



Shian News

Shian Housing Association Ltd - 020 8985 7120

Our Mission Statement

Shian is a housing organisation providing culturally specific services, primarily to vulnerable black and ethnic minority families and individuals in urban areas.

We promote cohesion, empower our communities, raise aspirations, improve the quality of lives and ensure our customers have the opportunity to access high quality services.

IMPORTANT NOTICE



FIRE SAFETY WARNING

One of our tenants has recently had a fire in their flat, thought to be caused by an electric plug-in air freshener.

Please be careful not to cover these air fresheners and to ensure they are switched off when you are out.

It is also important to purchase home contents insurance. In some cases safeguarding your belongings can cover the costs of redecoration.

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Are you struggling to pay your rent or council tax and live in Hackney

If you already claim Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit, you could get a little extra help.

Get a little extra help with a Discretionary Housing Payment...

What is a Discretionary Housing Payment?

If you receive Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit (or both) you could get money to help you if you have difficulty paying your rent or council tax. The payment is called a Discretionary Housing Payment and is meant to prevent hardship if you are in financial difficulties.

How does it work?

The payments are temporary and can only be paid for a short time (how long will depend upon your circumstances). The amount of money that can be paid is limited, so the Council will ask you to fill in a form so they can assess your circumstances. They will ask you questions about your financial details, including how much rent you pay and what your outgoings are (such as paying mobile phone bills, medical bills and gas, electricity and water bills). They will also ask you about the people who live with you.

They can usually consider making Discretionary Housing Payments in the following circumstances:

- Your income and savings are too high for you to get full Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit (or both).
- Your Local Housing Allowance is lower than your actual rent.
- The rent Service has restricted your rent
- Another adult other than your partner lives with you
- You have had to rent somewhere with more bedrooms for your children who do not live with you for most of the time but visit you (at the weekend for example)
- You have a medical condition which means you cannot move house.
- You have particular reasons for staying in your current home, for example because you need to be near hospitals, schools or relatives or because you are more likely to find work in the area you live in,
- You are young, single and pregnant. We may be able to pay towards some of your rent until the baby is born and your benefit automatically increases.
- You have a mental-health condition and have not previously had any help dealing with this (for example, from a social worker).
- If you have fallen behind with your rent or council tax payments and this means you cannot pay other important bills.

They cannot usually pay Discretionary Housing Payments in the following circumstances.

- To pay for service charges for services your landlord provides such as water, heating and meals
- To cover rent payments if you are not entitled to Housing Benefit
- To cover council tax payment if you are not entitled to Council Tax Benefit
- If you are repaying Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit that we overpaid you.
- If you are behind with your rent or council tax

Do you have any news or would you like to write an article for the next edition of Shian News. Contact Karen on 020 8985 7120 or email shian@shian.org.uk

Service Improvement Panel



Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 21st July 2009 at 6:30 – 8:00 pm** The topic for this month's meeting is **Allocations, Lettings, Transfers and Mutual**. The meeting will be held at **Shian's offices 1st Floor, 1 King Edwards Road, Hackney E9 7SF**

If you would like to attend please let us know in advance, so we can send you a copy of the current policy for review. You can contact us on 020 8985 7120 or by email to shian@shian.org.uk. *Once again we would urge you to join our panel so we can make a positive difference in your neighbourhood.*

Fire Safety in Local Housing

Storage and security

Recent fires have involved combustible materials left in common parts (e.g. stairwells and corridors) of blocks of flats and houses converted to flats. These materials can be prone to deliberate fire setting and as they occur in the means of escape can quickly block the means of escape. In addition they can provide sufficient heat to ignite multi-layer paint systems.

We have also encountered electrical and gas riser cupboards (and others) that are not secured. These have become used as storage and/or a place to dump rubbish, which can be ignited deliberately or accidentally and again prevent the means of escape from being used.

Fire doors being wedged open resulting in both smoke spread and damage to self-closing devices

Poor adjustment of self-closing devices (Or inappropriate choice of closer type) has been found to have caused fire doors to close very quickly and so loudly 'bang' into their frame disturbing nearby residents. Because of this, residents wedged the fire doors or placed materials at the foot of the frame to stop the door fully closing (and so avoiding the loud 'bang'). Repeated wedging of doors in this way was found extent that they failed to fully close even when not wedged. These circumstances have allowed smoke to easily spread through blocks of flats and ultimately to enter flats which would otherwise have been reasonably protected from the effects of fire and smoke.

