

youth news



an update for CBHA's young people and adults

winter 2007

Mehmet uses mask method to divert youth from crime

The 'Bang Out' programme to help young people at risk of ending up in prison is underway. Mehmet Ibrahim (pictured below) is working with CBHA young people who have, or are at risk of having, a criminal record, Anti-social Behaviour Contract or ASB order against them. He is showing them the harsh reality of prison life - and the better choices open to them.



By the end of the first year, he aims to have helped at least 10 unemployed young people into training, employment, further education or work experience. He is working in partnership with Shahrukh (see the front page of CBHA News).

Mehmet himself has served five years of a 10 year sentence for conspiracy to supply class A drugs so he knows all about prison. "It is hard being banged up with three or four people who you do not know. They can be murders or rapists. It can be difficult not to become a drug addict. Many people get cut up or stabbed by other inmates plus other physical abuse."

He said: "I ask the young people why they do what they do and the answers are usually peer pressure, money and to get the buzz. I challenge them and tell them they can work to get the cars, jewellery and money they want."

Mehmet, who has worked on similar projects in Hackney, uses role play to get the points across. He uses masks because he says we all wear different masks with different people. One of the role plays would be a 15-year-old in a prison cell. He dons a series of masks as he answers questions on why he is there and how he feels as he is quizzed by different people.

Whilst inside, Mehmet gained an NVQ III in youth work and is now doing a foundation degree in working with young people. "I want to help divert them from crime."

Focusing on 'The Bigger Picture'

"The Bigger Picture' is an exciting new series of events for young people.

Every Sunday for seven weeks, young people will be invited to join together for lunch and discussion. Starting in January in Chingford, the sessions will focus on how to make the most of the chances you are given.

Head of community development Roz Gordon said: "The

topic of the first one is How to be a Player. It is about being right here and doing it right now."

The sessions will be for two hours on Sunday afternoons in the youth wing at the Paradox Centre. Afterwards, young people can stay and chill out.

CBHA plans to bring The Bigger Picture to other areas soon. Look out for invitations coming your way.

Watch out for Xmas factor finals soon

The finals of the Xmas Factor, CBHA's answer to television's X Factor, will be held in December.

Twelve finalists, including singers, dancers and rappers, will be battling it out to win the title. "There is a lot of talent out there so it should be entertaining," said youth leader Douglas Muhammed.

Member of the
Peabody
group

Send ideas or articles on any subject to youth news. Please hand them to your youth leader.

Bob Marley and Supremes drop in

Residents and youth leaders dressed up as black people famous in entertainment or sport during shows to mark Black History Month.

Douglas Muhammed was Bob Marley and youth workers Judy Griffith, Sharon Allert and community development assistant Jade Armstrong were The Supremes. Residents took on the roles of Mohammed Ali, Ray Charles and Stevie Wonder. Two events were held – one at Leytonstone where about 60 people joined in the fun – and the other in Walthamstow where there were about 40. Douglas said: “There were music, singers and poets and food including a healthy option.”

In Chingford an exhibition about black history was put on and there was food and music.



Paradox for community

CBHA is now leasing the Paradox Centre in Chingford from O-Regen for five years and sharing use of the community centre with Care Aspirations. This means there will be much more opportunity for use by the whole community. CBHA will let it out at affordable rates for community use. The youth club continues in the youth wing.

No honour for time inside

A group of 16 CBHA youths had a taste of life on the inside when they visited Coldingley Prison in Woking, Surrey.

Youth worker Judy Griffith organised the trip to show them the reality of life behind bars.

She said the inmates talked very openly to the young people and showed them photographs of injuries inmates had inflicted on each other. They were bad and it really illustrated how tough it was in prison.

She added some young people saw doing time inside almost as a badge of honour but this trip brought home the hard truth. The young people got a lot out of it.

Tribute to ‘community hero’ Gloria



Gloria is pictured with two of her daughters, Daniella and Shawana

CBHA staff and residents have been paying tribute to resident and volunteer Gloria Monteeth who has died.

Gloria, 46, has three daughters, Daniella, Chantel and Shawana. She used to work for the HAT and in more recent years had helped out with youth clubs and outings for CBHA.

Head of community develop-

ment Roz Gordon said: “She was one of our community heroes. She could always be counted on to participate in community activities even at short notice. During the last two years she did a great job as cook on our residential trips, creating three properly produced meals, often on wood fires, at the campsite. I know many people will miss her.”

Festive fun time

CBHA youth workers are busy planning a fun-filled festive break, with plenty for young people to do. Listen out for news at your youth centre or ring Douglas or Judy on 020 7922 8500.