

Godfred Boahen:

Hello, my name is Godfred Boahen. I am currently the principal social worker for adults at Hackney. And I'm delighted to have the opportunity to say a few words to you by way of introduction as you consider applying to join the senior management team at Hackney. I have been at Hackney for six months now, but actually my journey towards social work started at Hackney. Many years ago, in 2008, I was practising in another local authority as a children's social worker, but there was something about Hackney that drew me that wanted me to practise here as a social worker. So I moved over to what was then called the Safeguarding Team or the Child Protection Team at the time. And so I have come full circle from that period in 2008 until now to start to practise again in Hackney.

And so what drew me to Hackney in 2008 is the same reason, which made me come here because there's something about Hackney. It's positioned as one of the most prominent local authorities in London. The range of cultural groups and also demographic profile that you work with in Hackney. And also the range of community groups in Hackney all give us a real opportunity to engage in some innovative work with adults who need care and support. Well, what do I mean by this? So we all know that Hackney has got a large Black and global majority population, but what's often not mentioned is that it's also a significant Jewish population here.

So you are working within a context of really rich cultural mix, a cultural mix, which also has a significant number of community assets and also community groups. And therefore, as a senior manager, these are real opportunities to draw on these really rich cultural groups to enable your practitioners to think about the real meaning of strength based practise. And it's an interesting area of work because you are constantly having to reflect on cultural sensitivity and also working with people, living within the social networks and how we can draw on those groups.

So besides the demography and the population, which offers a real opportunity to work in an innovative way, Hackney itself is a very interesting place to work. We all know about the profound socioeconomic challenges and inequalities in the local authority, but in terms of geography, it's very interesting. There are significant number of parks and green spaces here. The architecture is interesting ranging from looking at warehouse style conversions, canals and also some really nice Georgian accommodation as well within the local authorities. So I find it just an interesting place even to walk around and also go out to have some food and also socialise even after work. So that's an interesting place and that's a good point of consideration in your thinking around whether you should apply to join the senior management team. But beyond all this a significant amount of transformational work happening within the local authority, which gives a real opportunity for senior managers to contribute to an organisation in change, both in terms of the structural delivery and also the culture that underpins social work. So it's an opportunity for us all to leave a positive imprint in one of the most important local authorities in the country.

So what do I mean by this? We all understand the challenges from COVID. So post COVID recovery is one thing. The second aspect is that Hackney also had a cyber attack, which you may be aware of, that has left significant legacy issues, which the senior management team is grappling with. And there's a clear plan in terms of transformation to address some of these challenges. So you would be in an organisation which is undergoing profound change and you'd have the opportunity to contribute to this legacy and also this important aspect of this work. So all told these are really important reasons to consider joining Hackney and I hope that you do, many thanks. Bye-bye.