Frost protection and thermal insulation in roof voids.

Cases have come to light where electrical heaters have been installed in roof voids as a frost protection measure and, with an ever increasing emphasis on reducing heat emissions, these voids have also been insulated. Problems have arisen where the insulation has been placed over the heater. This has caused the heat to be contained and reflected into roofing timbers to which the heaters are fixed. Over time the beams have charred, significantly weakening them and ultimately resulting in the beams igniting, causing significant damage and risk to persons in the premises.



Supported Housing Barbecue

On Friday 10th July, we held a barbecue for the residents of our 3 hostels.

A big thank you to everyone who helped out and attended. With an extra thank you to Sahara Watson, Shareen White-Reid and Charlotte Samuels who helped with organising the event.



Sahara Watson
Master Chef



L-R: Oluremi Omokorede, Sahara Watson, Shareen White-Reid



L-R: Victoria Nassozi, Oluremi Omokorede Sahara Watson, Shareen White-Reid



SHIAN STAFFING

Our Customer Services Officer, Bianca Foster, has now left Shian and our Senior Neighbourhood Officer, Minara Sultana is currently on maternity leave. We have four new members of staff at Shian:



Alistair Evans
Project Officer



Jada Terrelonge
Housing Officer



Tyrell Boatswain
Customer Services Officer



Grace Quarcoo
Administrator

Building your skills through volunteering

By volunteering you can gain valuable skills and experience which build your confidence and helps you into work. Volunteering can also be rewarding and give you a sense of purpose and personal fulfilment.

Volunteering benefits individuals most where it is structured. Formal agreements with the provider can ensure you develop the necessary skills and experience to do the job and the organisation benefits through your contribution.

There are a range of volunteering opportunities ranging from providing care, administrative work, providing information and advice, data inputting, etc.

Benefits of volunteering include;

- Networking i.e. meeting other people
- Personal development of transferable skills
- Personal fulfilment and a sense of purpose
- Relevant experience and training, and in some cases accreditation of courses
- Providing references

Volunteering is particularly relevant to individuals who are long term unemployed, retired or just want to

meet other people. Individuals who may require a reference or a CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) check if you work with children, vulnerable people or finance.

Still interested?

Look at the website www.do-it.org.uk for hundreds of vacancies and contact one of the volunteer centres listed to find out more about the available opportunities within your area.

Hackney Voluntary Action

92 Dalston Lane
Hackney
London E8 1NG
T: 020 7241 4443
W: www.hackneyvoluntaryaction.org.uk

Islington Volunteer Centre

6-9 Manor Gardens
Islington
London N7 6LA
T: 020 7686 6800
W: www.islingtonvolunteer.org.uk

Volunteer Centre—Haringey

Lee Valley Technopark
Ashley Road
Tottenham
London N17 9LN
T: 020 8880 4032
W: www.havcoharingey.org.uk



PRIZE WINNERS

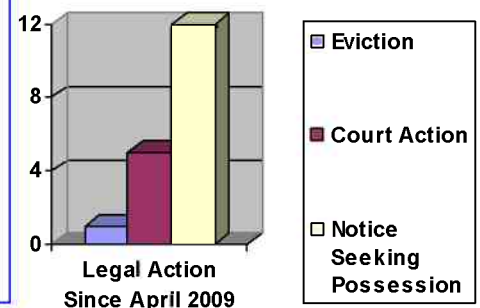
Congratulations to the below tenants who have won a prize of a £25 voucher for maintaining a clear rent account this period.

Ms R Mabengi

Ms S Fafane

Mr I Emirzade

Please telephone the office to arrange to collect your prize!



Hackney



Young London: Into Music

'Young London: Into Music' - a new urban youth festival aimed at developing the next generation of talent in east London. A series of five events: 26 June, 7pm, 14-17 July, 9am-5pm, 16 July, 7pm, 23 July, 7.30pm, 2 August, 11am-10.30pm. Produced and delivered in the five Olympic and Paralympic Host Boroughs of Greenwich, Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest. Age group: Young Adults. Contact: Letitia. Email: Letitia@outpostmedia.co.uk Telephone: 020 7684 5635

The Big Lunch

Sunday, 19 July 2009 1pm - 5pm

The Big Lunch is a community event that is part of a UK initiative (from the Eden Project) to bring neighbourhoods together for a meal. Age group: all. The Green, Junction between, Sandringham Road, 108a Amhurst Road, E8 2AG, E82AG. Disabled access: yes. Contact: Anne Engel. Email: anne.engel@talktalk.net Telephone: 07775 516053.

