

Project Profile:

'We Can Make a Difference'

Tower Hamlets



take part

Account3 is a not-for-profit training and development company which aims to support the development of local people through the provision of advice and guidance, training, enterprise support and access to resources within a vibrant environment where skills and potential are valued.

Carmel Bridge is a social enterprise committed to empowering and developing Britain's diverse migrant communities.

With support from LCF, they created 'We Can Make A Difference', a Take Part programme of residential and weekly support sessions for 48 unemployed Tower Hamlets residents.

The results are inspiring...

I understand English but now I feel I can speak it well too.

Now I know what to say to the council when my boiler breaks!



I have been able to learn in my own time, at my own pace.

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.



‘We Can Make A Difference’ Training Programme

Purpose: To empower, support and provide the necessary confidence and skills needed for female tenants living in social housing in Tower Hamlets to engage with local housing and residents’ services.

The Take Part model of learner-centred, active and reflective, and community-based learning helped participants learn at their own pace, tackling issues that impact on their lives, in a relaxed and friendly environment.

Activities:

- Residential course based on ‘Woman Be Heard’ materials (WEA)
- Weekly communications learning sessions: focus on local participation
- Weekly English as a Second Language (ESOL) sessions: focus on local participation

Outcomes:

- All learners say their confidence and communications skills have improved as a result of this programme, and that they are more aware of local and national news.
- 15 learners now regularly take part in local decision-making fora.
- 13 learners are now employed in newly created Tenant Liaison roles, and 2 have found employment with other agencies.
- Learners have established a new BME Women Tenants Panel which is regularly consulted by local housing associations.

Into the Future...

As a result of this programme 13 new Tenant Liaison posts were established at Tower Hamlets Homes and Stonewall Housing. Tower Hamlets Homes has committed to continuation funding of the ESOL classes.

For further information please contact:

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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.