

youth news

an update for CBHA's young people and adults

spring 2007



Building for a positive future in construction

Chingford teenager Callum is just one of the young people looking at a brighter future, thanks to some advice and help from CBHA youth workers.

Callum, 19, recently started training for a City and Guilds qualification in construction and is very happy with the course. He is now learning in a training centre in Stratford.

Before starting the course, Callum had been looking for work but with little success. Then youth worker Douglas Muhammed talked with him about possible options. Douglas said: "Sometimes, I refer the young people to the Job Service, various training schemes and colleges. For Callum, I

arranged an interview at the government's careers scheme, Connexions."

Douglas went with him to the interview to provide moral support. Callum had an interview and a test before signing up for the City and Guilds qualification. He is now one of the top students there and is looking forward to working in construction.



The help and support from Douglas was all part of the outreach jobs and training advice they provide for young CBHA people. "Several of our young people have now found training to do. Some have found jobs and others are now in college. It is good to see young people doing something positive and starting to realise their potential."

Chill out changes

Chill out zones are now on an extra night at Chingford, with a further night coming soon. Young people can now drop in at the Paradox Centre on Mondays, 6pm to 10pm, Wednesdays, 6pm to 9pm and Fridays, from 6pm to 10pm. Thursday nights coming soon.

- The chill out zone at Walthamstow has moved location – it is now in Queen's Road Community Centre. This is due to extra funding from Better Neighbourhoods. Drop in on Thursdays from 7pm to 9pm.

Member of the

Peabody
group

Rollin G use music and film in positive message

A group of 13 young people who grew up together have formed Rollin G, an organisation with an exciting new way of engaging with youths. Members Jason, 18, and Aron, 19, are working with CBHA young people. Jason said they aim to empower them to improve their quality of life and turn away from violence.

Aron joined after he was the victim of a vicious stabbing attack last year.

To tackle the issues, they believe organisations must work with young people in their own environments to make the bridge between them and authorities.

Rollin G was formed in September in partnership with Waltham Forest Crime Disorder and Reduction Partnership to take the tension out of young people's environment. They use music and film to create positivity.

Jason said: "We have already gained the young people's trust and they know they can talk to us," said Jason.



Jason



Aron

"They are asking when we are doing our next project, when we coming down to their youth club.

"We have a studio where young people can record their music. It has to be music with a positive message because a lot of conflict between gangs and estates can be started with messages in music. We have also had a workshop on shooting music videos."

Look out for Rollin G in your area.

more...



CD is launched: buy it now

Defendin' Da Hood's album, *Living on Borough Time*, is about to be launched. The CD, which features 15 tracks reflecting young people's feelings and experiences of living in Waltham Forest, includes *If You Know You* - the theme tune of the Damilola Taylor Trust.

Living on Borough Time is on sale for £6 from CBHA area offices. Some of the money raised will go towards further projects for young people. The rest will be split between the artists.

Young people try life behind bars

Sixteen CBHA youths will be given a taste of life inside when they visit Coldingley Prison in Woking, Surrey, this summer.

The trip has been organised by youth worker Judy Griffith who wants to show them the reality of what happens to those who choose a life of crime. It follows a visit to the same prison last year (pictured) when the young people said the 'shock tactics' really worked.

The visit is part of a programme run by prisoners who are training in youth work. They will perform role plays on muggings and other situations and then discuss the crimes with the CBHA youths. "The young people are really looking forward to going

and we hope to do at least one prison visit each year," added Judy.



Get writing for youth news

Let us know what you would like to read about in CBHA's Youth News. Ring Douglas on 020 7922 8524 or Judy on 020 7922 8500.

We would also like to see your own poems, raps or articles on whatever you would like to write about. Please give them to Douglas or Judy.



Street dance done properly!

Check out the moves at street dance sessions

Talk about dedication to duty! Youth leader Judy Griffith is so keen to interact with the young people that she couldn't help but join in at a street dance session at the Epicentre, Leytonstone.

But she tore a ligament while doing a cartwheel and

had to be picked up off the floor. "I thought I would be ok because I am also a sports coach," she said. Rad moves, Judy.

Street and other dance styles are continuing at the Epicentre every Tuesday from 6.30 to 9.30pm.

Eggs-citing break is a mixed bag

Young people enjoyed a packed CBHA Easter holiday programme. The zones were open from 2pm to 10pm in each of the youth clubs, with all the usual facilities such as pool, table tennis, bar football, music nights.

Youth leader Judy Griffith said: "We also had some spontaneous discussion nights when we all sit down and have a talk about issues concerning the young people - whatever they want to talk about at the time." The programme was a mixed bag - plenty of fun activities but there was also

some more serious advice on offer. There were sessions where they could receive advice about sex and drugs and workshops from WorkNet which gives career and training advice. They were given help filling out job application forms and writing a CV, interview techniques, and advice on training and learning new skills.

On the more light-hearted side, CBHA also offered arts and crafts sessions and the ever-popular music making and DJing, courtesy of organisation Ape Media.