

Spark

HACKNEY
COMMUNITY ACTION
90 De Beauvoir Road,
Hackney, London N1 4EN
Tel: 071 923 1962

funded by



COUNCIL TAKES LEGAL ADVICE

REGARDING PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION TO HACKNEYS VOLUNTARY SECTOR

Following the publication of the article 'Voluntary Sector Training Budget - How the money was spent' that appeared on the front page of the last edition of SPARK, HCA have been informed, by the LBH Community Development Unit, that the Council are in the process of seeking legal advice against HCA regarding an alleged breach of confidentiality. HCA have also been informed that this could have implications for its future funding position. A letter from the Community Development Unit marked 'Without Prejudice' also requests that the organisation should desist from releasing any further information relating to either 'bids' from Hackney Business Venture (HBV) and the London Voluntary Service Council (LVSC) details of which appeared in last months SPARK. The letter also states

that the individuals involved may also be held personally liable.

The basis of the allegation it would appear, is that HCA took part in a tendering process to select 'bids' for contracts. However, the organisation had not been informed of this. To date the organisation has not received any further correspondence regarding this matter either from the Community Development Unit or from the Council's own legal department.

In response the organisation has sought its own legal advice, and a solicitor instructed to act on our behalf. A letter strongly refuting the allegation has been sent and outlines that: HCA attended a meeting of the Community Involvement Steering Group on 12 February 1993, to discuss three proposals for the use

of funds from London Borough Hackney's voluntary sector training budget.

* **That at no stage** were HCA made aware that they were taking part in a contract screening or tendering process.

* **That at no stage** were HCA made aware that the status of the meeting had changed from that of a Community Involvement Steering Group to a contracts meeting.

* **That at no stage** was it made clear that the submissions that were actually discussed were actual bids as opposed to mere proposals.

* **That at no stage** was HCA made aware that either the meeting or its contents were subject to confidentiality. The letter also raises the issue that if details of the proposals were in fact 'tendering' documents why were they sent through the post without any cover of confidentialitycont Page 3

views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of HCA workers or those of its executive committee

Hackney Community Action is an umbrella organisation for the community sector in Hackney. Its primary aim is to promote community action through information, co-ordination, campaigning and representation.

HCA facilitates various forums within the voluntary sector. It promotes and develops links between the voluntary, statutory and private sectors, examines and develops policy, and produces SPARK, a monthly newsletter.

HCA has approximately 300 members and is managed by a democratically elected Executive Committee, made up of members of the community sector. HCA is affiliated to the London Voluntary Service Council and the National Council for Voluntary Organisations.

STAFFING:

HCA

**Administrator/
Information Worker**
Tina Jenkins

Development Worker
Audrey West

Publicity Worker
Pat Tulloch

**Voluntary Sector
Joint Planning
Development Worker**

User / Carer Worker
Arunjot Mushiana

HCA OFFICE NEWS

NEW SPARK RATES ADVERTISEMENTS

	Local Authority	Private Sector	Voluntary Sector	Unfunded Groups
F/page	£70	£70	£45	£30
1/2page	£50	£50	£35	£20
1/4page	£40	£40	£30	£15
1/8page	£30	£30	£20	£10

A4 INSERTS

£65	£65	£30	£25
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LEAFLET/PUBLICATIONS

£70	£70	£30	£25
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ANY ADDITIONAL PHOTOCOPYING: £10



COMMUNITY MATTERS
CILNTEC
community newsletter

issue 4	10 June
issue 5	9 September
issue 6	3 December

DEADLINE DATES FOR SPARK 1993

Friday 7 May '93
Friday 4th June '93
Friday 2nd July '93

NO EDITION IN AUGUST

SPARK
IS AVAILABLE ON
REQUEST IN
BRAILLE

DEADLINE FOR NEXT EDITION OF SPARK FRIDAY 7 MAY 1993

NEWS AND INFORMATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

That the terms of reference for the Community Involvement Steering Group do not contain a confidentiality clause. And more importantly that HCA's role and remit within the borough and our attendance at the meeting precludes the fact that it could have been a tendering process.

Had a tendering process taken place, it would have been highly inappropriate for HCA to have taken part in it.

The letter also requests assurance that the organisation's future funding be not affected by the allegations and that the individuals concerned not be held personally liable.

