



Youth Unity Ambassadors

## Youth Unity CIC

### All young people deserve to thrive and reach their full potential

Established in 2019, Youth Unity CIC is a not-for-profit organisation that provides effective help and support to vulnerable young people and adults affected by group violence (gangs), drugs and other forms of exploitation such as human trafficking, CSE and extremism. Their focus is on improving opportunities for all, especially young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. "By helping to improve the overall health and well-being of an individual, they can make better informed choices and decisions." (Shirley Jackson, Director)

Working in partnership with North Meet South, Youth Unity are delivering a two-year mentoring programme in Marks Gate. It is designed to match

young people aged 7 to 18 years old with adult mentors who will provide guidance, support, and encouragement. The aim is to implement a model which uses a child, family and community-based approach to build resilience and protective factors. Mentors use trauma informed mentoring techniques, restorative justice counselling skills and a holistic approach to support the young person and their families. Through the mentoring

programme, Youth Unity seek to:

- Empower young people to be socially and personally responsible with an ability to make informed decisions and build their self-efficacy.
- Establish trusted relationship with young people, giving them the opportunity to build and improve relationships with trusted adults.
- Empower young people to focus on improving their self-esteem, personal development and changing attitudes to education and work.
- Reduce external risks factors and exposure to youth violence and criminal activity by building internal resilience in young people and



Youth Unity Artwork Project

teaching them what positive relationships are.

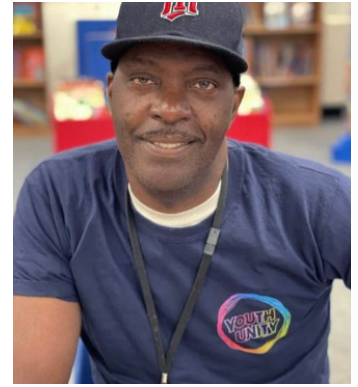
- Establish relationships and referral pathways with a network of partners to engage and support families and key individuals important to the young people on the project.
- Educate parents and organisations working with young people on the risk factors of youth violence and how to identify risk and implement support interventions.
- Using creative youth work techniques (e.g., outreach in spaces where young people socialise to engage with hard-to-reach groups, targeted events, trips etc.) and trauma informed mentoring skills encourage young people aged 7-18 to actively participate in the programme.

James Hensmen (Director) believes that all young people deserve the right to be treated fairly as individuals irrespective of their age, gender, race, religion, ability, or background. “As an organisation, our aim is to ensure that young people thrive and reach their full potential ensuring they are fully equipped for the next steps in their adult lives.”

Understandably, there is already high demand for this mentoring programme and a wait list in



Shirley Jackson, Director



Paul McKenzie, Creative Director



James Hensmen, Director

operation. However, if you or someone you know could benefit from the work, please do not hesitate to contact the team at [admin@youthunity.org](mailto:admin@youthunity.org)



Councillor Perry officially opening Manor Green Park with Be First and Murphy

## Be First updates

### Padnall Lake

A brand-new children’s play area opened on 15th February, delivered as part of the Padnall Lake development being built on the land alongside the A12. It is designed for 5 to 11 year olds with a variety of equipment to suit a range of abilities. Councillor Perry joined residents and representatives from Be First and Murphy to mark the occasion with a ribbon cutting.

We then ran a competition with Murphy, asking the community to help come up with a new name using the themes of history, nature and the environment. There were thirty-seven inspiring entries and from the three names shortlisted by our project team, you voted for Manor Green Park.

On 10th May we met the winner, Maheen Manzoor and two runners-up, Jackie and Emily and Katie to award them with their gift card prizes. Congratulations to you all and our thanks to everyone who sent in their ideas.

The next step is to create and install a new sign for Manor



# Marks Gate Community Food Club

The community food club runs on a Wednesday 11-1pm weekly, it is a membership-based grocery store, with a variety of fresh, frozen, dried, and tinned foods. You can choose what food you want; we aim to meet all your dietary and cultural needs.

Our criteria is to help anyone who lives in the borough and is experiencing financial hardship.

We will support you throughout your membership by ways of referring you to the relevant council services including finance, health, employment, training & skills.

Membership is free and for 3 months.

