

We need your help on homelessness

Keith Fennett, CEO of Caritas Anchor House, writes:

The Homelessness Reduction Bill is our chance to make the most significant reform to homelessness law for 40 years, but for it to succeed we need your help.

The Bill recommends that councils have a duty to prevent and relieve homelessness regardless of priority need, extend the time households are considered at risk of homelessness and provide emergency accommodation for people with nowhere safe to stay.

In Newham alone, in the year ending April 2016, 2,448 people approached the local authority for homelessness assistance, of which, 1,345 were accepted as homeless (55 per cent).

The borough's homeless acceptance per 1,000 is 11.89, significantly higher than that of London, 5.49, and England, 2.52.

Caritas Anchor House, which supports over 210 homeless people each year, fully backs the Bill. We are attending its Mass Lobby in Parliament on October 19, and invite all Newham residents to join us.

See more and sign up at www.caritasanchorhouse.org.uk/hrb-masslobby



■ Residents and former residents relax in the communal area at Anchor House in Barking Road, Canning Town.

