards; supporting older people; tackling crime and anti-social behaviour; cutting youth

unemployment and worklessness; making the borough cleaner and greener; and reducing overcrowding.

Every month a different resident hero or member of staff will be the face of the campaign, highlighting the important work we are all doing to tackle these problems.

The campaign launched with young mayor for Tower Hamlets Uma Akther, who is championing the work we are doing to improve educational standards.

She said: "During my time as young Mayor I've been visiting loads of local schools and have seen first hand what a difference a good teacher can make to children's prospects.

"If we can get more people involved in raising educational standards – and a campaign like this can help to achieve this- so much the better."

And to make sure our heroes know how much we value them, the campaign launches with photographs taken by celebrated photographer Rankin.

The stunning portraits will be seen at bus stops, poster sites and in the local press, and can even form the basis of an exhibition, making sure that as many staff and residents as possible can see them.

Rankin, who usually photographs celebrities and supermodels for glossy magazines, agreed to dramatically reduce his fee because he believes in the campaign.



Uma Akther
Tower Hamlets
Young Mayor &
Local Hero

"The quality of education kids get at school is really important – it can set them up for life"

GCSE and A level results are improving fast - with 22 schools rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted

For more information about children's services, contact the Council on 020 7364 5020

Tower Hamlets Together

He said: "The East End has always been famous for its community spirit. I chose Brick Lane's Truman Brewery for my retrospective in August 2009 because it is a vibrant, diverse area that I am both drawn to and inspired by.

"I like the idea of being part of a campaign that highlights how strong the spirit of Tower Hamlets is, and how positive and hardworking the local people are. I hope my photos can both draw



Photo: Emily by Rainin



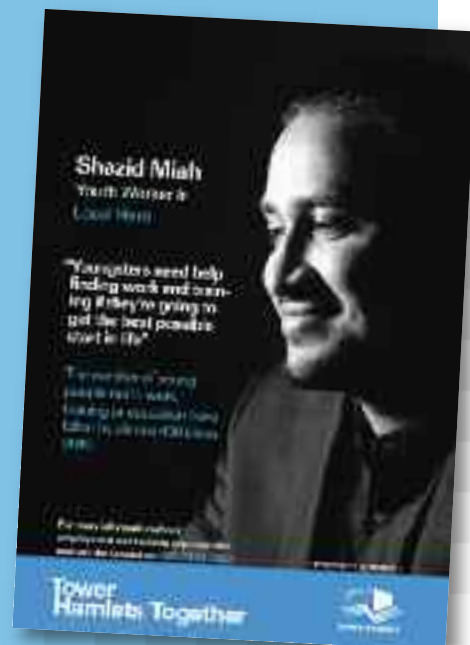
attention to some important challenges facing everyone in the borough and encourage them to become part of the solution to those challenges."

Over the coming months you will see some real heroes and we want more! If you make a real difference to the lives of people in the borough, or you know someone who does, then let us know! Visit the campaign's webpage on the Tower Hamlets to fill out the form.

Hero Headlines

Here are just some of the initiatives the council has put in place to make our area a better place to live and work.

- £500,000 has been spent on new CCTV cameras over the past few years – helping cut down on crime which has fallen for the fifth year running
- 2008/09 saw a 25 per cent drop in youth violence
- Numbers of young people not in work, training or education has fallen by almost 400 since 2005
- GCSE results are among the fastest improving in London – with a 13 per cent increase in passes since last year
- 22 schools rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted
- The council has injected £20 million into the community to tackle unemployment – with a target of getting 4,000 local people into work on training over the next few years
- Millions have been invested in local youth services – with longer opening hours and better training for youth workers
- Around £20 million is being invested in homes for larger local families to tackle serious overcrowding experienced by many families
- Millions of pounds have been invested in local parks - including plans for a possible £12 million makeover of Victoria Park
- Recycling rates have increased by over 50 per cent over the past year to 19.5 per cent as of April 2009.
- More local people say they're satisfied with street cleaning standards than previously – with satisfaction rates up to 59 per cent from 51 per cent over the past year
- The council helps more frail older people to live independently than any other local authority in the country
- Over 800 new users signed up to the Telecare support service for older and vulnerable people over the past year, more than double the previous year



Purple reign!

Hello, Hello, Hello, I'm Mr Recycle More and it's my job to encourage residents and staff in Tower Hamlets to recycle more! I have been travelling around the borough spreading the recycling message and meeting the wonderful residents and staff of Tower Hamlets.



Why is it so important that residents and staff recycle?

