

Charity

Broadcaster Jeremy Paxman has heaped praise on a charity for its innovative work with homeless people.

The former Newsnight presenter met with beneficiaries of Caritas Anchor House (CAH) to find out how their lives have been transformed from living on the streets to accessing accommodation and employment through the charity.

CAH, based in Barking Road, Canning Town, supported 254 homeless people in 2016 and receives thousands of visits from members of the Newham community each year.

Mr Paxman said: "Caritas Anchor House is a wonderful place, providing sanctuary for people who have – often literally – nothing but the clothes they stand up in.

"Through hard, but very valuable and inventive work, they help people who have obviously been through quite a lot in their lives to get back up and they now have huge ambitions for the future."

Currently, 33 per cent of the charity's residents have been employed as of March 31 – double the average of 14pc for homeless organisations.



Jeremy Paxman visits Caritas Anchor House.

Picture: CARITAS ANCHOR HOUSE

Popular teacher loses two year cancer battle

A selfless teacher, who continued to work despite having incurable stomach cancer and only weeks to live, has died.

Sham Uddin, 38, who was Forest Gate Community School's (FGCS) assistant headteacher, lost her cancer battle on Monday, August 14 after a period of illness.

The sad news was confirmed in a statement from the Forest Lane school by headteacher Simon Elliott.

He wrote: "We are very sorry to let all of the school community know that Ms Uddin died on Monday after a period of illness.

"Our thoughts are with her family and friends at this difficult time.

"Ms Uddin was totally committed to FGCS and her contribution to making the

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school what it is today has been immense.

"We will be celebrating her life on our return to school in September."

Tributes to Sham have already started pouring in on social media sites.

On Facebook, Jan Tallis wrote: "Such a wonderful teacher and leader, she was an inspiration and will be sorely missed."

Meanwhile, Kauser Patel wrote: "I'm come visit to school tell the students that how she was there for me."

Sham's dedication to her pupils saw her return to teaching in September 2016.

When she was diagnosed with incurable stomach cancer one year prior, she

was given just weeks to live but refused to give up life in the classroom.

At the time she said: "I should be in a hospice preparing to die but instead I have an office, a classroom and a load of pupils depending on me.

"I can't let them down.

"If you listen to the doctors then, no, I shouldn't be here right now.

"But I am and if I can teach one more child, change one more life, then it is all worth it."

Sham was subsequently nominated for a Jack Petchey Award for outstanding leadership which she received at the 02 in September last year.

Simon said of his assistant head: "Sham isn't just a one in a million teacher, she is a one in a million human being."



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