What has not been mentioned in the letter but which is highly indicative of the implausibility of the allegation is that if HCA were taking part in a tendering process as assessor, how could we in this role also be tendering for a contract, after we had listened, commented on and made an assessment of the other supposed tenders. Wouldn't that be rather like being part of an interviewing and selection process as an interviewer, whilst also an applicant and interviewee.

HCA would clearly like to express to all concerned that we are not guilty of any alleged breach of confidentiality. It is in the interest of the organisation to work with and alongside the Council and other agencies for the benefit of its member groups. Whilst the organisation accepts that this can at times be a problematic relationship; since the needs of the Council and other agencies are not always in accordance with, and in the best interest of those in the voluntary sector, we have endeavoured as

an organisation, to work in a manner that is contentious, professional and responsible. HCA continues to have an important information and monitoring brief within the borough, as this incident has revealed.

The organisation continues to work within the remit of its aims and objectives, and has not to its knowledge in this situation breached any condition of its grant aid that would precipitate the withdrawal of its funding. An early, amicable and professional resolution to this situation is the ultimate aim of HCA.

TRAINING FOR THE COMMUNITY SECTOR - REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

On 30.3.93 a report originated by the Acting Head of CDU on training for the community sector was submitted to the Community Services Committee.

The report recommended that members agree four proposals and that they waive standing order 85. with regard to the use of the Training Budget **1993/94**.

The report which is a public document outlines four proposals, which includes in addition to the 'bids' under dispute, a pre-emption of £10k for the Taskforce Quality Assurance Programme, and £10k for the delivery of a Training Needs Assessment for Hackney's voluntary sector, to be carried out by the Council own Training & Development Centre.

What is interesting about the

report, which was withdrawn from the agenda, is that the proposals are in respect of the training budget for 1993 / 94 (which is the now current financial year) and not 1992/93. This raises a number of questions, the most obvious being:

Q. WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR TRAINING BUDGET OF £40k FOR THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR ?

Q. IF HCA, ALONG WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER UMBRELLA ORGANISATIONS, TOGETHER WITH A NUMBER OF OFFICERS FROM VARIOUS COUNCIL DEPARTMENTS, TOOK PART IN A STEERING GROUP AND CONSULTATION PROCESS, TO PROVIDE STRATEGIC INPUT TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND SPEND OF THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR TRAINING BUDGET, WHY WERE WE NOT INFORMED THAT THERE WAS NO BUDGET ?

Not only has the voluntary sector training budget of £40k disappeared, without any reference, or explanation from either the LBH Community Development Unit who are responsible for the management of the fund, or Councillors who take ultimate decisions on change in spend, but that a Council Committee was presented with a report, that recommends the waiving of Standing Orders in respect for the early release of monies, on 31. 3. 92 which falls within the 1992/3 financial year, for a financial year that had not even started, without question..

continued on page 11

2% INFLATION FOR COUNCIL FUNDED GROUPS 1993/94

At a meeting on 30/3/93 Members of the Community Services Committee overturned their previous commitment to award direct grant funded groups 4% inflation on their 1993/94 grants.

The cash limit for the Community Development Unit / Direct Grant Budget has been agreed at £8,017,650 for 93/94, which includes a redirection of the Urban Programme budget to Policy and Resources and a virement to Leisure Services of £124,000. On this basis the budget was projecting an overspend of £61,176 and was £52,479 short of its Leisure Services virement.

Community development and grant aid is currently suffering as the poor relation to leisure on the spend of the Community Services Budget.

In order to stay within its cash limit, the Committee voted to reduce inflation on grants by 2%, achieving a saving of £60,390 (with £7,911 uncommitted).

Although national wage awards look set to be between 1 - 1.5% this year, and this was a factor influencing Members decision, the voluntary sector is still faced with general depreciation and

rising costs which groups are already struggling to meet. Lack of and low inflationary awards over a 5/6 year period has meant that voluntary organisations are feeling the cumulative effect of operating from hand to mouth.

