

OUR Bromley

LONDON'S BEST BOROUGH

MARCH 2024 | ISSUE 3



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1st in London - again

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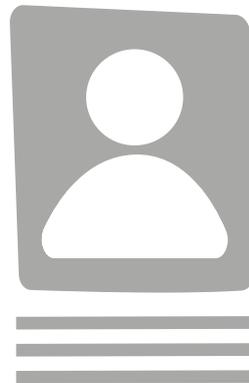
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Be ready for Voter ID this year

You now need photo ID to vote at a polling station, including in the Mayor of London and Assembly elections on Thursday 2 May and the next general election

Check now that you have valid photo ID for elections. You can use:

- Passport
- Driver's licence
- Blue badge
- 60+ Oyster Card
- Freedom Pass
- And many more, as listed online



If you do not have any accepted form of identification, apply for an alternative now to ensure you can vote



Find out more at
www.bromley.gov.uk/VoterID

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Dear Resident,

Welcome to the Spring edition of 'Our Bromley' magazine.

Since I last wrote, I am delighted to report that Bromley has been officially graded by Ofsted as being 'Outstanding' across children's services, placing Bromley in just an elite few councils nationwide to have received such an accolade.

We have also just been recognised for our Armed Forces Covenant, a strand of work I am extremely keen to see progressed further over coming months, given it is such a noble cause. A Bronze award for now - onwards and upwards for Gold next time!

Whilst money is clearly very tight all round for now - and to that end, I would like to apologise sincerely for the completely unavoidable recent hike in Council Tax we have just had to impose - it does go to show what can still be achieved through hard work and ambition, and that philosophy will remain our focus in everything we do moving forward.

With that in mind, fingers crossed, I am very hopeful that I might be able to update you with some equally uplifting news on the Council's innovative Loneliness and Housing programmes in our next edition!

Kind regards and a happy Spring to one and all,

Cllr Colin P. Smith
Bromley Council Leader

Homes for

Ukraine

Supporting our neighbours fleeing from war



- The Ukraine war started on 24 February 2022.
- Since the Homes for Ukraine Scheme launched on 14 March 2022, Bromley has welcomed **901** Ukrainian guests across hundreds of residents who have opened their homes.



To find out more about Bromley's Homes For Ukraine Scheme and how you can support those fleeing from war:

Scan the QR code or call our team on 020 8313 4698
or email ukrainesupport@bromley.gov.uk



News round-up

The latest on our Borough - find out more at www.bromley.gov.uk/news
 You can also sign up for our Update e-newsletter - straight to your email inbox



Rapid repairs

Fixing potholes begins with digging out the hole and now this can be done faster using a JCB 'Pothole Pro' machine. Tests in the Borough show this results in roads out of use for a shorter period, helping cut delays. Pothole repairs have been prioritised and road users should continue to report problems on the Borough's 550 miles of roads and 850 miles of pavements.

www.bromley.gov.uk/report

Litterbugs beware

Bromley is cracking down on those who drop litter with more Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers patrolling and issuing on-the-spot fixed penalty notices (FPN) where necessary. They can report promptly and arrange clearance of fly-tipping and prevent littering and dog fouling.



Beautiful Buildings

Bromley has been selected as a key destination for this year's London Festival of Architecture, providing the opportunity to showcase five distinct areas across the Borough – Bromley Town Centre, Chislehurst, Darwin, Orpington, and Penge. As the festival celebrates its 20th anniversary with the theme of 'Reimagine', events will be held throughout the month of June to celebrate and rethink the Borough's architecture and public spaces.

Pothole Pro equipment is being trialled to speed up pothole repairs



Bromley's Children's services rated outstanding see page 8.



Cllr Diane Smith (in the foreground) with the Mayor and representatives from the Jubilee Day centre.

Allotment Achievement

Ward Councillor, Diane Smith has worked with the Committee of Abbots Way Leisure Gardens Ltd since 2012, aiding the development of the horticultural hall which opened in 2017. She has regularly attended their annual shows to present awards and as part of the Queens Platinum Jubilee, initiated a new award for the best kept plot which was presented at last years annual show. In recognition of the significant work undertaken by clients with learning disabilities from the Beckenham Jubilee day Centre who transformed their plot from its very poor state to one of the finest examples on the site, a 'Highly Commended' certificate, was presented by Cllr Smith and the Mayor. Cllr Smith said, "We know that allotmenting, growing and cultivating fruit, vegetables and plants is a fantastic way to keep fit and maintain health and wellbeing, as well as being an enjoyable pastime. It is great to see the community coming together in this way."



Gold standard for library partner

Bromley's Library partner GLL has been awarded Investors in People (IiP) Gold status. This international, best practice standard recognises commitment to good people management and staff development. Achieving Gold puts GLL in the top 15 per cent of IiP accredited organisations.



Forces commitment recognised

Bromley is one of only twelve local authorities nationally held up as an exemplar by the Ministry of Defence for its commitment to the local armed forces community. The Council was presented with a Bronze Award through the Ministry's Employer Recognition Scheme. This follows a re-signing of an Armed Forces Covenant that reaffirms the Council's ongoing commitment to supporting veterans and service personnel across the Borough.

