

The Youth Edition

From sector

SKY Partnership 10
OCEAN Music 8
Vision Impossible 12



Youth

Young filmmakers 20
Youth speak to MPs 16
New Sure Start 23



Policy news

Rose Albrow interview 24
£4.2m Children's Fund 18
LSC's new local Fund 17



The magazine for Hackney's voluntary sector

SPARK

JUNE 2001

Local Strategic Partnership in Hackney:

what's going on with £26 million neighbourhood renewal

£4.2 million for Hackney's children

calls for the voluntary sector to participate

SPARK

would like to apologise for the delay.
This has been due to unforeseen printing problems

SPARK

Spark is compiled and published by Hackney Council for Voluntary Service. It aims to inform the voluntary and community sector about policies that affect them, highlight the work of voluntary and community groups, give advice on organisational development and to discuss important strategic issues.

The views and opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of Hackney Council for Voluntary Service.

If you would like to send information about strategic issues, publicise your events or make comments on articles in SPARK, send correspondence to address opposite.

MORE COPIES OF SPARK ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

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contents

NEWS IN BRIEF	4
RECENT GOVERNMENT ANNOUCEMENTS	5
DIRECTOR'S UPDATE	6
NEWS FROM THE SECTOR	8
Ocean Music Trust Kaizen Partnership African Caribbean Reunion <u>Vision Impossible exhibition</u>	
YOUNG PEOPLE	16
Young people meet the MPs to discuss housing issues at Offcentre Learning & Skills Council, Local Initiatives Fund <u>Young Filmmakers</u>	
COVER STORY	18
£4.2million for Children's Fund <u>+ £7000 grants available from Children's Fund Local Network</u>	
STRATEGY	22
Basic skills strategy in Hackney <u>Sure Start in Hackney Wick and Homerton</u>	
SPARK INTERVIEW - <i>Rose Albrow, Chair Hackney 2020</i>	24
<u>So who's in charge of the NRF £26 million then?</u>	
WHO'S WHO IN THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR	28
<u>Anna Tatton, Age Concern</u>	
OLDER PEOPLE	29
<u>The Sharp End</u> <u>Pensioners press</u>	
HEALTH	30
<u>New patient liaison service at Homerton</u> <u>BEMWG helps HAZ</u>	
FUNDING	32
<u>London's Newest Community Bank</u> <u>Community Finance Initiatives & Credit Unions</u> <u>Community access to ICT</u> <u>New Millennium Commission Grants</u> <u>The Funding Directory</u>	
DISABILITY	40
<u>Huddleston Centre</u> <u>DASH</u>	
ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS	42
<u>Networking</u> <u>Stakeholder pensions</u> <u>Effective fundraising, Jane Standing, LVSC informs us in 5 of 12 articles</u>	



Well here I am...your budding young editor, the poor guy who has to put all this together - well I suppose I do get paid to do it, not much mind, it is the voluntary sector after all!

Anyway, I'd like to introduce you to the 7th SPARK and my 2nd. I hope you like it. It's full of lots of info about where to apply for funding, what government strategies affect us and where, and how they are being applied locally. As everyone is no doubt aware, there are buckets loads of money being allocated to Hackney and if not more politics surrounding them. Equally, at a time of frustration and uncertainty in the sector, SPARK tries to present all sides of the coin and give you the facts.

We at HCVS wish everyone potentially affected by the council cuts to core funding all the success in the future and we hope we help to praise the good work you are all doing in the borough.

As editor, I want SPARK to evolve further into being a focal point for news, comment, critique about Hackney's voluntary and community sectors and above all to be a damn good, informative read, what what (I don't speak like this at all ! by the way. I am pretty approachable and keen to hear from you especially in publicising your events, plans and problems). Thanks to all those who have contributed in whatever way to this issue.

Jake x

Editing

Jake Ferguson

Photography

Jake Ferguson (unless stated)

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News in brief

A new interactive website www.fundingfinders.co.uk is designed to be a link between funding bodies and grants beneficiaries. It will identify funds, offer advice on bid proposals and make sure bids meet all grant objectives. Details from 01772 423700.

The Phoenix Fund aimed at small businesses has a Development Fund, aimed at encouraging new ways of promoting and supporting enterprise in disadvantaged areas, encouraging experimentation and the spread of good practice. 30 projects will be funded under the scheme. Closing date 29th June 2001. Details from Maria Kenyon, 0114 259 7453 maria.kenyon@sbs.gsi.gov.uk

City & Hackney Sickle & Thalassaemia Centre in Hackney has moved to new premises on 457 Queensbridge Road, London, E8 3AS. The telephone number is 020 7853 6700. The centre Director is Beverly Smalling.

Charities Board becomes Community Fund and makes it easier to get Lottery Money. From 9 April the National Lottery Charities Board is changing its name to Community Fund, with the strapline 'Lottery money making a difference'. It is also introducing new grants programmes and new application procedures which will make it easier to apply for Lottery money. Lottery Funding Hotline

The 26 February saw the launch of the Lottery Funding Hotline. The hotline makes Lottery funding information more easily accessible to groups who have limited experience of applying for funding and find it difficult to negotiate the complex funding network. The hotline should ensure that callers only have to make one call - routed by the centre to the appropriate distributing body. To be put through to the relevant Good Cause information line, call the National Lottery Funding Hotline on 0845 275 0000.

The new EQUAL programme, funded by money from the European Social Fund, will help to encourage Member States to work together to test out new approaches to enable the disadvantaged to return to work, promote entrepreneurship, support lifelong learning and focus on equal opportunities. There will be £233m for Britain under this programme until 2006.

The Government has announced an extra £52 million over the next three years for Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) services for adults.

Two funding programmes for refugee integration (UK) £850,000 is available from April 2001 for innovative projects and support groups.

Bridging Grants to Support Childminders (England) The Government has pledged £3.5 million to provide temporary assistance to childminders working in deprived areas by providing cash grants of up to a £100 a week to help them through financial difficulties and keep a stable income over time.

Community Youth Action Programme (EU) The European Commission invites calls for project promoters to submit applications for large-scale European projects under Action 5 of the YOUTH action programme.

The Government has announced a major new investment in Learning Partnerships, with an extra £10 million to support the work of the Partnerships beyond 2002.

The Association of London Government has moved to 59^{1/2} Southwark Street, London SE1 0EL, T 020 7934 9999, F 020 7934 9991 [email info@alg.gov.uk](mailto:info@alg.gov.uk), www.alg.gov.uk. The ALG incorporates London Boroughs Grants, Greater London Employers' Association, London Housing Unit and the Transport and Environment Committee.

Organisations can put their petitions online for free on www.petition-them.com.

Bootstrap has received acclaim for community-based employment and training for long-term unemployed in new report *Sprouting Seeds* by Centre for the Analysis of Social Exclusion. Contact 020 7755 6679 for more details.

Charity Commission has launched a new application and registration pack that is simpler than before. Details at www.charity-commission.gov.uk.

Now in its 16th year, Volunteers' Week is the major event in the UK's volunteering calendar attracting approximately 17,000 participating organisations. Volunteers' Week is a national celebration of volunteers and volunteering which takes place from 1-7 June each year. Groups and organisations of all kinds and sizes take part in Volunteers' Week - from household-name charities to hospitals and small community groups.

The Council for Ethnic Minority Voluntary Organisations (CEMVO) has been awarded over £2 million to run its Millennium Awards Scheme - Maximising Ethnic Minority Volunteer Potential. 325 individuals will benefit from skills and resources needed to undertake their projects. For more info contact Mariana Cervantes on 020 8432 0303 or mariana.cervantes@emf-cemvo.co.uk.

Age Concern Hackney's Agewell proposal has been shortlisted to be a pilot for the Health Development Agency's pre-retirement health scheme - one of only 5 in the UK. Details from Anna on 020 7249 7149.

The Paul Hamlyn Foundation has announced grants of up to £5000 to support local initiatives addressing inequality and disadvantage particularly around young people, arts and education. Details on 020 7227 3500 or imelda.phf.org.uk.

Voluntary organisations can tell the government what they think about how voluntary organisations are consulted and funded through the review of the compact between government and voluntary sector. More details from NCVO on 0800 2798 798 or www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/main/gateway/compact.html

A new website has been set up which gives latest news about regeneration. Details from www.regeneration-uk.com.

The Met Police are inviting members of the black community in Hackney to speak with them about their experiences with the police in general. Anyone attending will receive £15 cash and is open to anyone. To get involved call, Mike Training Officer at Stoke Newington Police Station on 020 7275 3058.

Recent government announcements

May 24th - Invest to Save Budget Round 4 (England)

The Invest to Save Budget is designed to help develop projects which bring together two or more public service bodies to deliver services in an innovative and more efficient fashion. http://www.access-funds.co.uk/Funding_Initiatives/ISB.html

May 21st - £20 Million Boost for Youth Service (England)

The Government has announced a £20 million Youth Service Standards Fund. The announcement of this funding follows the publication of the consultation document 'Transforming Youth Work'. http://www.access-funds.co.uk/Funding_Initiatives/Youth_Service.html

May 18th - Mentoring Fund (England)

The Government have announced £7.7 million for a new Mentoring Fund. http://www.access-funds.co.uk/Funding_Initiatives/Mentoring_Fund.html

May 18th - Consultation on Government grants (England)

The government plans to shake-up the way money is allocated to local voluntary groups. http://www.access-funds.co.uk/Funding_Initiatives/Consultation.html

May 14th - European Refugee Fund (EU)

The purpose of this notice is to invite proposals for Community actions for the budget year 2001. http://www.access-funds.co.uk/Funding_Initiatives/ERF.html

May 10th - Extended Childcare Support (UK)

The New Opportunities Fund has announced the development of its out of school hours childcare programme to allow funding support for new childcare places in disadvantaged areas to continue for up to three years. http://www.access-funds.co.uk/Funding_Initiatives/Childcare.html

May 7th - Round 2 New Deal for Communities funding confirmed (England)

Twenty-three of the poorest neighbourhoods in England have heard that they will benefit from a special £1.1bn fund. http://www.access-funds.co.uk/Funding_Initiatives/NDC.html

May 3rd - Local commitment to employment (EU)

The main objective of this call for proposals is to facilitate the establishment and implementation of local action plans for employment that can contribute to exploit fully the potential for job creation at the local level. http://www.access-funds.co.uk/Funding_Initiatives/LCE.html

May 1st - BIDs - a scheme to improve local quality of life (England)

Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) will be funded by an additional business rate agreed together by local businesses and councils. This will help pay for new projects such as making streets and other public open spaces safer and cleaner, benefiting both local businesses and the wider community. http://www.access-funds.co.uk/Funding_Initiatives/BIDs.html

This information has been reproduced from the ACCESS FUNDS website which can be found at: <http://www.access-funds.co.uk>

Anyone wanting hard copies of the press releases for any of the above items can contact Jake at HCVS anytime.

Director's update

Welcome to another bumper edition of SPARK! It is growing and improving all the time. Jake Ferguson has been getting out and about and is already well known to many of you. Thanks for all the positive feedback about Spark and keep the contributions coming.

LBH Funding Review and Cuts Exercise

As reported in the last issue an officer/member working group was established and HCVS was invited to attend along with HARE, HTEN and HAVE. The group met three times; established the terms of reference for the review and the mechanism for the application process. The following points were agreed over the three meetings;

- a) To pay the first two quarters grants payments to eligible funded groups (i.e. we are all funded until September and subject to 90 days notice.)
- b) All groups have to re-apply for funding to the new Community & Learning directorate
- c) The funds available are ring-fenced to those already funded by LBH
- d) Independent Assessors to be used for the process
- e) An Appeals process will be established

There have also been some discussions about the commissioning of umbrella organisation services but these have been exempt items and I am not privy to any discussions or decisions. However what is clear is that a separate process is being designed but has not yet been agreed.

Beyond the above not much else is clear in terms of the timescales involved etc. and so I don't really know what happens next. The last meeting of the working group was cancelled at short notice because of the election and no new date has been set. Presumably the meetings will resume after the general election. We will let you know as soon as we hear.

In addition there has been a restructuring of the Community and Learning directorate with Ian Hook in the directors post and 4 assistant directors posts being established:

1. Community and voluntary sector services
2. Lifelong Learning
3. Leisure and Parks
4. Resources

New Funding

In this edition there is plenty to get your teeth into. Of special interest are the articles on the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund £26million and the Children's Fund £4.2 million. These are major new funding streams being led by Hackney 20/20 and LBH Education directorate respectively. We have printed the article on LSP's and the NRF in full so that you can see for yourself what the thinking is behind it and the current state of play in Hackney. I was very interested to hear that "there isn't an umbrella body for the voluntary sector" perhaps that's why HCVS has not been consulted, we are invisible! It is very easy to accuse others of not being representative but who does Hackney 20/20 represent exactly and how where those reps selected?

Those involved with the Children's

Fund have however contacted us and asked us to help in publicising the strategy. It is important that we as a sector are involved in such initiatives right at the start before any decisions are made and we are being informed after the fact.

Please read the respective articles and get involved.

Quality Standards

We have launched the PQASSO programme and despite a hesitant start, we now have a waiting list for the next events in June. If you are interested in registering for the July sessions please contact Jennifer at HCVS.

Community Legal Services

We have now completed the mapping of these services. The steering group is considering developing this information into a directory. We would like to thank everyone who returned the questionnaire and contributed to making the exercise productive. We will keep you informed of any developments.

Stakeholder Pensions

We have had many requests for information about the new rules. I hope CAP's article in this issue clarifies things. They are also running a seminar in July, contact them for details.

European Funding

As reported last issue, HCVS submitted two outline bids under Objective 2 Measure 1 Priority 1. This measure is about enabling economic inclusion through network development and partnership building. We were

asked to revise and resubmit both bids. We passed on the one for Black and Bi-lingual Communities to HARE who have redone the bid and resubmitted it. The other bid was for a Voluntary Sector Regeneration Forum and we have revamped and resubmitted it on behalf of a group of organisations.

However, along with many other local organisations, we have some real concerns about the whole process. In particular the contradiction of involving people whose organisations are bidding themselves in the assessment process. This is particularly pertinent when agencies can use their positions of privilege to

further their own bids. It strikes me that the process far from being one that enables and facilitates new groups accessing these funds, it actually dis-empowers them. We intend to address this matter with GOL and would appreciate any comments.

Healthy Living Centres

On a positive note, we have been contacted about the third bid (Black and Bi-Lingual Communities) by NOF. Bids will be assessed in June and we should know soon how all three of our bids have fared. We will keep in touch with all those involved in the

three bids as soon as there is any news to report.

Finally, there is lots of information on funding in this issue, lets hope that despite all the difficulties the sector can access some of it and have an input into its application in the borough. The coming months will bring many challenges for all of us we must try and keep our chins up, stay alert, provide a united front and support each other. Spark is your magazine make sure you use it. Until next time.

Adiaha Antigha

Dont forget we have a new logo and so does Disability Hackney. Here they are:



We also have a web address. We are working on a website at present. Send us your ideas.

www.hcv's.org.uk

The Rising Tide of the

Ocean

SPARK interviewed Ocean Music Trust to find out what is the philosophy behind this new music venue

Ocean music venue opened to the public in March this year with four sold-out dates from the ever popular Fun Loving Criminals. With a capacity of 2100 people in its main auditorium, the latest state-of-the art technology and broadcast specification equipment, Ocean has set a new standard in live music entertainment. Formerly, the Methodist Church Hall and Carnegie Library, the Ocean buildings represent a massive £23.7 million capital development which boasts three flexible performance areas that can cater for anything from a large classical or pop concert to a small jazz trio. Indeed the likes of Radio 1, Radio 3, and MTV have already made use of the facilities offered.

At the heart of Ocean's management philosophy is its commitment to providing the people of Hackney with the sort of music venue they really want. Market research informed Ocean that local people wanted a really big venue that attracted big names from the music industry, had good quality sound and lighting but was also somewhere that could offer an intimate local focus.

Mark Higham, the director of the Ocean Music Trust, an independent charity who



Photo: Carl Swaby

Gabin Sinclair left, Mark Higham right

have developed and managed the Ocean project over the last five years, stresses that Ocean is not about being an establishment but about being a place for everyone. "There has been a real surprise and positive feeling about how approachable the venue is. We have argued for years that people in Hackney deserve just as high quality facilities as anywhere in the country. We fought hard to get funding to do this at the right kind of level." Funding for the project comes in the main from the National Lottery and is augmented with assistance from the Single Regeneration Budget through Renaisi and the Government Office for London, the European Regional Development Fund and the London Development Agency.

A unique and key element of what Ocean has to offer is the Rising Tide centre which is housed next door to the three auditoriums and aims to provide an accessible, imaginative and carefully targeted programme of activities to encourage the appreciation of music. Centred around a five tiered music education and training programme, the Rising Tide centre is about "providing a platform so that people can walk in from the street, participate in a workshop, meet other musicians, be jamming

and play as a support act or even end up headlining at Ocean." It offers accredited courses and seminars in anything from band management, publicity and marketing to more hands on MIDI technology courses and live performance for people wishing to develop their musical abilities. Many of the courses are offered free of charge. The staff have all been drawn from the music industry with many professional musicians in their own right. Some of the people attending the courses are being trained to be tutors themselves.

Prior to the opening of Ocean, the Rising Tide project had been running outreach workshops in and around Hackney for 2+ years, working with over 30 different local providers such as Core Arts, Cardboard Citizens and Dalston Youth Project, Stamford Hill Youth Centre, Bootstrap Enterprise, Peggy Edwards St Leonard's Outpatient Unit, St John@Hackney Community Space Centre, The Grove Project, Guinness Trust Estate, Concord Youth Centre, Black Women in the Arts, Immediate Theatre, Springboard Hackney, Woodberry Down Estate, Hackney Free & Parochial School, UK Skills (Princes Trust).

The Rising Tide centre is very much the place for new talent which reflects Hackney's abundance of artists and musicians from all different cultures. "Part of our focus is to make

'people in Hackney deserve just as high quality facilities as anywhere in the country'

LISTENING MATTERS - coming to Hackney

Like minded people coming together in the right place at the right time to make a difference. Ordinary local people, creating the community they desire, that's what Listening Matters is about. This process has local people in the community identify their own concerns, solutions and aspirations, whilst being involved right from the beginning in planning for change. This is a unique opportunity for people who do not normally have the chance to be heard or even involved in development of actions and projects which get to the root cause of the problems we face. This process seeks out new community leaders and others to support them to develop effective networks, resources and

support, so that they can continue to address the needs of their community. Action to Regenerate Community Trust, a national social action charity is working with The Kaizen Partnership, a new, London based company, to bring a dynamic, innovative approach to working in communities in Hackney.

The process begins with the Listening Matters process. We listen to what people love about the area, the things that concern them and the visions they have for the future. Local people are then trained to carry out the same with their friends, family and neighbours. The work identifies the catalogue of what people like about the area, what their concerns and visions are and those people who

feel passionate and motivated enough to actively work to make their community the place they want to live in. Regenerate supports the community development by encouraging people to reflect on the information gathered and to compile a report that is the basis of their action plan. Regenerate and



sure Ocean works both financially and artistically. We could just make it work financially but it would be a completely different animal. Part of working artistically is the whole education and training side."

One of the programmes' early successes is Stepping Up, a local group who hail from the Kingsmead Estate Kabin project and have been spending time in one of Rising Tide's many recording suites putting the finishing touches to their first release. The Rising Tide centre takes referrals from the employment and careers service as well as local youth and community arts projects and has already attracted a lot of kids who drop in after school. It is keen to be seen as part of the local network of providers in Hackney although they are very much aware that they do not wish to replicate what is already around. The programme manager, Gabin Sinclair who grew up in Jarrow Way, the estate beside Kingsmead, says that "When we are moving round [the borough] we see a lot of people who think they wouldn't be able to afford to come to Ocean and that it is run by white people, but then as they get to know the team and how we work, they open their eyes, and they see that the Rising Tide centre is not a little room in the corner it is a real part of the venue. They hear about other work we are doing with other organisations and schools in Hackney. As a venue this would not be normally be important, but we feel this is important to what we feel and what we want to become. Eventually we hope the vibe in the building will be a Hackney vibe."

Ocean are also keen advocates and have been part of talks to develop a new cultural strategy in Hackney. They have stressed that there is not a strong enough advocacy of the arts and culture, with no unified voice and a background of diminishing statutory commitment to arts and culture in the borough.

Ocean recognises the difficulties and disillusionment in the music industry and feels strongly about helping artists and musicians get access to money and would like to see funders allocate money specifically to help people develop their potential.

The future looks very promising for Ocean with some very interesting musical collaborations in the pipeline, a regular monthly collaboration with Radio 3 and a possible tour of schools in Hackney later in the year.