To join, you can be referred or refer yourself via the LBBB website. Go to [www.lbbd.gov.uk/money-and-debt/community-food-clubs](http://www.lbbd.gov.uk/money-and-debt/community-food-clubs) or scan this QR code for more information.

Alternatively, you are welcome to come into the Marks Gate Community Hub and complete a registration form.



SCAN ME

## COMMUNITY FOOD CLUB

Food for thought



### WELCOME TO THE CLUB

If you're struggling to pay your bills or want to make your money stretch a little bit further, join the Community Food Club to reduce your food shopping bill.

Your three month membership will also give you access to support from a wide range of services, providing advice on finances, housing, employability and health.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- You must live in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham and be in need of support.
- Membership access is available for one person per household to visit once a week
- Membership access is restricted to one site over the course of the 3 month membership
- Members must commit to making a positive lifestyle change over the course of their membership

### WHEN AND WHERE

Every Wednesday  
11-1pm

Marks Gate Community Hub  
Rose Lane RM6 5JN

020 8720 4165

your  
groceries  
today!

*"Very happy with the food we received which helped feed the family, saving me extra money for rent"*



Green Park, which students from Rose Lane Primary School are helping to design.

### New Homes and Community Space

Murphy are on target to complete construction by late Spring 2024 and understandably as that date draws closer, many of you are wanting to know how to apply for one of the new homes and use of the new community space.

100% of the new homes will be affordable housing managed by Reside, the housing provider working in partnership with the council. You can find information about the eligibility criteria needed to register with them on their website

<https://bdraside.org/rent>

Be First has recommended to the council that the local lettings policy should give priority to existing residents of Marks Gate and Chadwell Heath in need of housing. LBBB are putting the details together but



SCAN ME

to qualify for social rent homes, residents will need need to be on the housing register. The council is also overseeing the management of the new community centre and advising on the process for anyone who is interested in using the space. Once these details are confirmed, we will be able to share them with you.

### Marks Gate Vision

How do you currently use local public space? What do you think of the local amenities? How do you travel from your home to work?

Our Marks Gate Vision project seeks to understand more about your current day to day living and identify what things might be missing that you would like to see in Marks Gate in the future.

We will be launching a programme of events and activities in September to begin these conversations with you. Full details will be shared via newsletters, posters and online platforms.

## School News



Success at the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge Final on Thursday 30th March, two Year 10 pupils from The Warren School competed in the regional final of Barking and Dagenham's Speak Out Challenge. Khadeeja and Maasiti had attended a full day public speaking workshop earlier in the school year and were selected as the two outstanding candidates to represent our school.

Both delivered engaging speeches with confidence and passion. It is a real testament to both young persons' character that they were able to deliver a presentation so competently to a large audience in a competitive environment.

We are delighted to announce that Khadeeja finished runner-up in the borough, winning a trophy and prize in gift vouchers. Congratulations!

Article written by Mr. Goodman, ATL for Year 10



Khadeeja Zaman



Khadeeja Zaman receiving her award from former Mayor, Cllr Faruk Choudhury



Maasiti Hajinur



# Barking & Dagenham Youth Forum

The Warren School is pleased to have received positive praise about one of our Year 10 students, Isabelle Mlay, who has been an active member of the Barking and Dagenham Youth Forum for the past year. One of the Senior Youth Workers at the Youth Forum contacted us to share the huge contribution that Isabelle has made and how well she is representing The Warren School.

Over the past year, Isabelle has participated in a sub-group to support the borough's Young Mayor. This group worked together to fundraise for the Ben Kinsella Trust and to raise awareness of knife crime locally. Isabelle has presented to other groups, participated in events and been an integral part of planning. More recently, Isabelle has presented to all 51 councillors in an Assembly meeting about the achievements of the Forum over the past year.

Recently, Isabelle helped to deliver a team building evening for all the newly elected members, totalling 49 people in the session.

Isabelle has developed so much confidence over the past year; she has improved her public speaking immeasurably and built good relationships within the group. Isabelle is open about her autism and we can see that she struggles with some tasks, but despite this she keeps challenging herself and is always the first to volunteer herself for roles within the Forum.

Both the Youth Forum and The Warren School are proud of everything that Isabelle has achieved and are pleased that she has committed to stay with the Forum for another year. Isabelle is planning to run for Young Mayor this year and we wish her all the best in her endeavours to achieve this!

