

## Students' housing apprenticeships

A housing association has created an apprenticeship programme aimed at giving young students work experience.

The One Housing Group has partnered up with Tower Hamlets Council to help 10 residents, not in education, employment or training, to gain experience working while completing an NVQ qualification in youth work.

The programme was launched at an event hosted by Tower Hamlets Mayor Lutfur Rahman at the town hall last week.

Nazrul Islam, head of employment and training, said: "It is getting more and more difficult for young people to get the necessary skills and work experience



■ One Housing Group apprentices meet Mayor Lutfur Rahman *Picture: Rehan Jamil*

to be able to compete in the job market. Our employment and training team provide personalised support to empower the trainees to complete their qualification, gain transferable skills

and ultimately gain employment."

Mayor Rahman added: "I am delighted to work in partnership with One Housing Group to invest in the future of our young people.

## Vote for good causes to get funding

Community groups in Tower Hamlets have been short-listed for funding in an initiative from Lloyds Bank to support good causes.

The four groups were nominated by the bank along with more than 4,500 others and made the final 1,300 from across 300 communities in England and

Wales. The groups nominated are Spitalfields Crypt Trust, Positive East, Renaissance Foundation and Tower Hamlets Education Business Partnership.

If enough people vote in Tower Hamlets, the two groups with the most votes will each receive £3,000 and the other two will each be

given £300. Voting is now open to the public online, by SMS text message and by visiting a local Lloyds Bank branch, and will remain open until midnight on November 1.

For more information on how to vote visit [www.lloydsbank.com/communityfund](http://www.lloydsbank.com/communityfund).

# Charity shining a light on homeless

## Conference of great and good in Commons

by Kay Atwal

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A charity will be hosting an event at the House of Commons to help improve the lives of the homeless.

Anchor House, which is based in Canning Town, will be holding the event tomorrow, (Thursday) on World Homeless Day.

The charity is gathering together influential people from private and public sector organisations, as well as local government and health agencies.

### Opportunities

Its aim is to draw attention to homeless people's needs and provide opportunities for society to respond to homelessness.

Speakers will include Baroness Maddock, Lord Gus O'Donnell and Dominic

“Every year, Anchor House is home to up to 220 people who have lost their homes and we see the people behind the statistics

Raab, MP. They will discuss issues of homelessness and what can be done.

The reception will also provide an opportunity to meet front line staff and residents from Anchor House who have experienced homelessness.

Keith Fernet, Anchor House director, said there were many factors that could lead to someone becoming homeless and no two stories were ever the same.

He said: "On this World Homeless Day we aim to shine a light on those who are so often overlooked.

"Every year, Anchor House is home to up to 220 people who have lost their homes, and we see the people behind the statistics.

"The charity sector is currently facing severe challenges, but in spite of this, we have persevered and Anchor House is determined to survive because we know that we're making a difference to people's lives."

For more information or to make a contribution visit [www.anchorhouseuk.org](http://www.anchorhouseuk.org) or call 020 7476 6062.

## Crimewatch

### Borough Commander Ch Supt Rob Jones

## Beware scam to get your bank card

This week I'd like to tell you about "courier scams" – a despicable way that thieves are targeting elderly people in their own homes and robbing them of their money.

Courier scams have been around for a number of years, but are becoming increasingly prevalent in east London. The scam operates by fraudsters calling people at home, pretending to be from their bank or the police, and telling them their bank account has been compromised. The person may be asked to ring the bank back using the phone number printed on the back

of their bank card. This helps to convince the person that the call is genuine. However, the fraudster has kept the telephone line open so even though the person has called the bank, the call does not go through. Instead they are unknowingly connected straight back to the fraudster.

The fraudster then gains the person's trust by pretending to be from the bank and seeming to offer assistance. In many cases the person is asked to provide their full bank card details and key in their PIN so that their existing card can be "cancelled" and

their new one "activated" or "authorised." The fraudster will then explain that the bank will need to collect the card. The fraudster will attend the person's address or send an innocent courier company driver to collect the card and sometimes provide them with a "replacement" card which is subsequently found to be fake. Therefore, the fraudster has obtained the person's name, address, full bank details, the card itself and the PIN. The bank cards are then used fraudulently without the victim's knowledge.

Your bank or the police will never ask for your PIN



■ Newham's Borough Commander Rob Jones

number, and will never collect your bank card. If you have elderly relatives or neighbours, please pass on this information. And if this happens to you, call 101 to report it, or go online to [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) for more information.

### Crime Tip

## Ways to beat number plate and bike thieves

### ■ Number plate theft

Newham police are reminding car owners that vehicle number plate theft is a national problem and has increased in recent years in part due to an increase in speed cameras, a rise in petrol costs and charges to use certain roads.

Offenders look at ways of hiding the identities of their vehicles so they can engage in criminal activity without being detected.

Number plates are being stolen from vehicles of all makes, models and ages.

Non reversible screws have been developed to help combat this crime.

The number plate screws are special one-way devices that cannot be unscrewed once fitted. Any attempt to steal the plate would require force, causing the plate to break.

These can be obtained from your local Safer Neighbourhood Team who will only be happy to provide a set on request.

For details of your local team, visit the website on: [www.met.police.uk/Borough/Newham](http://www.met.police.uk/Borough/Newham).

### ■ Bicycle theft

Register your bike at [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com). It only takes a couple of minutes and it is free.

All you need is your bicycle model, make and frame number. Once you have registered your bike, you will have a better chance of getting it back if it is lost or stolen. You can also register other property at the same time, for example your mobile phones or laptop.

If you can't find your bike frame number, have a look:

- Underneath the pedals on the bottom of the frame.
- On the frame near the handlebars.
- On the frame where the seat post fits.
- On the frame towards the back wheel.

If your bike is stolen, report it to the police on 101 and flag it as stolen on your account as soon as possible.

Reporting your bike as lost or stolen helps the police match its description and return it to you.

If your bike is recovered and you have registered it you will be contacted and told your cycle is safe.



■ Jeffrey Valentine

## Asbo man cannot go into Westfield centre with a drink for two years

A minimum two-year Anti-Social Behaviour Order (Asbo) covering Westfield shopping centre has been imposed on a man for the protection of the public.

Jeffrey Valentine was issued with it at the Central Criminal Court early last month.

He was found to have acted in a way which caused or

was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to members of the public.

Under the order Valentine cannot enter Westfield or areas bounded by Great Eastern Road and The Broadway.

### Container

In addition to this he cannot be in possession of an open container of alcohol in any

public place, in a state of drunkenness in any public place in England and Wales or consume alcohol in a public place other than licensed premises.

Anyone who witnesses him breaching any of the conditions are urged to report it to their safer neighbourhood police team on 0208 721 272 or dial 101.