For more information about up and coming events and music training exists, contact Ocean, 270 Mare Street, Hackney, London, E8 1HE www.ocean.org.uk 020 8533 0111

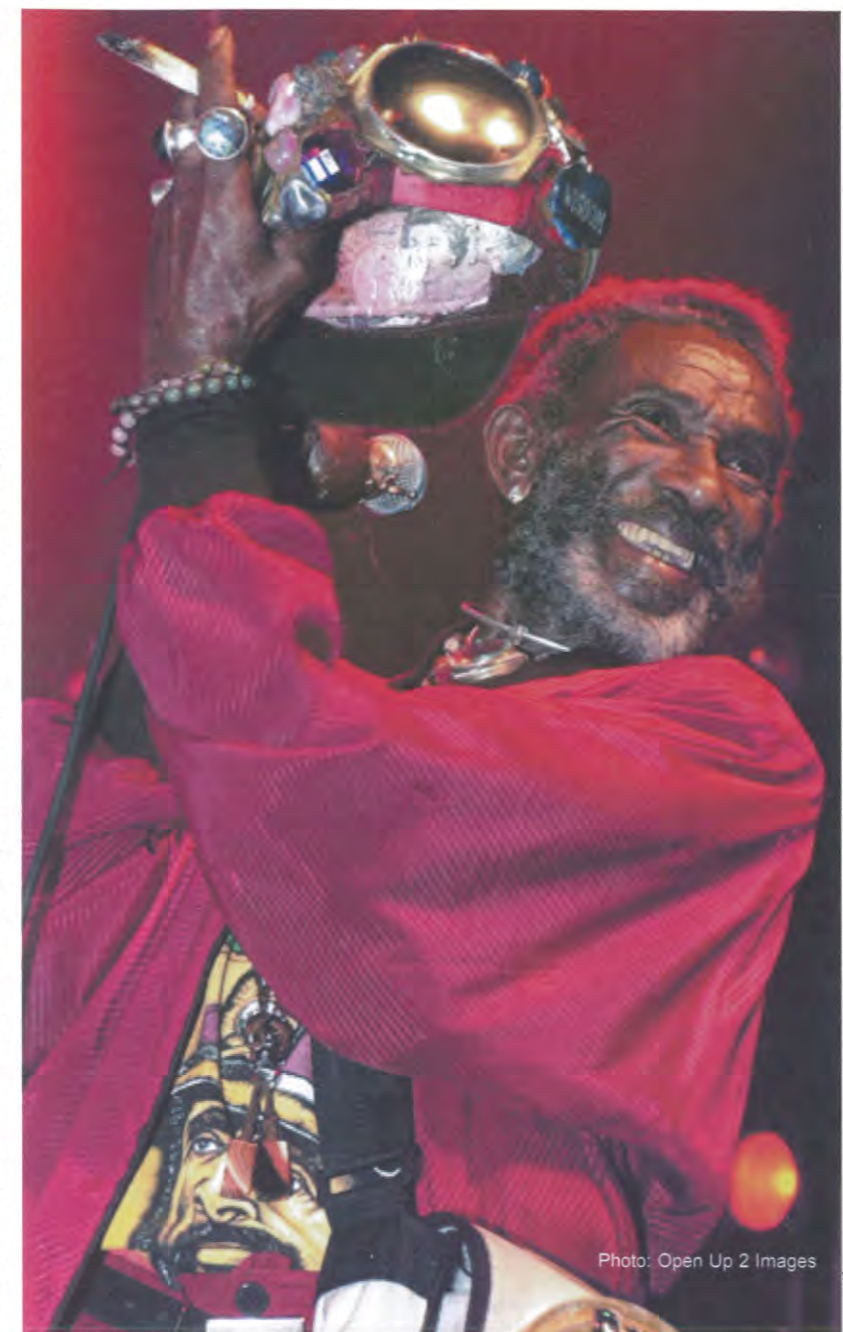


Photo: Open Up 2 Images

Lee Scratch Perry, a recent performer at Ocean

its' partners then work with the community leaders to form working groups to begin planning how to achieve the identified aspirations and priorities. Listening Matters encourages actions that tackle community problems, find untapped resources, bring in new resources and create jobs. A number of first time volunteers have taken up training and employment opportunities, or developed responsible roles within the organisation and the wider community.

Since 1990, Regenerate volunteers and workers have initiated or been actively involved with developing and supporting many projects and initiatives. These have all been developed from the listening and networking processes that draw people together around their common interest and so the ideas and actions generally win support in the wider community. As well

as initial project development input and links to funding bodies, Regenerate is itself able to make small grants (£50 - £1000) to assist the work of people it finds through the process. Grants may be given to individuals (for training that will benefit their community project), and to the emerging community organisations and groups. The Trust aims to develop and expand the grant making function and build significant reserves over the next 5 years in order to continue and enhance the start up and development support available to communities and activists.

If you are interested in finding out more contact Tony on 07939 040972 or Julia Olsen on 07970 830646 or Stephen Kearney on 07970 830644. You could also visit our web page at www.regeneratetrust.com

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SKY's the limit for local youth

The South Kingsland Youth Partnership (SKY) was borne out of the overwhelming need for youth providers in the South Hackney area to forge stronger links with each other and so improve the quality and range of services that are available to local young people. The partnership was initiated by Ascent 21 as a reaction to their intermediary management of the HEST Youth Project last summer.

Frances Hawkings, Ascent 21's Project Manager, comments "When we took over the project management of HEST last June we were shocked by the lack of networking amongst local youth providers. This meant that local young people were not able to access the full range of services on offer to them as local youth workers were simply unaware of the other services and activities that were available in the

area." The Youth Forum began meeting in October and became the South Kingsland Youth Partnership earlier this year. At present, SKY's main role is for information sharing and networking, however one of the Partnership's aims for this year is to become an independent organisation with charitable status. SKY will then have the capacity to fundraise and develop and deliver projects for young people in the south Hackney area. The Partnership also recognises the need for young people themselves to have a more direct influence on the services and activities aimed at them and efforts will be made to include young people in the work of the SKY Partnership. SKY also aims to bridge the various funding programmes that operate within the area to ensure that duplication of services is avoided and gaps in

services are addressed as soon as they are identified. In short, the aim is to have continuity of care for young people with a wide range of facilities and services on offer to meet the very diverse, and often competing, needs of this client group.

The SKY Partnership meets once a month at Laburnum Boat Club. Currently there are 19 groups and organisations who attend the meetings on a regular basis, including the Shoreditch New Deal Trust, Hackney Sports Development, Hoxton Hall and The Princes Trust. Local residents who are interested in youth issues also attend and the Partnership also has the support of the local councillors and the Metropolitan Police. New members are always welcome and the next meeting is on Tuesday 12th June.

Contact details: Frances Hawkings, Ascent 21: 020 7241 0436 or Jim Armstrong: Laburnum Boat Club: 020 7729 2915

Bridging our differences

Kaday Rose Kamara set up the African Caribbean Reunion project in 1996 to bring Africans and Caribbeans together developing a new shared understanding and helping people from the Caribbean set foot on African soil.

The Reunion's roots started in 1996 at the Hackney Show where they invited local Africans and Caribbeans to be part of the dialogue. From this the African Caribbean Reunion was formed.

ACR help to organise people's trips to Africa, often helping with fares and accommodation. The main problem that people face is lack of money to pay for such trips. ACR counteract this by holding an annual celebration of the two cultures. The next one is being held on Saturday 21st July at 2pm at the Trinity Centre on Beechwood Road E8 and features displays of national costumes, flags, anthems and of course national food dishes.

The ACR organised a memorable trip for two African Caribbean ladies to visit Gambia and Sierra Leone, stopping off at Juffereh, the village made famous by the legendary film, Roots. The trip provided the two ladies a fascinating incite into African life, particularly the poor facilities and living conditions many local



Photo: African Caribbean Reunion

Last year's celebrations

people face. Speaking about their trip, Lillian Andrews & Elsie Chaplin said "We love the people, and we very much feel at home in Africa where the vegetation and tress are the mostly the same as in Jamaica and Barbados. By the grace of God we plan to be making pilgrimages to Africa - the land of our forefathers". Since returning, the two ladies have been actively 'people have remarked upon how happy and respectful their fellow people in Africa are'

fundraising to provide for better toilet facilities in some of the villages they visited. Historically, Sierra Leone has had strong cultural differences between Creoles and the indigenous Sierra

Leone population. To help overcome some of these differences the ACR have given women from the Afro-Caribbean community in Hackney traditional dresses from Sierra Leone.

Speaking about one of the recent visits to Sierra Leone Kaday says that "one of the most interesting things that people have remarked upon is how happy and respectful their fellow people in Africa were".

For more information about the African Caribbean Reunion project contact Kaday Rose Kamara: 63 Churchill Walk, London E9 6EU, 020 8986 4090.

Update on Dalston's new 'Town Centre'

In the last issue of SPARK, we introduced readers to the voluntary sector-led regeneration in Gillett Street Car Park. There have been several new developments including a second local consultation meeting with residents who are directly affected by the redevelopment of Stamford Works. Residents expressed a strong support for the plans but there were several concerns relating to the possibility of the planning application being rejected, the amount of light and the need for more parking provision. There is a strong will from the architects, Hawkins Brown, to involve local people as much as possible in the overall designs of the buildings in the development. There will be more consultation as the process develops.



HCD are contacting local small business enterprises, voluntary groups and the wider community around the Dalston site and will be putting together a portfolio of cultural activities and artifacts in the area in the next few months. Buzz Johnson, Cultural Markets Development Worker says, "It is important to look at what is unique to Dalston that is hidden, especially activities that are not happening anywhere else".

Adam Hart says, "Public spaces are generally poorly used. This is a real opportunity for promoting the cultural dimensions of local ethnic groups especially at a time when the community infrastructure is crumbling and the private sector is moving into Hackney in a big way."

HCD have employed an arts consultant, Andrew Cross, to explore the possible uses of the Gillett Street square making it an attractive place to visit. He will be concentrating on developing an artistic vision and on what events and projects would be

Regeneration of Stamford Works, Gillett

In a move which marks a major step forward in the ongoing regeneration of central Dalston, proposals have been unveiled for the redevelopment of Stamford Works, Gillett Street.

The plans, which have been prepared by local architects Hawkins Brown for the site's owners MacDonald Egan, are based on the comprehensive mixed use regeneration of the site, to include a number of residential units, B1 space, including new offices, training facilities and a cafe for the Peter Bedford Trust and, potentially, a site for a new library.

The architects have designed a contemporary scheme including a new civic feature - the equivalent to the traditional town hall clock tower. MacDonald Egan is also working with local artists to incorporate contemporary art into the redevelopment.

MacDonald Egan is currently consulting with the local community on its proposals. It is anticipated that the plans will be considered by the London Borough of Hackney later this year. If they are approved, the redevelopment could be complete by 2004. For more information about the local consultation contact Mark Brown @ MacDonald Egan Tel: 020 7622 7355. Fax: 020 7622 7350.



Photo: Macdonald Egan

suitable for the launch event and to those that could regularly use the square. Ideas such as bulletin boards and projections to act as landmarks in the square have been suggested alongside festivals, music and using the square for recreational activities.

HCD are aiming high and are working on developing a website as a format for local economic development. Elements of this will include: a 'hot network' to exchange information and self-maintained webpages for local community groups. The idea is Glocal - local action that has global significance.

Adam Hart concluded, "Since the Dalston City Challenge, there has not been an autonomous forum for communication about regeneration in the area. The voluntary sector is always seen as the defenders of the poor, but it is more than that. Governance is shifting to the voluntary and intermediary sector. As local actors who can deliver services on the ground, it is our turn to have go."

For more information about this voluntary sector-led regeneration project contact HCD on 020 7254 4829.

http://www.hackney.gov.uk/comis

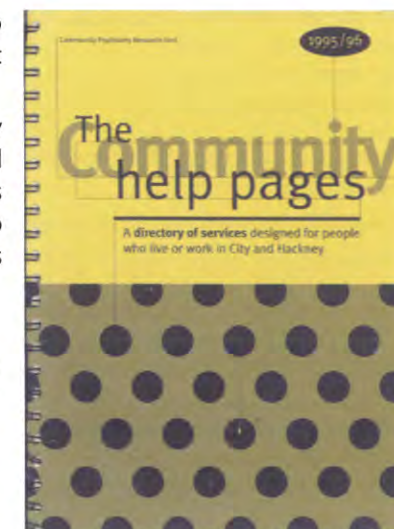
Don't forget that that the City & Hackney Community Information Database is now online so that you can look up what voluntary and community organisations exist in the borough, set up your own network of similar agencies or just find out what's out there that you don't know about. Equally, if you are a new organisation or group that would like to be included in the database please contact Paul Barnett or Peter Coltelli at LBH. It is vitally important that you are included in this database because the council and other agencies use this to contact the community.

COMIS includes health, social services, advice, housing, environment, education, community groups, arts, leisure, religion and much more...

It's easy to use and you will soon be able to search using a map interface to find out what other organisations exist in your ward.

HCVS and LBH will be producing a paper copy of the database in Autumn 2001 so that all groups who are not on the internet as well as those that are, have a quick reference guide to agencies in the borough. The last time this was done was in the 1995/6 [pictured right]

For more info contact Paul Barnet or Peter Coltelli at the Community Information Team, Community and Learning (LBH) on 020 8356 3046/3112 or email comis@gw.hackney.gov.uk



Impossible vision ?

St. John-at-Hackney Community Space Centre hosted the Vision Impossible exhibition of artwork and sculpture to raise awareness of its work for Hackney's disadvantaged people. The

The appeal of this kind of art is that the artists have not been constrained by the same set of rules and influences that shape more mainstream artistic genres

exhibition of over 100 items was held at east73rd gallery in Shoreditch and unveiled new talent by 30 artists who use the St. John-at-Hackney Community Space Centre.

The event organiser, Stephanie Mitchell said of the exhibition "The appeal of this kind of art is that the artists have not been constrained by the same set of rules and influences that shape more mainstream

artistic genres. The result is a collection of works that range from fascinating to shocking".

The Art Project at St. John-at-Hackney Community

Space Centre was set up in 1996 and last year benefited 103 different people. The Centre itself is a well-used resource for people experiencing problems with homelessness, drug and alcohol problems, mental health problems, learning difficulties, loneliness and isolation.

John Skidmore, one of exhibitors who paints with plastics and wax, said of the art project, "I find it relaxing. There is always someone to speak to. Coming here for the last 5 years has really helped me. No-one bothers me here. I did 30 years on and off in prison. Without places like

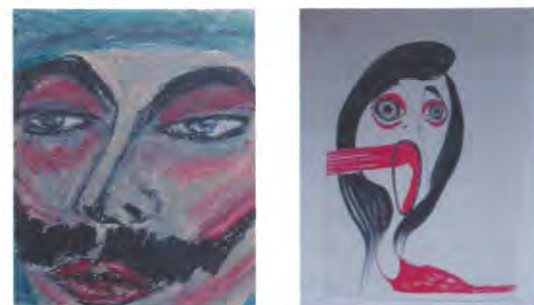
this I would be back inside to be honest. No-one had time for you in prison. It was only through Brenda [another user] that I find out about projects like this one. I feel its my home."

The Director of St John-at-Hackney Community Space Centre, also shared her thoughts about the benefits to people using the service. "The exhibition has been very exciting. It gives people a clear opportunity for them to express themselves in a way that they haven't done before. It is also an opportunity for people outside the project to see what sort of contribution those outside normal society can give."

As well as the art project, St. John-at-Hackney Community Space Centre offers a drop-in service providing food, advice, health as well as other creative projects.

For more information or to enquire about purchasing a painting or two contact Stephanie Mitchell on 020 8985 6707.

DONT FORGET some of these paintings are still available for sale



If you would like to know more contact Naomi Chadborn at Street Cred. The Parlour, 45-47 Blythe Street, London E2 6LN. Phone/fax 0207 729 9267 email: streetcred@dial.pipex.com Languages available are English, Somali, Bengali, Hindi and Urdu.

Women give Richard Branson a run for his money

There are many women in the East End, who have a great idea for setting up an enterprise, the skills to do it and the tenacity to see it through. However, for various reasons, they don't have access to the credit necessary to start. This may be because they are unemployed, on low income, lone parents or receiving benefits. Since 1999 Street Cred has been running a micro-credit project to cater for such a group, based on the highly successful Grameen model of group lending. The flexibility of working for themselves whilst bringing up children, has proved an attractive incentive for many women who cannot afford the time or loss of benefits to take on part-time jobs. Twenty-three loans have been made so far, each one with potential to becoming a healthy business, and eventually show that a woman and her family can find a way out of the benefits trap.

There are many exciting and varied businesses starting up as a direct result of a Street Cred loan. One woman has bought a sewing machine with her loan, and now makes 'made to order' garments for the Bangladeshi community. Other women do massage, manicure, translation work, selling domain names or can even cook Malaysian banquets for a dinner parties. The enterprises are as diverse as the women who belong to the groups.

The women form small lending groups to act

as mutual guarantees for each other, though their loans and businesses are separate. The group itself is a wonderful support system as the women share contacts, ideas, support and friendship. They meet together fortnightly, supported by a facilitator who provides business advice and links with relevant organisations. Repayment is made by instalments, and women may take out another loan as soon as the current one is paid off until she no longer needs to borrow, or is ready to move into the mainstream banking system. Street Cred has a 100% repayment history envied by any high street bank.

It's a slow process, but one that can create a wonderful ripple effect in the community, as the groups grow in number, network and support each other. Often the process of starting these enterprises and the empowerment that this brings to individual lives is as important as the financial gains that are made. It's not the whole answer but can take its place with co-operatives and Credit Unions as an effective tool in combating poverty and disadvantage.

street cred

Haggerston SRB Community Chest and Small Grants Fund

If you belong to a community or voluntary group in the Haggerston area, now is the time to cash in on this year's SRB Community Chest and Small Grants programme.

The Kingsland Community Regeneration Forum and Haggerston SRB Partnership are awarding Community Chest grants of £500 and Small Grants of £1000 to local groups who wish to start up or continue projects that provide specific benefits for local residents.

Last year £10,000 of cash was awarded to 17 local projects, and helped provide computers for music workshops at Colvestone Primary School, an IT course at the Halkevi Community Centre and the setting up of a Parent and Toddler Group at Fellow's Court.

This year £30,000 is available and we want to double the amount of groups who benefit. Applications must be submitted by the 3rd August. Application packs can be obtained by contacting Gary Brown, Renaisi, 300 Mare Street, E8 1HE. Tel: 020 7683 8341.



Hackney MEDIATION Service

Is now recruiting a new group of volunteer mediators to join our team

Volunteer mediators help Hackney residents who are involved in neighbour and community disputes to find their own solutions to conflicts

We are offering a 45-hour course in mediation skills in September and October 2001 (weekends) in central Hackney. The training is free. You need to be able to give 12 hours per month as a volunteer.

We want to make sure that our mediating team reflects the diversity of the borough. We would particularly like to hear from younger and older people (under 25 and over 60), men, and people of Asian and Turkish origin who are interested in becoming mediators

A Mediation UK Accredited Service



Bootstrap Enterprises

The First House, 18 Abchurch Lane, London EC4A 3DF. Tel: 020 7254 0775. Fax: 020 7254 0776. e-mail: bootstrap@ukgateway.net



BELCUDA

(Bootstrap Enterprises London Credit Union Development Agency)

Credit Union Development Officer

Starting Salary £23,523 (S02 Pt 32 including LW)

Based in Hackney, Bootstrap Enterprises offers a wide range of employment and training advice services in different London boroughs with the aim of helping people who are disadvantaged in the labour market. BELCUDA aims to initiate and support sustainable credit unions in London and develop a range of complementary financial services which tackle social and financial exclusion.

Bootstrap Enterprises is recruiting a Development Officer for this credit union development project. The postholder will have experience of delivering output/outcome driven programmes and an understanding and experience of community economic development. The Development Officer will be employed as a member of BELCUDA's team to support existing and emerging credit unions and develop associated financial services.

Closing date for applications is 5.00pm on Friday 15th June 2001. Interviews will be held on Thursday 28th June 2001. If you would like to speak to somebody about this post please phone 020 7254 0775, if you would like an application form please phone the recruitment line on 020 7254 9250 (24hrs) or e-mail us at belcudal@ukgateway.net

New Mayor presents awards to Dalston Managers



From L to R Keith Hughes, Councillor Saleem Siddiqui, Chris Brown and Chief Superintendent Peter Robbins (Hackney Borough Commander)

Thursday the 17th of May was a publicity day for the Dalston Partnership Policing Project, (DP3) in the Shopping Centre in Dalston and it was an opportunity for two Dalston shop managers to receive awards from the newly elected mayor, Councillor Saleem Siddiqui and Borough Police Commander, Chief Superintendent Peter Robbins. Chris Brown from McDonalds and Keith Hughes of Superdrug were presented with the certificates issued by the DP3 project in recognition of their commitment to reducing crime in their shops.

