



Prifysgol Cymru  
Y Drindod Dewi Sant  
University of Wales  
Trinity Saint David

# Community development

## Sylwia Brylewicz

### 2112267

## Lecturer: Jolly Nwankwo

## Assignment 1

## BMHP6022

*Trawsnewid Addysg; Trawsnewid Bywydau*  
*Transforming Education; Transforming Lives*



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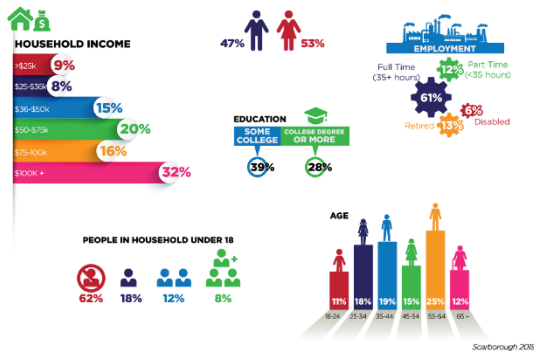
# Introduction



- This community development project aims to enhance the quality of life for Newham's residents by addressing the issue of housing and homelessness.
- A community is a group of people who live in the same geographic area or share common interests, values, or goals, fostering a sense of belonging and mutual support. Communities play a crucial role in providing social connections, support systems, and opportunities for collective action and advocacy (Anon, 2022).

# Demographics

## DEMOGRAPHICS



- Located in East London, Newham has a population of approximately 353,134 residents (ONS, 2022).
- The borough is ethnically diverse, with significant South Asian (Bangladeshi, Indian, Pakistani) and Black African and Caribbean populations (ONS, 2022).
- Newham has a relatively young demographic profile, with a median age of around 32 years old (Newham London, 2020).
- It is one of London's largest boroughs in terms of population and geographic size (Newham London, 2020).

# Stakeholders involved in the project



## **Newham Borough Council**

leads policy-making and funding for housing services, partnering closely with housing associations to expand affordable housing options and support services.

## **Volunteers**

Non-profits and grassroots organisations provide direct support and advocate for housing rights, while healthcare providers deliver essential services addressing health issues among homeless populations.

## **Schools and Institutions**

Educational institutions support homeless students and offer vocational training, while government agencies like MHCLG provide funding and regulatory frameworks. Residents contribute through community consultations, shaping decision-making processes.

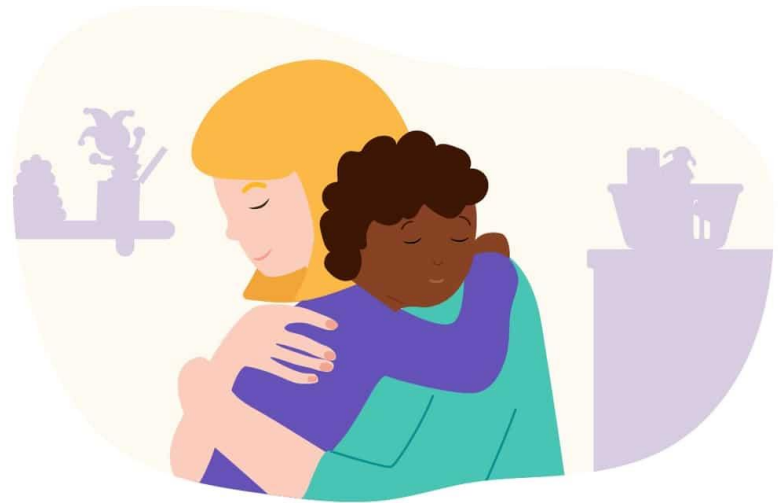
# Attachment Theory

## Connection to Homelessness:

- Individuals experiencing housing instability often have histories of disrupted or insecure attachments.
- These disrupted bonds can contribute to mental health issues, substance abuse, and difficulty maintaining stable housing and employment (Carnemolla and Skinner, 2021).

## Importance of Comprehensive Support Services:

- Understanding attachment theory underscores the need for support services that go beyond just housing.
- Emotional and psychological support, including counselling and mental health services, are essential to address underlying issues from past trauma or unstable early relationships (NSPCC, 2021).



# Attachment Theory con.

## Application to Newham Community Development Project:

- Create environments and services that foster secure attachments and support positive relationship-building
- Provide safe and stable housing options that allow individuals to develop a sense of security and belonging
- Focus on rebuilding trust and promoting healthy relationships within families and the broader community.
- Address emotional and psychological needs to enhance overall well-being and stability, reducing the risk of recurring homelessness and contributing to a more resilient and inclusive community (Carnemolla and Skinner, 2021).

# Use of digital media and technologies for community development



- **Magazines:** Publish stories on housing rights, support services, and success stories of overcoming homelessness.
- **Mobile Apps:** Provide real-time updates on housing availability, resources for homeless individuals, and connections to support networks.
- **News Platforms:** Run investigative pieces on systemic issues contributing to homelessness and advocate for policy changes.
- **Social Media Campaigns:** Raise awareness, engage community discussions on housing inequalities, and mobilise support for homelessness initiatives.

# legislation and policy impact on support and growth of a community



**Housing Act 1996:** Mandates local authorities to provide housing assistance and temporary accommodation to homeless individuals and families.