HCA is particularly concerned at the inconsistency of decision making on this issue. Groups have already been informed, most of them in writing, that they would be getting 4% inflation in 93/94. At a meeting with the Chair of the Community Services Committee, Cllr Andy Buttress, HCA raised these concerns and stated that groups may have already committed expenditure on this basis (i.e. by leasing more expensive equipment). Cllr Buttress stated that if groups could provide evidence that this was the case they should inform CDU who would consider their needs in consultation with himself as Chair. The Direct Grant Contingency Fund was quoted as a possible source of funds for getting such needs met.

CONTINGENCY FUND
HCA has made a formal request for information on the nature, conditions and application of the fund to LBH Community Development Unit.

DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF:

COUNCIL SET TO REMEDY ITS MISTAKES?

At a meeting with representatives from HCA, HCRE and the voluntary sector Premises Group on 30/3/93, the Chair of the Community Services Committee, Cllr Andy Buttress, stated that Members had acted in good faith in changing the way the Council funded rate relief to charitable organisations (see SPARK 153), but that they had clearly 'got it wrong because groups were suffering'. He stated that this had never been Member's intention.

It was reported that a series of meetings had recently taken place between the Rates and Finance Departments and the Community Development Unit, who were looking to review and revise the new policy. An information gathering exercise is currently underway, and it has been agreed that in the meantime no deductions should be made from first quarter's grants. An emergency report considering the case of groups who have already lost out is to go before Members this week.

Councillor Buttress gave his personal assurance that groups would not be financially worse off when the new process was put in place.

NETWORKS BEFORE CONTRACTS COMMUNITY CARE AND THE COMMUNITY SECTOR

Now that April 1st has come and gone, and with it full implementation of Community Care, the Community Sector is still asking - will anything really change? And if it does, will it be for the better?

Social Services eligibility criteria are supposed to give people a clear understanding of the kinds of help they might expect from the local authority. But with assessment such a close relative of how much money is available, we could easily end up with a non starter. Social Services have been given warnings about raising expectations through identifying unmet need. In fact Social Services departments across the country are bracing themselves for a wave of legal action from people who have been assessed to need a service! And even if this worse scenario doesn't become a way of life, there's still a lot of concern for people who really do need help but don't even reach the assessment stages.

Hackney Social Services Community Care plan includes what's described as 'open assessment' and 'negotiated solutions'. But it's not been made clear just how rationing resources will be balanced with negotiated settlements - and how users will also help choose services they won't have. Social Services plan to help - through open access Advice and Information, through Community Care Teams, whose brief will be to create and maintain community support

systems (the area where the voluntary sector is streets ahead), and through Care Management Teams - for people on the threshold of losing their independence and needing much more expensive residential support. In their latest Community Care Plan, Hackney's Social Services claim 'networks before contracts' as their key philosophy. The Community Sector Joint Planning Forum will be watching these changes - both in terms of user perception and in terms of community sector and representative organisations.

The Community Sector Joint Planning Forum's Contracts Working Group have been working on a 'Principle for Contracting' document, which aims to help Social Services include the community sector's vital input into care in the community. Community Care is supposed to change services to meet the needs of people who use them, rather than the needs of the people who provide them. Let's see if this does become the case.

Social Services have already started work to change grants to community sector organisations into contracts with them. There's a lot of nervousness though, because it's feared that active self help, advocacy and campaigning roles will get completely lost along the way (which would make it much more difficult to maintain a 'network before contracts' approach). This could mean that it would be harder for

people to become involved as volunteer or unpaid staff, or as people working to develop their communities. Having contracts for care that clearly define roles and responsibilities, that clarify direction, and that offer a basis against which progress can be measured, could transform what's on offer into services that really do meet individual needs. Eventually Hackney's Social Services Department could spend a good deal more than it does now on working with local groups and charities to provide Community Care, but buying and selling community care isn't like buying or selling cars. The community sector and the private sector have been lumped together and called the independent sector in most recent 'bump' from on high, but in reality they are two very different things. Support for local individuals and community development, and opportunities for people to help themselves and other people have been cornerstones of the community and not - for - profit sector. Will the private sector share these principles? And will value for money mean sacrificing quality for quantity?