Both had worked closely with Russell Jones, the DP3 crime reduction expert

and the police team from Ridley Road. They trained their staff in personal safety and customer care, took steps to arrange their stores so as to reduce the opportunity for theft and took a stand against drug dealers and others, supported by the police so as to make their stores safe and a pleasant places to shop and eat.

Inspector Barry Scales said, "Keith and Chris are our leaders within the retail community in Dalston. Their example has inspired many other retailers to follow their lead. Crime has gone down by a third in Dalston. Working together has produced this result. We must keep it going"

Further details of how DP3 and its partners are working in Dalston can be obtained from Barry and his staff on 0207 249 7530.

Community Outreach

ARVAC, the Association for Research in the Voluntary and Community Sector, has just announced its Community Research Outreach Project to provide support in research to smaller voluntary and community organisations across the UK to building their research capacity. The project, which is funded by Bridge House Estates Trust Fund and the National Lottery Charities Board, aims to help community and voluntary groups undertake research such as:

- mapping existing local provision
- evaluating the effectiveness of a service or proving its need
- providing substantiated information for a funding application
- ARVAC do this by providing training, facilitation and support to:
 - identify, plan, operate or manage research
 - improve research skills
 - access local, regional or national research information

· access similar research

The service is offered free and aimed at small voluntary and community organisations and organisations working with minority or disadvantaged groups. ARVAC ask interested groups to fill in a brief application then if you meet the criteria ARVAC will visit you or contact you by phone.

If you are interested in finding out more about this service, contact the ARVAC office on 020 7704 2315 for an application pack. For examples of how organisations have used the service, ask for a free copy of ARVAC links, a newsletter with case studies from ARVAC's outreach and information services.



Your child can learn to play the Keyboard on **Thursdays** and **Saturdays** at:

The Claudia Jones Organisation
103 Stoke Newington Road
London N16 8BX

Contact Hazel on:
0207-241-1646

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AFRICAN CARIBBEAN RE-UNION

PRESENTS
A

CULTURAL EVENT with a feast of National Dishes

Saturday 21st July 2001 at 2pm

Join us in your National Attire

Price:
Adults - £6.00
Under 16 years - £3.00
Proceeds towards our Africa Visit, Oct/Nov 2001

Telephone: 020 8986 4090*
Venue: Trinity Centre, Beechwood Road
Off Dalston Lane, London E8
(Buses: 38, 56, 67, 76, 149, 242, 243)

*Tickets in Advance



Ngozi & African Dance Group, Hackney at our Millennium Get Together, July 2000

Bricks and mortar

If you are a young male in need of a home don't live in Hackney.

SPARK attended a unique meeting at Offcentre where young people fed their ideas directly to Glenda Jackson MP and Diane Abbot MP about the lack of affordable housing.

Hackney has always been a poor borough with poor housing provision. Young people who are homeless face increasing difficulties in getting access to good quality, affordable, appropriate housing against a backdrop of crime and drug use, particularly the increasing use of crack cocaine.

Off Centre, Hackney's Young People's Counselling Service, a voluntary sector organisation for young people with counselling needs, sees about 3-5 people per day who are homeless and in need of immediate housing. In Hackney the pressure is enormous with LB Hackney housing department having a backlog of work to catch up with and a serious gap in housing provision for young people. There are very few hostels that Off Centre can refer young people to and the ones that do take homeless young people, often have up to a week waiting time. There are very few hostel beds

'in practice, in Hackney, if you are a single male under the age of 60 you have virtually no chance of getting re-housed' Diane Abbot MP

for young men under 25. Funding restrictions imposed as part of the current housing system mean that appropriate hostels (based outside Hackney) can only take referrals for people living within their own borough. Diane Abbot MP confirmed that "in practice in Hackney if you are a single male under the age of 60 you have virtually no chance of getting re-housed" citing the sell off of public sector housing and gentrification as contributing factors.

Glenda Jackson who has the brief for housing in the new Greater London Authority, asked the panel what it thought were the main reasons that young people became homeless. Everyone at the meeting agreed that family breakdown was

the key factor especially when tensions arise as a result of overcrowding in the family home. Stephen, one of the users at Off Centre described the difficulty he faced getting housed in Hackney "I went to the council and it was like they just wanted to get me out of the place, they didn't want to know and to me that's wrong. I told them that I had a kid and they still didn't want to know. I don't even see my daughter because I can't get housed. Because of the wait for housing, my friend went out of his way to get into prison just so that he would have somewhere to sleep. Growing up is so horrible. The whole system stinks."

The government says it needs to build 46,000 new properties a year for the next decade to meet current demand for housing. It is addressing the immediate needs of the homeless through its Rough Sleepers Initiative which provides emergency 24 hour accommodation, mainly in the West End. The Contact

and Assessment Teams (CAT), refer people they contact through outreach on to hostel accommodation. This system which is aimed at the most vulnerable people living on the streets in Central London does not adequately provide for young people who need to be rehoused in Hackney. This is a serious issue local issue with young men in particular being squeezed out of the borough as most do not meet RSI and local authority criteria for rehousing and thus fall through the gap. They need quality direct access hostels with providers joined up locally as well as robust support from the local authority, the GLA and the government.

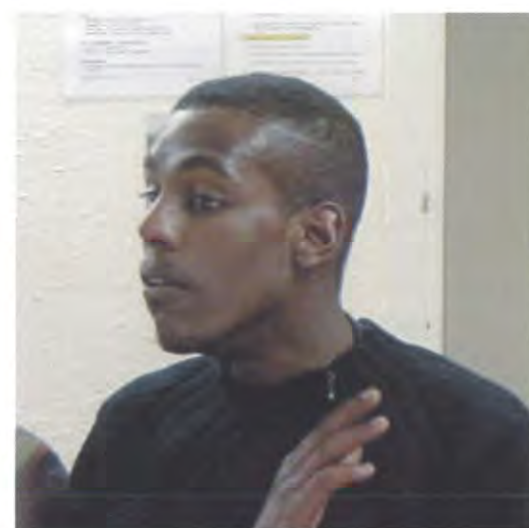
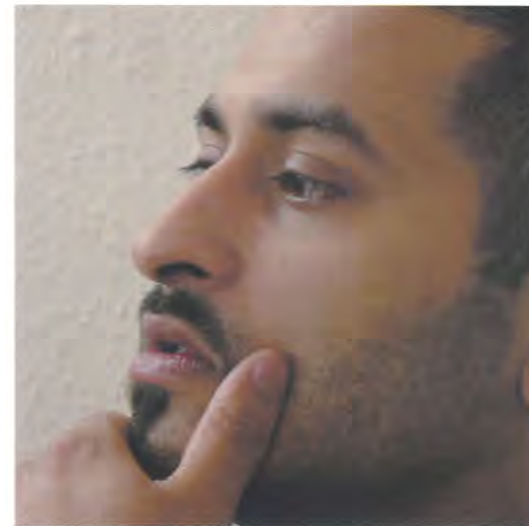
Glenda Jackson was not about to

offer any rosy solutions to the problem when she said "I am not sitting her and going to pretend that we are going to meet our housing needs. With young people I think we have to be absolutely honest about what they can expect - they are not going to get a two-bedroom flat with a garden in a nice part of town the first time they are looking for somewhere". Off Centre say, "In our experience young people are not looking for this kind of accommodation - they just want somewhere safe -

most young people who are homeless know that the 2 bed flat with a garden is a long way down the line for them and not possible as an immediate solution."

Still, the issue of immediate housing for the most needy young people is still a major problem that is not currently being addressed. Ms Jackson agreed to raise this issue with Louise Casey, Homelessness Czar and invited grassroots practitioners to address her directly about the needs on the ground.

Off Centre, Hackney's Young People's Counselling Service is one of a handful of organisation in Hackney that can provide help and advice to young people in the borough. Each person's needs are different and each case unique. When family breakdown is at the heart of the



Off Centre, Hackney's Young People's Counselling Service was established in 1975 to provide a unique service to young people between 13 and 25 years old in Hackney. It provides one-to-one counselling service, support and therapy groups, and information and advice on a wide range of issues that affect young people such as self-harm, sexual abuse, homelessness and unemployment. If a young person needs to contact the local Benefits Agency or Housing Department, workers will try to ensure that the young persons has all the required information before sending them to the office, often with a covering letter setting out the main issues. Being part of a local network that offers services to young people is a vital part of Off Centre work and helps prevent more and more young people falling through the gap in statutory provision.

For more details contact Offcentre on 020 8985 8566, 25-27 Hackney Grove London E8 3NR ocentre@aol.com

For more information please call Off Centre on 020 8985 8566 or 020 8986 4016 ocentre@aol.com 25-27 Hackney Grove, London E8 3NR.

London East LSC announces £4.2 million Local Initiatives Fund

The London East Learning & Skills Council has just published guidance on the eligibility of proposed projects for Local Initiative Funding which will total £4.2m for the 10 London boroughs in the London East region. The Local Initiative Fund (LIF) has been established to provide a flexible and responsive source of funding for those projects which contribute to the strategic objectives of the London East Learning and Skills Council.

The London East Learning & Skills Council has identified 4 main thematic strands which will form the priorities for this year's allocation of the LIF. The intention of the guidance is to provide you with both a summary of the four thematic strands and more detail on the size and scope of each strand. It should help you to decide whether or not your project idea would be eligible for

funding by LIF.

The four thematic strands are:

1. Improving access to, and participation in learning;
2. Supporting 'employability' and 'basic' skills;
3. Encouraging local recruitment;
4. Improving skills within the workforce.

Hackney Training & Enterprise Network (HTEN) are coordinating consultation with the voluntary sector [see below]. The closing dates for applications is 13th July 2001 so the timescales are tight. For more information about the Local Initiative Fund and how to apply, contact Michelle Doyle, London East Learning & Skills Council on 020 8432 0090. For photocopies of the guidance, contact Jake at HCVS.

Voluntary Sector Involvement Consultation Meetings

Have you been wondering what is happening in the Learning Partnership? If so, come along to the next voluntary and community sector meeting for:

- An update on Partners in Learning Projects
- An update on Connexions
- Information on Basic Skills teacher training (vital if your organisation delivers or is planning to deliver basic skills)
- Information (and application packs) for the London East Learning and Skills Council Local Initiative Fund. Deadlines for this are 15th June and 17th July.
- Information on Bite Sized learning

Two meetings are planned for voluntary sector groups in Tower Hamlets and Hackney:

Tuesday, 12th June 2001
Springboard Hackney Trust
1-9 Downham Road, Hackney

Tuesday, 19th June 2001
Whitechapel Sports Centre
Burwood Street, Tower Hamlets

This is the same meeting held twice so that you can attend the one that is the most convenient for you. Both meetings will run from 9:30am till 12:00 midday. Please pass on this information to other interested groups. To attend either meeting contact the HTEN office on 020 7249 7669,



Partners in Learning - The Lifelong Learning Partnership
for the City, Hackney and Tower Hamlets

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Hackney Training and
Employment Network

£4.2 million for Hackney's children

Hackney has been chosen as one of the first 40 areas in England to be invited to apply for the first wave of the **Children's Fund** – around £4.2 million in Hackney over a three-year period.



Hackney has been chosen as one of the first 40 areas in England to be invited to apply for the first wave of the Children's Fund – around £4.2 million in Hackney over a three-year period. The intention of the Fund is to create a web of services and support by providing additional resources over and above those provided through existing mainstream statutory, specific programmes and through earmarked funding streams. It is expected that working through a local partnership and with local delivery, the Fund will prioritise and support the active involvement of voluntary organisations, community groups, children, young people and their families.

By investing in preventative services, the Fund is expected to lead to:

- Reductions in unauthorised absences from schools;
- Improved educational performance;
- Reduced youth crime and reconvictions;
- Improvements in the health and care of children;
- More use of existing services by commonly excluded groups;
- More involvement of children, young people, local adults including those who use services, in the way services are delivered.

The sort of multi-agency projects that are likely to be developed locally include:

- Improved play and out of school hours childcare / learning provision;
- Peer support and mentoring schemes;
- Home-school link workers;
- Primary health workers;
- Behavioural support staff;
- Parenting education, including family learning;
- Services to support children at risk, including those experiencing mental health problems;
- Specialist services, developing support to meet children and families identified needs.

The local partnership to develop the Children's Fund proposals (detailed below) has some initial ideas about who the target population of children will be. Its Subgroup has identified the following:

- A geographical area that takes in parts of three wards: Chatham, Victoria and Wick (part of which

'We see the voluntary sector as equal partners in this process and it is crucial that they are invited to participate'

is coterminous with the proposed fourth wave Sure Start area);

- Activity which builds on the Dalston Queensbridge Sure Start initiative.

The map opposite shows the areas targeted by New Deal and SRB bids in relation to the Government Children's Fund target area.

LB Hackney Education Department has secured £20K development funding for:

- consultation with children and young people throughout the development and delivery of the programme;
- public consultation to target parents/carers/extended families of vulnerable children;
- publicity materials to ensure wide participation;
- funding to develop capacity in the voluntary and community sectors; and an audit of local needs and services.

What is the Community Foundation Network?

The Community Foundation Network has been appointed to manage the Children's Fund Local Network. It is the national membership and support organisation for individual community foundations throughout the UK. At present, there are 31 fully established community foundations and 30 at earlier stages of development. In 1999-2000, community foundations held £92 million in endowment funds and made grants of £22 million, around a third of which went to voluntary organisations supporting young people. For further information, contact the London Community Foundation on 020 7422 8614, www.londoncf.org/

Community Foundation through local trusts. The trust representing the boroughs of Hackney, Tower Hamlets and Newham will be the East End Community Trust, a new initiative in London. It will process your grant applications. Decisions on which grants to award will be made by local grant assessment panels which is likely to involve HCVS. Grants of up to £7000 will be available so long as you meet the relevant criteria. Groups wishing to apply for funding can contact the Local Network Call Centre for information and an application pack. If you are interested in applying for a grant of up to £7000 you can call the Local Network Call Centre : 0845 1130161. HCVS will have some sample application forms for you to look at in the next few weeks.

The London Community Foundation are currently recruiting a Children's Fund Network coordinator who will run a programme of outreach to ensure all sectors of the community know about the Children's Fund. HCVS will be involved with some of this work. If you would also like to help inform the local community contact Gill Kirby at London Community Foundation on 020 7422 8614.

For examples of the sort of projects that will be funded visit: <http://www.communityfoundations.org.uk/news/childrensfund/index.html>
More info on Community Foundation Network

£7000 grants available through Children's Fund Local Network

Seventeen areas across England, which includes Hackney, will get a funding boost this year from the £70 million Children's Fund Local Network. London gets £2.1million for Children's Fund Network. The money will support local community groups across England in tackling poverty and disadvantage among children and young people. A number of local 'demonstration' projects will receive early funding and illustrate the work that Children's Fund Local Network supported projects will do.

Local network projects are funded under four broad themes:

- Aspirations and experiences - projects that give children experiences, or help them achieve goals that more privileged children may take for granted. For example, there will be an early grant to purchase equipment for a musical workshop for disadvantaged young people.
- Economic disadvantage - projects that help families to improve their living standards and cope with difficulties that come from being on

low incomes. For example, an early grant will support a project which runs a mobile toy library providing toys for families on low incomes.

- Isolation and access - projects that help children that are isolated or alone, or have trouble accessing services. For example, a grant will purchase IT equipment for a community outreach project helping young people.

- Children's voices; projects that give children and young people the chance to express their opinions and give advice on matters that concern them. For example, a grant to children to make a film with professional support telling the stories of children in their local area.

The Children's Fund, worth £450 million over three years, was announced in the last Spending Review. The Fund comprises a £380 million programme of preventive work (see additional article about what's happening in Hackney) and the £70 million network of local funds.

The £2.1 million that has been granted to London will be administered by the London

Max Caller, Managing Director of LB Hackney has decided that the Children's Board, a sub-group of the Health & Social Care Partnership Board, is best able to develop proposals. This board has particular responsibility for producing, implementing and monitoring the Hackney's Children Services Plan.

Current membership of the Children's Board is:

- Josephine Kwhali, Head of Children & Families, SSD (Chair)
- Nicola Baboneau, Acting Head of Access, Hackney Education
- Carl Blakey, Social Services,
- Mick Conway, Early Years Development & Childcare Partnership
- Alison Cuffy, Children in Need Manager, Children & Families, SSD
- Amelia Curwen, General Manager, Children, Women and Young People's Services, Primary Care Trust,
- Martin Davis, Head of Community Safety, Community & Learning,
- Michelle Rogers, Off Centre Young People's Counselling Service,
- Virginia Wall, Assistant Director, Health Promotion, PCT
- Representative from Black & Ethnic Minority Working Group (BEMWEG)
- Representative from Children's Health Board.

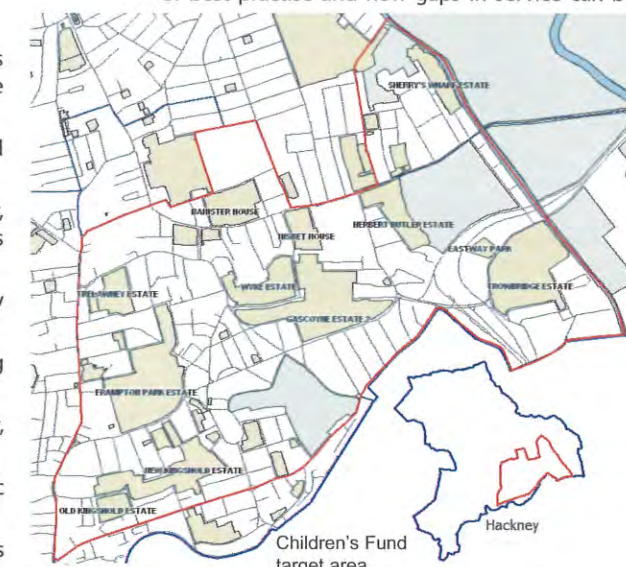
A Children's Board Sub-Group (Children's Fund) has been established with enlarged membership, in line with the Children's Fund Part One Guidance. This sub-group will report to the Children's Board. Additional membership currently includes:

- Joanne Appavoo, Director, Hackney Action for Racial Equality,
- Nick Bidmade, Manager Youth Offending Team
- Brian Cassen, Police
- Jane Connor, LBH Policy and Communications,
- Jackie Hopfinger, Head of Play Service, Hackney Education.

Rose Albrow, East London Business Alliance and Chair of the Hackney 2020 Steering Group has asked to be kept informed of developments. There has also been close working with the Regeneration Manager in Education. The group is to be enlarged in the near future to include a representative from the Youth Service and increased representation from the voluntary sector and community groups, which the Children's Board sees as vital to the development of the proposals at the next stage. The Sub-group recognises the expertise of the voluntary sector as key service providers and intends to draw on local experience and creativity now the area has been identified.

The Children's Board is building up a database of voluntary organisations working with children, young people and their families and letters are being written to relevant voluntary organisations with details of the Children's Fund, how this is being progressed locally and inviting expressions of interest.

Nicola Baboneau, Acting Head of Access, Hackney Education says, "We see the voluntary sector as equal partners in this process and it is crucial that they are invited to participate. Voluntary and community groups who provide services for children should contact me as soon as possible". Two key elements of the Children's Fund are consultation and involvement. The next steps will include holding focus groups with children and parents/carers to hear their views and one to one interviews with community service providers to allow a picture to be built up of best practise and how gaps in service can be



filled. This, it is hoped, will ensure that the new projects and services to be provided through the Children's Fund are dynamic and relevant. To support this process, a **planning day is being organised on Saturday June 16th at Hackney Town Hall 9.30am-4.00pm** to which all are invited. This aims to be both fun and useful, taking a supportive yet critical look at what we currently provide and giving examples of best practice nationally. For further information, contact Simon Slater, Strategic Urban Futures on 020 7241 4763 or email simon@slatr.freeserve.co.uk

The Children's Board sub-group has been collecting a wide range of data on Hackney to identify the target catchment area and population to inform the process. It includes:

- existing service provision in the area; who is providing services;
- levels and capacity of local services;
- how much is being spent on them;
- how well they meet local needs and local views of them;
- gaps in service provision;
- the new services or reconfiguration of existing services the partnership proposes to develop; and
- what outcomes the partnership hopes to achieve.

To see some of the data they have collected, visit www.andybailey.co.uk If you would like to know more about the current plans for the Children's Fund in Hackney, contact Nicola Baboneau on 020 8356 7465.



Young people stretch their Boundaries



Mouth that Roars, a project that encourages broad access to media arts for young people and produces documentaries with young people for young people, presented the Boundaries exhibition of three films by young people in Hackney and Tower Hamlets on 9th April at the Lux Cinema in Hoxton.

