

On Thursday 29th January 2026, Newham Council's Emergency Planning and Corporate Resilience team hosted a pathfinding 'Community Recovery' conference at Stratford Town Hall. This event formed part of the Council's move toward a 'whole society' approach to emergency planning within the borough.

Over 40 representatives from a range of agencies, charities, and community groups attended the event, hearing from highly regarded guest speakers such as:

- **Professor Lucy Easthope** – International adviser on disaster recovery, co-founder of the After Disaster Network, and the author of 'When The Dust Settles'.
- **Travis Frain OBE BCA DL** – Survivor of the 2017 Westminster Bridge attack, Deputy Lieutenant for Lancashire, Chair of the APPG on Terrorism and Security, and Co-Founder of Survivors Against Terror.
- **Tony Andrews** – Humanitarian Assistance expert leading the Key Worker Project, developed in response to the Grenfell fire recommendations and focusing on practical implementation for borough recovery.

Later in the afternoon, delegates took part in an interactive exercise which explored how major incident response and recovery across agencies, and with our communities, could be better achieved.

Cllr Amar Virdee, Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Housing Needs, Homelessness & Private Rented Sector, said *“This event marks another step in our journey to build a more resilient Newham, where residents and businesses are central to how we prepare for and recover from major incidents”*.

