

MEDIA RELEASE

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Thamesmead Community Fund appoints new resident panel



L-R Agatha Thomas, Adedapo Dally, Joana Carvalho, Nikita Hayward, Genevieve Norwick, Peculiar Medinus, April Mansaray and Esther Sesay.

The Thamesmead Community Fund (TMCF) has announced its new panel of eight local people who will have their say on the investment of up to £75,000 towards 25 exciting grassroots projects that benefit residents. Each project will receive up to £3,000 from July 2024 - March 2025, and panel members will be paid the London Living Wage for their time.

The TMCF is funded by Peabody and administered by the London Community Foundation. Peabody is leading Thamesmead's long-term regeneration – a fundamental part of which is about collaborating with local people and partners to create a happier, healthier and wealthier Thamesmead.

Between 2018 and 2023, Peabody awarded £230,000 to 114 projects through the TMCF. Each project was voted for by previous resident panels through a process which has now been passed on to new members: Agatha Thomas, Adedapo Dally, Joana Carvalho, Nikita Hayward, Genevieve Norwick, Peculiar Medinus, April Mansaray and Esther Sesay.

Esther previously received a grant from the TMCF towards the award-winning Javan Coker Foundation, which she co-founded in 2018 to support children and young people with disabilities and special educational needs. "I live in Thamesmead so I know the area and I know a lot of the services that are provided. Being a part of the panel means we'll be able to have some input in providing support to the community through different projects," she said. "My hope is that we'll be

able to make sure that groups which may not have accessed the fund previously can now access it, because you have lots of people who do great work in Thamesmead but don't have the opportunity to reach wider audiences."

Other projects that have been supported by the TMCF include Mobile Power Gym, which offers free boxing sessions for 13 to 19-year-olds in the Moorings; 'Thamesmead is Funny' stand-up comedy workshops; health and wellbeing classes; and drawing workshops led by local artists.

The new panel members have already attended an in-person training workshop, and will have their first official meeting this week. Following this they will meet online periodically over the next two years. Their new role will allow them to play a key part in adding value to Thamesmead's neighbourhoods while developing key decision-making and teamworking skills.

Uzma Ali, Peabody's Community Development Project Officer for Thamesmead, said: "We're incredibly excited to be welcoming a new community panel to the Thamesmead Community Fund. They're all super keen, happy to be on board, and ready to help social entrepreneurs and creatives deliver fun activities for local people. The Thamesmead Community Fund has proven to be hugely successful since it launched in 2018, which is thanks in large part to the community panel who play a vital role in the whole process."

The money for the fund comes from income generated by location filming in Thamesmead as well as a contribution from the Peabody Community Foundation. This year for the first time, the Making Space for Nature Fund – which supports projects that upgrade Thamesmead's green spaces or help people engage with nature – is forming part of the TMCF. The Connecting Thamesmead programme, which aims to bring people together to improve health and wellbeing, is also joining the fund.

The next funding round will open in September 2024.

Find out more about how Peabody is working to support communities in Thamesmead [here](#).

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About Thamesmead

Thamesmead is a town in South-East London and is the same size as central London with a population of 45,000 people. Its rich landscape includes 240 hectares of parks and green space; 7km of canals; five lakes; 5km of river frontage and 53,000 trees.

Peabody has been leading the regeneration of the town since 2014, after becoming the town's main landholder. Our mission is to grow, improve and look after Thamesmead for the long term. We aim to bring about thousands of homes and jobs, alongside new leisure, cultural and commercial facilities over the next two decades. The area's green spaces, waterways and lakes will be at the heart of everyday life, while the West End is just 25 minutes away thanks to the opening of the Elizabeth Line.

About Peabody

More than 160 years after it was established, Peabody is one of the oldest not-for-profit housing associations in the UK.

The Peabody Group is responsible for more than 108,000 homes, with around 220,000 residents across London and the Home Counties. We also have around 17,000 care and support customers.

Our purpose is to help people flourish, and we are getting closer to residents by taking a local approach.

We are committed to delivering a responsive and easily accessible repairs service and investing in our existing homes so they are safe and well maintained. Our retrofit projects will make thousands of our homes more energy efficient.

We work with councils and communities to promote economic inclusion, tackle inequality and poverty, and prioritise wellbeing.

Our rents were £621m lower than the market in 2022/23. With an average rent of £127 per week in London and the south-east, we offer significant value for residents and communities.

We are also committed to building much-needed affordable homes.