

Project Profile:

Take Part Workshops

Newham



**take
part**

London Civic Forum supported the London Borough of Newham, Royal Docks and Beckton Councillors, and local third sector consortium Advance to Deliver running sessions supporting residents to engage in community work and decision-making.

Throughout January, twenty five Newham residents – with an age range from 14 to 70+ – gathered in community spaces and worked together to build their skills, confidence and knowledge.

Six local councillors took part in sessions to discuss their role and support participants' learning.

These sessions have given me a way to be active in my community.

Sessions like these are crucial in raising the aspirations of young people in our community

Councillor Alec Kellaway



I now know who my local councillors are, and what they do for my community!

Take Part is an approach to learning for action, which helps people gain the skills, knowledge and confidence to become involved in their communities and to influence the decisions that affect their daily lives.

Take Part is at the heart of London Civic Forum's vision of a strong, active and inclusive society working across London to build healthy communities and improve quality of life for all.



Get Active in Your Community

Purpose: To bring residents together to identify solutions to local problems, and develop the skills, confidence and knowledge to become further involved in their communities and with their Council.

Take Part's informal learning approach was crucial in building individuals' confidence, helping people find common ground and enabling them to apply new skills.

Activities: Sessions were based around the process of planning a local community event, and took place in four different local community venues. Through group work, learners explored...

- Making ideas happen
- Finding the right support
- Problem-solving with Council and Councillors
- Organising and managing community events

Outcomes:

- Learners agreed that the course had helped them develop better knowledge, confidence and skills to get more engaged in local activity and democracy.
- Seven learners have since become Newham Active Community Team (ACT) volunteers, eight became Newham volunteers, and others are planning to become Olympics volunteers
- The course was hugely successful in bringing together younger and older community members to learn from each other, breaking down barriers and preconceptions

Into the future...

Participants hope to take forward projects including parenting support, outreach to the Chinese community, a community clean-up, Asian dress-making, drugs and health awareness, and teaching Brazilian martial art Capoeira.

For further information please contact:

Kate Burls, Take Part Coordinator, London Civic Forum: kateb@londoncivicforum.org.uk

Jenny Wilmott, Head of Community Leadership, LB Newham: Jenny.Willmott@newham.gov.uk

London Civic Forum is Take Part Champion for London, supporting active learning for active citizenship across the capital.

www.londoncivicforum.org.uk, www.shapeyourcity.org.uk.