Likeminded people

Being a volunteer has lots of benefits. It brings purpose and wellbeing to your life, can relieve stress, alleviate depression and lessen feelings of loneliness. You meet people like yourself who want to give something back. Why not give it a go?

www.communitylinksbromley.org.uk/volunteer
www.bromley.gov.uk/FriendsRegistrationForm



Good Work

A brand-new employment and skills centre has been launched at London South East Colleges' Orpington Campus. Created in partnership with Bromley Council, the initiative is aimed at supporting people from across the Borough who may be looking for employment or wanting to reskill.

www.bromley.gov.uk/

BromleyBusinessGrowth

Electric car charging

Electric cars can be charged at one of 12 DC rapid chargers on the ground floor of the Civic Centre car park in Bromley town centre. Installed by Tesla, but available for any electric vehicle, each point can produce up to 250kW with a 15-minute charge – enough for around 170 miles. Five further AC units in the same area provide charging over longer periods.



Changing Places

Two new Changing Places toilets, that support the needs of people with complex and multiple disabilities, were welcomed by a Bromley-based group of parent carers, Need2Change, when they were unveiled recently. The new facilities at Crystal Palace Park and the Green Roof Café in High Elms Country Park were officially opened by Bromley's Mayor, Cllr Mike Botting.



No Stress

Young people took part in a one-day event in the Glades designed to help build resilience and manage stress and anxiety. Free activities including candle and stress-ball making, t-shirt printing, advice workshops on social and emotional skills, mindfulness and relaxation sessions were delivered by Bromley Youth Council, Bromley Y and the Youth Programme.



Be Alert!

Residents are advised to be wary of rogue traders offering cleaning services at the door. An older Hayes resident was quoted £250 for driveway cleaning and it was not done well. Dealing with doorstep traders risks shoddiness, having no redress, and being substantially overcharged. For regular email Trading Standards Alerts sign up at www.bromley.gov.uk/TradingStandardsAlertSignUpForm



Outstanding Golden Thread

Bromley is one of only a handful of councils to achieve Ofsted's current Outstanding judgement across the board for Children's Services

Outstanding puts Bromley into the children's social care elite across the country, and behind the judgement is relentless hard work by senior leaders, managers, service heads, social workers and partners, as well as supportive decision-making from elected councillors. Bromley's Golden Thread of excellence binds all this together, outstandingly.

As corporate parents to young people who for one reason or another cannot be cared for within their own family, local authorities must give these children the life-chances they deserve, often against the odds. It is tough and the Ofsted

inspection, designed to help keep children safe, reflects this by being equally as demanding under the new framework introduced some four years ago.

“Bromley's Golden Thread of excellence binds all this together, outstandingly.”

Under the microscope comes effectiveness of leaders and managers, the quality of professional practice and the impact on children and young people with recent changes placing even further emphasis on care leavers.

Above: Bromley's Children and Families' Team came together to mark the positive announcement.



- The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families – **Outstanding**
- The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection – **Outstanding**
- The experiences and progress of children in care – **Outstanding**
- The experiences and progress of care leavers – **Outstanding**
- Overall effectiveness – **Outstanding**



The Impact of Leadership

“The environment of high support and high challenge is echoed at every level, from Young People’s Advisors (YPAs), social workers and operational managers, through the senior leadership team, and outwards to families and partners and, like a golden thread, back again.” Ofsted



“We have high ambitions and are champions for all our children, working hard to gain their trust, and that of our staff and partners too,” says Director of Children’s Services, Richard Baldwin.

“Our relationship model means time is taken to build rapport with young people and families and this is echoed in work within the Council and with our partners.”

Most children benefit from a consistent social worker thanks to Bromley’s emphasis on building a stable workforce with a solid contingent of permanent social workers.

“Our staff enjoy working for Bromley and are allowed the time to do their best work,” Richard adds. “We are honest about the challenges we face and are fully supported by our Chief Executive with backing from elected councillors too.”



**Bromley
Lettings**

Landlords...

Do you want a cash incentive
and stress-free lettings?

Bromley Council's lettings service takes the stress out of finding you tenants while saving you money.

We are looking for properties across London and surrounding areas.

We have a range of attractive lettings services to tailor to your needs. Join the scheme and you'll receive a cash incentive alongside access to a range of other benefits.*

Benefits include:

- free support throughout the duration of the tenancy from highly experienced staff
- no fees
- free photographic inventory
- free tenancy agreement

*Subject to terms and conditions

Find out more and register your interest online:
www.bromley.gov.uk/PrivateLandlords

or contact our dedicated lettings team:
t: 07738 752 580 e: landlords@bromley.gov.uk





Right picture:
Rachel (4th from
left) with her team



Outstanding early support builds resilience

“Impressive family help services intervene at the right time to improve children’s circumstances. Experienced and skilful practitioners confidently assess need and empower families to improve their relationships and lives.” Ofsted



Rachel heads up a remarkable ‘early intervention’ service that listens to families and provides just what they need, when they need it.

“The most important thing is building rapport with families – the entire family, working out what they need and delivering on that,” Rachel explains. “And we don’t give up! We reach people in every possible way. Few families require more than one cycle of support and even fewer more than two, building self-efficacy is key,” says Rachel.

“Our sessions are so varied – anything you can think of that families need we will try to provide.”

Rachel is proud of her team. “We take care right from the start to make sure we recruit the right people,” she says. “We ask for a lot of information, so staff must work professionally with families but with warmth, empathy, and understanding.”



Young people thoughtfully supported

“Care leavers benefit from compassionate and sensitive Young Persons Advisors who are thoughtful and support them to achieve their potential.” Ofsted



Lorette and Chris are two of Bromley’s Senior Young People’s Advisors (YPAs), whose role is to offer help and advice to young people leaving care.

