

News

‘Champion’ charity gets high praise

A charity for homeless people has been commended as a “social champion” at the Charity Times Awards 2013.

Anchor House, in Canning Town, was shortlisted for its work to combat the causes of homelessness in an area of social deprivation and its efforts to support residents and the community.

Described as a charity “exploring new paradigms of service delivery, achieving ground-breaking results, and contributing to the intellectual debate about the future of service delivery”, Anchor House was one of five finalists for the award.

Keith Fernet, Anchor House director, said: “We are extremely proud to have been nominated as “social champion” and are delighted to receive this recognition for all the work we do here.

“We’ve always been proud to be a high achieving organisation and this is a testament to that.”

The awards were at the Lancaster London Hotel and recognised the work of more than 150 charities.

Young mums take home plea to Downing Street

Families facing hostel eviction have hundreds of supporters

by Anna Dubuis
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A group of 29 young mums and mums-to-be fighting against eviction from a hostel are determined to take their cause right the way to Downing Street.

Now MP Lyn Brown has met with the women – all aged under 25 – and is looking into how she can help them.

The women live at Focus E15 Foyer in Stratford, but were told they had to leave by housing provider East Thames after Newham Council cut funding for support services.

The council says it will help to find them new accommodation but the women are concerned they will only be offered housing outside of London.

For the past couple of weeks, the young women have been petitioning in Broadway and have got more than 900 signatures.

Jasmine Stone, 19, said: “Once we have collected some more signatures we will take it to Downing Street.”

She said they had been told to find private rented accommodation but said it was “impossible” without money for a deposit.



■ Young mums are petitioning to stay in Newham despite facing eviction

“The council says we should look outside of London where the rents are lower but I can’t move away from my family,” she added.

“I don’t know what’s going to happen next, if someone is going to knock on my door telling me to leave. It’s scary.”

A spokeswoman for East Thames said the date for closing the mum and baby unit had not yet been set but all

the women will have to move when they find alternative accommodation.

A Newham council spokeswoman said: “The priority is to provide them accommodation in Newham or neighbouring boroughs but the Government’s benefit cap has made London unaffordable for some people and this is why offers may be outside London.

“No-one is forced to move.”

Extra staff in store for Christmas

John Lewis in Westfield Stratford has employed 120 Christmas temporary sales assistants.

With just over 60 shopping days to go until Christmas, the department store has taken on the extra staff to assist customers from the area as they get ready for the festive season.

The new staff positions are across a number of departments including furnishing accessories, homeware, fashion and electricals.

Barry Davison, recruitment and development manager, has helped to coordinate the recruitment process.

He said: “Christmas is a really exciting time to be a partner at John Lewis and we were looking for enthusiastic people who understand the importance of making sure every customer receives a high level of customer service.”

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