

# Best start in life is guaranteed

Last year, after consultation with residents, it was agreed that a new network of children's centres would operate across the borough. The first of those centres at the heart of our eight community neighbourhood areas opened in April in Beckton & Royal Docks. The latest opened this month in Plaistow.

London Borough of Newham

COMMUNITY  
NEIGHBOURHOODS

Each centre delivers a universal local offer called the Best Start in Life Guarantee, to all families. From pregnancy and family health to early learning and childcare, parents are supported at every stage of a child's development. It also covers work and training.

The guarantee ensures all Newham parents have access to:

- 15 hours of free eligible childcare, increasing to 30 hours when national proposals to double the offer are rolled out
- stay and play sessions every week
- programmes, workshops and sessions offering advice and guidance to improve parenting skills
- regular employment advice sessions and help to get into work
- a range of family health and

development sessions, including ante-natal support, the transition to parenthood, the early weeks of life, perinatal wellbeing, breastfeeding initiation; healthy weight and nutrition; managing minor ailments and reducing accidents; and supporting speech and language development.

Each centre also has its own individual offers. For example, the St Stephen's Children's Centre in East Ham has its own midwifery practice and an outdoor space with allotment, sandpit and climbing area. Rebecca Cheetham Children's Centre in Stratford has a separate area for sensory play and parents and carers can also loan toys free of charge. Edith Kerrison Children's Centre in Custom House offers free lessons to help parents learn how to use a sewing machine and needlework

skills. Some have gone on to college and others have started their own business from home. All the centres are supported by a range of outreach venues including childcare settings, schools, libraries and community centres.

Mayor Sir Robin Wales said: "We want to ensure there is a consistent offer of high quality services in every one of our eight community neighbourhoods. Investment in the early years is critical to securing positive outcomes later in life.

"We are committed to maintaining a free, universal, local offer to support every family with young children to give their child the best start in life. We are being flexible about how and where services are delivered. The future cannot be about spending money on expensive buildings, it has to be about good quality, joined up services that make a difference for children and families."

## Beckton & Royal Docks CN (image 2, 5, 7 & 8)

Beckton & Royal Docks Children's Centre, Ellen Wilkinson Primary School, E6. Tel: 020 7474 0645

## Green Street CN (image 1 & 4)

St Stephen's Children's Centre, Whitfield Road, E6. Tel: 020 8586 0147

## Custom House & Canning Town CN

Edith Kerrison Children's Centre, Edith Kerrison Nursery School, Sophia Road, E16. Tel: 020 7474 2761

## Manor Park CN (image 10)

Manor Park Community Children's Centre, Sheringham Nursery School, E12. Tel: 020 8553 2479

## East Ham CN

Altmore Children's Centre, Altmore Infants School, East Ham, E6. Tel: 020 8552 6604

## Plaistow CN

Plaistow Children's Centre, Plaistow Primary School, Junction Road, E13. Tel: 020 8548 5620

## Forest Gate CN

Kay Rowe Children's Centre, Osborne Road, E7. Tel: 020 8534 4403

## Stratford & West Ham CN (image 3, 6 & 9)

Rebecca Cheetham Children's Centre, Rebecca Cheetham Nursery Education Centre, E15. Tel: 020 8534 3136