“It’s all about building strong relationships, getting alongside the young person and understanding where they are coming from,” says Chris.

Bromley allows time and flexibility to establish a rapport with our young people,” Chris adds. Lorette agrees, “It’s important that caseloads are well managed to allow us time to understand young people.”

Lorette says that at a recent celebration of achievement for the young people, you could ‘feel the love in the room’. Anyone who meets this couple will know exactly what they mean – their passion is impressive – ‘Outstanding’ even.

Traders vetted by Bromley Trading Standards



Find your trusted trader with

Trading Standards Checked



Safe and reliable traders
approved by Bromley



Connecting residents
with trustworthy traders



Trained and equipped to
meet residents' needs



Reducing the threat of
rogue traders

www.bromley.gov.uk/TradingStandardsChecked

Bromley Trading Standards Checked is administered
by Kent County Council TSC



Right: Senior management with Executive Member for Children and Families Cllr Kate Lymer (centre), Council Leader Cllr Colin Smith (4th from left) and Chairman of Policy Development and Scrutiny, Cllr Kira Gabbert (3rd from right).



Sensitive Social Work to gain Trust

Social workers invest time, energy and enjoyment in the children they support and they work effectively with children’s families, carers, and partners to establish a caring network around each child.” Ofsted



A social worker in the leaving care team, Brendan has been with Bromley for four years, joining the Council just a week before the first pandemic lockdown. “We had to be very creative about how we engaged with young people during that time,” he says. “We even did ‘distanced’ door visits with some of the most vulnerable.”

“Bromley is special,” says Brendan. “It has taken the corporate parenting role to heart across the whole Council. We think what would happen in a household where family support is available and then how can we replicate that for our children who often have limited support networks.

Brendan puts much of the success down to the accessible and supportive management at Bromley. “Without that, we cannot function,” he says.

Prime Minister pays tribute to Bromley

Local MP, Sir Bob Neill, told the House of Commons of Bromley Council’s children services’ Outstanding Ofsted judgement and asked the Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, to join him in congratulating all concerned, which he did, paying tribute to Bromley Council and all the officers involved.



“I’m incredibly proud of our Children and Families Team. We are one of only three local authorities in the country to reach this pinnacle. Congratulations to everyone involved.”

Councillor Kate Lymer, Executive Councillor for Children and Families



Tree cheers



Meet one of the experts behind the Borough's street trees and Treemendous initiative to plant 5,000 more trees



Above: Hugh Chapman, Arbicultural Services Manager
Left: Trees awaiting planting

“We choose varieties that suit the locations we are planting them in and also for their seasonal characteristics,” says Hugh Chapman, Bromley's Arbicultural Services Manager. “Take Liquidambar for instance, one popular choice. It has lovely waxy leaves that look like maple but it's actually a sweetgum, the real joy is the colours the leaves turn in the autumn.”

The Treemendous initiative will add some 5000 street trees and residents may be surprised to see “no added topsoil if possible or fertiliser, just the tree being left to its own devices to establish in the soil that it will live in for the next 70 or 80 years.”

“We plant what are known as standard trees so there is an instant impact,” Hugh explains. “The excavated tree

pit may only be 50 – 60 cm deep to accommodate the root ball as tree roots spread horizontally. You'll see this if a tree unfortunately falls in a storm. That's one of the reasons why we have the bag method of watering our street trees so

“These are trees for local people to enjoy and it's great if people can get involved”

water pours over the roots spreading out naturally for the best start in life.”

Hugh is passionate about engaging with residents about the benefits of trees. “They are for local people to enjoy and it's great if people can get involved, watering when needed for instance, or reporting problems and hopefully signing up as a Tree Friend too.”

Three Cheers for Trees

Did you know? Scadbury has some of the borough's most ancient trees, but the oldest are probably two magnificent yew trees in Cudham Church Yard at around 1,000 years old.

Did you know trees...

- clean the air
- capture carbon
- improve wellbeing
- bring beautiful colour to our streets.

www.bromley.gov.uk/trees

In partnership with



Week one

SPRING 2024

Environment Matters

even more than ever

Top for recycling



The latest recycling statistics show that Bromley, for the second year running, is London's leading recycling borough, recycling almost half of all waste produced.

Bromley residents are producing less waste and recycling more than ever. From April 2022 to March 2023, over 48% of the borough's waste was recycled or composted and waste volumes fell by 6%.

The figures confirm Bromley has sustained the improved recycling performance from the year before last, when almost 45% of waste was recycled. The remainder of the borough's waste is sent to an Energy Recovery Facility and virtually zero being sent to landfill.

To help us all recycle more and minimise waste further, a number of roadshow events have been announced, with details overleaf, where our recycling experts will be ready to answer your recycling questions and help you find ways to reduce, reuse and recycle more.

Save time and effort in the garden

Why not join more than 43,000 subscribers who receive regular garden waste collections throughout the gardening season. At £70 per year, from 1 April 2024, residents receive a 240-litre bin to conveniently recycle garden waste. We then collect it every other week from March to November and monthly from December to February.

You might like to also consider a **home composter**. To find out more or purchase your half price compost bin visit bromley.gov.uk/homecomposting

Temporary garden waste sites will also be open the first weekend of April to minimise queues at recycling centres. Please see next page for more information.

Welcome

The news that Bromley is once again

London's top borough for recycling is welcome and a fantastic example of what we can achieve. By working together and recycling what we can, as well as minimising waste, we are directly helping reduce waste disposal costs and supporting the environment. The question we are now asking is can we do even better? With your help, we definitely can! It is part of the reason we've announced a series of 'Let's Talk about Recycling' roadshow dates. Please recycle as much as you can, including for instance by using our weekly food waste collection service.