The first film, Another Angle, explored the issues surrounding young people and counselling. The group who made the piece were introduced to Mouth That Roars through Offcentre, the Hackney-based counselling service for young people. The film contained some honest and eye-opening views about counselling and what it had to offer. One of the main stars of the film said at one point, 'Each week I would feel a lot better until finally I felt a lot better. I'd recommend it to anyone'.

Breakaway, the second film that was shown, told the story of Gavin a teenager living within a troubled home environment. "The only reason I give him pocket money is to get him out of the way in the first place", said his heartless father against the stark urban soundtrack. Gavin finds himself making a life changing decision when his parents take an argument one step too far. This film was made through Hackney Children's Rights Service. The young people involved, some as young as ten, wrote, directed, filmed and produced the piece, as well as starring in their short film.

The final film, Our Life, was a documentary that looked at the thoughts, feelings and aspirations of young refugees living in the east end of London. Kosovans, Albanians and Sri Lankans spoke of everything from the political situation in their home countries, about their

families, and also about what they liked or disliked about living in London.

Using professional broadcast quality equipment and an experienced team of professional freelancers who work alongside the young filmmakers, Mouth That Roars can train young people in video and TV production, giving them the skills and knowledge to develop careers in the media and to enhance their confidence and self-esteem. With over 20 films to its credit, MTR has made a wide range of films with young people in and around Hackney.

For more information or if you are interested in making a film contact Mouth That Roars, Truman Brewery, 91 Brick Lane, London E1 6QL Tel: 020 7375 2621 or 020 7247 6577 mtr@mouththatroars.screaming.net

MAY DAY MAY DAY Tuesday 1st May 2001 Hackney Downs to Hackney Empire



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A Fresh Start for Hackney

Basic skills and literacy are key local issues in Hackney. Poor literacy and language difficulties can lead to serious disadvantage in finding work, improving your job prospects and a host of day-to-day activities that we take for granted. This has a serious effect on the national and local economy, and is a key issue in regenerating an area.

Market for Learning" a strategy for Basic Skills in Hackney 2000-2002 which sets out the structure for increasing significantly the number of learners of basic skills and ESOL. It describes the key objectives at each of the stages and the measures and programmes to meet those objectives and includes success criteria, milestones, timescales and targets as well as detailing the role of the different agencies, organisations, and resources that can contribute to achieving the objectives.

Who is involved in the HBSWP?

- Hackney Community College - major local provider of basic skills initiatives
- Hackney Education Service
- Hackney Training and Enterprise Network (H10)
- Employment Services - help to identify those in need through Hackney Action Team (HAT) for jobs
- Hackney Learning Partnerships - who ensure basic skills strategy is in line with Lifelong Learning strategy
- Enterprise Careers Service- who ensure strategy ties in with the

'I have a feeling that you are way ahead of the rest of the country....it is exactly along the right lines'

Sir Klaus Moser

developing Connexions service.

- Renaisi - local regeneration agency

The basic skills strategy is for people aged 16+ and of course is aimed at Hackney residents. The HBSWP celebrates the diversity of provision of basic skills

interventions in the borough which ranges from small voluntary organisations to large colleges. The HBSWP are keen to ensure that the quality of service provided is high across all sectors and have established a programme to ensure all providers receive the Basic Skills Agency kitemark and the Quality Standards scheme of the London East Learning & Skills Council.

Targets have been set locally to ensure a good take up by local people. The HBSWP aims to increase the provision of basic skills to 12,500 local people by 2003 and particularly to support local providers who have specific disadvantaged target groups. One of the key functions of the HBSWP will be to map local innovation that already exists in the statutory and voluntary sector and to suggest how the gaps can be filled. They also aim to use outreach workers who will identify people in the community who would not normally use local community services and buildings.

In July 2000, the HBSWP successfully received funding from the Learning and Skills Development

Fund. The main thrust of the money has been aimed at teacher training and staff development and to establish a range of literacy, numeracy and teacher training courses. Since this project started 50 people have received the appropriate training and all targets have been met. Teachers wishing to find out more can use the resource website that has been set up - Training Adult Literacy ESOL Numeracy Teachers (TALENT) www.talent.ac.uk

The HBSWP is also looking at providers of information and communications technology (ICT) to see how they can be linked into the basic skills programme.

Speaking at the recent conference to launch the basic skill strategy in Hackney, Sir Klaus Moser [pictured] praised the work of the partnership and said that "I have a feeling that you [Hackney] are way ahead of the rest of the country....it is exactly along the right lines". He raised some key points:

- It is not a problem that will quickly go away
- The problem has to be dealt with by all sectors of the community
- It is no good repeating what has been done in the past because this has failed - further education colleges are no longer the best approach "more radical routes" should be taken
- The budget for the organisation and deliver of basic skills programmes should be ring fenced
- "Motivation is the hardest nut to crack" - project aimed at families learning together appear to have the most success as initiatives that are based in environments that people feel are accessible i.e. football grounds, pubs, supermarkets etc
- standards of teaching need to be higher alongside provision of better literacy tests

For more information about the HBSWP, to contribute to the basic skills strategy or about find out more about basic skills in general, contact the Hackney Lifelong Learning Team at Unit 25 The Forum, Independent Place, Shacklewell Lane, London E8 2HD 020 7249 2347/7254 1449 or 020 8356 7432.

BASIC SKILLS - is it a problem ?

- 1 in 6 people (6 to 7million people) across the UK struggles with literacy and numeracy
- Of these people 7 million with literacy problems, a staggering 2 million have virtually no reading and writing ability
- Some wards in Hackney such as Kings Park ward have as many as 1 in 3 people (33%) with poor literacy skills
- 1 in 5 school leavers have literacy problems
- 60% of people in British prisons are illiterate
- In the European league tables of literacy and numeracy, the UK came second from bottom, just above Poland

Sure Start for Homerton & Hackney Wick



Sure Start is a Government programme that aims to improve the health and well-being of children from ante-natal up to the age of four - and their families. Sure Start provides money to improve services for facilities.

The Homerton and Wick Sure Start will be the

third in Hackney. Each programme differs according to local wishes and circumstances. This one covers Homerton (E9 not E5), east of Morning Lane and Kenton Road and includes Hackney Wick.

Sure Start covers ante-natal, midwifery, health visiting, GP and many other health services;

also day nurseries, nursery schools, playgroups, childminding, etc; and services for minority groups, for special needs, etc. Other possibilities; play, creative arts, training for families, support for young parents, food co-ops, recycling schemes for baby clothes and much else.

A Partnership has to be formed of parents, local community groups, professionals, organisations and service providers in the area. A full consultation with parents and the local community must be held. Then a final Plan must be sent to the Sure Start Unit by 18 July 2001.

What you can do?

If you are a parent or carer: and you want further information, phone the number below and give your name and address. Tell your friends and neighbours who have care of a young child under four or are parents-to-be.

If you want to take an active role: There are lots of things you can do to determine the sorts of services your children will receive.

If you are a local resident but with no children under four: we will welcome your assistance in many ways. Spread the word and give us your name and address.

If you are an organisation/service provider/employer with interests in the area: First, spread the word to any parents/carers in the area with whom you are in contact. Second, let us know if you want to join the Partnership - we want to form as wide and as representative partnership as possible.

To get involved contact: Early Years Service, Hackney Education Department, Edith Cavell Building, Enfield Road, N1 5BA, Tel: 020 8356 7479/7480

Basic skills courses at Hackney Community College

Hackney Community College has a range of basic skills courses in their Adult Basic Education section. You can find out about these by phoning their Admissions Unit on 020 7613 9123 and they will send you a booklet of part-time courses.

One interesting and new development is called Stepping Stones. This is a programme for specific groups of people needing to develop their reading, writing, maths and computer skills. These basic skills are linked with a subject you would like to study. Courses are running currently in Textiles, Fitness, Massage and the Use of Computers in Gaining Employment. They are normally one day a week for 12 weeks.

Or another new and exciting new project is Reading with Computers. At various venues in the Borough you can get a computer to read to you from the Internet!

On any basic skills course the Admissions Unit will give you information, help and advice.

So who's in charge of the

£1million is to be spent 'plugging gaps in existing regeneration programmes' and £500,000 on staff and research. **SPARK** asks Rose Albrow, Chair of Hackney 2020, is this meeting the objectives of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy and is it in the best interests of Hackney people?

Hackney 20/20, a regeneration partnership in Hackney for the last 10 years, is setting the neighbourhood renewal agenda - it will become the Local Strategic Partnership for Hackney. Rose Albrow, chair of Hackney 2020 is proud that Max Caller and the London Borough of Hackney 'has had the courage to devolve all this [26million NRF] to us [Hackney 2020]' in return for Hackney 2020 'standing by them through thick and thin'. She is very clear about the objectives of the LSP and about representation on the LSP, 'The whole thing is about being democratic. It mustn't be council led'.

Hackney 2020 have agreed to take the NRF and LSP agenda forward in line with the 2020 vision. Hackney 2020 consulted on its vision 3 years ago and came up with 7 distinct themes. The seven themes are as follows:

- A place where you would want your children to be educated
- A good place to work and do business
- A confident and safe community
- A thriving, healthy and inclusive community
- A good place to live
- A place to enjoy yourself
- A good place to get around

The Hackney 2020 Partnership now has strategic responsibility for overseeing the expenditure of the NRF fund. The partnership has an Executive Group which acts as the senior management body, channeling issues, reporting progress and being accountable for agreed actions. It can and will make executive decisions on behalf of the full 2020 partnership steering group. The Executive Group is made up of 6 members from the 2020 Steering Group plus the chair of the partnership, the Managing Director of the Council,

Year	million
2001/2002	£5.882
2002/2003	£8.823
2003/2004	£11.764
Total	£24.469

Head of Corporate Policy and Communication Division of Hackney Council, Head of Regeneration Unit of Hackney Council and NRF Manager. The 6 members from the steering group are rotated every six months. This Executive Group reports to the steering group which has a membership of up to 30 people.

Rose Albrow stated that current membership of the Steering Group is 'as representative as we could make it' and warned that 'if you have too many people on a board you never achieve anything'.

The Hackney 2020 Partnership, in its evolution into becoming the LSP for Hackney, have decided to set up seven second tier sub-partnerships to take responsibility for developing proposals and monitoring NRF expenditure in line with the seven Hackney 2020 vision themes. Two of the them, 'a thriving, healthy and inclusive community' and 'a good place to work and do business' will utilise existing strategic partnerships in the borough, the Health & Social Care Partnership Board and the Hackney Employment Action Team respectively.

The membership of the LSP will be crucial to the success of the partnership in representing all sectors of the community. Each of the sub-partnerships can decide how many people will participate in the process. Membership of each sub-partnership will be restricted to 25 people and at least 25% of its members should be from voluntary and community sectors. **There are no plans to date**



NRF £26 million then?

'There are lots and lots of people out there that say they are the representatives of their community and actually aren't.'

as to how membership of these sub-partnerships will be decided.

Ultimately it is the Hackney 2020 Strategic Partnership, with its Executive Group and Steering Group, that will make decisions about how the NRF will be spent. Each member of the Strategic Partnership has one vote which will only be effective if the partnership meeting is well attended.

Rose is proud of Hackney 2020's independence from the council. Nevertheless Max Caller and several officers & councillors are part of the executive group to the partnership. Rose Albrow commented that 'We are one of only a few boroughs in Britain that has a strategic partnership in place. Nearly every other borough is led by the local authority. Hackney is far in advance and this is acknowledged by the government.'

Like no doubt a large proportion of strategic partnerships in place across the country, what comes out of the partnership, i.e. what projects are funded and what direction they take, is very much a reflection of the partners at the table who set the agenda and agree local priorities. This is never more true than in Hackney where the current strategic partnership Hackney 20/20 has decided to evolve

itself into the over-arching Local Strategic Partnership for Hackney.

Rose Albrow praised the success of the partnership. 'We have been working together for long enough I think. It is a fairly stable partnership. Members come and go but not all at once so we get the consistency. It takes a good six months to understand what partnership is about. It is very difficult to manage because peoples' self interest comes into play. Keeping this at bay is such a difficult task.'

What is the role for the voluntary sector?

SPARK asked Rose about where she felt the voluntary sector had a role in the LSP. 'We have talked about this in great length actually. We thought that we would probably get these partnerships up and running first and then we would have to think how they, the members of the partnerships, communicate out to the general voluntary sector. Logistically it is almost impossible to get to isolated communities and communities that don't naturally want to participate or who want to participate and don't know how'. The Hackney 2020 partnership will be relying on the project officers it appoints to find out what the gaps are. 'Because there isn't an umbrella body for the voluntary sector there is no-one out there doing that. HCVS do a bit, HAVE do a bit, H10 do a bit so we have to use all these networks'. She also stressed that it will be difficult to draw in faith groups and their umbrella organisations into the process 'if you have just a Muslim group, just a fundamental Jewish group, they are not their working

already made proposals about how it plans to spend the first year's £5.882 million. It has discussed both specific proposals and indicative proposals within each of the seven themed areas. Rose Albrow commented that 'because of Hackney's huge deficits we have to be realistic about where we can put money. We know that there are SRB bids, and voluntary and statutory organisations already delivering and Hackney doesn't have the money to fulfil its promise of match funding so we have to look at this under NRF. What money is left will be devolved down to the partnerships and then they will decide in their particular vision what they see as the priorities tying it in with existing services and projects working on the ground and then see where the gaps are. If there are gaps then there will be funding for new things.'

The Hackney 2020 Partnership plans to spend £400,000 on work to support the Partnership in its transition into being the LSP, £128,000 on staff costs and £272,000 on 'specific projects' in the 2020 Action Plan, and some £600,000 on

in partnership they just don't. They are there for themselves. That's not helpful. Speaking about how certain individuals can hijack a democratic process she said, 'There are lots and lots of people out there that say they are the representatives of their community and actually aren't. Really what they are doing is bringing on their own agendas...it is about getting round this...it is about sidelining people who are self-appointed and making sure that representation is true.'

The DETR has decided that Hackney is to receive over £26 million over 3 years. This is to be spent in consultation with Hackney 2020 Strategic Partnership. The allocation for each year outlined in box on page opposite.

Hackney 2020 has addressed both NACVS and LVSC about LSPs and continues to stress the need for CVSS to engage with LSPs from the outset.

the development of closed circuit TV systems on estates as match funding for existing projects in the borough. SPARK asked Rose Albrow if she felt that spending money on CCTV would help bridge the gap between the rich and poor in line with the principles of the NRF. She replied that CCTV was all about making people feel safe where they lived and that this was what people wanted.

Hackney 2020 has had several meetings to date about the LSP and how the NRF monies could be spent. Proposals for block allocations for NRF funds have been presented to the 2020 Partnership in December, February and March 2001.

What does the voluntary sector think?

Voluntary and community groups are facing extensive cuts across the sector and are being asked to submit applications to the council stating why they should be funded in an attempt by the council to appraise local voluntary sector provisions to see if it collectively makes a difference. There is concern that the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy and Local Strategic Partnerships will decide on how money will be spent and then ask community and voluntary groups to comment. Voluntary and community organisations in Birmingham have reported that they too feel excluded from decisions about how neighbourhood renewal money will be spent. Jane Slowey, chief executive of Birmingham Voluntary Service Council says "The voluntary sector has been ignored despite the government's clear wish to see the sector closely involved. The council's approach is quite out of line with the spirit of the government's neighbourhood renewal strategy".

Alan Smith from DETR, who is spearheading the neighbourhood renewal strategy, has clearly indicated that Government Offices (Government Office for London in this case) will play a key role in assisting the voluntary and community sector to engage with LSPs. The guidance states that LSPs should draw on voluntary and community sector infrastructure organisations, such as CVSS, and should find ways in which they can be funded and stresses that "local compacts can provide a useful framework within which the relationship between the community and voluntary sector and other partners can be defined and delivered". Alan Smith has addressed both NACVS and LVSC about LSPs and continues to stress the need for CVSS to engage with LSPs from the outset.

Guidance is expected any time now from the DETR about the Community Empowerment Fund which is designed to support voluntary and community groups to engage with the LSP. £36 million has been set aside nationally for the 88 NRF areas which, after some rough calculations, would represent about £300,000 to £400,000 for Hackney. No decisions have been made at present about how the money will be spent, 'We have ignored it for the moment. It hasn't even been discussed at the partnership level'.

WHAT ARE LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS continued overleaf

The government is placing huge importance on Local Strategic Partnerships which will be a "cross-sectoral, cross agency, umbrella partnership which is focussed and committed to improving the quality of life and governance in a particular locality. LSPs will therefore bring together the public, private, voluntary and community sectors to provide a single overarching local coordination framework within which other, more specific local partnerships can operate".

Local authorities have a legal duty to prepare the local partnerships but do not necessarily have to lead them. All partners in the LSP have equal weight. Government Offices are key players in LSPs, ensuring that all sectors of the voluntary and community sector are represented. In order to receive money from government, LSPs must be in place and be able to demonstrate that they are working effectively. Of the 88 NRF areas in the UK, 21 are in London. Hackney is one of them and has been allocated £26 million.

According to Hackney 2020, the purpose of the allocation of NRF resources is to help local authorities focus main programme expenditures in order to deliver better outcomes for the most deprived wards and neighbourhoods. The funds have to be used to improve public service delivery to improve key services for local people - particularly but not exclusively in relation to the Public Service Agreements floor targets. Hackney 2020, through Rose Albrow are keen to stress that the NRF is 'not money for new initiatives for the voluntary sector or small businesses to bid into to survive'.

Small grants available as part of NRF Community Chest

£50million is being made available over 3 years (2001-2004) for small grants to community groups through the Community Chest. Hackney, along with the other NRF areas, will receive a minimum of £75,000 per year for the grants scheme.

Government Office for London will manage the programme and will be appointing competent grant

administrators and approve decision-making processes for each Community Chest. It is currently in discussions with a representative consortium as to how the money will be appointed to local grant giving bodies. The Government would like to ensure that the particular needs of minority groups are addressed as part of the grant scheme.

The consultation document, 'Funding Community Groups', from the Active Community Unit explains what the grants are and how the government plans to improve the funding for small groups. It can be

downloaded from the Home Office website <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/acu/acuconsult.htm>



Timescale for LSP

Date	Action
From April 2001	Neighbourhood Renewal Unit in the DETR becomes operational Government offices begin supporting local partners in developing LSPs and form Neighbourhood Renewal Teams Local authorities eligible for support from the NRF to receive the first year's allocation Local PSA pilots begin with 20 local authorities; agreements with a further 130 local authorities to be rolled out over the next 2 years
June 2001	Funding for the Community Empowerment Fund (£300,000) becomes available to voluntary groups
Summer 2001	Review among Government Departments around how resources allocated in the 2000 Spending Review will lead to delivery of the neighbourhood renewal targets. Government proposals for the rationalisation of partnerships and plans are published More information on accreditation of LSPs for access to the NRF and a draft NRF Special Grant Report for 2002/03 for consultation LSPs in place in the key towns and cities in every region
31 October 2001	Local authorities to send a statement of use for the NRF to the Government Office for London

Current membership of Hackney 2020

PUBLIC AGENCIES	
Labour Group, LBH	Councillor Naomi Russell
Labour Group, LBH	Councillor Julie Grimble
Liberal Democrat Group, LBH	Councillor Mark Williams
Conservative Group, LBH	Councillor Christopher O'Leary
Independent, LBH	Councillor Chit Chong
Health Service	Laura Sharpe, Chief Executive Hackney Primary Care Trust
Metropolitan Police Service	Chief Supt. Peter Robbins City Road Police Station (Name t.b.n.)
London East Learning & Skills Council	Ian Ashman, Deputy Principal, Hackney Community College
Hackney Community College	Chris Nicol, District General Manager, The Employment Service
Employment Service	Cheryl Day, Headteacher, Clapton Girls School
Hackney Headteachers Forum	
PRIVATE SECTOR	
UBS Warburg	Nick Wright, Director of Community Affairs, UBS Warburg
ING Barings	David Robins, Director, Community Investment Programme, ING Barings
Reeve Hepburn	David Willetts, Reeve Hepburn
Hackney Chamber of Commerce	Denzal Cummings (One vacancy)
COMMUNITY SECTOR	
Hackney Agency for Volunteering	Janice Rafael
Arts Network	Chris Bowler
Hackney Training & Employment Network	Elizabeth Balgobin
Hackney Play Association	Mick Conway (T.b.n.)
Tenants and Residents Convention	Martin Machado
Hackney Action for Racial Equality	Michael Pyner
Shoreditch New Deal Trust	
PARTNERSHIP AGENCIES	
Business Link	Laurie Hull Business Link City Partners
East London Business Alliance	Rose Albrow
HBV Enterprise	Sally Agass
Hackney Education Business Partnership	Kenan Poleo
Hackney Housing Forum	Mike Hanks, Chief Executive, Islington & Shoreditch HA Brendan Sarsfield, Chief Executive, New Islington & Hackney HA
Groundwork Hackney	Danielle Byrne
Renaisi	Kevin Sugrue, Chief Executive
COUNCIL OFFICERS	
Secretary	Brian Bell
LBH Chief Executive	Max Caller
LBH Head of Corporate Policy	Tal Michael

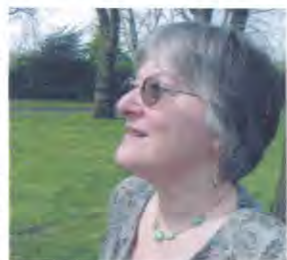
List as of 21 May 2001

continued from overleaf

Hackney 2020 are inviting people to comment on the process to date. If you have something to say about the current NRF process address it to: Tal Michael or Amir Laksari, Policy and Communications Dept, LBH, Hackney Town Hall, Mare Street, London E8 8ET/ETC

HCVS has copies of some of the Hackney 2020 committee papers, Terms of Reference for the LSP and Hackney 2020 which this article is based on. If you would like copies, contact Jake on 020 7923 1962 or jake.hcvs@virgin.net

Rose Albrow is Programme Manager for East London Business Alliance (ELBA). ELBA is an independent business-led and funded alliance working in partnership with public and voluntary organisations. ELBA uses the skills, influence and resources of the private sector to maximise support for the social and economic regeneration of London.



