

Need Not Greed move is set to be launched

By KAY ATWAL

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A NATIONAL campaign to help people working "cash-in-hand" get into formal paid work will soon be launched by a Newham care group.

The campaign, called Need Not Greed, will be calling for a change in benefit and tax laws to help people make the transition into formal work and out of poverty.

It is being spearheaded by Maeve McGoldrick, campaigns manager at Community Links.

She told the Recorder: "It is a national campaign calling for national policy changes but is rooted in Newham. The issues here will reflect the campaign and determine the direction we take. For example, cash-in-hand building work is a priority here and therefore we will focus on construction laws.

"Community links is leading the campaign. We have been lobbying internally with the Department for Work and Pensions and other key politicians, but I have also begun to revive the coalition members and get them not only to support it but build up political and public support. So far the main organisations who support it are the TUC, UK Coalition Against Poverty, End Child Poverty and Child Poverty Action Group."

Activities

"Over the last eight years we have taken a particular interest in the informal economic activities of small businesses, the self-employed and employees because cash-in-hand work has such a huge impact on the lives of the people we work with, and plays such an integral role in their experience of poverty.

"We have found that on the one hand it takes people out of 'absolute' poverty as they can now pay the rent or pay the debt-collector knocking on their door. But on the other hand it traps them in 'relative' poverty as they are now working outside of the 'mainstream', and so do not have access to the national minimum wage, holiday or sick pay, or legal protection."

Maeve is hoping the campaign will build up over the next few weeks.