The more waste that goes to landfill, the more harmful greenhouse gas is produced and the more our way of life is threatened by climate changes. Aside from the massive environmental costs, there is a significant financial cost. Our community has to pay to send so much of its waste to landfill and these costs are rising fast. The less money the council has to spend on landfill tax, the more money is available to fund the services you are delivering and the initiatives you are developing. That's why we all have to take responsibility for our waste disposal and the environment, at work and home, and start behaving differently now.

What can staff do to make the council better at recycling?

The council has an effective office recycling scheme running with blue internal recycling bins and purple wheelie bins placed throughout your offices. Please use these bins to recycle as much of your waste as possible. The following materials can be

recycled in the office recycling scheme:

- Glass bottles and jars
- Plastic bottles
- Mixed card
- Telephone directories
- Paper, newspaper and magazines
- Tins and cans
- Food and drink cartons (Tetrapaks)
- Aerosols

What's the most unusual thing that's ever been recycled?

Broomheads for pigs to scratch themselves on! Our waste contractors recently recycled used broomheads from the street sweeping rounds by donating them to Mudchute Farm for use by their pigs on a scratching board.

You've been out and about in Tower Hamlets – what's your favourite place and why?

I have been all over the borough and think it is a fantastic place. A highlight has been Victoria Park. I love the wide-open spaces and the great events that take place there. There is so much to do in

Victoria Park, even for a giant like me, and you really can get away from it all there. And of course I think it's great that you can recycle your waste in the park in the recycling bins provided! I am out and about over the summer months and can't wait to visit more parts of Tower Hamlets.

What's your message to TH staff?

Recycle More! It is the responsibility of everyone to recycle as much as you can. Many of you live in the borough and you can spread the word to family, friends and neighbours to take part in recycling. It is easy to recycle and make it part of your everyday routine, at work and home.



Quarterly Research Bulletin

The Quarterly Research Bulletin was launched earlier this year and aims to keep staff up to date on emerging research and data in their areas, including information held on THIS Borough.

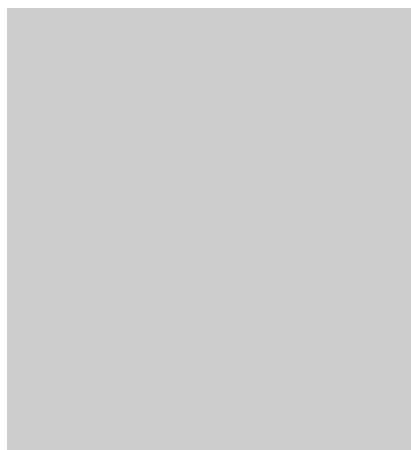
The bulletin presents a digest of recently published research relevant to policy and practice across the Community Plan themes.

The bulletin also aims to highlight research going on in-house and offers a platform for sharing and promoting research going on across the Partnership.

You can obtain a copy of the latest bulletin (August edition) on the intranet at: http://towernet/Intranet/staff_services/business_planning/corporate_policy/research_briefings.aspx

If you are involved in research that you would like to share with others, please let us know. This might be the results of surveys,

commissioned research, data analysis, focus group findings - basically anything you think others may be interested in, or could learn from. The next bulletin is due out in November and contributions gratefully received by the end of October. Please forward to Lorna Spence (Strategy and Performance) by email lorna.spence@towerhamlets.gov.uk or ring to discuss on 020 7364 4014.



What is the size of the Tower Hamlets population?

The issue of exactly how many residents are living in the borough – and how this is going to change in the next 20 years – is a hotly debated topic.

According to the latest official figures from the Office for National Statistics, the population of Tower Hamlets is 220,500, but alternative data sources – which are considered to be more reliable – put the figure much higher, at well over 230,000. Such differences are important as the population figures inform service planning and the level of funding the council receives

The choice of different

population measures can be very confusing. To help staff navigate these issues, the Strategy and Performance team has produced a Research Briefing on population data. The Briefing aims to demystify things by explaining the different sources of population data available and providing advice on their use. The report also discusses the limitations of official data on population and recommends alternative sources.