Working in the boroughs of Hackney, The City, Tower Hamlets, Newham, Redbridge, Barking & Dagenham, and Havering, ELBA facilitates: employee volunteering; links with education programmes; the donation of equipment, products, venues and facilities; employability programmes; local purchasing; and business input into Government Programmes such as New Deal for Communities, Health Action Zones and Education Action Zones.

ELBA coordinates a very successful mentoring programme linking city professionals from businesses such as ING Barings and UBS Warburg with school children. The programme has been running for the last five years now.

Specific funding proposals for NRF in Hackney (total £3.009m excluding indicative proposals)

Specific allocations	NRF	£000	Other	Hackney 2020 decision
Hackney 2020 Partnership Work to support the Hackney 2020 Partnership, its transition from informal partnership to being endorsed as the borough's LSP Funds to support specific projects/prioritised targets in the 2020 Action Plan and regeneration strategy £128k is to cover staffing costs and £272k projects	400	Approx £120k officer time Projects yet to be identified	Partners time Community Empowerment Fund to be identified	Agreed
Development of Clapton Area Regeneration Proposals to develop regeneration programme for the Clapton area (area prioritised by 2020 as next regeneration priority area - initially priority for SRB7) including baseline study, creation of local partnership and development of proposals that have risen from local consultation. £200k gives us a similar amount to a first modest 1 st year SRB allocation.	200	30+	Objective 2 New LDA funding regime	Agreed
Development of Closed Circuit TV Systems This will match funding/revenue for specific bids for the development of CCTV monitoring. The largest component however, will be upgrading existing systems and monitoring to ensure that picture resolution is sufficiently high to use face recognition software. By linking together systems on estates, it will contribute to the targets on domestic burglary and violent crime. Cost is indicative at this stage.	600	Already funding in this area - exact amount to be identified		Agreed
Better Information Operating from a better information and evidence base is one of the objectives of the New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal. The 2020 partnership has indicated that robust levels of research and evidencing on which to base funding decisions on NRF is a priority. To carry out some of this work and coordinate the rest approx £30k per annum would be used to recruit an officer to do this work. The rest of the funding will be used to commission work from other organisations.	150	Research post	SRB and possibly joint with neighbouring boroughs/LSC etc	Agreed
Town Hall Square The Heart of Hackney SRB Programme is now drawing to a close and there are insufficient funds to complete the regeneration of the Town Hall Square. This is an estimate of the funding required to complete the project.	600		SRB English Heritage	
Mediation Service Will enable the continuation/expansion of a successful project to mediate in neighbour disputes.	50	Exact amount TBI		Agreed
School Exclusion & Truancy Project Borough-wide scheme to reduce the risk of school exclusion and truancy for 13-16 year olds. The work is based on social housing estates and those with the highest level of nuisance behaviour will be targeted. Staff on a one-to-one basis assist young people to return to school and access services of relevant agencies. Project works meet and assist parents and young people to improve their communication with one another and thus improving family relationships.	60		Funding from Safe in the City has now ended	Agreed subject to working with other partner
Electronic Hackney Archive Collection This will provide match funding for scheme to make archive collections on line.	9			Agreed
Better Government for Older People Council a) Council for Older People (20k) builds the capacity with in existing older people's organisations so that individual older people and organisations improve Council funded services. All this helps to build up communities with social inclusion and achieves the Social Services objectives of independent living for older people. b) £80k The initiative aims to increase life expectancy of older people by breaking down older people's isolation through befriending, recruiting older people as volunteers, providing social activities and high profile health and recreational events, incl Hackney Festival for Older People and an award-winning teleconferencing befriending service.	100			Agreed subject to ensuring work helps better coordinate of projects for older people
Extending Out of School Hours Activities and Study Support Extend provision to all schools. Ensuring all pupils in Hackney schools have access to out of school learning activities and study support.	100	Already work on this area exact amount TBI	NOF bid for schools in target area only	Full proposal to 2020 Executive decision.
Improving Hackney's air quality Will support the creation of an Air Quality Management Area and investigation and implementation of traffic reduction proposals to contribute to meeting Hackney's air quality targets	240	35		Allocation approved but further discussion needed on date before agreed
Existing match funding commitments Programme to ensure existing regeneration programmes function well and can maximise local outcomes. Programme to be used to support management, implementation and development of Heart of Hackney (£120k), Haggerston (£57k), Wick (£130k) and Woodberry Down SRBs - small element to be used to support other SRBs e.g. Finsbury Park, City Fringe and Groundworks	500	1000	To match SRB's etc	Agreed
Total	3009			

This table has been reproduced from Hackney 2020 Strategic Partnership papers presented to committee on 1st May 2001

Anna Tatton

Anna Tatton managed 'Better Government for Older People' (BGOP) for two years for Hackney Council, was made redundant in March as a result of the financial crisis, but her story now has a happy ending. **SPARK** spoke with Anna about her new role as 'Development Worker' for Age Concern Hackney (ACH).



What are ACH's plans for the next six months?

I'm really excited to have joined Age Concern Hackney at this time. I didn't want to stop working with and for older people in Hackney so this was a great opportunity. We want to raise more money for more older people in Hackney. Already I've put in a £500,000 bid for computers for older & disabled people in a partnership with the Sharp End and the Sheltered Housing service. Last week we put in an application to become a health pilot aimed at improving the health of the pre-retirement age group. My major priority is to get the Housing and Welfare Rights service up and running again, which had to close last year because of lack of funds. We're getting in a lottery application for this by the end of July.

How does BGOP fit in with Age Concern?

BGOP was a 'strategy' aimed at improving public services for older people. It's a difficult concept as it means co-ordinating different departments to ensure that they all take into account older people's views, without having a tangible end product in many cases. In this sense ACH must be 'BGOP' otherwise it's not working, so we want to ensure that ACH represents all older people in Hackney and offers services that fit their needs. For me it's been an easy step going from a strategic view point on older peoples services to more direct service provision which improves older people's lives. The two are of course interconnected: you can't really have good front line services without involving the older people themselves.

Where does the 'Council for Older People' fit in?

The Council for Older People was the organisation of older people set up under the strategy of 'Better Government for Older People'. It's disappointing that BGOP has been cut of course, but with the support of Age Concern, the Council for Older People will carry on pushing older people's issues to the forefront of policy. The Council for Older People were the first organisation to bring the terrible human suffering of the Housing Benefit crisis to light in November 99. We hope the Council for Older People and Age Concern will be even stronger together. We're planning to have a large Annual General Meeting in November celebrating Older People and their achievements. £20k has been raised from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund for the Council for Older People. With that money the council voted to employ someone part time and we plan to hold more information sessions, help raise more money and produce a newsletter.

Is ACH representative of older people in Hackney?

If you look at our monitoring of the people who use our services, you can see that we represent users across a wide cross-section of the community. In Hackney we are aiming to represent our local population more accurately. Through the Council for Older People, our outreach sessions and highly successful culturally sensitive service provision, we are aiming for ever improved recognition and membership in the coming year.

Age Concern's has done a lot of work campaigning to get anti-discrimination legislation for older people in relation to the NHS and employment. There is also the growing problem of Disability Living Allowance which causes problems for older people. It should be judged on their individual need. At present, people have to prove that they need care which is often difficult under circumstances.

What can people do to help?

At Age Concern Hackney we very much welcome volunteers. If you can spare an hour a week you would be very welcome in our befriending service. We would very much welcome volunteers in other parts of our work - our Information Service and administration department would be thrilled to hear from people interested. Please contact Anna or Kate on 020 7249 7149.

Pensioners Pressing for new technology



Hackney Pensioners Press is a community newspaper that has been written for and by older people in Hackney for almost 20 years. At present members of the Press are undertaking initial computer and Internet training, travelling across Hackney to do so at the Access Centre at St John's Church in Pitfield Street.

surf the Internet, send and receive emails, use computers to write news stories and use desktop publishing to design and layout the newspaper. We also want to learn to use digital cameras to illustrate our stories. All of this is a way to further empower older people in Hackney to campaign about issues in Hackney that concern older people. We are exploring putting the Press online, developing electronic feedback from readers and looking for new members among active older people.

The Press is involved with other organisations supporting older people in the Borough in a bid to get UK Online funding (a mixture of government and Lottery funds) to develop a new computer centre specially adapted for use by older people. There people will be able to

Contact the Press on 020 7923 3811 or email administration@hackneypensionerspress.com

The Sharp End

The Sharp End, the Senior's Health and Active Retirement Project, held an Action Planning Day on 3rd April 2001 at their centre in Hoxton Street. SPARK attended this lively event which included performances in Tai Chi, circle dancing and a chorus of the 'Chatanooga Cho Cho' organised by users.

The main aim of the action planning day was to ask the older people who use their services what they thought should be provided in the future and how they should go about achieving this. Sharp End have employed a community consultant to assist the organisation in this process and to consult with staff, the management committee and users.

This review of the organisation's development plan will be completed by May or June and will include a business plan and fundraising strategy. The Sharp End currently receive funding in part from LB Hackney, Shoreditch New Deal Trust, DoH and a specific grant from the Charities Aid Foundation to provide for the said consultant.

Some of the issues that older people feel are important include:

- income
- housing
- advice - knowing where to go and how to get help
- education
- being taken seriously by doctors

The Sharp End provides a range of activities to benefit the health and well being of older people such as the senior's health and active retirement project, keep fit, exercise and relaxation, counselling, health courses, self-help groups, outreach and befriending of those who are isolated, social and drop-in sessions, Shiatsu, aromatherapy, massage and Reiki. The Sharp End is always keen to attract volunteers who are interested in working with older people.

For more details contact: The Sharp End, Newlon House, 204 Hoxton Street, N1 5LH 020 7739 7887 Monday to Friday 9am-5pm Building has level access adapted WC parking nearby, accessible lift



Tai Chi

Chatanooga Cho Cho

Circle dancing

New patients advocacy and liaison service at the Homerton

The Homerton Hospital Trust is one of approximately 120 trusts that has been successful in its bid to introduce a new Patients advocacy and liaison service. This is first of a series of changes in the NHS Plan designed to support patients, relatives and carers within the NHS when they need it.

PALS will help to deal with people's day to day issues and concerns. It will solve problems on

the spot, as well as helping to support system change to sort recurrent problems experienced by both patients and staff.

Over the next two months Homerton Hospital Trust are piloting the service so as to ascertain what users want from the service and how PALS might link with existing services such as Language Advocacy, Consumer Care and the Health Shop.

They plan to have a PALS contact point by the reception desk at the main entrance of the hospital, from 2pm-4pm Monday to Thursday starting on May 9th. The pilot project is being managed jointly by Moira Spence, Manager of Quality and Clinical Audit and Mary Flatley User

Involvement Project Officer, who can be contacted on 8510 7042 and 8510 5123. They are beginning to carry out consultation with the community about the service. If you would like any further information, or to make suggestions about how the service might meet your needs, please contact Moira or Mary.

The NHS Plan, a ten year plan for investment and reform sets out a series of changes to strengthen patient and public involvement in the NHS. You may have seen reference to this in the NHS Magazine, NHS Plan News, in local and national newspapers. If you are interested in patient and public involvement developments you can visit the www.nhs.uk/representation web pages.

BEMWG helps HAZ

The Black and Ethnic Minority Working Group (BEMWG) is currently undertaking research to develop an understanding of capacity and sustainability issues for black and

entitled "Valuing Community Perspectives" has been partly funded through the Health Action Zone and will help to establish a benchmark as to where the sector is placed. This is the first

ethnic community groups & organisations working within the health and social care sector. This piece of work,

step in the process which will culminate in developing a strategic plan to meet the developmental areas identified.

For further details of this project contact Manish Shah, Coordinator of BEMWG, tel 020 7241 2244.

Hackney Sickle Link is the first dedicated respite project in the UK for children and their families where the child/parents suffers with a sickle cell disorder. To help us move the project forward, we now require the services of carers in the community with few hours to spare daily of weekly. To express our appreciation for your kind gesture and to enable you to perform your duties as required, we offer the following:

- Allowance up to £35 daily (which does not affect your benefits or salary)
- Training as no experience is required
- Expenses, e.g. travelling and subsistence
- Opportunity to make and meet new friends
- Satisfaction for helping someone
- Quarterly cares social gatherings

Responsibilities:

- To look after children in their home/carers home
- Visit children when admission in the hospital

Carers wanted No experience required



For further information please contact:

Justina Oyekunle, Project Coordinator, 020 7241 4022
Sickle Cell Society, Hackney Sickle Link, The Medical Centre,
1 Madinah Road, London E8 1PG SickleLink@breathenet.com

East London Refugee Conference- 'Crossing Borders and Boundaries'

East London Refugee Conference is being organised by Social Action for Health and supported by the East London & The City HAZ, local refugee fora, members of refugee communities, refugee community organisations and agencies, the Medical Foundation, and the Refugee Council.

It will take place on Monday, 25th June 2001, 10.30 a.m. – 5.30 p.m.
at the Arcola Theatre, 27 Arcola Street, London E8 2DJ

Asylum Seekers are considered by some to be "free-loaders" who are abusing the benefits available to them in the UK. The reality is very different. Asylum Seekers face a difficult time when they arrive in Britain; there are stringent criteria which they must fulfil to qualify for refugee status, they must live on the equivalent of 70% of income support levels, but in the form of vouchers which stigmatise and humiliate asylum seekers. They may be detained, or dispersed to areas around the UK where there might be no one at all who speaks their language. They may also experience hostility. They may have to wait a number of years for a decision to be made on their claim. They have very limited rights while waiting and are made the scapegoat for social problems in the UK.

East London Refugee Conference will aim:

- To discuss and highlight issues around social exclusion, inequalities, racism and discrimination;
- To look forward to ways of addressing these issues through developing partnerships, and joint working;
- To influence policy makers for better and improved services;
- To help facilitate networking and co-ordination between organisations, agencies and professionals working in the area.

The Conference programme will include speakers to present on policy issues: There will be presentations and workshops on diaspora and citizenship, homelessness, New Asylum Act, access, mental health, women, children and young people, under achievement, employment and training, service provision and commissioning.

Bogus Woman (Written in anger, rooted in reality- The Guardian), this powerful drama is a major highlight of the Conference. It is more shocking than some and less shocking than other terrifying realities experienced by refugees. Participants are recommended to see the play. The Day's programme will come to an end with African, Chilean, Gypsy and Anatolian Music and Dance.

For any enquiries and more information please ring Ferhat Community Development Worker for Refugees and Asylum Seekers on 020- 7247 1414, or on 07939 278 339 or email: ferhatc@safh.org.uk if you would like more information sent to you on the Day's Programme and/or to book a place at the conference.



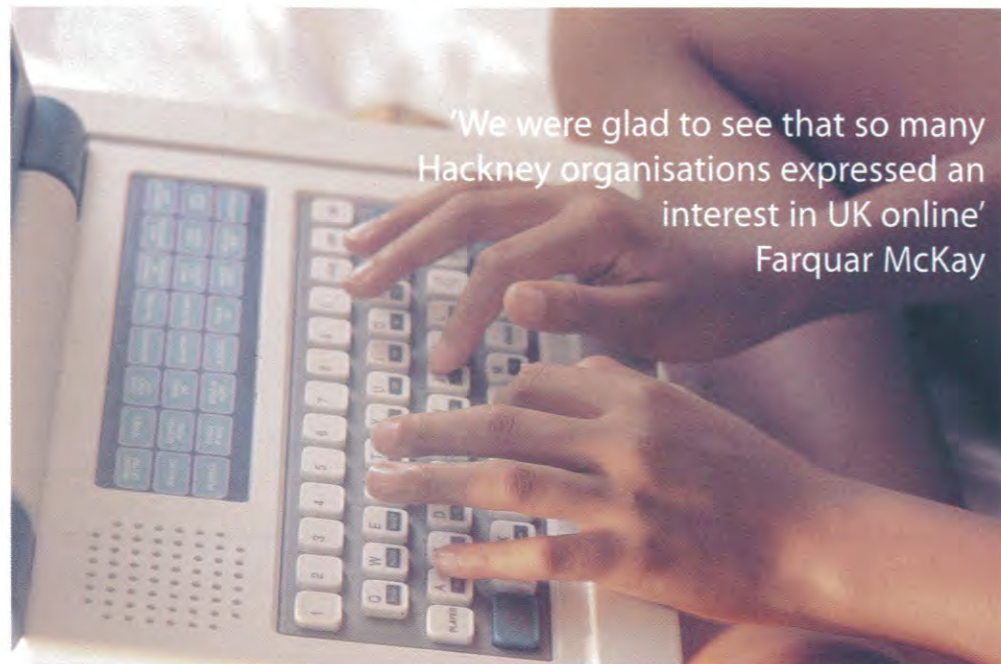
UK Online (ICT Learning Centres)

Funds for Community Access to ICT

UK Online (formerly ICT Learning Centre) is a government initiative to create ICT Learning Centres in local communities. This will provide hands on learning for those with little or no ICT skills or access to have community access to ICT e.g. to use the internet to access information about local events, travel, health, send and receive emails and explore the opportunities ICT can offer such as further learning and upskilling through a wide variety of settings.

Community and Learning (Hackney Learning Partnerships Team) took the co-ordinating role in the support for local voluntary and other organisations in developing their bids for the above fund. Bids have now been submitted for 36 centres by 27 local organisations to be developed in all of Hackney's wards. There are also other outside agencies putting in bids for this funding that did not go through the Council's process.

Speaking about the process, Farquar McKay, Head of Hackney Learning Partnerships, said, "We were glad to see that so many Hackney organisations expressed an interest in UK online and we are looking forward to the announcement of the successful projects. Many of the organisations found this networking process useful. It may be a good idea to build on these connections, to help different organisations to share information and good



practice. We wish all organisations the best of luck!

This initiative is particularly welcome in Hackney where most of the 23 wards in the Borough fall within the governments 500 most deprived wards. Already some interesting and innovative Information and Communications Technology (ICT) developments are taking place in parts of the Borough and this initiative will help to increase learning opportunities for people and communities who would not normally participate.

The process with Community and Learning involved:

- group consultations, advice sessions and ongoing support for project development for some round 2 bid and all of Round 3 bids

from Council Departments and voluntary organisations

- formal briefings from GOL, DfEE and NOF
- Local briefings for organisations interested in becoming involved in the bidding process
- update briefings for the Team at GOL
- circulation of application form completion proformas to all organisations
- telephone and drop in sessions with HLP team staff
- letter of support for all organisations involved with the Council's process

Successful applicants will be informed by the end of September or early October 2001. SPARK will keep you informed of who has been successful.

Children's Fund Planning Day
Saturday June 16th 9.30am-4.00pm
Hackney Town Hall
all invited

organised Urban Strategic Futures

For more information contact:

Simon Slater, Strategic Urban Futures on 020 7241 4763
or email simon@slatr.freeseerve.co.uk

Another £2000 grant available from Millennium Commission



If you've got the energy and enthusiasm to make things happen, funds could be available to get your project off and running. The Champions for Change Millennium Awards are grants for individuals who want to develop projects that benefit London communities. This £2.6 million scheme is funded by the Millennium Commission and managed by the Peabody Trust.



Champions for Change Millennium Awards Scheme

The Champions for Change Millennium Awards Scheme will make 1,000 awards to individuals in the Greater London area over a three-year period. Awards will be made to individuals to enable them to realise their own potential by developing projects that benefit the community in combating aspects of social exclusion. The £2.6 million scheme is being managed by the Peabody Trust and brings together Barnardo's, London Voluntary Service Council, Peabody Trust, Princess Royal Trust for Carers and the Refugee Council.

