

# The role of Public Health teams in Refugee Integration

# A whole-system approach to supporting refugees and people seeking asylum

Research and partnership to inform practice and policy

**GLA Research Study, May 2022**  
on the Needs, Experiences & Capacities of People Seeking Asylum in London

**Migrant Arrival Project 2022-24**  
([AIMEC](#)), Coventry University

**LBN and LSHTM Systems Map Feb 2022** –Drivers of Poverty, Destitution and Exploitation for People with Precarious Immigration Status

**Qualitative research**, Jan 2024 on health needs of people seeking asylum staying in hotels in Newham, Poems & Roses

**Neighbourly Lab research (Summer 2025):** ethnographic research into why young refugee men are experiencing homelessness, identifying in-depth insights into the challenges and recommendations

[newham.gov.uk](https://newham.gov.uk)

**Targeted support**, e.g. Welcome Newham One-Stop Shop, VCS Small Grants Scheme, Community Interpreters Programme

**System change**, e.g. Borough of Sanctuary, RAS action plan, Safe Surgeries, Data Sharing, Commissioning health assessments, 0-5 years referral pathways

**Awareness raising and capacity building**, e.g. Social Welfare Alliance training for frontline staff, Welcome events

Migrant Health Group  
Multi-agency Forum  
RAS Newham Health Partnership Group

Opportunities to inform regional and national policy, a systems approach and for reciprocal learning

**WE ARE NEWHAM.**

# Welcome Newham Model



## 1. Reduces barriers to access

- The Welcome Newham One-Stop Shop is for refugees staying in Newham. It brings services together in one place to reduce barriers to access. The service is weekly at a local library, 10am until 3pm. No appointment needed.
- Weekly outreach into hotels providing immediate assistance to arrivals reducing financial barriers

## 2. Employs staff with lived experience

- Having shared experience, language and culture enables Welcome Newham staff to develop positive relationships and trust and helps them deliver a more trauma informed approach. Staff speak 16 different languages.

## 3. Strengthen capacity of community and voluntary organisations

- Welcome Newham launched a Small Grants Scheme in Dec 2022. Since then, 24 grants have been awarded and cover various projects including English conversation classes, community kitchens, trauma workshops, dance workshops and days trips to explore local area etc.

# Welcome Newham Model



## 4. Implements continuous improvement

- Welcome Newham transitioned from manual tracking to **case management system** with analysis via **Power BI**. This has improved performance and generated data to inform quality improvement and resource allocation.

## 5. Ensures services continue to be relevant

- Welcome Newham has adapted existing housing grants. For example, they introduced a NASS leavers move on grant which supports applicants who move into properties outside london with a one off grant of between £500-£1400 (dependant on family size) to help meet resettlement costs.

## 6. Takes a One-Council approach

- Works across council directorates. Is not seen as duplicating but enhancing the ability of the council to respond to a highly vulnerable group.

# Wider Determinants of Health

- Our work to support people seeking sanctuary is influenced by an understanding of the impact of the wider determinants of health.
- The wider determinants of health are the range of environmental, economic and social factors that impact on health and wellbeing.
- Wider determinants are factors and conditions that shape everyday life, including, but not limited to, housing, education, and work environment.
- Supporting residents with the wider determinants of health can help people lead independent, healthy and happy lives.
- OHID highlight that addressing the wider determinants of health has a key role to play in reducing health inequalities.
- There are studies which conclude that the wider determinants of health have a greater influence on health and wellbeing than health care, behaviours or genetics.



Wider determinant	Action	Progress/achievements
Housing	Private Sector Housing to carry out hotel inspections to ensure housing conditions meet statutory and legal standards	Inspections of all hotels completed and key actions and notes shared.
Access to health	Deliver outreach clinics to improve access to healthcare for people seeking sanctuary	100+ people received liver screens (2025) Supported DoTW deliver 378 initial health assessments at hotels Sexual health outreach clinic: 23 people completed full ATI screens which included testing for, HIV, Syphilis Hepatitis B and C (2023)
Food and nutrition	Food and Safety Hygiene Inspections of hotel caterers when statutorily required	All caterers have received Food and Safety Hygiene Inspections
Education	Develop a community interpreter programme	35+ people completed the community interpreter course and 5 people actively volunteering with Welcome Newham
Social and community networks	Support children and families participate in the HAF programme	Since summer 2024, 100 people have attended 3 free fun session at soft play centre
Food and nutrition	Complete infant feeding checklist with hotels, to ensure a safe and age-appropriate environment, and appropriate food for pregnant women, babies and children under 3. (UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative standards compliant)	Completed with hotel in Feb 2025, directly leading to better practices eg use of full fat dairy, and influencing removal of baby jars and cerelac