# Marks Gate Unity In The Community Music Festival

In April, On The Rock International Ministries saw a fantastic turn out to their music festival at Marks Gate Community Hub. The festival is designed to encourage young people to express themselves through performing arts and explore their musical talents. With the support of the Dagenham Eagles, High Voltage Performing Arts and East London School of Music, young residents got to take part in a series of drum, piano, vocal, guitar and brass workshops.

The music festival takes place twice a year during school half-term and is aimed at young people over six years old. For details of the next music festival planned for October, or other events run by OTR, check out their social media pages.

**Facebook:** [ontherockinternationalministries](https://www.facebook.com/ontherockinternationalministries)

**Twitter:** [@OnTheRockInter1](https://twitter.com/OnTheRockInter1)

**Instagram:** [@ontherockinter1](https://www.instagram.com/ontherockinter1)



Performers from the East London School of Music



Special guest Cllr Margaret Mullane with organisers from OTRIM



OTRIM Organisers

# What's On

## The latest news from projects in our area

### Information, Advice and Guidance Service

We offer FREE careers advice, guidance and information to young people within Barking & Dagenham between the age of 16-18 years old (up to 25 with learning difficulties or disabilities) who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) or at risk of NEET.

INTERVIEW TECHNIQUES

↓

NETWORKING WITH OTHER PROVIDERS

↓

CV WRITING

↓

INFORMATION ADVICE & GUIDANCE

SUPPORT WITH APPLICATIONS FORMS

PART TIME/ FULL TIME JOBS

↓

REFERRALS TO OTHER SERVICES

↓

TRAINEESHIPS/APPRENTICESHIPS

---

**Barking Learning Centre**  
2 Town Square, Barking, IG11 7NB  
Mon to Fri - 9am - 4pm

**Drop in's only on:**  
Tuesday and Friday  
9am to 2.30pm  
Adviser: **Olamide Adekoya**

**Dagenham Library**  
1 Church Elm Lane, Dagenham, RM10 9QS  
Mon to Fri - 9am - 4pm

**Drop in's only:**  
Monday and Wednesday  
9am to 4pm  
Adviser: **Brenda Powis**

**To book an appointment call:**  
**NEET Advisers - details below**

**Brenda Powis**  
Tel: 020 8724 5572  
Mob: 07875397713  
Email: [brenda.powis@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:brenda.powis@lbbd.gov.uk)

or

**Olamide Adekoya**  
Tel: 0208 227 2010  
Mob: 07968 511 804  
Email: [olamide.adekoya@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:olamide.adekoya@lbbd.gov.uk)

[www.lbbd.gov.uk](http://www.lbbd.gov.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/barkinganddagenham](https://www.facebook.com/barkinganddagenham)  
[@lbbdcouncil](https://twitter.com/lbbdcouncil)

## Join our Women's Safety Forum

Women's safety is a key priority for us, so we're looking to hold a regular meeting with women and local organisations to understand any issues that are being experienced in the borough.

Our Women's Safety Forum will allow you to discuss several things including:

1. Hotspot areas for issues
2. Services available for women
3. Updates on domestic abuse work
4. Information provided from the police

If you would like to attend, please email [csp@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:csp@lbbd.gov.uk)

# Barking & Dagenham

## Homes and Money Hubs

The Homes and Money Hub is primarily focused on helping Barking and Dagenham Residents (and those living out of Borough who are still supported by the Council) with priority debt - Rent arrears, Council Tax Arrears and/or Utility Arrears - to help residents improve and secure their homes and finances.

Criteria around this must be met for allocation to a Caseworker, otherwise we will provide information, advice, guidance and signposting to relevant services. We can provide emergency food and/or utility assistance to any resident who contacts us. We also have 2 NEET caseworkers who work to support 16- to 18-Year-olds who are not in Education, Employment, or Training.

**For full information and criterias please visit:** [www.lbbd.gov.uk/money-and-debt/homes-and-money-hubs](http://www.lbbd.gov.uk/money-and-debt/homes-and-money-hubs)

Keep up to date, visit [yourcall.befirst.london/marks-gate](http://yourcall.befirst.london/marks-gate)



# Murphy Report

## Play Area

We hope you have been enjoying the new children's play area on Padnall Road. All the planting has now been completed and temporary fencing removed. In addition to six new trees planted in and around the area, there are new plants and grass. Unfortunately, the wildflower section didn't establish very well but we plan to re-seed this again in September.