**FOR FURTHER DETAILS
CONTACT:
THE COMMUNITY
SECTOR JOINT
PLANNING
FORUM/HCA
Tel: 071 923 1962**

NEWS AND INFORMATION

HACKNEY GROUNDWORK TRUST

A proposal to establish a Groundwork Trust in Hackney was presented to the Environmental Services Committee on 3.2.93. The Trust aims to provide a co-ordinating mechanism to take an overview of the strategic development of environmental action in the Borough. One of its key objectives is the development of active partnership between the local authority, the community and business.

It is proposed that the Trust be managed by a board of trustees. It is envisaged that 3 community representatives be nominated through the proposed Borough Environmental Forum. The Board will have two main functions:

1. To provide a forum for developing a strategic approach to Hackney's environment, and
2. To provide overall management of the Hackney Groundwork Trust as an operational agency.

It is proposed that 4 staff be appointed to the Trust, comprising an Executive Director, Marketing/Outreach Co-ordinator, Contracts Manager and Administrator/Bookkeeper.

It is intended that the Trust develop a capital project budget through a range of funding sources, including central government grants, national and local sponsorship, City Challenge and others. The work of the Trust is to complement and supplement the work of existing organisations.

NEWS IN BRIEF

JOINT FINANCE

The deadline for submissions for funding from Joint Finance is the 2nd June 1993. Bids will be prioritised in early August according to the aims and objectives identified through Joint Planning for each service area. For more information contact the Joint Planning Office on Tel: 071 377 8129

ETHNIC MINORITY GRANTS 1993/4

The Home Office has announced that only two of the twenty one bids for EMG 93/94 put forward by CILNTEC have been successful. These are:

- Islington Business Development's Somali Enterprise Project
- Arachne: Greek Cypriot Women's Employment and Training Initiative

Both these projects are based in Islington. This means that no Hackney based projects will be funded through EMG this year.

HEALTH AND SAFETY LAW

New regulations have been incorporated into the Health and Safety at Work Act and became law on 1 January this year. HCA has further information for voluntary groups. For details phone Tina on Tel: 071 923 1962

EUROPEAN FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Carmel Searle, Hackney Council's new European Resources Officer, has produced Hackney Council's Guide to European Funding Opportunities. The Guide outlines the main sources of funding available from Europe. If you would like to see the Guide, HCA has a reference copy.

HACKNEY COUNCIL : INNER CITY FOCUS

CONCEPTS OF COMMUNITY is the third in a series of lectures on urban policy issues presented by Hackney Council. The lecture by Valerie Amos will take place on Tuesday 11 May at Hackney Town Hall, from 6 to 8pm. To book phone Shan Nicholas on 071 490 1600

Community Accountancy Project

Training, Financial and Management Services to the Community Sector

The Print House
18 Ashwin Street
London E8 3DL
Tel: 071.249.7109

TRAINING COURSES - JUNE & JULY 1993

**BASIC BOOKKEEPING FOR
COMMUNITY GROUPS (3 days)**
Mon 14th/ Tues 15th/
Wed 16th June
9.45am - 3.30pm

PETTY CASH (1/2 Day)
A.M. Tuesday 13th July
9.45am - 12.45pm

PAY AS YOU EARN (2 days)
Tues 6th/Wed 7th July
9.45am - 3.30pm

BANK RECONCILIATION (1/2 Day)
A.M. Thursday 15th July
9.45am - 12.45pm

FOR AN APPLICATION FORM FOR ANY OF THESE SHORT COURSES, PLEASE SEE OVERLEAF.

Please see overleaf for further details on each course

Our training facilities are now wheelchair accessible, please ring us for further details.

Unfortunately we are unable to provide creche facilities.

Course costs are: £15 per person per day for Hackney groups
£30 per person per day for non - Hackney groups
£10 per person per half day for Hackney groups
£20 per person per half day for non-Hackney groups

Please note that refunds for cancellations notified to CAP within two weeks of the course date will only be made if the course place can be filled.

MORE COURSES TO FOLLOW.....

If you didn't see the course you wanted in the above list, our Autumn Programme of courses September - December will be out in a few months. KEEP A LOOK OUT FOR OUR COURSE PUBLICITY.

ABOUT THE TRAINING COURSES....

BASIC BOOKKEEPING FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS is an comprehensive introduction to bookkeeping for people involved in community groups (either as committee members or paid or volunteer workers). Starting with "the budget", the three day course includes finance conditions of grant aid, setting up a bookkeeping system, recording and analysing money received and spent in the Cash Books and Petty Cash book, filing all your invoices etc, Bank Reconciliation, producing simple reports for your committee.