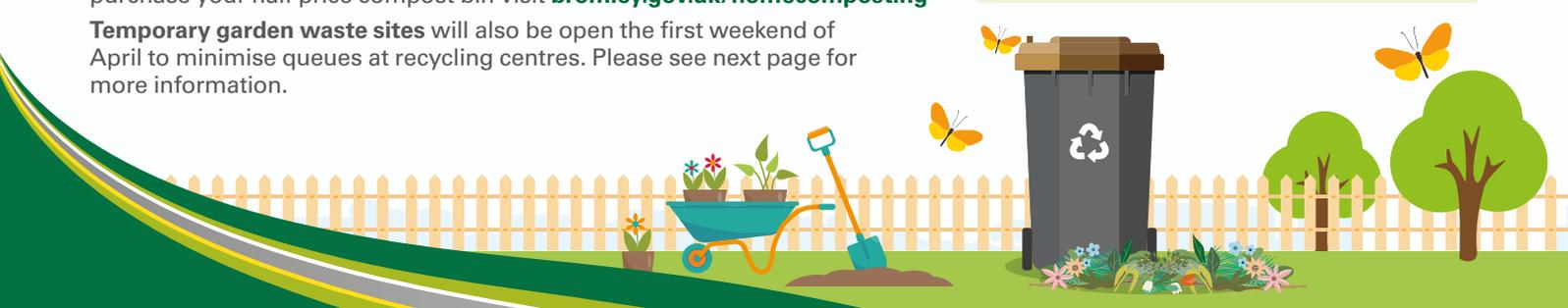
There are some other great examples of where working together brings benefits to all, including in improving our parks, which you can read elsewhere in the magazine, including to restore the historic bandstand in Beckenham, in Croydon Rd Recreation Ground, with thanks to all who have done so much in support of our parks.

As a gardener by trade, I'm absolutely delighted to support Bromley in Bloom, which is sponsored by Coolings. I would encourage as many of you as possible to enter your gardens and businesses into this year's competition as this initiative has the potential to further brighten up the clean, green and beautiful garden of London we call home. For more information, please visit bromley.gov.uk/BromleyInBloom. It is tremendous news that we have completed our seasonal tree planting work and you can read more about this elsewhere in the magazine. Whilst we will be watering the newly planted trees during the

summer, if you can help by supplementing this, it would also help.

Thank you for your support.

Councillor Will Rowlands
Portfolio Holder for Environment



Become a Street Friend

Street Friends are invaluable members of our community who organise litter picking events across the borough to help us keep Bromley clean. Over the last year, we have seen a remarkable increase in the number of residents registering as **Street Friends** to organise their own litter picking events. With their support, we continue to raise awareness around litter. They are the example our local communities need to see in order to change the way we think about litter.

To find out more and become a **Street Friend**, please visit bromley.gov.uk/streetfriends



Clean streets

Our goal is to maintain litter-free and tidy roads to ensure the borough remains both attractive and safe. While each street undergoes regular cleaning, we acknowledge that between these scheduled cleans, litter accumulation may occur. In instances where street cleanliness is notably compromised, we are committed to returning for an additional cleaning session.

To report street cleansing issue please visit bromley.gov.uk/report



Let's stand together against fly-tipping

We remain committed to collaborating with residents, community groups and our waste and recycling partner, Veolia, to combat fly-tipping. Our ongoing **Your Waste is Your Responsibility** campaign provides advice on how to dispose of waste responsibly.

The scenario

Your options

You witness a fly-tip in action, or come across a fly-tip with evidence.

- Contact Bromley's enforcement team at street.enforcement@bromley.gov.uk and share as much information and photo evidence as you can, (e.g. number plate, home address) and report it at bromley.gov.uk/envirocrime
- If your information helps us prosecute, you could receive a £500 reward

You find waste dumped near your street.

- Visit bromley.gov.uk to report online
- The street cleansing team will remove it as soon as possible

You want to get rid of large unwanted items.

- Check to see if your local charity shop accepts furniture for reuse. The British Heart Foundation, DEBRA and St Christopher's Hospice offer a collection service
- Take your items to your local Reuse and Recycling Centre
- Book a bulky items collection at a cost by visiting bromley.gov.uk/BulkyItems



DIY waste at your local Reuse and Recycling Centre

As of the 31 December 2023, residents can bring a limited amount of DIY waste to our Reuse and Recycling Centres for free.

This will allow residents to recycle and dispose of a wide variety of items responsibly.

Residents can now bring 2 x 50L bags worth of DIY waste, or 1 large item up to 4 times a month. For more information, please scan here:



Vehicle restrictions at Waldo Road and Churchfields Road Reuse and Recycling Centres

Residents driving to the reuse and recycling centres in a van, pick-up truck, or liveried vehicle, will require a permit.

For more information visit: www.bromley.gov.uk/wastenews

If you are a business/trader, you can only visit Churchfields Road Reuse and Recycling Centre, and must pay for the disposal of trade waste and use the dedicated trade entrance when using the centre.

Reuse and Recycling Centre Easter opening times

The reuse and recycling centres will be open during the Easter weekend at the following times:

- Friday 29 March (Good Friday) - 8am to 4pm
- Saturday 30 March 7:30am to 4pm
- Sunday 31 March (Easter Sunday) - 8am to 1pm
- Monday 1 April (Easter Monday) - 8am to 4pm

The reuse and recycling centres are open between 8am-4pm on all other Bank Holidays. They may be especially busy, so please plan your trip in advance and check the webcam online. Please bring your permit or proof of address with you when visiting.

