

## Media release

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### Partnership working helping Hackney's Bangladeshi community

Hackney Homes has teamed up with local vocational training company UXL, London's Bangla Housing Association and the London Development Agency to set up free ESOL classes for Hackney's Bangladeshi community.

The new training programme was launched on 29 January at Landfield Estate in Hackney's North East neighbourhood.

Jackie Loftus from Hackney Homes said the classes have come about with the assistance of the local Tenants' and Resident's Association (TRA) and are already proving popular amongst the local community.

"Together with Bangla Housing, Hackney's North East Neighbourhood was identified as an area with a high number of Bangladeshi residents. We worked with the Landfield Estate TRA to secure the use of the community hall for the classes," Jackie said.

Supported through the London Development Agency's Opportunities fund, the English training classes have been set up specifically for the Bangladeshi community (over the age of 16) as a way for them to access language and training skills so that they can become job ready.

Meg Hillier, Member of Parliament for Hackney South and Shoreditch, praised the partnership working between UXL, Hackney Homes, Bangla Housing and the LDA and is encouraging others to take up the free training.

"The ESOL classes are providing a stepping stone for some members of the Bangladeshi community to access employment. This project also helps these mothers work with their children to support them better at school," Meg said.

The training classes are happening on Mondays and Tuesdays at Landfield Estate Community Hall. There is a free crèche and transport available. For more information, contact Jackie Loftus on 020 8356 7863.

**Ends**

**Press queries to Susan Walsh on 0208 356 3528 or email [susan.walsh@hackneyhomes.org.uk](mailto:susan.walsh@hackneyhomes.org.uk)**