PAY AS YOU EARN is a two day course for people who need to have a practical understanding of "how to do the wages". It looks at how the PAYE system works, tax allowances and tax codes, taking on an employee, working out PAYE and National Insurance, recording pay and tax details and paying money to the Inland Revenue.

PETTY CASH Petty Cash headaches? This is an in-depth session on the petty cash imprest system geared towards making control of cash within your organisation more structured. The course will look at setting up a petty cash system, the avoidance of fraud, establishing a good audit trail.

BANK RECONCILIATION Do you have trouble reconciling your bank account? What are outstanding cheques? How do you cope with uncleared income? This course is geared to practising finance workers wanting to reconcile their Cash Book and Bank Account.

Please use a separate application form for each person; this is easily done by photocopying the form before completion!!

Please detach this section and return to CAP along with your payment.

COURSE APPLICATION FORM

I would like to attend the following course/s:

<u>TITLE OF COURSE</u>	<u>DATE/S</u>	<u>COST</u>
.....		
.....		
.....		
NAME:..... DAYTIME PHONE NO:.....		
ORGANISATION:.....		
MAILING ADDRESS:.....		
.....		
SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS (PLEASE SPECIFY).....		

I enclose a cheque for £ (made payable to "Community Accountancy Project").

CAP will confirm your place on each course, and receipt your organisation.



When you order your printing what are you looking for?

Are you looking for a company who -

	Yes	No
... deliver your printing to a date that you specify?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
... give you continual help and advice on your job from concept through to the finished product?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
... offer you the highest level of quality available in litho printing?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
... give you excellent prices well within your budgets?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you have answered YES to all of the above you need to contact:

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Fax: (0634) 726962

**FROM
APRIL 1993
NORTH LONDON
HEALTH DISTRICTS
WITH HIGH LEVELS
OF
HOMELESSNESS
WILL GET MORE**

MONEY

**WHAT DOES
THIS MEAN FOR
YOUR AGENCY?**

**A FREE SEMINAR FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION DIRECTORS
& MANAGERS WORKING WITH HOMELESS PEOPLE
THURSDAY MAY 6TH 1993 9.30 - 12.00
To book a place call Liz Palas at Access to Health on 071 233 6599**

ACTION ON URBAN PROGRAMME

A report published by the Urban Programme Coalition estimates that the recent cuts to the Urban Programme will result in the loss of up to 9,900 community projects over the next three years.

The coalition, a 13 member umbrella body of national and regional bodies servicing networks of community and voluntary sector groups, have been formed to respond to the phasing out of the Urban Programme.

The coalition condemns the last minute scrapping of UP and calls for a reverse in the cuts for 1993/94. The coalition also demands that the Government provides transitional finance to help local groups maintain their services, pending the review of the Government's inner city programmes. A meeting with Micheal Howard, Secretary of State for the Environment, is being sought to discuss the impact on local communities. The meeting will also seek to raise a number of issues about urban regeneration policy.

FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION CONTACT
JOHN MABBOTT,
NCVO'S ECONOMIC
POLICY OFFICER
TEL: 071 713 6161

IN BRIEF

VOLUNTARY SECTOR SUPPORT GROUP

Linda Brown of Hackney Bereavement Support Group and Kathy Wilks of Age Concern Hackney are planning an informal support group to enable people working in the voluntary sector in Hackney to get to know each other, to offload worries, share experiences and generally learn from each other about how best to cope in today's climate. The meeting is open to all workers in the voluntary sector in Hackney, whether you are paid or a volunteer. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 12 May at 12.30 - 2pm. Venue to be confirmed. Ring Kathy on 071 249 0715 or Linda on 071 254 9804

DULUX COMMUNITY PROJECT AWARD SCHEME

FREE paint to voluntary organisations and Charities. Applicants to the scheme must submit a photograph together with 250 words describing their group and how the paint will be used. The project must be the work of unpaid volunteers. Send A4 SAE to: Dulux Community Projects Office, PO Box 343, London WC2E 8RJ. Tel: 071 836 3711. Application forms available from 1 April - 4 June 1993

EUROPEAN YEAR OF THE ELDERLY

Funding for projects involved in the promotion and awareness of ageing issues are to be made available from the European Commission. For further information contact June O'Conner, Administrator, UK Secretariat, c/o Age Concern England, 1268 London Road, London SW16. Tel: 081 679 8000. For Further information on the All Hackney Pensioners Convention ring Jude on 071 254 5330.