'Let's Talk About Recycling' Recycling Road Shows

You are invited! Our recycling experts are ready to answer your recycling questions and help you find ways to reduce, reuse and recycle more.

Find us on Bromley High Street at our dedicated family friendly stall - where you can ask questions and explore ways to recycle more and minimise waste.

LET'S TALK ABOUT RECYCLING

Friday 31 May
10am to 2pm

Saturday 29 June
10am to 4pm

Friday 26 July
10am to 2pm



Temporary garden waste sites

 Temporary sites are open again at the weekends in April, with details below, with the Green Street Green site remaining open till the last Saturday in October in line with previous years.

Saturdays 6 to 27 April, 11am 4pm

Bromley: Norman Park, Hook Farm Road (off Bromley Common)

St Paul's Cray: Cotmandene Crescent car park (off Chipperfield Road)

Saturdays 6 April to 26 October, 11am 4pm

Green Street Green: Salt Depot, Shire Lane Spur (off Sevenoaks Road)

Sundays 7 April to 28 April, 8am - 12 noon

Biggin Hill: Charles Darwin School, Jail Lane

Beckenham: Unicorn Primary School car park, Creswell Drive (off South Eden Park Road)



Collection Calendar

This is your recycling and waste collection calendar starting from April 2024.

This is for residents living in houses only as there are different arrangements for residents in flats. Please note particularly changes to collections in Bank Holiday weeks where typically collections will be a day later than usual.

- 1** All waste and recycling **must** be correctly presented for collection by **7am on collection day**.
- 2** All waste must be contained securely and placed within arm's reach of the pavement, **but not on it**.
- 3** Small electrical items, batteries and textiles **must** be placed in a separate loosely-tied bag.
- 4** Leave your recycling and waste out for collection until **5pm** before you report a missed collection.

April 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1*	2*	3*	4*	5*	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	5
6*	7*	8*	9*	10*	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27*	28*	29*	30*	31*		

June 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

July 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
29	30	31				

■ Saturday collections as advised * Collections are made one day later than usual

	<p>Shaded week - Green box Green box: tins, cans, glass and plastic containers Food waste Clothes and textiles Small electrical items Batteries</p>
	<p>Unshaded week - Black box Black box: paper and cardboard Food waste Clothes and textiles Small electrical items Batteries</p>

Top five ways to reduce your food waste and recycle more

- 1 Take stock before shopping.** Make a list of what you need (remember to check your fridge, freezer and cupboards first), take it with you when you go shopping and stick to it.
- 2 Create a meal plan.** Planning a few meals each week is a fantastic way to ensure you have what you need to eat healthily. It also prevents you from buying too much food.
- 3 Save your leftovers.** Find creative ways to use your leftovers and turn them into a tasty meal or snack. For example, leftover bread can become a delicious bread pudding.
- 4 Store food appropriately.** Make sure your fridge and freezer are running at the right temperature. This will ensure meat, fruits and vegetables are stored correctly.
- 5 Pay attention to 'Use-by' and 'Best before' dates.** The 'Use by' date is about safety and the 'Best Before' date is about quality. Food consumed after the 'Best Before' date is still safe to eat.

Involved in a sustainable community project?
 Veolia's Sustainability Fund provides cash sponsorship, in kind resources or staff volunteers to support community groups transform their local community or environment. Applications open on 22 May 2024.
 For more information visit veolia.co.uk/sustainabilityfund



In partnership with



Green Garden Waste Collection Service

Your neighbours use it,
why not join them?



Visit [bromley.gov.uk/gardencollections](https://www.bromley.gov.uk/gardencollections)
to find out more and **sign up today**

Safe and Sound

Bromley Safeguarding Adults Board's Independent Chair, Teresa Bell, shares what to do when an adult may be at risk



Teresa Bell is an experienced professional in keeping adults safe, as a former Director of Adult Social Care and head of voluntary organisations. “For the past 12 years, I have been the independent chair of Safeguarding Adults Boards,” she says, “A role I feel

privileged to hold and enjoy for the difference it makes to people’s lives.”

“Safeguarding adults is about watching out for those who are at risk of abuse or neglect. The importance of those who visit households, neighbours, friends and family became clearer during



“ ‘Safeguarding is everyone’s business’ became the watch word meaning everyone has a role to play. If anyone has a concern about an adult they should tell us and we will investigate sensitively.”

Bulent Djouma, Bromley Safeguarding Adults Board Manager

the pandemic,” she says. “This brought into sharp focus the need to encourage people to get in touch if they witness something concerning or need support themselves.

“It might be just a niggle,” says Teresa, “we want people to be confident to come forward and not be frightened to speak out. Some people turn to hoarding as a manifestation of their distress,” says Teresa. “This can be caused by life’s challenges, but root causes are

“Some people turn to hoarding, for instance, as a manifestation of their distress”

often deeply hidden. The Board, in partnership with Trading Standards, produced an animation to explain the condition.

“There are also many unpaid carers, some don’t recognise this description. Support is available and everyone is entitled to a Carer’s Assessment which will take account of what they may need.

“Don’t be afraid to reach out and ask for help,” Teresa concludes.

“There’s no shame in asking, and no guilt in reporting something. It may be the best thing you do for someone who is suffering in silent isolation.”

