



July 2020 Newsletter

The COVID19 pandemic is still with us and looks like it might be around for some time. Some of us are growing used to the new way of life. Some are finding ways to manage. Some of us are not having such a great time but for most of us how we feel goes up and down. We are working hard to find ways to keep calm and carry on. Please enjoy our newsletter and keep safe.

UPDATES

Children's Art Project



One of the things that have kept our spirits up in the last few months are the children.

Throughout the COVID restrictions older children, friends of account3 have been posting us artwork to decorate our windows, drawings and paintings showing their experiences and what they are thinking about. The windows are now pretty full and we have noticed people bringing other children to have a look and join in the fun.

We will be getting some more of the art work on our website over the next few weeks, so get involved and send us your children's paintings or check out our COVID 19 response website on www.account3.org.uk

Service Evaluation

Since March this year we have been working with a group of local women to make sure our services **continue** to meet local needs.

In the next couple of months, we will continue the work but we also intend to have a review and look at how we have responded over the last few months so if you want to be part of deciding how we do things in the future here is your chance to input.

Get involved in the evaluation and development process sending an email with your ideas or your contact details to admin@account3.org.uk



No Recourse to Public Funding ?

The great news is that we've entered into partnerships with emergency relief providers including BBC Children in Need Emergency Essentials, Tons of Help(Beattie Foundation) and most recently, with the wonderful *Solidarity Britannia*, run by Lynda Ouazar, a Tower Hamlets resident. This project provides quality food on a regular basis for those who, due to government policy, have no access to Public Funds (NRPF). Now no-one in Tower Hamlets needs to go without decent food. Even better, this is a regular drop and clients who meet the criteria will access the *Solidarity Britannia* food each Friday, until the financial situation they face is resolved. Please email admin@account3.org.uk

Welcome to Tower Hamlets

Account3's Welcome to Tower Hamlets project provides support to people new to the UK. The range of support has changed to reflect the new normal but the project is still working to make sure people, many of whom have limited social networks and English, do not get left alone and still get access to the many available opportunities.

Members of our team are making regular catch up phone calls, over 500 each month, to registered participants. People are supported, according to their individual stated needs, be they practical, financial, emotional or and educational.

We are also helping providing regular Information Advice and Guidance, career planning and helping people with their CVs and job search.



Welfare, legal and debt advice

Account3s advice service offering support for legal, welfare and debt advice service is still available on line and by phone.

The demand is high, but we are managing to take referrals and have worked with many who need help to successfully make benefits claims and appeals, submit grant applications for emergency support and generally stave off some of the worst, non-health related, aspects of the COVID pandemic.

So, if you know someone who needs help please let them know we are here and though the doors are no longer open to drop in we are still giving advice and support where it is needed most.

Nursery Provision in COVID lockdown

The nursery activity is going well. Over 60 families have access to our activities and deliveries each week. The family support chat groups are buzzing and key workers are in contact with key families each week. Some families drop down to account3 on their way to the park or shops to have a socially distanced in Birkbeck street. Others use the encrypted group chat to keep in touch.

Normally we close the nursery over the summer but this year we have planned to make use of the local amenities.

Staff and volunteers hope to facilitate a socially distanced summer play scheme. We are working on what might be suitable to get those legs and hearts moving a bit quicker.

The redesigned service ensures that throughout the summer and towards the new term children will continue to access to crucial resources and interaction with their peers, maintaining a level of structure in their lives and benefiting from their social networks

We have recruited 2 COVID managers and who will oversee the implementation of the post COVID opening plan to support safe opening by September 2020



Vocational Training

Our teachers have continued training throughout the pandemic. Training is currently working well with small groups meeting using Zoom based classes. We are pleased with the progress and this month 64 women achieved qualifications following successful external quality assurance from CACHE/NCFE exam board.

So, come on, there is no need to put off learning, apply for a course, apply for a grant, education is still available and many providers are advertising now for autumn courses. Call our IAG team for more information and help to get yourself on track by leaving you name and number on the voicemail of 0207739 7720 or emailing us at admin@account3.org.uk

For anyone thinking about courses for September

Tower Hamlets and Canary Wharf Further Education Trust fund is now open for 2020

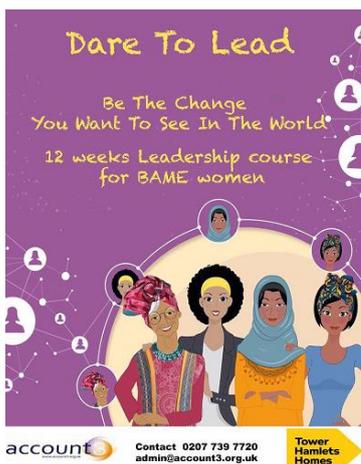
LBTH residents can make an application before 31st July for courses starting this Autumn. Full details and eligibility criteria can be found here: www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/further

It is unfortunately an online process to apply. We may be able to help to apply for a grant if you do not have WIFI access. Let us know, email us giving us your name, your needs and a phone number admin@account3.org.uk

What Next?

We are working on our Post Covid 19 Plan and will share that with you soon.

If you would like to input into the post COVID plans and help us to develop even better services, please let us know. For example if you want to tell us what would make things feel safer for you to return to account3, email us on admin@account3.org.uk or **leave a message on 0207 739 7720** and someone will get back to you.



BME Women Dare to Lead.

We are recruiting for the BaME Women Leadership course for September. It looks to be pertinent at this time, when so many BaME women have taken a lead in setting up projects and contributing to the massive community efforts that have sprung up around the borough. For information on joining to course, email admin@account3.org.uk

Level 2 and Level 3 Award for Teaching Assistants

We are still recruiting candidates for Teaching Assistants courses starting in September 2020. The closing date for applications is 30th July, so apply now by emailing admin@account3.org.uk



July is the month of LGBT Pride and Lesbian Visibility

The London LGBT Pride march, planned for July 18th was sadly cancelled till next year, but I am sure you all want to join with account3 in saying a big thank you to the LGBT community around the globe who have contributed to the COVID response , they are many and we are everywhere.

account3 is committed to inclusion in aspects of life

We know we can overcome sexism & racism in our communities by working together and challenging inequality where ever we find it

Black Lives Matter to us



Image created by Sabrina Qreshi ©

Thank you and stay safe, from account3

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