Free Barbecue

Sunday, 26 July 2009 12pm - 5pm

Come and eat, drink and relax for free at our summer annual barbecue 2009. Free. Age group: all ages. St Olaves Parish Hall, Woodberry Down, N4 2TW. Contact: LARA OGBOLU. Email: toks201@yahoo.com Telephone: 07958 554132. [view website](#)

Biggafish @ Underage Festival Feat The Bigga Bloc

Sunday, 02 August 2009 11am - 10.30pm

Biggafish, @ Underage Festival. A carnival float will be created by working with street and graffiti artists. The float will then be featured as part of Underage Festival (also part of CREATE09). Age group: Teens. Victoria Park Hackney E9 Disabled access: yes. Contact: Letitia. Email: Letitia@outpostmedia.co.uk Telephone: 020 7684 5635.

Islington



The Big Lunch!

Sunday 19 July 2009

The Big Lunch, organised by the Eden Project for **Sunday 19 July**, is a national day where you are invited to sit down and eat lunch with your neighbours. The aim is to generate community spirit through a range of different, fun activities. It's really easy to get involved - for Big Lunch, tips, ideas and resources and to let the organisers know if you're planning something for your own Big Lunch visit www.thebiglunch.com or call 020 7636 8152. There's also a facebook group 'The Big Lunch - an Eden project'.

The Feelgood Festival

Saturday 18 July 10am-5pm

Friends of Archway Market have this year teamed up with their neighbour, St John's Church, to run a festival and church fete. This will be a packed day featuring a range of entertainment, free massage and herbal massage consultation, free face painting and arts workshops, competitions and more. Venue: Archway Market and the neighbouring St John's Church. Price: Free. Tel: 07773 335384 Web: www.archwaymarket.org

St Luke's Summer Festival

Saturday 1 Aug 09, 12 noon - 5pm

An afternoon of entertainment in south Islington, providing diverse entertainment and learning opportunities. Attractions include a steel band, DJ, arts and craft workshops, children's games/competitions and dancing. There will also be outdoor activities such as spin painting and planting activities. Venue: St Luke's Centre, 90 Central St, London EC1V 8AJ. Price: Free Tel: Keren Wiltshire on 020 7549 8181 E-mail: kwiltshire@slpt.org.uk Web: www.slpt.org.uk

Haringey



Children and young people

Wednesday 22 July 2009, 1.30 to 4.30pm

A great afternoon out! The fun will include pony rides, face painting, bouncy castles, fairground attractions, entertainers, story telling, a fire engine and lots more. Also for the first time there will be a creative corner and African drumming for the older children. Adults and babies under 18 months are FREE. Price per child £5 members, £7 non-members. Avoid the queues and book in advance at funday@haringeyfamilies.co.uk, www.haringeyfamilies.co.uk (external link) or 020 8347 7007.

Grand Carnival Costume Splash

Saturday/Sunday 22-23rd August 2009

Alexandra Palace, Palace Way, Wood Green, N22 7AY — Splash is an event which demonstrates the Art of the Mas Band and costume making and brings the Caribbean Carnival Experience to North London. Splash 2009 will be presented in two parts which we hope will widen the audience base. The first day of the event (Saturday) will comprise of the adult Kings and Queens Costume show whilst the second day (Sunday) will be more of a family/community day. This will comprise of a series of workshops, a dedicated kids zone - bouncy castle, face painting etc, and from 3pm, the children will have the opportunity to display their carnival costumes. A market place, comprising of a variety of stall vendors will be present both days, as will a Caribbean food village, offering Caribbean cuisine. Start and finish time: Sat 22nd Aug Adult:£20/£15 adv Child:£15/£10adv Group:£50/£40 Sun 23rd Aug Adult:£15/£12 adv Child:£10/£8adv Group:£40/£35 UNDER 5s FREE For further information contact: www.nhmba.com (external link) or Tel: 020 8968 9478

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