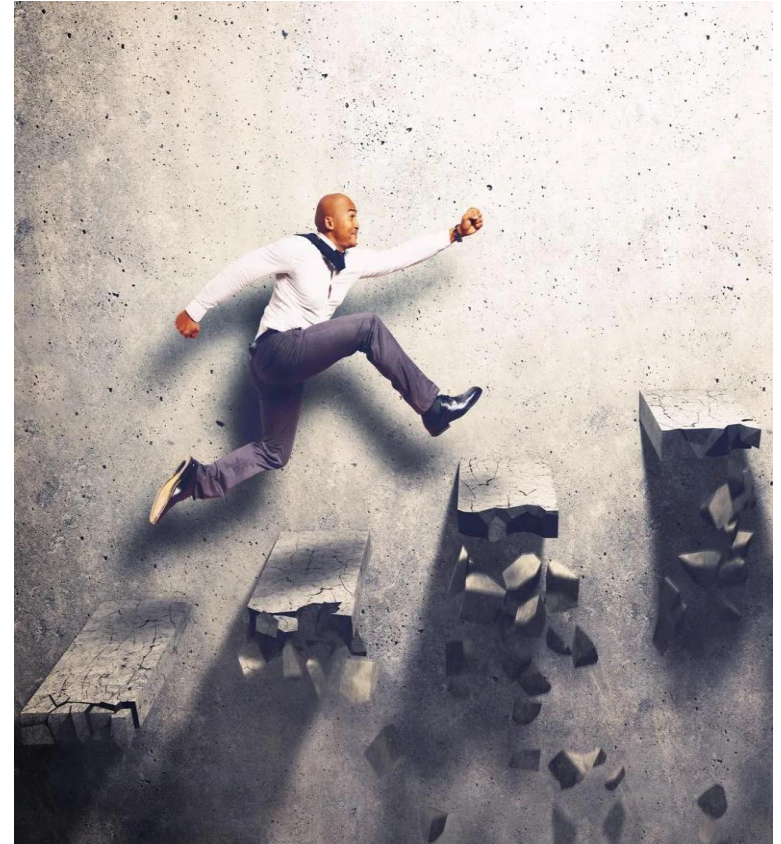
**Homelessness Reduction Act 2017:** Requires early intervention by local authorities to prevent homelessness.

**Localism Act 2011:** Empowers local authorities to develop tailored housing strategies, including allocations and prevention measures.

- **London Plan:** Strategic document with policies on housing supply, affordability, and homelessness interventions affecting boroughs like Newham.
- **Equality Act 2010:** Ensures protection against discrimination based on characteristics such as race, gender, disability, and age for those facing homelessness.
- **Local Planning Policies:** Influence housing availability and affordability, guiding development and social housing provision in Newham (Legislation, 2022).

# Obstacles to community development

- **Financial Constraints:** Limited funding from local/central government and high land/construction costs.
- **Economic Factors:** Economic downturns reduce funding and increase demand for services.
- **Policy and Regulatory Challenges:** Shifts in government policies, complex regulations, and local political opposition.
- **Stigma and Discrimination:** Affects homeless individuals' access to services and community integration
- (Harden et al., 2015).



# Obstacles cont.

- **Public Health Emergencies:** Straining resources and disrupting services.
- **Resistance to Change:** Resistance from community members and institutional inertia.
- **Operational Challenges:** Need for robust planning, strong stakeholder collaboration, and continuous community engagement.
- **Infrastructure and Coordination Issues:** Inadequate infrastructure and difficulties coordinating among agencies and service providers
- (Harden et al., 2015).

# Recommendations

- **Increase Funding:** Advocate for higher allocations from local and central government budgets; explore public-private partnerships and social impact bonds (Crisis, 2020).
- **Innovative Housing Solutions:** Consider modular housing and repurpose existing buildings to offset high land and construction costs (NICE, 2022).
- **Stakeholder Collaboration:** Establish a multi-stakeholder task force with housing associations, community organisations, healthcare providers, government agencies, and residents to enhance coordination and incorporate diverse perspectives (NICE, 2022).
- **Address Stigma:** Launch educational campaigns to challenge misconceptions about homelessness and highlight stories and contributions of homeless individuals; provide training on cultural sensitivity and anti-discrimination (Crisis, 2020).

# Recommendations cont.

- **Community Engagement:** Use digital media and technologies (mobile apps, social media) to facilitate real-time communication, disseminate information, gather feedback, and mobilise support for housing initiatives ensure accessibility for (Crisis, 2020).
- **Data Management:** Invest in robust data systems for effective decision-making and service delivery; ensure transparency and compliance with privacy regulations (NICE, 2022).
- **Economic Inequality:** Implement integrated strategies addressing root causes of deprivation, such as job training, educational support, and healthcare access; advocate for policies promoting economic equality and social justice at local and national levels (NICE, 2022).
- By adopting these recommendations, Newham can significantly address its housing and homelessness challenges, creating a stable, secure, and inclusive living environment for all residents.

# Conclusion

Addressing housing and homelessness in Newham requires increased funding, stakeholder collaboration, and innovative housing solutions, alongside tackling stigma, enhancing digital community engagement, and improving data management.

Addressing broader economic inequalities through job training, education, and healthcare access, combined with continuous community engagement and adaptability, can transform Newham into a secure, resilient, and inclusive community where all residents thrive.

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