

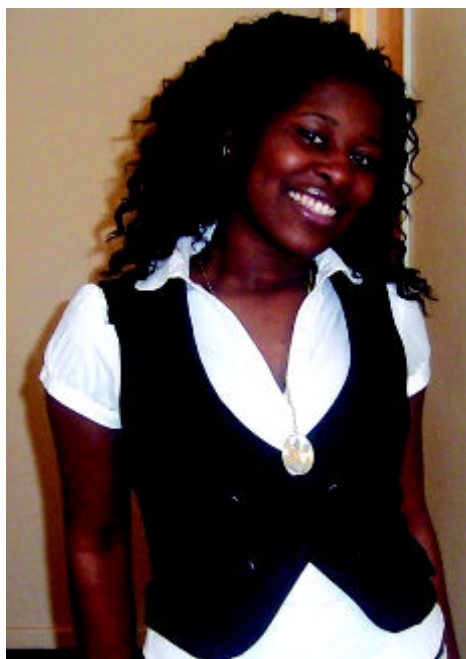
# youth news

an update for CBHA's young people and adults

spring 2008



## Sandra's inspiring message to young people: go for it!



Chingford teenager Sandra Awuah, who is in her first year at De Montfort University in Leicester, has a message for CBHA young people:

opportunities are there for you to take hold of. You can make something of your life.

She said: "You might have a difficult background or situation, but roses grow through concrete. I think you can achieve anything if you try your hardest."

Sandra, 19, is studying youth and community development and has been working with excluded Year 11s with challenging behaviour.

CBHA young people might recognise Sandra as a volunteer from CBHA's

summer programme last year.

She said: "I was a typical teenager at school but when it got to GCSEs, I became a bit more serious. I went to college and my tutors suggested I apply to university. Mum said it would be good for me to go away.

"She has been really supportive and helped motivate me. I have loved Leicester although of course I miss my friends and family.

"I have got to university and plan to put something back into the community with youth work when I leave.

"I hope other young people from our neighbourhoods will realise they can achieve anything they want and work to accomplish that."

## Spurs help launch Kickz

Tottenham Hotspur FC teamed up with Waltham Forest Safer Neighbourhoods and CBHA to launch Kickz in Chingford. CBHA young people were among those who met Spurs goalkeeper Radek Cerny and football coaches at the launch event at Rushcroft Sports College in Chingford.

CBHA head of community development Roz Gordon said: "Kickz is a football inclusion initiative, aimed at providing young people with alternatives to potential involvement with crime

and anti-social behaviour.

"It is supported by the Met Police and we are pleased that young people in Leyton will soon have Kickz in their area too, this time with coaches from Leyton Orient FC."

Chief Superintendent Mark Benbow, the borough commander for Waltham Forest, said: "Young people need opportunities for positive activity wherever they happen to live. Kickz provides a safe environment for our young people to spend time improving their general fitness and well-being."

Using the power of football and the appeal of professional clubs, the Kickz programme offers 12 to 18-year-olds the chance to take



part in positive activity. Kickz also aims to:

- break down barriers between the police and young people
- increase the playing, coaching and officiating opportunities for those taking part
- create routes into education, training and employment
- encourage volunteering
- increase young people's interest in and connections with the professional game.

Member of the  
**Peabody**  
group

## The jury's out as young people are *court* in the act!

A group of teenagers had a real insight into the criminal justice system when they went to a court open day at Waltham Forest Magistrates Court.

The doors were thrown open for a day aimed at increasing public understanding of how the justice process works. The young people had the chance

to meet and chat to court staff and had a demonstration of how the courts now use technology such as video links for giving evidence.

Youth worker Douglas Muhammed said: "We watched some real cases including some assaults go up before the magistrates."

Now the young people will be taking part in a mock trial, playing the part of a magistrate or judge, juror, defendant, lawyers and witnesses to get more of a feel for what really happens in a court room and learn more about the criminal justice system.

"We aim to familiarize them with the justice system," said Douglas.

## Young, gifted and black awards

Young people received awards recognising their achievements at a special ceremony organised by Leyton's Kreative Culture Klub (KCK).

More than 900 people attended, with 112 awards given out.

The KCK, founded by former CBHA resident Yvonne Bailey, aims to engage young, black people in positive activities.

"There is so much focus on the bad news and stories about young black people not achieving, that I thought we should recognise all they do achieve," said Yvonne.

She set up the KCK in 2003 and was amazed at how the youngsters and their parents reacted when they were given an award at the Young, Gifted and Black ceremony.

The club meets at the Score, Leyton, and focuses on arts and cultural activities.

"We have had street dance, ballet, cheerleading and African drumming. We are currently champions in street dance. It is great to motivate the young people in the area," said Yvonne.



Some of the young people receive awards at the Young, Gifted and Black ceremony, above.

Right, the street dancers at Leyton's Kreative Culture Klub are the current champions



## Pool tournament is right on cue

A pool tournament for young people of all ages is underway in Chingford. There are three age categories and cash prizes.

The competition is one of the activities organised by CBHA youth workers for young people looking for something to do during their spring break. The two-week school holiday started on April 7.

CBHA is also offering vouchers for pizza or a cinema visit during the spring break.

## Spring into action this break

There's lots happening this spring break. Chill out zones are open to hang out with your mates, there are trips out and more.

Check it out at your local CBHA youth club or ring Douglas or Judy on 020 7922 8524 to find out more.