TENANTS LEVY

If your tenant group/ association is properly constituted and has had an AGM in the previous 12 months it can now apply for grants of up to £1,000 every quarter. Ring The Hackney Federation of Tenants, and Residents Associations on 071 923 1962. LBH are also currently advertising training courses for Tenant associations.

NEWS AND INFORMATION

London Borough of Hackney COMPREHENSIVE ESTATE ACTION

Tracy Thompson LBH

The Comprehensive Estate Initiative is a programme of action to address complex housing, social and economic needs of five major 1960's system built estates:

- Clapton Park
- Trowbridge
- Holly Street
- New Kingshold
- Nightingale

Over the next five years, each estate will undergo transformation based on the rehabilitation of current housing stock, new build housing and environmental improvements. This will be in tandem with diversification of housing tenure and management. To compliment these improvements, economic development initiatives and enhanced social facilities are to be provided.

The main element of funding for the initiative comes from a Partnership between the Council and Central Government via the Department of the Environment's Estate Action Programme, and the Housing Corporation. This is obviously for the housing elements of the programme.

An amount raised through the Council's capital receipts is also to be used for social and economic schemes on some of the estates (providing the Department of the Environment agrees). Bids for this funding have been prioritised by the

Council and were submitted to the DOE in late February /early March 1993.

The main aim of CEI is to involve and empower residents of the estates in as full a way as possible through the provision of technical support, organisational support, and communications.

The Council has also set up a network of Policy Working Groups to monitor achievement, develop new strategies and to draw together the relevant directorates working on the initiatives. The Working groups all report to the CEI Task Team, Chaired by the Chief Executive.

Further details of the proposed redevelopment of the five estates are held at HCA.

DALSTON CITY CHALLENGE

The Dalston City Partnership Director (Richard Simmons) has recently been appointed. He will head a team of 12 people with up to 4 of these being seconded from the Local Authority. The way in which the Council Directorates and other agencies will work with this team is currently being assessed.

FREE

NCVO DIARIES

available to charity trustees and management / executive committee members with information on NCVO events.

Available from the new Trustee Services Unit at NCVO
Tel: 071 713 6161

FREE

MANAGEMENT STANDARD PACKS AVAILABLE FROM NCVO.

**Cost £10 IF COLLECTED
£15 postage & Package
Contact: Balljit Panesar
Tel: 071 713 6161**

CONTRACT CULTURE TRAINING PACKS AVAILABLE FROM THE DIRECTORY OF SOCIAL CHANGE, RADIUS WORKS, BACK LANE, LONDON NW3 COST £15

Tel: 071 284 4364

ANNUAL REPORT AWARDS

For the best report and annual accounts, from the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. For application forms contact: The Charities Aid Foundation 48 Pembury Road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 2JD

Tel: 0732 771 333

NEWS AND INFORMATION

COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMME

The Government have recently introduced a major new Community Action Programme which aims to provide up to 60,000 opportunities for the long term unemployed, to work on projects run by voluntary organisations and other providers.

The Employment Service responsible for the operation of the scheme will be contracting with the voluntary sector. Participants will work part-time on projects and placements provided by voluntary organisations. Participants will receive an allowance of benefit equivalent plus £10 per week and job search support. The scheme is due to start in the summer, and is targeted at the 12 month plus unemployed. The Employment Service is committed to consulting with the voluntary sector.

NCVO have organised a conference called:

**Making it work
on**

**Monday 19 April
10.30 - 4.15pm**

**at
The Church House
Conference Centre,
Westminster, London SW1
For information ring
Melanie Miller at NCVO
Tel: 071 713 6161**

The conference is to develop ideas on how 60,000 opportunities can be created and managed. NCVO have organised this conference to start planning how the voluntary sector can work with the Employment Service to deliver Community Action.

The cost of the conference per delegate is £30 for voluntary organisations and £60 for others. A limited number of reduced rate places are available at £10 for local voluntary organisations on a first come first serve basis.

