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Jeremy Paxman praises Catholic homeless centre's 'tailored' support programme

17 September 2014 13:27 by Liz Dodd

Famous for his merciless grilling of Westminster's most senior politicians, veteran political journalist Jeremy Paxman had kinder words for a Catholic-run homeless shelter in London's East End.

The award-winning journalist and former *Newsnight* presenter praised Caritas Anchor House in Canning Town for its innovative and holistic approach to homelessness during a visit to its London hostel.



Anchor House, which runs courses for homeless people and members of the local community as well as providing shelter, is "the full package", he said, adding that its approach was simple but effective.

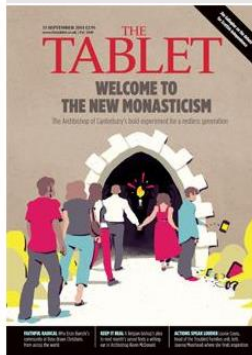
"Each person who walks through their doors gets support tailored to them, whether that's improving their job prospects with educational and training courses, addressing drug or alcohol issues or dealing with mental health needs," he said. "Their focus is very much on treating people as individuals, rather than taking a one-size-fits-all approach."

Caritas Anchor House serves homeless people in the London Borough of Newham. It receives 40,000 visits a year from locals. Around 37 per cent of its residents found employment with the charity's help last year.

Mr Paxman has been a patron of the charity since 2011.

Above: Jeremy Paxman at Anchor House. Photo: Caritas Anchor House

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