The average award will be £2,000 up to a maximum of £3000. One-to-one sessions/interviews and even training will be offered to applicants to assist you to develop an action plan for your project. Eligible projects will have themes that promote social inclusion and address one or more of the following issues:

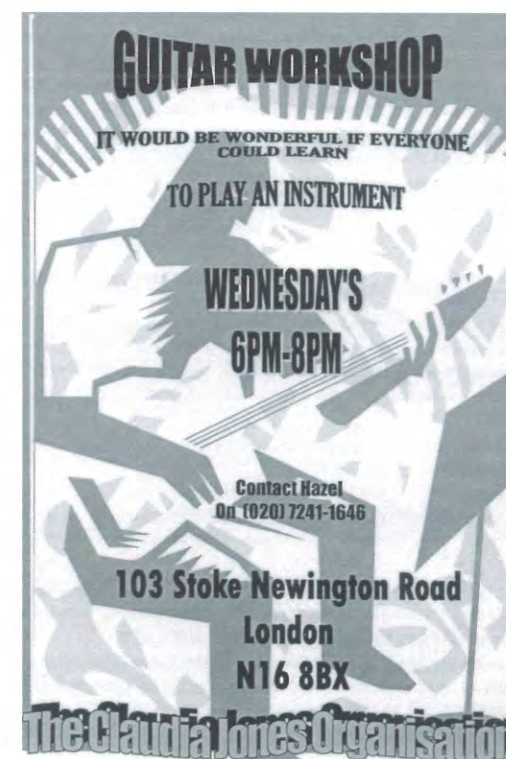
- Poor health
- Mental and physical disability
- Race and culture
- Family breakdown
- Homelessness
- Refugees

Champions for Change will have a clear and simple application process which will maximise access to the awards. Examples of projects that could be funded include activities programmes for people with earning difficulties or lone parent support groups for people aged under 21. The project should not normally take longer than 1 year to complete upon receipt of the grant. The money can be used for skills training; hiring equipment; travel expenses; publicity expenses; running costs.

The scheme is funded by the Millennium Commission, which is one of the National Lottery's Good Causes, and is administered by the Peabody Trust.

A grants officer from the Peabody Trust will be providing a workshop at HCVS on Thursday 5th July at 11am-12.30 to discuss the application form and process and to help you develop your project ideas.

For further information and an application form please contact the Peabody Millennium Awards Team on 020 7928 7811 or come along to the workshop at HCVS.



*New * Funding Community Groups - Summary of a consultation document published by the Active Community Unit, 2 May 2001

The Government believes that there is a need to encourage more people to get actively involved in their communities. This is particularly true in the areas of greatest poverty and deprivation. Support for community self-help and community capacity building are essential elements in the Government's New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal. The Government is committed to, and already engaged in, funding community groups. However, the present range of Government funding programmes which target community groups and activists has developed in an incremental and uncoordinated way. This presents those who want to take action in their communities with a complex and confusing picture, and with unnecessarily bureaucratic processes to overcome in order to access what funding is available.

This consultation document focuses specifically on how the Government's policies in relation to small grants programmes (i.e. grants under £30,000) might be improved. It makes the following proposals, which are aimed at achieving a more integrated and accessible approach to the funding of community groups across Government and throughout England:

* the establishment of an integrated source of information about Government funding, based on a single web-site giving information about all government funding available to voluntary and community organisations;

* recognition of the importance of outreach and development support for small grants programmes, with specific proposals for the appointment in each area of an outreach agent for all government small grants programmes, and budgetary provision for targeted development support in all programmes;

* proposals to simplify application processes, including proposals to move towards a single grant administrator for Government small grants funding streams in each area, and to develop a single application form for all such programmes;

* options for the rationalisation of Government small grants funding programmes.

The document also explains how the Government intends to establish the new Neighbourhood Renewal Community Chests in the 88 most deprived areas. A total of £50 million is available over the 3 years 2001-4 for small grants to community groups. There will be a minimum allocation of £75,000 in a full year to each area. Government Offices for the Regions will manage the programme in their region on behalf of the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit, and will appoint competent grant administrators and approve decision-making processes for each Community Chest.

The Government warmly welcomes comments on the proposals in the document, particularly those aiming to improve the accessibility of small grants funds, and is keen to promote the widest possible debate. After considering the responses to the consultation exercise, the Government will review and develop the proposals set out in this document. In doing so, it will ensure that the particular needs of minority groups are fully addressed, and specific provision made where this is appropriate.

Copies of this summary and the complete consultation document can be downloaded at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/acu/acuconsult.htm> in html or pdf format.

Printed copies can also be obtained from: Active Community Unit, Room 235, Horseferry House, Dean Ryle Street, London SW1P 2AW

Comments and responses should be sent to: James Scarlett, e-mail: public_enquiry.acu@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk, by 23 July 2001 at the latest.

*New * European Social Funding - Objective 3

This is European Social Funding, for training, research, and related activities, mainly targeted at improving access to learning and jobs for social excluded groups.

In Yorkshire the 3rd Round is to be launched in September 2001. This will be a limited bidding round, for projects running only from 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2002, and will be the final competitive bidding round before the new Co-financing system is brought in. 50% of the 2002 budget will be held back for co-financing; there may be some limited co-financing activity this year, but it will not be introduced to any great extent until April 2002. In other regions arrangements may be different so check details with your local Government Office. National information from ESF Unit, DFEE, Caxton House, Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NA Tel: 020 7273 4816 Web-site: www.esfnews.org.uk

*New * New Opportunities Fund childcare programme offers 3-year funding

The New Opportunities Fund has announced the development of its out of school hours childcare programme to allow funding support for new childcare places in disadvantaged areas to continue for up to three years. The extension to the programme will allow substantial new funding to be channelled into start-up schemes.

Additional grant support will also be available for childcare places already supported by the Fund, a National Lottery 'good cause' distributor, making second and third year grants available to some existing childcare projects in the areas of greatest need.

The extra funding is part of a new £198.5 million programme to provide support for the creation, development and long term sustainability of out of school hours provision. In England, the introduction of a partnership process will enable Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships to co-ordinate and endorse consortium and single route bids. Bids submitted through the partnership process will be assessed more quickly than others, and partnership support will mean a high probability of success.

Full details of the New Opportunities Fund programmes and grant awards are available on their web-site: www.nof.org.uk Tel: 0845 0000 121 Textphone: 0845 6021 659

*New * Creative Partnerships

Creative partnerships are a new Arts Council of England initiative that will develop sustainable partnerships between schools and cultural and creative organisations and individuals. Schoolchildren living in the chosen areas will have the opportunity to experience creativity and the arts.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has given the Arts Council £40 million over two years to establish 16 Creative Partnerships by March 2004. Extra partnership support (financial and in-kind) will come from both the public and private sectors.

The initiative will develop partnerships between schools and cultural or creative organisations such as: Local theatres; Arts centres; Galleries; Museums; Libraries; Cinema; Architecture centres; TV and radio companies; Music venues; Cultural entrepreneurs; Orchestras; Touring companies; New media organisations; Local authority providers.

Children will benefit: By being involved in enhanced and sustained creative and cultural opportunities; Through working directly with artists in artist-in-residence programmes; Through visiting theatres, galleries, museums, historic or archaeological sites, TV and radio studios, craft workshops; By developing specific, tangible skills in their chosen area/s of the arts; and By gaining the opportunity to showcase their work.

Teachers will also benefit, from the opportunity for continuous professional development.

Partnerships will be piloted in a range of different locations - rural and urban, large and small, linked to deprivation indices. The agreed pilot locations are: Birmingham; Black Country (Sandwell, Wolverhampton, Walsall) ; Bristol; Cornwall; Durham/Sunderland; Kent; Kingston upon Hull; London East (Hackney, Islington, Newham, Tower Hamlets); London South (Greenwich, Lambeth, Southwark, Lewisham); Manchester/Salford; Merseyside (Liverpool, Knowsley, St Helens, Wirral, Sefton); Norfolk; Nottingham; Slough; South Yorkshire Coalfields (Barnsley, Rotherham, Doncaster); Teeside Valley (Redcar and Cleveland, Hartlepool, Middlesborough, Stockton).

Partnerships will be designed and established at local level to meet local needs and infrastructure, and will be long-term and sustainable. This will be within a policy framework developed by the Arts Council, DCMS and the Department for Education and Employment, in consultation with other interested bodies such as Resource, The Film Council, English Heritage and commercial creative industries. Evaluation will be built in from the start, so that good practice can be shared nationally.

At present this initiative is still at an early stage in its development. A Creative Partnerships National Director will be appointed this summer to ensure that there is a national overview to the scheme and that sustainable funding is found. Local Co-ordinators will then be appointed to identify the schools to be involved and to work with arts and cultural organisations in each of the areas. If you are an interested creative or cultural organisation register your interest in this initiative, please e-mail fiona.forrest@artscouncil.org.uk with your full contact details.

They will update this information over the coming months. Please visit web-site: www.artscouncil.org.uk regularly for updated news. Arts Council of England Tel: 020 7973 6517

*New * Regional Arts Lottery Programme - latest guidelines

The 10 English Regional Arts Boards organise the Regional Arts Lottery Programme. The programme aims to support high-quality arts projects by making grants available under the following headings: Access to the arts; Education through the arts; Production and distribution of the arts; Investment in artists; Development to help build long-term stability of arts organisations (Organisational development).

Each Regional Arts Board has its own priorities under these headings based on the specific needs of the arts in their region. The principles of excellence, diversity and equal opportunities back the programme up. It is important that you should look at the priorities of your relevant Regional Arts Board.

You can download all the relevant RALP documents by clicking on the links below. The RALP Application Form should be completed after reading through the RALP Guidance Notes. They also recommend that you read through the appropriate Regional Priorities document for your region. Please note that the application form must be printed out and sent to your Regional Arts Board by post. They cannot accept electronic copies or faxes.

The new guidance notes apply to applications sent in between 31 July 2000 and 31 March 2002.

They provide grants which cover projects, and capital and organisational development. The grants for projects are aimed at arts activities. They can support one-off projects and two- to three-year projects. However, awards for more than one year will be especially limited by the size of the budget available. When they assess these requests they will want to make sure that your organisation does not depend on this source of funding for its future survival. They provide grants from £2,000 to £30,000 with most grants likely to be between £5,000 and £20,000.

The grants for capital cover equipment and resources, vehicles, access improvements, refurbishing arts buildings, public art, buying property and leases which last more than 20 years. They provide grants from £2,000 to £100,000. They will only make awards of £100,000 in exceptional cases with most awards likely to be below £50,000.

The grants for organisational development cover restructuring organisations, business planning, training, marketing, artistic development, relocation and dealing with debts. Grants are likely to be between £2,000 and £30,000.

You can apply for any combination of the three types of award, or for just one. You can apply to us at any time. You should discuss your proposal with the appropriate Regional Arts Board officer before you send in an application.

Regional Arts Boards: Eastern Arts Tel: 01223 215 355; East Midlands Arts Tel: 01509 218

292; Southern Arts Tel: 01962 855 099; South East Arts Tel: 01892 507 200 London Arts Tel: 020 7670 2490; South West Arts Tel: 01392 218 188; West Midlands Arts Tel: 0121 631 3121; Northern Arts Tel: 0191 281 6334; North West Arts Tel: 0161 827 9247; Yorkshire Arts Tel: 01924 455 555 Web-site: www.arts.org.uk/directory/funding/ralp/index.html

*New * ProHelp

ProHelp is a national network of over 950 professional firms offering free professional advice and strategic support to the voluntary sector covering the UK from 43 locations. It is available to any voluntary or community organisation which is non-profit making, locally based and cannot afford to pay for professional services. Help is not normally given to organisations whose focus is animal welfare or overseas aid, nor to those who apply for assistance with litigation.

The professional firms which participate include lawyers, accountants, IT specialists, architects, solicitors, surveyors, marketing specialists and engineers.

Firms can contribute towards a single project, or take on a more longer term strategic role, such as becoming a trustee.

You will be asked to have a particular project in mind, and to submit an application form. The ProHelp manager for your area will advise on this.

Go to their web-site: www.prohelp.org.uk to find your local regional details. If you contact your local ProHelp Manager, they will advise on the type of help that their professional members offer, and send application forms for the next step.

Business in the Community, 165 Whiteladies Road, Bristol BS8 2RN Tel: 0117 923 8750 Fax: 0117 923 8270 E-mail: enquiries@prohelp.freeserve.co.uk

*New * ESF EQUAL Programme Launch

EQUAL will test and promote new ways of combating all forms of discrimination and inequalities faced by those groups most disadvantaged in the labour market, both those in work and those seeking work, through transnational co-operation. These groups include women, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, older workers, refugees, ex-offenders, drugs and alcohol misusers. EQUAL will also include action to help the social and vocational integration of asylum seekers.

The leading principles of EQUAL are: Partnership: including public authorities, representatives of workers and employers, the equality commissions, education and training communities, the voluntary and community sectors and the management authorities for the countries; Thematic approach: to explore new ways of tackling the problems common to different types of discrimination and inequality, rather than focusing on a specific group; Transnationality: to work in co-operation with partnerships from other Member States, learning lessons, developing new methods and approaches to training and job creation; Empowerment/participation: those targeted for support will have the opportunity to influence the design and evaluation of proposed activities to help them; Innovation: including new methods of delivery, new systems or innovative actions to address gaps identified in key reports, from, for example, the Social Exclusion Unit; and Dissemination and mainstreaming: to help inform policy developments at a national and European level.

The EQUAL guidance and associated application form are currently being developed. The EQUAL Guidance document is nearly complete and should be issued in mid - late May. The application form should be available in early June.

As soon as specific dates are confirmed for publication of the guidance and application form, details will be placed on this website. Applicant organisations should have 2 months to submit their Development Partnership bid from the time of the initial guidance becoming available. The closing date for bids is expected to be in the latter half of July. For information contact your local Government Office or ESF Unit, DFEE, Caxton House, Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NA Tel: 020 7273 4816 Everything you need is on web-site: www.esfnews.org.uk/equal

*New * PPP Healthcare Medical Trust

PPP Healthcare Medical Trust is a grant-making charity. The sale of PPP healthcare group in 1998 provided a large endowment for the Trust.

The Trust aims to use its grants: To improve standards in the provision of healthcare; To advance knowledge, skills and services in healthcare and public health; To enhance the contribution of healthcare practitioners to the quality of life of all the community.

The Trust launched its first grant programmes in January 1999. In 2000, its first full year of grant-making, almost £9 million in new grants was awarded and the Trust set aside a further £10 million for additional grant programmes that will award their first grants during 2001. The grants budget for 2001 will be in the region of £20 million.

The Trust's current grant programmes include two themed awards: the Children & Adolescents programme and the Older People programme. The Trust also runs a Career Development programme, which includes a Mid Career Awards scheme for health care professionals and support to over 90 students at medical and dental schools throughout the UK to enable them to undertake BSc intercalated degrees. New programmes include: award schemes in Primary Care, Nursing and Surgery; the funding of two new University Chairs, one in Health Economics and one in Learning Disability; grants for seminars and conferences and for the running costs of service user and carer support organisations; an International programme supporting projects in Africa and India.

PPP Healthcare Medical Trust, 13 Cavendish Square, London W1G 0PQ Tel: 020 7307 2622. Fax: 020 7307 2623 E-mail: ppptrust@ppptrust.org.uk Web site: www.ppptrust.org

*New * Investors in Society

In the last five years over £1 million of loans have been repaid to Investors in Society, the UK wide community loan fund. Remarkably, repayments to the fund - known as a

community development finance initiative (CDFI) by the Treasury appointed Social Investment Taskforce - have been from borrowers that the banks considered 'unbankable'. Despite Government moves to widen financial inclusion, many community groups still find it difficult to access commercial finance on affordable terms. They are proving that charities can be good financial risks. They have supported projects that provide all kinds of benefits ranging from restoring village halls in the UK to charities working in the most difficult countries in the world. And they are always pleased to help new borrowers.

Investors in Society operates as a pooled fund into which people can make donations or lend money for as long or short a period as they wish. The fund enables Investors in Society to lend money time and time again, helping not just one but many charities and community groups.

Formed in 1995 as a community finance initiative of the Charities Aid Foundation, Investors in Society has supported over 140 projects throughout England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland and has to date lent over £5 million to charities and charitable organisations.

For more information about Investors in Society, please contact Helen Taylor/Malcolm Hayday Tel: 01732 520 029 Fax: 01732 520 123 E-mail: iis@caf.charitynet.org Web-site: <http://www.cafonline.org/community-finance>

*New * Plug into music...get wired for sound

This is the message from the National Foundation for Youth Music's latest funding programme designed specially to encourage children and young people to use technology to make music.

Backed with funding of up to £1 million, Plug Into Music is about helping youngsters to get to grips with music technology. Youth Music is offering grants of £7,500 - £30,000 to community groups, arts organisations, local education authorities, schools and youth clubs to run music projects for under 18s that make creative use of the tools - from DJ decks to midi didgeridoos - that music technology offers.

Plug into Music is looking to encourage and support music projects working across a variety of styles and traditions, including classical, non-western and composition as well as DJ-ing and dance music. Youth Music hopes that the scheme will also help introduce children and young people to a wider range of IT skills.

Examples of the kind of musical activity Plug Into Music would support include: DJ workshops and performances; Sequencing and sampling activities; Studio skills for young musicians; Workshops and jams by web-cam; Internet collaborations and remixes; Composition for digital and acoustic instruments; Plug Into Music - as with Youth Music's other funding programmes - will support music-making activities for those up to the age of 18, which take place mainly outside school hours.

The programme is open for applications from now until 1 March 2002. All projects must be completed by September 2002.

For further information about Plug Into Music and an application pack please contact: National Foundation for Youth Music Tel: 08450 560 560 E-mail: youthmusic@nftfs.co.uk

*New * New Opportunities Fund/English Nature - Wildspace!

English Nature's Wildspace! scheme will involve local communities in the improvement, care and enjoyment of their local environment.

Applications are welcome from organisations involved or interested in managing and developing Local Nature Reserves, such as local authorities, local councils, wildlife trusts and charitable groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas that lack access to natural open space.

Grants of between £5,000 and £25,000 are available for project costs, grants of up to £20,000 for the employment of community liaison officers, and grants of up to £25,000 for the purchase of land. Grants are available for a maximum of five years.

Contact details: LNR Grants Management Team, English Nature, Northminster House, Peterborough PE1 1UA Tel: 01733 455415 E-mail: enquiries@english-nature.org.uk For an application pack, please call: 0845 0000 121

*New * Age Concern - Grants to voluntary organisations

Age Concern England makes grants not only to Age Concern organisations, but to other voluntary groups which provide services for the benefit of older people. The following are the principal grants available through the Age Concern England Grants Unit.

Small Service Support Grants - These are one-off grants of up to £2,000 for new or expanding local projects providing services for the direct benefit of older people. Projects funded recently include new activities at day centres and lunch clubs, home repair and maintenance services, respite for carers, health and fitness programmes and visiting schemes.

Applications may be made at any time, and grants are allocated every month. Small Grants to Clubs - Funded by a donation from Barclays Bank plc Any club for older people may apply for a one-off grant of up to £120 for new equipment or activities. Such things as tea urns, crockery, games and bingo equipment and craft materials can be bought with one of these grants.

Applications may be made at any time, and grants are allocated every month.

Opportunities for Volunteering Scheme - Age Concern England is an agent for this Department of Health scheme. Grants are available for new projects which involve volunteers in providing services of benefit to older people in the fields of health and social care. Many grants are used to employ a volunteer organiser, to develop services for ethnic minority groups, or to fund activities such as Home from Hospital, befriending or Odd Job schemes. The maximum grant is £20,000 per annum and no project may be funded for more than 3 years.

Grants are allocated annually. Applications must be received by the end of September

for funding in the following financial year.

For further details and application forms for any of these grants contact The Grants Unit, Age Concern England, Astral House, 1268 London Road London SW16 4ER Tel: 020 8765 7738 Fax: 020 8679 9154 E-mail: grants.unit@ace.org.uk Application forms and guidelines are also available on their Web site for downloading. Use the search facility. Enter 'Age Concern grants' and search under 'About Age Concern and Ageing Issues.' Then click on link to grants for 'voluntary organisations'.

*New * Help the Aged

Their Grants and Project fundraising departments have been combined into a new unit to ensure that Distributions - the practical assistance that Help the Aged offers can be provided more effectively. The new team has been named Regional Development Team and the criteria for assisting across a wide range of social and community need will be roughly the same as before. A new leaflet giving details is currently in production but the following outlines our current operational standards.

Distributions will continue to be made to a wide variety of project including day centres, lunch clubs, transport services and work carried out with, for, or for the benefit of frail, isolated older people and/or their carers.

