

14. Community Opportunities

Youth Services

The Youth Services team work with young people aged 8 to 25 who live on some of our estates delivering a wide range of sports, arts, environmental activities, citizenship and participation projects. We run youth clubs on estates, deliver detached sessions of youth work, summer programmes and a range of activities throughout the year. Trips and activities include go-karting, horse riding, outings to Thorpe Park or even just a trip to the cinema. Young people are encouraged to volunteer and have a full say in how the services are received and delivered. New skills can be acquired and volunteers can even work towards a basic qualification in youth work.

Football Coaching

We are working with the Football Association (FA) to deliver quarterly football coaching courses, and to help place new football coaches into voluntary, and sometimes paid, coaching work in the local community. The team offers residents over 16 years of age, with an interest in working with children through coaching, the opportunity to gain a FA Level 1 Certificate in Coaching Football. The course lasts 4 days and applicants are invited to attend a briefing to learn more about the course before embarking upon it.

Training & Employment

We run a Training and Employment scheme enabling residents to meet with our Information, Advice and Guidance Officer to discuss what specific training and employment opportunities are available within your borough. We work to identify training and employment partners who can help you to develop any skills you have, or who can place you directly into work. We can help you to write a CV, apply for jobs, and prepare for interviews.

Each month our team will identify current vacancies within the borough and will notify the residents on our Employment and Training register of job and training opportunities, and related events.

Financial Workshops

We are working with Services Against Financial Exclusion (SAFE), an initiative of Toynbee Hall, to provide financial education and advice to residents through our Money Matters project.

As part of this, we hold several workshops a year helping residents who want to improve their skills in avoiding debt, saving money, understanding welfare benefits, and managing their finances confidently and efficiently. Learning in these workshops is informal, and residents are not expected to divulge any personal financial information. All residents who complete a full programme will receive a cheque to go towards a new or existing bank account.

London Furniture Reuse Network

We have launched a furniture project to help residents claiming a benefit or tax credit, buy low cost furniture and appliances. Developed in partnership with the London Furniture Reuse Network, this scheme allows residents to purchase a wide range of items including beds, 3-piece suites, wardrobes and dining tables at affordable prices.

You can also donate furniture that you no longer want so it can be reused at the project.

Please contact the **Community Investment Team on 020 7428 4237** for information on any of the above initiatives. All schemes are funded by support from local organisations, partners, government grants and Community's charity Community Action.