The initiative raises a number of issues concerning the compulsory element of the programme, the nature of work to be offered and on whose behalf. Volunteering within the voluntary sector has never been seen as a cheap alternative to paid employment. 'voluntary activity that best serves the community depends on the energy and commitment of willing participants.' Barbara Swift of St Helens CVS remarks in an article in TEN (Training and Employment Network news),

'You cannot just throw people at the voluntary sector to provide opportunities; volunteers and organisations need support and a structure'

OUT-OF-SCHOOL CHILDCARE GRANT

The Government has allocated £45 million for the provision of Out-of School Childcare support to parents and guardians of school age children. The overall aim of the grant is to give parents and guardians the chance to participate more fully in the labour market, by improving the quantity and quality of childcare available outside school hours and during school holidays.

It is hoped this money will help set up around 50,000 additional out-of-school childcare places. The initiative will run over the next 3 financial years.

The grant will operate through Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs), who will develop local partnerships with other interested bodies in the community including employers, schools, parents, local authorities and voluntary organisations.

A variety of local initiatives could be supported such as after-school and holiday playschemes, childminder networks or school-based recreational and educational classes.

For further information on criteria and conditions of grants contact:

CILNTEC
80 Great Eastern Street,
London EC2A
Tel: 071 324 2424

NEWS AND INFORMATION

HACKNEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Hackney Community College was officially launched on 31 March 1993.

Platform speakers launching the college were: Susan Angoy, Hackney Task Force leader, Tim Boswell, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Councillor Andy Buttress, Chair of Hackney Community College, Herman Ousley, Chair of the Commission for Racial Equality, Bill Stubbs, Chief Executive Further Education Funding Council and Jerry White, Chief Executive London Borough of Hackney.

Herman Ousley judiciously signalled some of the challenges facing the College. It would have to meet high expectations on quality, whilst addressing the needs of multicultural communities. He reaffirmed his belief in the College's mission of no compromise, and urged it to go for the best. Herman outlined the equal opportunities targets he would set with the Further Education Funding Council (FEFC) to assist this achievement.

HCA Education Working Group will meet on Thursday 29 April at 2pm at Perpetual Beauty Carnival Club, 1 - 16 Leswin Place, N16

Agenda item will include:
*Comments on College draft Strategic Plan
*Community Consultation for the Shoreditch Site

For further information
HCA on 071 923 1962

NON - ELECTED MEMBERS (CO-OPTES) ON LBH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A decision to retain non-elected members (co-optes) on LBH Council Committees was finally made on 22 March 1993 at Labour Group.

The status of co-optes, including community sector representatives, on committees has been under review for two years. In 1991, LBH effectively barred community sector reps from participating on the Community Services Committee.

A clause which stipulated that community sector reps could only participate if they were neither employed by or on a management committee of any organisation funded by the committee, was introduced. The clause was met with wide scale protestation from community groups in Hackney.

In January 1993 HCA submitted a report to labour group detailing why community participation on council committees was crucial. The report was well received.

Standing order (37/38) will now be changed on a number of committees; which in effect will mean the retention of co-optee status for community organisations on committees across the Council.

Further details of allocation will be published in a later edition of SPARK, following the release of the labour document.

SECTION 11 CAMPAIGN GROUP HACKNEY

A Hackney Section 11 Campaign group met for the first time on 25 March 1993. The setting up of a campaign group was one of the clearly identified objectives of the Section 11 Funding in Education Conference held on 27 February 1993.

The focus of the group is two fold at present:

1. To raise awareness among local parents and communities of the potential and limitations of S.11 funding, encourage their involvement in the process and promote necessary changes.
2. To lead a campaign on Section 11 funding in education and other areas, oppose the cuts and seek for a more equitable provision of S.11 funds.

As over 30 people attended this meeting, the group was able to split productively into two sections to devise strategies for the areas mentioned above.

Both groups agreed that getting information out to Hackney people had to be the first stage. The Campaign group will follow up with petitions, parliamentary lobbies and network with existing campaigns on S.11. The parent / community link group will liaise closely with schools and parents, build networks with other Section 11 workers, and sustain links through information sharing and closer collaboration to promote the necessary changes.