Areas of special interest will continue to include: Empowerment of older people (Speaking Up For Our Age); Homelessness; and Rural Isolation.

Project Fundraising Capabilities are still available within the new team for relevant community based projects which could include: Developing new services; Increasing revenue funding; Creating a new building; or Refurbishing an older one.

Fundraising studies, Fundraising Audits and Fundraising training will still be available to relevant community projects, and all of these services, while formally defined between Help the Aged and your Trustees are provided at no charge as part of our charitable objective.

To simplify your approach to Help the Aged, details of all of these services are available from a single point in each part of the UK and applications will be assessed within the framework of our criteria to ensure proper utilisation of the charity's resources Help the Aged (England), 207-221 Pentonville Road, London N1 9UZ Tel: 020 7278 1114 Fax: 020 7278 1116 E-mail: info@helptheaged.org.uk Web-site: www.helptheaged.org.uk/help/grant.html

*New * Community Fund

In June 2001 the Community Fund will open a new Research grants programme for medical research and social research into health and social well being. In Spring 2002 the International grants programme will re-open, but for the first time it will run continuously.

Grants for projects costing up to £60,000 - They opened this programme in April 2001, in Scotland, South West England and London. They expect to open it in other countries and regions on the dates below. However, you should contact your local Community Fund office nearer the time to check if the programme is opening in your area, or visit the In your area section of their web-site.

April 2001 - Scotland, London and South West of England

July 2001 - Wales, Northern Ireland, North East and North West of England

October 2001 - East Midlands and Eastern England

January 2002 - West Midlands of England

April 2002 - Yorkshire and the Humber, South East England and projects working across England.

They want to support eligible groups with projects: that will mainly benefit people or organisations in a country or region where this programme is running; that cost no more than £60,000 in total; where the total cost of any building construction or refurbishment work is no more than £30,000 excluding VAT; and where you want more than £500.

The application form for this programme is shorter than the form for their Main grants programme and they hope to make quicker decisions on grants.

You can get one of their application packs by phoning 0845 791 9191 (Minicom: 0845 755 6656). Or, you can obtain it from their web-site: www.community-fund.org.uk in the Application forms section.

The two existing programmes Community Involvement and Poverty and Disadvantage are being merged into one. They want to fund projects that: meet their mission; help people play a full part in economic, social and community activities; tackle severe, long-term and multiple needs; prevent or reduce future need; and develop the voluntary sector. The theme of this new programme is the Community Fund Mission 'to give grants to meet the needs of those at greatest disadvantage in society and improve the quality of life in the community'. As well as this, each region has its own funding priorities which are part of the assessment.

They will fund everything they used to fund. There have been no changes to their rules about the types of organisations that can apply for grants. They can fund independent voluntary and community groups that are charitable, benevolent or philanthropic. You do not need to be a registered charity, but you do need a constitution, a bank account and annual accounts (or a projection if you are a new group). New application forms are now available.

Help for rural communities from the Community Fund

In response to the increased stress faced by rural communities due to the current outbreak of foot and mouth disease, the Community Fund wants to target charities that help these communities.

Charitable organisations are invited to discuss potential applications to fund projects helping rural communities affected by the current foot and mouth epidemic as well as isolation, the decline in agricultural employment, the withdrawal of services and the devastation caused by the recent floods.

The Charities Board recognised that many towns and villages are suffering from economic hardship due to the winter flooding and the restrictions in place to counter the spread of foot and mouth disease.

For general enquiries Tel: 0845 7919191

*New * Local Heritage Initiative - Change of address

The Local Heritage Initiative (LHI), devised by the Countryside Agency, is a national grant scheme that helps local groups to investigate, explain and care for their local landscape, landmarks, traditions and culture. It was launched in February 2000 and is planned to run for 10 years and over one million pounds was awarded during the first year of LHI. The initiative covers people in England.

Local Heritage includes: Archaeological heritage; Natural heritage; Built heritage; Customs and traditions; and Industrial heritage. LHI can fund a range of heritage projects, but all must demonstrate the following characteristics:

New or existing community or voluntary groups can apply. It is not necessary to be a registered charity but to be eligible, groups must have a formal constitution, and an open bank or building society account.

Groups that are not locally based must be able to show that their project began at the community level, and that it has a high level of support from local people. Individuals and commercial profit-making organisations are not eligible to apply.

Standard grants are between £3,000 and £25,000, paid in arrears, to cover 60% of project costs. The remaining 40% may be made up from cash, in-kind donations, volunteer labour; or a mix of these. Groups are encouraged to apply for more complex projects, eg those involving investigation, explanation and action, in 2 or 3 phases. It may be possible to offer advance payments of up to 25% of the grant.

Nationwide is offering awards up to £5,000. They recognise that some projects may have difficulty raising the matching funding necessary, or may want to go further than is possible with the LHI funding available. These awards will provide additional support to help projects that otherwise would not be able to go ahead. The awards are available through the LHI application process.

Full details of the grant scheme and application details is available on the LHI web-site. LHI Information, 11 University Street, Belfast BT7 1FY Tel: 0870 9000 401 Web-site: www.lhi.org.uk

Local Heritage Initiative Regional Advisers

South West: Tim Quinton, LHI Admin Officer, Bridge House, Sion Place, Clifton Down, Bristol BS8 4AS

Tel: 0117 973 9966

London - & South East: Kevin Haugh, LHI Adviser, Sterling House, 7 Ashford Road, Maidstone ME14 5BJ Tel: 01622 765222

East of England: William Wall, LHI Adviser, Ortona House, 110 Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 1LQ

Tel: 01223 354462

East Midlands: Angela Essom, LHI Adviser, 18 Market Place, Bingham, Nottingham NG13 8AP

Tel: 01949 876200

West Midlands: Chris Tomlin, LHI Adviser, 1st Floor, Vincent House, Tindal Bridge, 92-93 Edward Street, Birmingham B1 2RA Tel: 0121 233 9399

Yorkshire & The Humber: Ian Stewart, LHI Adviser, 4th Floor, Victoria Wharf, No 4 The Embankment, Sovereign Street, Leeds LS1 4BA Tel: 0113 246 9222

North West: Susannah England, LHI Adviser, Haweswater Road, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 7EH Tel: 01768 865752

North East: Fiona MacKay, LHI Adviser, Cross House, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4XX Tel: 0191 269 1600 Fax: 0191 269 1601

Opportunities with Deadlines

*New * Alexandra Rose Day

Alexandra Rose Day is a national charity that exists to help Charities and voluntary groups to raise funds for their own purposes, and has done so since its foundation in 1912. Its objectives limit it working with 'people-caring' groups operating in the UK. Three opportunities for fundraising are offered each year. Rose Day - a traditional flag day - is held in June and there are Spring and Autumn Raffles. Participating organisations retain 80% of what they collect and the remaining 20% helps to fund the costs.

Alexandra Rose Day is happy to add Charities and voluntary groups to its mailing list for advice of future opportunities. Alexandra Rose Day, 2A Ferry Road, Barnes, London SW13 9RX, Tel: 020 8748 4824, Fax: 020 8748 3188 E-mail: enquiries@alexandra-rose-day.freemove.co.uk

*New * Barclays New Futures

Barclays New Futures is the UK's largest education sponsorship, presented in collaboration with CSV (Community Service Volunteers).

Barclays New Futures has more than £1 million in cash awards, educational resources, training material and support for secondary school projects, where students are tackling social, community or educational challenges through school/community partnerships.

In all projects, whether new or existing, the judges will be looking for projects that: Enhance and increase student learning and personal development; Promote student empowerment through ownership and management; Meet a genuine need in the

community and have lasting impact; Are sustainable through effective management and integration into the school; and Inspire other schools to undertake similar projects. There are four different awards to choose from depending on the scale and duration of your project. All projects must have at least one community partner (other than a school) eg local business, charity or community group.

Barclays New Futures Fast Track - Student Awards of £500 - Designed for Years 12 & 13, these awards are aimed at groups of students (min 5 students) to undertake a small scale community partnership project quickly and effectively over one or two terms within the academic year. There are three deadlines for the Fast Track Student Awards - you decide when to apply.

Barclays New Futures Individual - School Awards of £3,000 - A one year award for a school and its students working with a community partner on any social, educational or community challenge.

Barclays New Futures School - Partnership Awards of £7,000 - A two year award for schools tackling similar challenges as the £3,000 Award but working in partnership with at least two other schools in addition to their community partner. Partner schools may include preparatory or primary schools.

Barclays New Futures Challenge Award - for Citizenship of £20,000 - A two year award to realise and promote an outstanding vision in the field of citizenship education. The winning project will meet the same criteria as the award levels but it must demonstrate national impact and exceptional opportunities for young people.

Up to five schools will be shortlisted and will each receive £2,000 to cover the costs of their final submission and presentation to the judges. The entry period for 2002 awards is 18 September - 11 December 2001.

Kallaway Ltd, 2 Portland Road, Holland Park, London W11 4LA Tel: 020 7221 7883

Fax: 020 7229 4595 E-mail: barclaysnewfutures@kallaway.co.uk Information is also on web-site: www.barclaysnewfutures.co.uk Applications can be made on-line.

*New * Wellcome Trust - Science on Stage and Screen

The Science on Stage and Screen competition is committed to supporting original projects that can communicate biomedical issues, ideas and information in an engaging and stimulating way - combining artistic vision, technical expertise and scientific detail to create memorable artistic experiences.

Science on Stage and Screen seeks to support new work that creatively engages the public, encourages debate and enhances the understanding and communication of contemporary health issues such as genetics, neuroscience, infectious disease and sexual or mental health and the impact these sciences have on our lives.

By supporting creative innovation in performing arts and broadcast/communication technologies, Science on Stage and Screen aims to stimulate discussion about biomedical issues among diverse audiences, including: community groups, health professionals, carers, young people, disabled people, older people, students in further and higher education as well as artists and scientists.

Applications are invited for the following two categories: Live Theatre - e.g. Text-based Drama, Theatre in Education, Performance - including Dance, Mime, Live Art and Interdisciplinary Practice; and Broadcast and Communication Technologies - e.g. TV, Film and Video, Radio, CD-ROM, Internet. Closing date for applications: Monday 4 June 2001.

The application form and Rules of Entry can be downloaded from the web-site: www.wellcome.ac.uk/en/1/miscmposint.htm or contact Clare Thornton Project Coordinator, Science on Stage and Screen, The Wellcome Trust, 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE Tel: 020 7611 7367 E-mail: soss@wellcome.ac.uk

TIF/SOLT New Producers Bursary Scheme - Theatre Investment Fund Ltd (Reg. Charity No. 271349)

The Theatre Investment invites applications for investment in new work presented (or co-presented) by a new producer. Next closing date for next round is 21 May 2001. For Application Form please send A5 SAE to: Theatre Investment Fund 32 Rose Street, WC2E 9ET Tel: 020 7557 6700 Fax: 020 7557 6799

£50,000 UpStarts Awards 2001

Do you have the passion, conviction and self-belief to improve your local community positively? Will £15,000 help to get your idea off the ground?

New Statesman magazine and Centrica are behind the first ever UpStarts Awards to reward three UK Social Entrepreneurs with £15,000 annual awards each. Yes - £15,000 each.

Entries will be accepted until May 25, 2001.

They will be posting summaries of entries during the nomination period with other news and information on how the Awards are progressing. Check out the links page to get a taste of Social Entrepreneur organisations and individuals across the world.

You will need the following: A nomination by a Director of a company or organisation already active in your community; 2 references from prominent members of your community (link to list) other than your nominator; A business plan or detailed explanation of your idea/project in Word or similar format; Financial details of your idea/project; Plans to promote your idea/project; Details of who else is involved with your idea/project and their role(s); Details of how you are able to show us what progress you are making and how you are spending your award.

For information and to apply online visit www.upstarts.org.uk/ or E-mail: upstarts@newstatesman.co.uk The Upstarts entry process has been simplified. All they ask for now is 500 words description of Ideas/projects, to include cash flow predictions and some references.

Awards 2000, New Statesman, 7th Floor, Victoria Station House, 191 Victoria Street, London SW1E 5NE Tel: (James Cully) 020 7592 3605 Fax: 020 7282 1881

*New * The World Habitat Awards 2001

The World Habitat Awards were initiated in order to identify innovative and successful human settlement projects throughout the world which could be replicated elsewhere. Projects are sought which offer sustainable futures to residents and which provide practical and imaginative solutions to current housing problems in developed and developing countries. In both instances projects are sought which view the solution of housing problems from a broad perspective and address themselves to the related problems of unemployment, diminishing energy resources and a sustainable future, in addition to the housing problem.

Every year the competition has attracted high quality, innovative projects, capable of replication in either the developed or developing world.

Each year two cash awards of £10,000 and individually designed and crafted silver trophies are presented to the winners of the competition on World Habitat Day.

For further information and application form contact World Habitat Awards 2001, Building & Social Housing Foundation, Memorial Square, Coalville, Leicestershire LE67 3TU Tel: 01530 510444 Fax: 01530 510332 E-mail: bshf@bshf.org Web-site: http://www.bshf.org/ Closing date for first stage of the competition is 1st July 2001

*New * EC Asia Urbs

Those of you who live in communities with a strong connection with South and South East Asia may be interested in The Asia Urbs Programme. This is an EC-funded initiative in decentralised co-operation. It aims to enhance mutual understanding and awareness between Asia and Europe by supporting urban development projects that are implemented jointly by Asian and European local governments. It is an opportunity for the voluntary sector to interest local government in working with them and to apply for funds for mutual projects. If you have a good idea for a development project (two-year development projects, or six-month studies) which will help improve the life of everyday people living in towns, which can be created and carried out jointly by Asian and European experts and which does not require more than 500,000 euro...then this may be for you.

The EC grant may not exceed 65% of the total project costs. The balance - that is at least 35% of the total costs - must be financed from the applicant's or partners' own resources, or from sources other than the EC budget.

The last deadline for application this year is 15 June 2001.

Contact Asia Urbs Secretariat, 205, rue Belliard 1040, Brussels, Belgium Tel: +32 (0)2 230 76 88 Fax: +32 (0)2 230 69 73 Email: secretariat@asia-urbs.com

Web-site : http://www.asia-urbs.com

The Heritage Lottery Fund

The Heritage Lottery Fund uses money raised by the National Lottery to improve the quality of life by: safeguarding and enhancing the heritage of buildings, objects and the environment, whether man-made or natural, which have been important in the formation of the character and identity of the United Kingdom; assisting people to appreciate and enjoy their heritage; allowing them to hand it on in good heart to future generations.

They can give grants for projects which relate to the following heritage assets: Natural habitats and countryside; Urban green spaces including parks; Archaeological projects; Historic buildings and sites, including townscapes and places of worship; Museum collections; Historic library collections and archives, including photographic, sound and film archives; Industrial, transport and maritime heritage; These must be of outstanding interest and importance at a local, regional or national level.

There are three ongoing funding schemes: main grants programme - for capital spending;

Revenue grants programme for ongoing spending and Awards for All which is to fund projects which involve people in their local community, bringing them together to take part in and enjoy a wide range of arts, sport, heritage, charitable and other community activities.

If you are a local group and you need between £500 and £5,000 then Awards for All may be able to help you.

Townscape Heritage Initiative

The Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) is a grant-giving programme for the repair and regeneration of the historic environment in towns and cities throughout the United Kingdom.

The main aim of THI is to make possible the continued viable use of the buildings that make up the special architectural character of historic urban areas. THI gives the highest priority to the repair of historic buildings, and to bringing derelict and under-used historic buildings back into use.

Townscape Heritage Initiative schemes should complement a wider strategy for the economic regeneration of the surrounding area. This is usually a strategy prepared by the local authority/authorities. Applications will be in two stages.

Stage one applications due 25 May 2001 with 'in principle' indications from HLF late September 2001 Stage two applications due 29 March 2002 Decisions announced by HLF end of July 2002

Heritage Lottery Fund, 7 Holbein Place, London SW1W 8NR Enquiries Tel: 020 7591 6041 Fax: 020 7591 6271 Minicom: 020 7591 6255 E-mail: enquire@hlf.org.uk

*New * North America - UK Countryside Exchange

This international programme aims to provide training and professional development for professionals and volunteers while helping local communities with specific, pressing countryside and urban fringe problems. It brings together countryside management, conservation, community development, economic development, planning and other professionals from UK and America. Selected individuals work in teams of up to 8 people for 7-10 days within a host community on a case study and produce a report. There are 6 projects in the UK and a further 4-6 in the US. The theme is "Managing change in the countryside". There is a strong emphasis on community involvement. For further details contact Phil Dagnall or John Chapman, Exchange Co-ordinators, CEI Associates, Progress Centre, Charlton Place, Ardwick Green, Manchester M12 6HS Tel: 0161 274 3337 Fax: 0161 274 3655 E-mail: cei@cei-associates.org Closing date for this year is 31 May 2001.

*New * Greenfingers Challenge

Budding young gardeners are being urged by Alan Titchmarsh to dig for victory in Britain's biggest gardening competition for kids. The man with the green fingers is backing the Greenfingers Challenge, which gets groups of youngsters together to create a glorious garden or wildlife area for their whole community to enjoy. The competition, which is organised jointly by Tidy Britain Group and the Royal Horticultural Society and sponsored by Legal & General, the financial services group, offers big cash prizes plus the chance to learn about gardening and the environment in an exciting way. Said Alan Titchmarsh: "It is so important that children are given an opportunity to try out gardening and to develop a love of nature and the environment. If we sow the seed while they are young, it will enrich their lives forever. Greenfingers Challenge offers just that opportunity along with the added fun of a competition. So come on all you schools and youth groups - get digging!" Prizes are £500 in the regional Greenfingers Challenge and £1,000 for the national prize. Now's the time for the 2001 Greenfingers Challenge to get underway. A brand new information pack has been produced containing everything schools and other groups such as Brownies, Sunday Schools etc, need to know to get started. Ring the Tidy Britain Group information line now on 0800 783 7838 - and take up the Greenfingers Challenge! Tidy Britain Group, Wigan (Head Office), Elizabeth House, The Pier, Wigan, WN3 4EX Tel: 01942 824620 Fax: 01942 824778 E-mail: enquiries@tidybritain.org.uk Web-site: www.tidybritain.org.uk Closing date 4 June 2001 for England and Wales (elsewhere please check).

Ericsson ERICA Awards 2001 for Internet ideas

ERICA promotes the use of Internet technology as a vehicle for social change. Entering it's third year, ERICA 2001 will award US\$ 500,000 worth of Web development services to five winners. ERICA was developed to empower non-profit and charitable organisations with the knowledge, tools and resources to use the Internet to become more effective agents of social change. ERICA hopes to challenge you to think about all the different ways the Internet can be used to make it easier to deliver services to the communities you support, to improve life for the people that depend upon you. As an ERICA winner, your idea will become a reality. As you begin to think about your Internet project, keep these four criteria in mind. They should also be reflected in your application: Purpose, Innovation, Feasibility, Community involvement. An organisation must operate for the public good and not for any private benefit in order to be eligible for an ERICA. The organisation must be a recognised and registered non-profit or charitable organisation by the government of the country in which it operates. On 3 April the application form will be available on the ERICA Web-site and applications will be accepted until 5 June. Further details at web-site : www.ericsson.com/erica

*New * The Seed to Success for Greener Communities is Sown by its Partners

Vital financial support will soon be feeding the roots of many green initiatives across the UK, thanks to the recent launch of the Social, Economic and Environmental Development (SEED) Programme. The £13.94 million programme will target disadvantaged communities across England, helping local groups kick-start improvements to their neighbourhoods. The newly established SEED Programme stems from a partnership between the Royal Society for Nature Conservation (RSNC) and the New Opportunities Fund. The SEED programme aims to stimulate local economic development and support community enterprise, promoting sustainability and helping disadvantaged communities improve the quality of their environment. A wide range of projects will be supported under the programme's themes, which include local food growing and markets, waste management, energy efficiency, sustainable transport, local biodiversity, environmental education and community enterprise. Funding is available at two levels: Grants from £500 to £4,999 are available for distribution to smaller community groups; Grants from £5,000 to £100,000 will support projects covering one or more of the programme's themes - however, it is anticipated that the majority of the grants will not exceed £50,000. Applications will be encouraged from local community groups, voluntary organisations, not-for-profit community businesses and local authorities in partnership with community groups, which encompass the programme's themes and make a real

difference to the communities involved. The SEED Programme will presently run for four years, with the first application deadline on the 15th June 2001. Anyone requesting an application pack should contact the New Opportunities Fund on 0845 0000 121.