Self-neglect – what to look out for

Any lack of self-care in terms of personal health, hygiene and living conditions can be referred to as self-neglect



There is no single definition of self-neglect, but the Care Act places it within the statutory definition of abuse or neglect, if the person has care and support needs and is unable to protect themselves from neglect.

Individual uniqueness allows for personal choice but navigating life can be more difficult when confronted with various challenges such as bereavement, illness, trauma or disability. These can be signs of someone not coping:

- Poor hygiene
- Unkempt appearance
- Lack of food, clothing, shelter
- Neglecting the household
- Hoarding
- Collecting many animals
- Non-compliance with health services
- Inability or unwillingness to take medication

Have concerns about an adult?

Call **020 8461 7777** or in an emergency call **999** Visit bromleysafeguardingadults.org

Concerned about a child?

Call **020 8461 7373**
Visit bromleysafeguarding.org



“ We must pull together to prevent abuse and neglect of adults. People deserve to live their lives safely, so please speak out if you are concerned.”

Councillor Diane Smith, Executive Councillor for Adult Care and Health





Perfect Parks

Parks and open spaces across the Borough continue to benefit from the Council's £1million Platinum Jubilee Parks Fund



Blake Recreation Ground

A challenging wooden 'trim trail' aimed at 6 to 12-year-olds and a fitness frame designed for all users to take part in a variety of strengthening exercises have been installed in the park thanks to a £20,000 award, plus a £10,000 contribution by Friends of Blake Park. The trim trail offers tightrope walks, a climbing wall, swaying ropes, a rolling log and responsive horizontal ropes. There is also a free app to download to support the use of the fitness frame kit.



Cator Park

A new dog agility course at Cator Park includes, ironically, a catwalk bridge, crawl through tunnel and jump through wall. The new 'Bark Park' is fun for dogs and enhances the bond between owner and pet.



Ravensbourne Open Space

Friends of Ravensbourne Open Space were awarded £19,000 to make the playground area more inclusive for a wider age range of children. A new climbing frame was installed, as well as an inclusive spinner and lily pad stepping-stones.



Jubilee Country Park

A community orchard has been established on an unproductive meadow using just under £3,000 awarded to the Friends of Jubilee Country Park.



Richmal Crompton Fields

An orchard and a sensory garden have been created using a grant of £2,000 to the Friends of Richmal Crompton Fields.

You can find out more about all our Platinum Jubilee Parks Funded projects by visiting www.bromley.gov.uk/jubileeparksfund





Glittering Tribute

The gilded crown atop the 'Bowie Bandstand' is a fitting tribute to the structure and David Bowie's performance there

Eye-catching gilding has been applied to the crown at the pinnacle of the Grade II Edwardian Bandstand, in Croydon Road Recreation Ground, affectionately known as the 'Bowie Bandstand'. A performance by glam rock icon and erstwhile Beckenham resident David Bowie in August 1969 gave rise to its colloquial name.

“Funding for the project was secured from a variety of sources...”

The £245k restoration project of the Bandstand, believed to have been erected in 1905, has returned it to its original colour scheme of dark brown and buff, with the plans also including landscaping improvements and a pathway of personalised bricks.

Funding for the project was secured from a variety of sources, including

more than £100,000 from community fundraising including festivals organised by Bowie's Beckenham Oddity, £80,000 from Bromley Council and £12,840 from Heritage of London Trust whose additional support allowed for the crown – corona – to be gilded by specialists AF Starr Limited.

Once completed, the Bandstand will host performances and perhaps once again pay witness to another future superstar.



Bowie in Beckenham

David Bowie spent his early creative years in Beckenham. In August 1969 he performed at the Summer Growth Festival at the Croydon Road Recreation Ground Bandstand. The free one-day festival, believed to be the first of its kind in the UK, inspired Bowie to pen 'Memory of a Free Festival' as the closing song of his second album.



[www.bromley.gov.uk/
bowiebandstand](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/bowiebandstand)

Meaning of Mentoring

Bromley Mentoring Initiative volunteers can change young people's lives for the better and enjoy and learn from the experience



Dan Cartwright former fire Borough Commander (centre) with (left) James Cartwright, Bromley Fire Station Commander and (right) Stuart West, Station Officer

Orpington's former Fire Borough Commander, Dan Cartwright, has been a mentor for six years. "In my role, I collaborated with the safeguarding teams and the opportunity arose for me to become a mentor," he said.

"It's incredibly rewarding witnessing these young individuals grow in confidence and self-esteem. They remind me of myself at that age, albeit with the added pressures of social media!"
"I hope they gain a sense of being valued and encouraged that nothing

is impossible when you put your mind to it," said Dan. "I aspire to see mentoring schemes such as Bromley's expand throughout the entire London Fire Brigade. After 32 years in the service, I believe firefighters with their diverse life experiences are well-suited to being positive mentors."



Bromley has more than 100 volunteer mentors helping young people to build a brighter future

What do our mentees say?

"We have really deep conversations, and their advice has a big impact on me."
Year 10 boy

"He has helped me think about my future and the steps I can take."
Year 13 boy



**L to R:
Volunteers with
the Bromley
Mentoring
Initiative, Susan
Onen and
Debra Quee**

Be non-judgmental

Susan Onen and Debra Quee are much newer recruits, having mentored for just a few months.

“I wanted to provide an outlet for a child to have a safe and nurturing space for themselves where they could talk to someone they trust in an open and non-judgmental way and where they could be supported without any expectations,” said Susan.