The Briefing is on the intranet at the following link: http://towernet/Intranet/staff_services/business_planning/corporate_policy.aspx

The Council's Strategic Priorities

One Tower Hamlets

1. To reduce inequalities, foster strong community cohesion and provide strong leadership and inclusive services
2. Working efficiently and effectively as One Council

A Great Place to Live

3. Provide affordable housing and strong neighbourhoods
4. Strengthen and Connect Communities
5. Support vibrant town centres, and a cleaner, safer public realm
6. Improve the environment and tackle climate change

A Prosperous Community

7. Support lifelong learning opportunities for all
8. Reduce worklessness
9. Foster enterprise

A Safe and Supportive Community

10. Empower vulnerable people and support families
11. Tackle and Prevent Crime
12. Focus on Early Intervention

A Healthy Community

13. Improve health and reducing differences in people's health by promoting healthy lifestyles
14. Support mental health services to improve mental health
15. Improve access to, and experience of, health services

Thank you



Sometimes it can feel like your hard work goes unnoticed, but this is often not the case. Without the tireless hard work and dedication of staff we could not have been named as a four star authority.

Your efforts really do make a difference, both to your colleagues and to members of the public.

On this page you can thank a colleague for the extra work or excellence they have demonstrated that makes a difference.

So if you want to say thank you to a colleague simply pick up a Thank You card from Human Resources, fill in the details and return it to Steve Wiggett, 6th floor Anchorage House, c/o Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, E14 2BG. All entries will be entered in to a prize draw with one member of staff being selected at random for a £25 gift voucher.

It's now even easier to nominate colleagues that you think deserve a special thank you.

The thank you card is now available to download from Towneret, the council's intranet, making it quicker and easier for you to let colleagues know that you appreciate the work they do.

To nominate someone visit http://toweret/Intranet/staff_services/learning_development/staff_recognition_strategy/staff_thank_you_scheme.aspx

Name: **Kien Luong**
Job title: Equalities Monitoring Officer
Thanked for: determination to complete the collection of data for the staff equality audit

Name: **Hubert Senyah**
Job title: Equalities Project Officer
Thanked for: Organising support for the Parent and Community Governor project

Name: **Philip Gospage**
Job title: Case investigation officer
Thanked for: Maintaining a quality service when the team was under staffed

Name: **Denise Mentessi**
Job title: Admin support officer
Thanked for: putting in a huge amount of effort to make sure all the entries in the directory were accurate

Name: **Florence Adeyemi**
Job title: Case investigation officer
Thanked for: Maintaining a quality service when the team was under staffed

Name: **Leander Donoghue**
Job title: Admin officer
Thanked for: providing timely management information not usually required

Name: **Paul Swain**
Job title: Designer
Thanked for: Consistently high quality work and positive attitude

Name: **Emily Blackshaw**
Job title: Stakeholder Engagement and Participation Officer
Thanked for: Support on the 'Don't Box Me In' project

Name: **Andrew Harvey**
Job title: Desktop Support
Thanked for: sorting out a long standing ICT problem

Name: **Jodie Jeffries**
Job title: Admin officer
Thanked for: assisting with a difficult enquiry while the team leader was on holiday

Name: **Nasrena Miah**
Job title: Admin support officer
Thanked for: Sorting the team's resources and making it easier to find things

Tower Hamlets Council Thank you Staff Prize Draw

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Name | |
| Job Title | |
| Service / Team | |
| Thanked by | |
| Thanked for | |

SAMPLE

Tower Hamlets Healthy Workplace Programme

Are you feeling revitalised?
Take advantage of a great staff benefit:-

From 1 October, we have arranged for you to have access to the revitalised system...

'revitalised' is a unique web based tool that can help you:-

- Improve health
- Get fitter
- Lose weight
- Eat healthily
- Reduce stress
- Access discounts from national wellbeing providers

Share the health...!

You'll also be able to nominate up to three friends & family members for free access to revitalised.

(Please note that the system is only suitable for those aged 18 and over.) Full access details will follow nearer the time...

FREE online exercise classes for staff!

- Get fit for free
- Exercise anywhere in the world
- Exercise alone or with friends
- Its quick and easy to sign up
- Unlimited access to hundreds of classes
- Keep track of your progress with Virtual Personal Trainer

The healthy workplace programme is providing free online exercise classes for all staff – available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week!

VirtualGym TV is our latest benefit scheme to all staff for free. The service offers online on demand classes instructed by the UK's top instructors, including the



likes of Dan Little. Classes include: Dance, Spinergy, Step Aerobics, Circuit Training, Relaxations and much more.

Getting started is easy. Just register at the microsite <http://th.virtualgym.tv>, where you will be required to enter the User ID: 'th' and password: 'th123'. A self registration page will then appear requiring you to enter your personal details and unique eight digit staff number (found on your payslip).

Unlimited access to the ever growing classes is now available at your convenience. So, whether you fancy losing weight, toning up or just exercising for fun, the service will accommodate your needs ... free for a whole year!