The group will meet again on 20 & 27 April. Contact Audrey West at HCA for details.

NEWS AND INFORMATION

Continued from page 3

HCA OUR ROLE WITHIN THE BOROUGH

The role of HCA remains that of an effective lobbying organisation. In addition it occupies a strategic place within the borough's own democratic structures, and key initiatives.

It plays a crucial part in promoting the interest of the borough's voluntary sector, and the development of the borough as a whole. This often involves a whole complex process of negotiation, participation, consultation, monitoring, and policy development.

Issues of accountability and the promotion of good practice underpins the working ethos of the organisation.

The aims of the organisation remains unchanged, how we achieve our aims, however, is subject to constant change, as indeed is the potential for conflict.

The organisation is constituted to work in the interest of its member groups, to whom we are accountable and within the conditions laid out for grant aid. This prevents both the collusion to undermine, and the suppression of information to the voluntary sector in Hackney.

APPEALS UPDATE

Decisions on Appeals pending were made by the Community Services Committee Review Sub at the end of March. The Acting Head of the Community Development Unit has assured HCA that all groups should by now have received notification of their grant status for 1993/94. Any group not yet informed should contact CDU and/or the Directorates concerned.

Details are available in 30 March Community Services Committee papers.

DEPUTATIONS:

Three adventure playgrounds Holly Street, Homerton Grove and Shakespeare Walk presented a deputation to the Community Services Committee of 30 March 93, in protest at cuts which would make them dysfunctional.

The speaker emphasised the value for money of the schemes, and the benefits to local children and Hackney people. The deputation was successful, and the total 35,000 cut was reinstated to groups.

NVQ

National Vocational
Qualifications in Care & the
Voluntary Sector
FREE

Conference

21 April 1993
10.00am

NCVO

Regents Wharf,
8 All Saints Street, London, N1

HACKNEY & ISLINGTON CND

PUBLIC MEETING

Bruce Kent (CND)

PROTECT OUR WORLD!

THURSDAY 27 MAY
8pm

Islington Central Library
2 Fieldway Crescent
off Holloway Rd

5 minutes Highbury & Islington
& Holloway tube stations

For information contact:
Paul Hawkes Tel: 071 700 2393

FINSBURY PARK ACTION GROUP

Alexandra National House
330 Seven Sisters Road
London N4 2PJ

10th BIRTHDAY PARTY

Sunday May 23 1993
IN FINSBURY PARK IN THE
LOWER FIELD

1 - 5pm
Programme of
**MUSIC - DANCE - DRAMA -
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES -
FOOD - DRINK**

For further information contact:
Annette Burke
081 802 2612

ADVERTISEMENTS

NCVO

REVIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE

Friday 21 April 1993

Church House Conference
Centre
For details ring
071 713 6161

LAUNCH IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE NYQ IN CARE FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS CONFERENCE

Wednesday 28 April 1993

Speakers
Chair of the Care Sector
Consortium
Cllr Gareth Gimlett

Price: £45 (which includes
copy of the-guide)

For information ring Stuart Bell
071 713 6161

VOLUNTEER

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SKILLS TO OFFER
INCLUDE:

Banking procedures
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Health & Safety methods

INTERESTED!

ring
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UK VOLUNTEER WEEK

1-7 JUNE 1993

UK WIDE FOCUS ON VOLUNTEERING

**NOW IN ITS SEVENTH
YEAR**

For further information on
how you and your
organisation can become
involved contact:

**Sheila Edwin
The Volunteer Centre UK
29 Lower King's Road
Berkhamsted
Herts HP4 2AB**

VOLUNTEER

RON DUFEAL

INTERESTED IN ADVICE AND INFORMATION WORK

Ron's long term aim is to become
a Social Worker

Available during office hours
Monday to Friday

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ELLIS ASSOCIATES TRAINING SERVICES

3 Day Supervisory / Management course

Cost £95 per delegate
New Dates now available from
April to September 1993

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People.**

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Thursdays and Fridays

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Arun, HCA 071923 1962

TEACHING SKILLS COURSE

FOR PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

Information session 30 April 1993 10.30 -1pm
Course fees £20 concessionary and £75 for the employed

Mondays & Tuesdays from 10 May 1993

SEE INSERT FOR DETAILS