“I get to help by just being there to listen to them, giving them space to think and by offering advice to help them navigate through their issues and concerns”.

Mentoring Programme

Emma East, Leader of the Mentoring Programme said, “I get to meet all sorts of amazing people who volunteer as mentors, hear their stories and gain so much experience from the conversations.”

Enjoy the time

Debra, also a volunteer for Bromley Youth Justice Service, said, “Through our mentoring relationship conversations I think my mentee gets a regular friendly face who comes and spends time with them every week, including doing art and games.

“I got involved in mentoring through a general conversation with a colleague who pointed me in the right direction. I have been interested in mentoring for some time and have always wanted to help and support children especially those who are vulnerable.”



Could you spare one hour a week as a mentor to help Bromley’s young people build a brighter future?

The Bromley Mentoring Initiative could be for you. You only need general experience of life and support. Guidance and training is available. www.bromleybp.org.uk

Clr Angela Page, Executive Councillor for Public Protection and Enforcement, is Chairman of Bromley’s Mentoring initiative Steering Group pictured (right) with Programme Leader Emma East



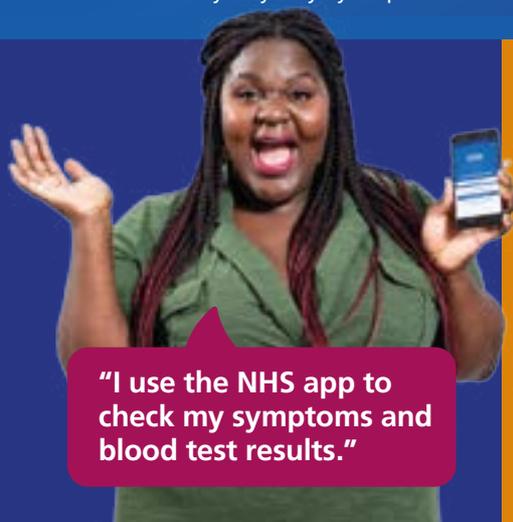
Mentoring is a winner for mentor and mentee. “Young people have a safe sounding board through the Bromley Mentoring Initiative and mentors learn how to support and motivate,” said Clr Angela Page.

Did you know with the NHS App you can...

- ▶ Order repeat prescriptions any time of day
- ▶ Collect your prescriptions
- ▶ View your GP records and test results
- ▶ Quickly check symptoms
- ▶ View, cancel or book GP appointments*
- ▶ Contact your GP practice online*



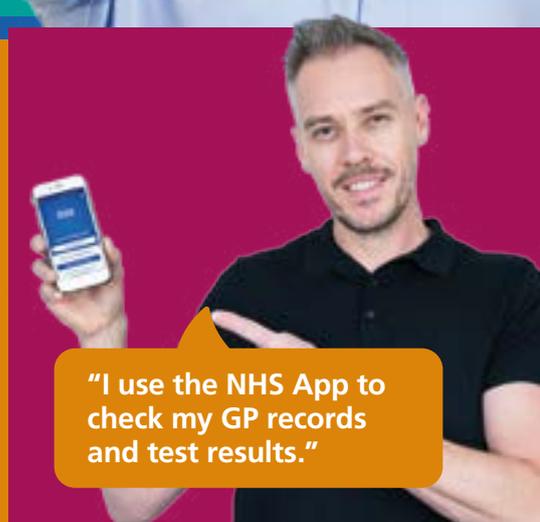
*Availability may vary by GP practice.



"I use the NHS app to check my symptoms and blood test results."



"I use the NHS App as it's so quick to order repeat prescriptions."



"I use the NHS App to check my GP records and test results."

At home or on the move, with the new NHS App you can conveniently order repeat prescriptions, view your GP records and test results, manage appointments at your GP surgery, set organ donation preferences, and check symptoms.

The app has been developed by the NHS and has been designed to help people get more information about their health and care - and more control of how they use NHS services. Why not download it and try it out? Or if you have it already, discover its new functions. More services will be added in the coming months.

Search '**NHS App**' on either Google Play or the Apple App Store.

Your NHS, your way.
Download the NHS App.



Scan to download ↗



Healthy Living

Public Health aims to reduce the causes of ill-health to improve health and wellbeing in the borough. There are plenty of ways you can help

Avoiding Measles

Residents are encouraged to make sure they and their children have had routine Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccines, especially in light of concern about the increase in measles cases across the country. Dr Nada Lemic, Director of Public Health in Bromley said, "MMR vaccines are the most effective way to protect our children and ourselves from serious illness and health complications from measles, and to lower the risk of an outbreak."



Healthy advice events

Families, parents and carers are invited to drop by free Family Health and Wellbeing events across the borough, from March to May 2024. Meet health professionals while children enjoy free activities and refreshments.



Is your child up to date?

The first dose of MMR is due at one year of age and a second dose from eighteen months. You should be notified when your child is eligible, but check their Red Book (Personal Child Health Record) if you're unsure. It's never too late to catch up. For children 1-5 years, contact your GP for an appointment.

At school age, contact the School Age Immunisation team:

- Primary school age **020 8487 1730**
- Secondary school **020 3903 3375**

Find out more nhs.uk/MMR



Too many top ups?

Lower My Drinking is a new addition to Bromley's alcohol support service to help residents 18 and over identify the risks associated with their alcohol drinking and what actions they can take to stay in control.

www.bromley.gov.uk/lowermydrinking





Battling the financial storm

Bromley, like all local authorities, continues to face unprecedented financial challenges, so to help protect services, all options for reducing costs and generating income are being explored

The rising cost and demand for both adult and children's social care, and housing are driving our financial challenges.