Become part of the future of fitness by signing up to the worlds 1st online gym at: <http://th.virtualgym.tv>

For any questions, queries or support of this great new staff benefit, please email: th@virtualgym.tv

Onsite massage at Anchorage House

11-3pm every Thursday in the Occupational Health clinic rooms, ground floor, Anchorage House. Just £8 for a 15 minute session or £15 for a half an hour.

To Book your Onsite Massage call Sarah on 07960 585 277 or email: Zonetherapies@tiscali.co.uk

Workplace Walking Group

Step out for a stroll and revive body and mind at lunchtime!

We all know how easy it is to stay inside all day, with no fresh air and no natural light! Instead why not join our newly re-started Wednesday lunchtime walks? Make the most of your lunch break to get some exercise, fresh air and explore the local area.

Where? Meet in Anchorage House Reception at 12 noon on Wednesdays

How long? A walk of about 45 minutes, still giving you time for lunch when you get back.

You will need to fill out a simple registration form the first time you come along – to save time please contact Rachel Maile ext. 6940 rachel.maile@towerhamlets.gov.uk and a form will be emailed to you.

Leading walks – volunteers needed:

We need a few people willing to go on a rota to lead the walks. The more volunteers the smaller the commitment!

We've put together a shortened version of the WHI Walk Leader training course which will only take 2 hours and include a free lunch. You will receive a certificate of attendance and thereafter be a registered WHI Volunteer Walk Leader so that should you wish to, you are insured lead other walks. Please contact Rachel for more information.



Green is the new black

Are you concerned about climate change? Do you think the council should be doing more to reduce its carbon footprint? If so then we want you as a Green Campaigner!

The council is launching The Big Switch off in late October, a campaign to encourage every member of staff to switch off their PCs at night, as well as kettles and photocopiers.

As well as saving the council tens of thousands of pounds, the campaign aims to seriously reduce our carbon footprint.

And we need your help. The Carbon Management team is looking for volunteers to become green campaigners.

As part of your duties you will be asked to remind staff to turn off their machines, and carry out audits from time to time to see how many staff leave their machines on overnight.

All volunteers will receive full training and the support necessary to carry out their duties.

Sustainability officer Rachel Carless told Pulling Together: "It is vital that everyone works together to reduce our carbon footprint. If we all switch off our machines every night we will make a real difference not just to council finances but also to the environment.

"We need environmentally minded staff to volunteer to become Green Campaigners and help us make a real difference."

If you would like to make a difference email Rachel.carless@towerhamlets.gov.uk or call her on ext. 6649.

General news

Deaf awareness week

The council is celebrating deaf awareness week from October 5-9 with a series of lunchtime events that aim to foster a greater awareness and understanding of the issues surrounding deaf people.

All events are open to all staff. They are:

5th October 2009 – Deaf Awareness Training:

This session will be useful for those who wish to understand the deaf community and culture and how it differs from other disability groups.

Topics included in the session include: education and employment; how the DDA supports the deaf community and how it doesn't; as well as communication aids (both technical and human).

There will also be communication tips, basic signing skills and finger spelling.

6th October 2009 – Employment Services:

To explain Deafplus' wide range of employment services to the deaf and hard of hearing

7th October 2009 – Deaf Education:

Could help staff who support deaf children and adults in education to understand more about the people they work with and the experiences they may have.

This session will cover: deaf children and their exclusion from auditory socialising and its impact; schooling approaches; the differences of social learning through auditory environments, and how that affects a deaf person.

It will also look at the issues that arise when choosing the right school for your child; the role of mentors for deaf children and their significance; steps towards further education for a deaf person; how current services are funded and the future aims for growing organisations; the importance of inclusion and how it isn't always fully understood, and finally, some case studies of what we have experienced with BAME deaf children and their families.

8th October 2009 –

Dual Sensory Loss:

Deaf blind manual training

9th October 2009 –

Identity and Faith:

This session explores how faith is explored within deaf communities that sign.

The session includes a signed Junna, or prayer session at the Friday prayers in Anchorage House.



We'd like to hear from you

If you've got a story to tell in Pulling Together please contact your directorate lead or editor Claire Rudd.

Chief Executive's Kevin Kewin ext. 4075

Development and Renewal

Lee Lixenberg x4754

Children's Services

Sukhjinder Nunwa x4149

Communities, Localities and Culture

Sarah McLaughlin ext. 2860

Adult Services Lorna Bayford ext. 2189

Or email claire.rudd@towerhamlets.gov.uk

A large print version is available by contacting 020 7364 7791



Pulling Together is printed on 100% recycled paper