

Press Release  
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### **Hackney youngsters taste working life at London's tallest tower block**

A group of young people from Hackney Homes' Youth Engagement Programme (YEP) initiative have had a taste of corporate working life following a trip to Barclays Head quarters at Canary Wharf.

The seven-strong group who have a stake in their communities via a network of estate committees welcomed the opportunity to improve their employability at one of the world's leading banks.

Organised by Rising Tide and the East London Business Alliance the group improved their employability via a series of teamwork activities including trying to build the tallest giraffe in the room out of 8 pieces of A1 paper, some pens and tape.

They also took part in 'speed networking' wherein each young person spent 3 minutes with a volunteer from Barclays to improve their networking skills and learn pointers for effective networking.

Each member was given the opportunity to experience what an interview would be like, and received feedback on their performance in areas such as body language, speech and their knowledge of the desired role they were being interviewed for.

Hackney Homes' Youth Coordinator Sonia Bradley said: "This trip gave the young people fantastic insight into corporate working life and the hard work needed to succeed in a demanding field such as accounting. They learnt valuable skills that they will be able to put to the test when they start thinking about their own careers. "

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