But much has already been achieved through the Council's award-winning transformation programme through identifying the most effective methods of service delivery and seeking further efficiencies in service supply and procurement. This ongoing work has led to over £102 million in transformation and other savings over the first four years to reduce the Council's cost and growth pressures.

Alongside the multi-million cost-saving move into a new civic centre at Churchill Court, the Council is looking

at its buildings to make long-term decisions on their use to best deliver services and protect finances.

Some savings simply come from delivering council services effectively, such as our hard-won title of 'London's top recycler', which helps cut costs and minimise waste - all with the help of residents. Also, the conversion of the Borough's 28,000 street lamps to LED is saving at least £1 million every year.

Generating income is also key, with various opportunities sought to boost income streams and careful investment decisions expected to generate around £18 million in 2024/2025, which represents 7 per cent of the Council's controllable budget.



Gold standard

Bromley won the gold award for efficiency and effectiveness at the Public Sector Transformation Awards from iESE – a non-profit organisation focused on government improvements. "Bromley is ambitious for their residents and willing to undertake bold thinking about policy."



"While much has already been achieved, further actions are needed to combat our projected budget deficit of around £40m in 2027/28. This includes calling on Government to provide further and fairer funding to address the unavoidable pressures faced by the Council."

Councillor Colin Smith, Leader of Bromley Council

Nurturing business

Small businesses and entrepreneurs check out available support and advice



More than 14,000 businesses operate across Bromley, with one thing in common – they are mostly small or medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

Bromley Business Growth has been launched to help them start, grow and thrive with free advice and assistance from various delivery partners. They will also be supported by improvements to town centres and high streets.

One partner, Anthony Crowther, Goldsmiths, University said, “We are pleased to support businesses to create new jobs, introduce new products and services and access new markets through the Growth Builder Programme.”

More on this £1.6m initiative and other support funded by the Government’s UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF):
bromley.gov.uk/BromleyBusinessGrowth



“Starting or scaling-up, the Bromley Business Hub aids growth and connectivity.”
 Stephen Solademi, MD of SOS Creativity
 - Partner in the Bromley Business Hub

Business Knowhow

Bromley Business Hub

One-stop-shop support for SMEs on accountancy, sales, grants and employment.

Growth Builder

Free expert advice for local SMEs aiming to expand delivered by Goldsmiths, University of London.

Supply Bromley

Newable helps SMEs gain the skills to access new supply chain and procurement opportunities.

Good Work Bromley Exchange

London South East Colleges helps residents gain employment.

Start Up Bromley

Free business workshops and training events for start-ups delivered through Bromley libraries.



“I am very proud of Bromley’s entrepreneurial success. We have launched Bromley Business Growth to support local SMEs in overcoming challenges and unlocking opportunities.”

Councillor Yvonne Bear, Executive Councillor for Renewal, Recreation and Housing



Spotlight on

Loneliness

The glorious arrival of a new baby could be marred by feelings of isolation and loneliness. Don't 'keep mum'

Hattie was 'going through the motions' by the time she got to Mindful Mums, a support group helping mothers through the trials and tribulations of having a new baby.

Eight months pregnant when a house move fell through, Hattie's long-awaited baby, helped by fertility treatment delayed by the pandemic, became part of a nomadic family moving from place to place.

Now, happily settled and with a sister to Arthur, two, Hattie is thankful she stepped into South East London Mind's Mindful Mums. "Caring for a baby is hard enough without constantly moving – I didn't have a local support network," said Hattie. "Mindful Mums instantly felt

different. Friendly volunteers shared experiences over comforting cups of tea. It felt like a safe place to open up.

"As I told my story to a room full of mums, I noticed one was crying," said Hattie. "Hopefully my openness spurred others on, but everyone shared. Over five weeks we covered so much, with honesty and candour.

"New mums, please make sure you spend time looking after yourself and reach out for support"

I can still rely on support and advice through the WhatsApp group we formed."

"New mums, please spend time looking after yourself and reach out for support – don't feel guilty about that."

Seek support

There is such joy in having a baby but with the pressures of night time feeds, the changes in identity and relationships, is it any wonder that some mums feel a little lost and sometimes just a bit lonely?

Mindful Mums founder Karen Taylor, who experienced this first hand, said: "I wanted to ensure people didn't feel alone and help build resilience to tackle the everyday issues of having a new baby."

Find Mindful Mums and more at [bromley.simplyconnect.uk](https://www.bromley.gov.uk)

Wake up 2 care

Do you want a career where
no two days are the same?



For a vocation that really makes a difference to people's lives, find out more about adult social care worker roles

- ✓ Free training and development
- ✓ Previous experience not necessary
- ✓ Mentoring
- ✓ Working as part of a dedicated team
- ✓ Making a real difference

Nadia applied and never looked back



 Watch Nadia's story

Register your interest online or email
wakeup2care@bromley.gov.uk

www.bromley.gov.uk/wakeup2care

Foster for Bromley

YOU could be the foster carer she needs



**To find out more, join one of our
free online information sessions:**

Wednesday 17 April 2024: 12:30pm - 2:00pm

Tuesday 14 May 2024: 6:00pm – 7:30pm

**Can't make
those dates?**

Contact the team
to arrange a one to
one session with a
fostering team member.



Visit www.bromley.gov.uk/fostering
or call our team on 020 8461 7701