



8 July 1993

## **NEW CENTRE BOOSTS MENTAL HEALTH CARE IN TOWER HAMLETS**

The opening of a new £1 million mental health resource centre in London's East End marks an important step forward in providing care in the community for local people suffering from mental illness.

Open House, which was opened today (8 July, 1993) by former Health Minister Lord Ennals, offers a range of facilities to people with mental health problems living in Tower Hamlets. Run by the charity MIND in Tower Hamlets, the Centre provides a "drop-in" service, creche, individual counselling and therapy as well as group work based around music, art therapy, woodwork and photography. The Centre also operates a "sheltered" employment scheme where patients can make and sell their own jewellery designs.

Almost a quarter of the £744,000 needed to convert the once derelict building in Poplar was contributed by the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) through its Social Accord agreement with the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

LDDC Chairman Michael Pickard said: "This is the nearest centre that people living in the Docklands area have if they want help in dealing with mental illness. Our £240,000 grant from the Social Accord has ensured that Docklands residents have the access they need to a first class service."

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Cllr Gwyneth Deakins, Joint Chair of the Social Accord Implementation Forum, said: "This was one of the very first projects agreed by the Social Accord and I am pleased to see how well the scheme has evolved. It is a fine example of how the Accord can directly benefit some of the most needy in the community.

"The Council, in addition to the funding of the construction of the Centre, will be putting in substantial revenue resources for the continued running of the project."

- ENDS -

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