Our team would like to thank everyone who entered our competition to name the new children's play area and all the residents who voted on the winning name, Manor Green Park. Pupils from Rose Lane Primary School are using their creative skills to help us with the design of a new sign, which will be installed over the summer.

## New Homes at Padnall Lake

Construction work continues at pace with roofs now completed, windows installed and doors going in. We have also started the plastering and decoration of the interiors, as seen in the supporting photographs.

Outside of the homes and site hoarding, we have been carrying out groundworks to install the heating and comms supplies. All these external works will be carried out behind temporary fencing with safety notices in place.

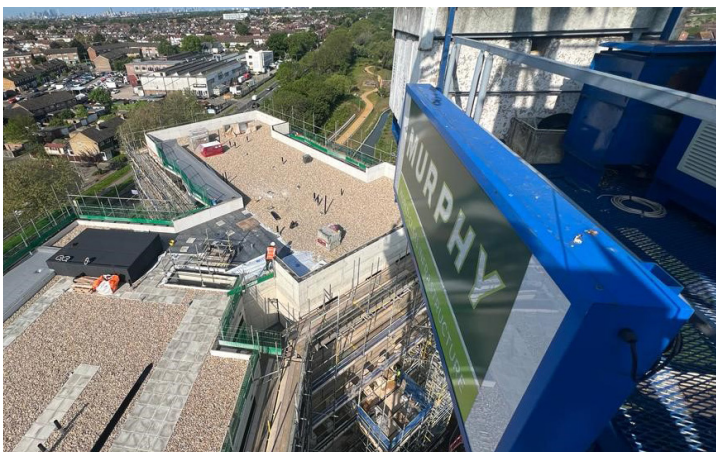
## Padnall Lake

The wildflower is in full bloom around the lake, creating a picturesque setting for you to wander through, or sit and enjoy over the summer. Earlier in the year when things looked a little barer, we received some questions about the log pile on the central island. These logs provide a valuable habitat for mosses, lichens, fungi and insects, which in turn provide food and refuge for birds and amphibians.

When visiting the lake, please avoid feeding bread to the ducks. Bread isn't nutritious and can encourage overcrowding, which results in an increase in droppings. Healthier alternatives include sweetcorn, lettuce, oats and seeds.



Block 1 Under Floor Heating Pipework



Block 1 Aerial View



House 1 Under Floor Heating Preparation

# Ward Councillors Corner



Cllr Michel Pongo

Cllr Sade Bright

Cllr Simon Perry

Welcome to the spring/ summer edition of Marks Gate Matters. We've got a bumper edition for you this season. Marks Gate Matters reflects what is going on in the local community because this is a newsletter for you, we hope you find it useful.

Find out about the fantastic Youth Unity mentoring scheme for young people in Marks Gate which is helping to provide support and guidance to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, who are affected by gangs, drugs, exploitation and extremism. Have you visited the Manor Green Park play area that opened in February this year? Read on to find out more about this. Help is at hand if, like many people, you are struggling pay your bills and want to make your money stretch a bit further, with our new Marks Gate Community Food Club.

Also in this edition: Find out how to register interest in renting one of the new properties

being built by Be First and J Murphy & Sons and get use of the community space; see how you can get involved in our 'Marks Gate Vision' and make sure your community has what it needs to thrive; read all about the recent successes of the Warren School; enjoy a full round up of the Marks Gate Unity in the Community Music Festival. You can also discover how to join the Women's Safety Forum and get support if you need to get out of debt. We also have a full update from our contractors J Murphy & Sons on their work on Marks Gate to date.

So dig in and get reading! As always, we are keen to hear your comments on this newsletter and what we can do to improve things locally. Your views matter to us and our contact details are available on the council's website [www.lbbd.gov.uk](http://www.lbbd.gov.uk)



Would you like to feature in the next Marks Gate Matters? If you are a local resident, business owner or community group, we want to hear from you! Get in touch by emailing [communities@befirst.london](mailto:communities@befirst.london)

If you or someone you know needs this newsletter translated in another form, please contact us by emailing [communities@befirst.london](mailto:communities@befirst.london) or telephoning 020 3372 0707