*New * Sportsmatch Community Sports - dates for 2001

Sportsmatch is the government's grass roots sports sponsorship incentive scheme. It is funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport through grant aid from Sport England and administered in England by the Institute of Sports Sponsorship. The aim of Sportsmatch is to encourage business to invest in grass roots sport to increase participation and improve skills. Sportsmatch can match £ for £ commercial business sponsorship for a grass roots sporting event or activity. Any not-for-profit group can apply e.g. sports club, school/college, charity, governing body of sport, local authority, voluntary groups etc. Matching awards are available between £1,000 (£500 if you are a school) and £50,000. Sponsorship can be in cash (or kind in kind for sporting equipment only). Projects being sponsored should be aiming to include one or more of the following elements: increased participation at the grass roots and/or improved skills, new activities or extend/enhance existing activities, provide links to the local community and ensure long term benefits. Projects can be capital (up to £5000) or revenue and include: coaching, competition, equipment, facility hire, publicity etc. Priority will be given to revenue funding. Remaining closing dates this year are 21st June, 6th August, 25th September and 29th October 2001. Sportsmatch, 4th Floor, 25-27 Buckingham Palace Road, London, SW1W 0PP Tel: 020 7233 7747 Fax: 020 7828 7099 e-mail: info@sportsmatch.co.uk Web-site: www.sportsmatch.co.uk

*New * Tesco Community Awards

The Tesco Charity Trust operates a Community Award Scheme which gives one-off donations of between £2,000 and £5,000 for projects based in areas where Tesco has stores, to build links with their local communities. Charities concerned with children's welfare and educational projects should write with details of their projects for funding by the end of January each year and charities concerned with elderly people and people with disabilities should write with details of their projects by the end of June each year. For further information contact Tesco Charity Trust, Tesco House, Delamare Road, Cheshunt, Waltham Cross, Herts EN8 9SL Tel: 01992 646768

Co-operative Partnerships 2001

Grants of up to £2,000 are available to community groups and voluntary organisations addressing social exclusion operating within 10 miles of participating food stores and funeral homes. Applications from other co-operatives e.g. credit unions, LETS schemes are particularly welcomed. Closing date for applications is 29 June 2001. For an information pack or to find out if your project is eligible to apply, please contact Stephen Lewis on 0161 246 2224 or email him at stephen.lewis@co-op.co.uk

*New * Joint Grant scheme for Churches and other Places of Worship - Heritage Lottery Fund/English Heritage

This fund is available for urgent structural repair to the fabric of Grade 1 And 2* places of worship. There are also grants available to repair projects of Grade 2 places of worship and for the provision of better facilities in any listed place of worship but due to the high demand these schemes are now being targeted in specified areas of deprivation. You will need to check whether your area qualifies. Priority will be given to projects which enhance the use of the building, provide improved access and facilities for the public, and offer wider benefits to the community. The scheme runs until 2002 and applications for 2001/2 are invited. The closing date is 30 June 2001 apart from the priority areas and grade 2 repair and non-structural projects which close 30 September 2001. Contact English Heritage, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 1AB Tel: 020 7973 3267 Fax: 020 7973 3249 or The Information and Publications Team, Heritage Lottery Fund, 7 Holbein Place, London SW1W 8NR Tel: 020 7591 6041 Fax 020 7591 6001 Minicom: 020 7591 6255 Web-site: www.english-heritage.org.uk Information take from web-site

National Foundation for Youth Music - Dynamo Programme

The Dynamo programme is about generating creative energy to help organisations working with children and young people to increase their levels of musical activity. The three strands, which form part of the programme are: National grid - open to national organisations with a commitment to music-making by children and young people, to enable them to develop strategically; to involve and support a wider range of young people from areas of social or geographical need, and to extend their work in the area of diversity. Regional connections - open to organisations committed to a regional role, to enable them to extend or develop their activities either within their communities or in new neighbouring ones. The objective under this strand should be "think globally - act locally". Looking for energy - open to organisations wishing to undertake a period of research and development to bring about a significant change of direction or focus. This might be in order to take advantage of new opportunities, identify new communities, which would benefit from their work or improve their effectiveness as a provider of music-

making opportunities. Funding of upto £200,000 is available for National Grid and Regional Connections. For Looking for Energy, funding of upto £50,000 is available. All Dynamo applications must be received by 30 June 2001 and programmes must be completed by September 2002. Dynamo is open to: Organisations with a commitment to enabling children and young people to make music and sing; Organisations which focus on activities out of school hours, including school holidays; Organisations which specifically aim to increase access, where music-making is limited; and Organisations which work with children and young people in crisis believing that music has a role to play in their positive development. For an application form, please contact Dynamo Programme, Tel: 08450 560560 Fax: 01772 836199 E-mail: nfyml@lfs.co.uk

*New * The Scottish Power Green Energy Trust

Using its Green Energy Tariff, Scottish Power invests in a fund to help finance new renewable energy projects that use environmentally acceptable technologies. This fund is administered by a Green Energy Trust of customers, renewable energy experts and environmental organisations. The Green Energy Trust actively supports projects in the UK which have a positive impact on their local communities and environment and will fund up to 50% of successful projects. The next deadlines are 25 July and 21 November 2001. For further information contact Gordon McGregor, Scottish Power Green Energy Trust, Cathcart Business Park, Spean Street, Glasgow G44 4BE Tel: 0141 568 3041 Fax: 0141 568 4646 E-mail: gordon.mcgregor@scottishpower.com If you would like to find out more about the Green Energy Tariff, visit their web-site: www.scottishpower.co.uk/greenenergy

*New * Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund

The theme for The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund UK funding programme in 2001 is The Transition to Adulthood and Independence. Applications are invited for work with young people between the ages of 12 and 25 who are refugees or asylum seekers, who are part of a prisoner's family, who are at risk of developing mental health problems or who have learning disabilities. The Fund will also consider applications for advocacy work with young people in the above categories and for advocacy and awareness raising. There are further priorities within the categories and the Fund will only grant-aid work of national significance. The remaining deadline for the programme this year is 2 August 2001. For a copy of the full criteria please contact the Fund on 020 7902 5500 The Grants

Department, The Diana Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, The County Hall, Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7PB Tel: 020 7902 5500 Fax: 020 7902 5511

*New * The Yorkshire Community Media Fund - Start-up grants

The Yorkshire Community Media Fund is a new initiative of the Community Media Association. It is backed by Yorkshire Forward, the Regional Development Agency for Yorkshire and The Humber. The Fund is linked to a wider initiative, Commedia Yorkshire, which will also offer access to streaming media servers and learning materials. The aim of the Fund is to develop and support a regional infrastructure of Community Media Centres offering learning opportunities and training in media, creative and ICT skills for young unemployed people, women, disadvantaged groups, labour market entrants and workers adapting to new technologies. Grants are available to support the starting-up of new Community Media Centres particularly in neighbourhoods and communities where there is no existing provision. Grants will be awarded for small projects which fall into one or more of the following areas: business plan development, pilot training or purchase of studio equipment and computers. Apply early as applications are on a rolling programme with the final closing date of 30 September 2001. Grants awarded will normally be in the range £1,000 to £3,000. For further details contact Judith Lennox, Community Media Association, 15 Paternoster Row, Sheffield S1 2BX Tel: 0114 2795219 Fax: 0114 2798976 Email: judith@commedia.org.uk An electronic copy of this form is available on diskette from the CMA or you can download it from the web-site: www.commedia.org.uk/yorkshire/

*New * The Philip Lawrence Awards

The Philip Lawrence Awards recognise outstanding achievements in good citizenship by young people aged 11-20. The Awards focus on exceptionally praiseworthy activities rather than on the individuals concerned. All applications for an award must be submitted on the standard nomination form in accordance with the instructions specified on the form. The closing date for nominations is 6 September 2001. For further information about the Philip Lawrence Awards for this year please telephone 0116 285 3792 or e-mail Janiceb@nya.org.uk The Philip Lawrence Awards, National Youth Agency, 17-23 Albion Street, Leicester. LE1 6GD. Fax: 0116 2853775 Forms can be downloaded from the web-site: www.nya.org.uk

This is a reproduction of the Charities Information Bureau monthly newsletter. If you know of any local funders that groups should know about or you are a local funder who wants to inform the sector then please get in touch with Jake @HCVS on 020 7923 1962.

information
advice
support
for the
voluntary sector

hcvs

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www.hcvs.org.uk

Opening times 9.30-5.30

HCVS services include: Funding surgeries, Funder Finder, mailouts, photocopying, library resource, community information database.

HCVS can cater for all types of voluntary and community groups. We particularly specialise in helping groups get established. For more information contact Jennifer, Administrator on 020 7923 1962.

Huddleston Centre to remain open

Vernon Angel informs us of the latest developments

Founded in 1978, the Huddleston Centre was started as an initiative 22 years ago from frustrated parents of disabled children, young people and supporters who identified the need for services which were not being provided in Hackney. It used to consist of a Playgroup, Youth Project, Employment Liaison Project, Holiday Playschemes, Family Support, Residential holidays, Integrated drop-in club, Over 25's Project, Asian and Turkish women's support groups, clubs and classes. Sadly, only the Youth Project, Integrated drop-in Club and Holiday Playschemes remain today. This situation has come as result of continuous cuts from the Local Authority to its services and the Centre not having a specifically focused fundraiser. Over the last 2 years employees have been working whilst under the added pressure of having protective redundancy notices served upon them.

The first major cut the Centre received was from Social Services in September 1999 and totalled £120k. This grant covered the running costs of the Centre, salaries for the Co-ordinator, Administrator, Family Support Worker, Caretaker, Playgroup drivers, escorts, cleaners. This forced a decision to make redundancies to the posts of Co-ordinator, Family Support worker and Administrator. Responsibility for the day to day running of the Centre now rested on the shoulders of the Youth and Playgroup Leaders, as well as fundraising for the remaining staff earlier mentioned.

February 2000 saw the lifting of protective redundancy notices as the Centre had managed to raise the necessary funds to prevent further redundancies or cuts to services. Although, small amounts of funds had been raised through various trusts, companies and events at the centre, the dark cloud was still hanging over the Centre. Towards the end of January 2001, protective redundancy notices were issued

once again. This time it seemed more threatening than previously. Closure of the Centre and its services seemed imminent by 31st March 2001 because of the news of Hackney Council's financial position. This date seemed convenient as it was end of financial year and new grant applications to the Playgroup and the Youth Project would not be pursued. Even though Community & Learning had agreed to release its first quarter payment for the Youth Project, the Huddleston's Management Committee were determined to shut down all services of the Centre.

Having worked at the Centre now for 13 years, working with, supporting and seeing members develop and achieve things that a non-disabled person may take for granted, I know how much the Youth Project means for the young disabled members who attend the clubs and playschemes and the importance of the Centre's role within the borough. Unfortunately, there is no comparable youth service provision in the borough that offers accessible transport, social education, leisure and recreation and there are so many more young people on the waiting list not receiving any service at all!

With all this in mind, colleagues in the Youth Project started a mass campaign involving users of the Centre and their families via Hackney Fightback, Unison and the Hackney community, worked together to lobby councillors, MP's and officers of the Council. The main argument for the campaign was that the Huddleston Centre is the main provider in the borough of services for disabled young people. If it were to close, for many young people there would be no options or alternatives to go elsewhere, resulting in isolation and exclusion.

With the Playgroup and other services gone,

the future of the Youth Project hinged on a decision of the Committee as information was presented to them. This showed that the Youth Project could continue at least for the next 3 months, with pledges of support to fundraise from various sources that could enable the project to continue for the next financial year.

Having held an all night vigil and tearful party's the week before, (just in case it was goodbye) many young people, parents, and friends of the Centre including 2 Labour councillors, came to the Committee meeting to plead with committee members to change their mind and vote favourably for the continuation of the Youth Project as it means so much to the young disabled people of Hackney.

It was a very dramatic and tense evening resulting in a narrow victory in favour of keeping the Youth Project and the resignation of 3 committee members. Tears of joy were expressed from staff, young people and parents.

A new management committee, ratified at a recent EGM has been formed and the Youth Project is actively planning events and applying to various sources to raise funds (support & donations welcome). The Youth Project is still faced with uncertainty after 30th June 2001, even though Hackney (Community & Learning) have agreed to release the second quarter grant, whilst they process the applications for the grant allocation.

The Huddleston Centre Youth Project is a well loved, highly respected and valued project based in Hackney providing an essential service to young people with disabilities in the local community. The users' disabilities range from learning/physical disabilities, autism, challenging behaviour to visual/hearing impairment. For more information, contact Vernon Angel on 020 8985 9089.

quality of life – I can definitely agree with all of the above as I was one of the first people to pass my test through DASH!

It is unbelievable that a valuable, innovative scheme like this has been forced to close even though there is no real alternative. Other traditional schemes are in place, but these driving schools tend to double the price of lessons for people with disabilities and thereby exclude them from the offset.

Firoza Faruki is a Youth Worker and can be contacted on 0208 533 0210.



National Award for local magazine



During Adult Learners' Week 12-18 May 2001, The National Organisation for Adult Learning (NIACE) presented a group award and a cheque for £500 to a Hackney Wick project for their locally produced magazine entitled 'On Your Wick', at the Institution of Civil Engineers in London.

With funding provided by the Hackney Wick SRB Partnership, Hackney Community College helped the group create the magazine in 1998, to focus on the local community, its people and their achievements, local resources, art and other local initiatives. The group consists of pre-dominantly long-term unemployed people, disabled and other marginalised

people who come from an experience of social deprivation. This is their second award since being formed, with the first being a Celebration of Achievements Award in 1999 by the college.

Paul Bromfield, a member of the Wick Magazine received special commendation and was given an Individual Learners Award. A year ago, he was unable to use a computer and despite his disability, he is now a competent user of IT and is enthusiastic in conveying his skills to new students on the magazine.

Ron Newman who accepted the award on behalf of the group said: "The group is a prime example of the community working together to learn, we have all increased in

confidence and are making plans for the future."

He further added: "We are in the process of funding various projects, one of which is reaching a community group of around 30 local people with various degrees of physical disabilities."

The group has now launched their fourth edition that has been well received by the community. The group members have found the classes a good opportunity for acquiring work related skills as well as for motivating them to acquire further skills with at least ten members of the group completing the City and Guilds Teacher Training Certificate.

Please send SPARK information about disability issues otherwise contact Disability Hackney who are based at HCVS.

disability
HACKNEY

DASH to fold

Firoza Faruki informs us

It is with deep regret that I am now going through the process of winding up the Driving Assistance Scheme Hackney. Driving lessons for young people stopped on 25 April 2001. The reason being the end of the reserves that DASH had been surviving on for the past year.

The management committee regrettably

agreed unanimously that DASH would need to be dissolved as there are no funds and the committee were unsuccessful during last years mass fundraising drive.

The scheme had been running for the past 15 years enabling young people with disabilities to increase their independence, mobility, employment and training prospects and overall

Stakeholder Pensions

Peter Fairbairn at the Community

Accountancy Project informs us about what the new arrangements are.

Many voluntary organisations in Hackney are likely to be affected by the introduction of stakeholder pensions. They have been introduced by the government to encourage people to save towards their retirement. It is the first time that employers have been obliged by law to offer employee access to a pension scheme.

or you provide access to a personal pension scheme or a group personal pension scheme, you should check that the scheme meets the conditions for being exempt)

If none of the exemptions apply to you, you must provide access to a stakeholder pension scheme. This includes:

- Considering which scheme may be most suitable for your organisation

- Consulting your employees and any organisations that represent them (union / staff association etc), before formally designating a scheme

- After designating a scheme, providing information about it to your employees and arranging to deduct contributions from employees' pay (if they choose to contribute)

- Paying over any contributions within specified time limits and keeping appropriate records

The important thing is not to delay any longer! If, after reading the above, you think your organisation needs to find out more and arrange to put a scheme in place by 8th October 2001 – reserve a place at the **Stakeholder Pensions seminar on July 10th 2001**.

The seminar is being organised by the Community Accountancy Project, in conjunction with the Co-operative Insurance Service.

It will be held between 10.00-12.00noon in

Further information:

Inland Revenue Employer's Helpline:
0845 7 143 143 (textphone available
on 0845 602 1380)

**Occupational Pensions Regulatory
Authority (OPRA)**
01273 627600 OPRA website:
www.stakeholder.opra.gov.uk

"Stakeholder Pensions – a guide for employers" is a free guide. Call the Inland Revenue Employer's Orderline on 0845 7 646 646 for your copy
Note: Textphone users should use the Typetalk service on 0800 95 95 98. Quote the Employer's Orderline phone number if you use the textphone service

This and other guides can be viewed on the DSS website: www.dss.gov.uk

the Bootstrap Training Suite Ground Floor, The Print House, 18 Ashwin Street, London E8.

To reserve your place either:

Ring CAP on 020 7249 7109 and speak to Stuart McKenzie.

Or fax your name, organisation name and mailing address to 020 7249 6310
Or email the same details to caphackney@aol.com

The above is for general information only. CAP cannot accept responsibility for loss to any organisations or individuals as a result of action taken or refrained from in consequence of the article above.



What is a Credit Union?

A Credit Union is a savings and loans co-operative, set up, owned and run by its members. Members save together to create a pool of money from which low cost loans can be accessed. Borrowing is around 12% APR. For more information about Credit Unions in Hackney and other boroughs, contact BELCUDA on 020 7254 6015 belcuda@ukgateway.net.

Community Finance Initiatives

A relatively new concept, community development finance initiatives (CDFI's) are predominantly not-for-profit community banks providing loans and other support services to under-served communities with strong social objectives. Most voluntary organisations use the high street banks to look after their finances but CDFI's can offer more suitable financial management that are more responsive to the needs of the community and voluntary sector. Director Malcolm Hayday commented "Despite Government moves to widen financial inclusion, many community groups still find it difficult to access commercial finance on affordable terms. We are proving that charities can be good financial risks".

There are variety of loan providers out there. One of the major providers in the UK is Investors in Society which was formed in 1995 as a community finance initiative of the Charities Aid Foundation and has supported over 140 projects throughout the UK and has lent over £5million to charities and voluntary organisations. Investors in Society consists of a pooled fund in to which people can make donations or lend money for as long, or short a period as they wish. This enables them to lend the money time and time again helping not just one, but many charities and community groups. The return on invested money is not a financial gain but a social return - the knowledge that invested money is working for the benefit of the common good.

Cash flow loans of between £5,000 and up to £100,000 against approved Government (central or local) or European contracts and grants, and foundation or corporate grants. You must be able to demonstrate though that you have a legally binding contract which is not at risk of being withdrawn. Loans are provided interest free but have a 6% service charge when the loan is made. If the loan is repaid in full within 180 days two-thirds of the service charge is refunded. If the loan is extended beyond the agreed maturity date the interests jumps up to 10%. If you honour the loan you can reapply for another one. The application process is similar to that of applying for a grant. You can view the application form at http://www.cafonline.org/downloads/iis_charitiesapplication.pdf

Who is eligible to apply?

Investors in Society provide loans to charities, churches, community groups, unincorporated associations and social enterprises for charitable purposes. Loans can be provided for short term working capital needs; bridge funding receipt of grants or other receivables; new development funding; longer term asset acquisition, development or refurbishment; property renovation; extension of activities.

Some of the organisations in Hackney that have benefited from this loan scheme in Hackney are:

Need a loan ? London's newest community bank

SPARK attended a 'social breakfast' organised by Bootstrap Enterprises London Credit Union Development Agency (BELCUDA) to promote London's newest community finance institution, the London Rebuilding Society (LRS). LRS aims to provide London with a permanent independent community finance institution which will lend money and offer finance and enterprise support to social entrepreneurs, charities and social businesses that put something back into London's disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

LRS has been up and running since May 2000 and is now open for business. LRS can offer loans from £5,000 to £50,000 to individuals and groups at competitive interest rates - around 8-11% for the first few years.

In a nutshell a community finance institution works by borrowing money (Natwest and Royal Bank of Scotland Group is one of LRS's biggest funders and have ring fenced £500,000) and raising capital through selling shares to the public. It lies somewhere between bank finance and small enterprise funds. LRS will potentially lend to the voluntary and community sector. Anyone borrowing from LRS can then pay £100 to become a member and share in its mutual benefits. LRS will work through local operational managers who will work for LRS and make referrals but be based in existing organisations. LRS plan to develop a pool of business expertise through its membership.

LRS is made up of three parts. Firstly the core fund of LRS, the

Social Enterprise Fund, will be launched in July 2001 and will provide finance to social enterprises for a range of purposes such as buying property, new build or refurbishment. Secondly, the London Ecology Action Fund, which will offer loans and advice to businesses who are trying to make themselves more 'green'. And thirdly, the Mutual Aid Fund will offer voluntary and community groups the chance to borrow small sums of money for training, for example, at very low rates of interest, some of which may be interest free.

There are 15 CFI in the UK. LRS hope to cover the whole of London in the coming years and currently have pilot schemes in Enfield, Hammersmith & Fulham and Tower Hamlets. By the end of 2001 they will have amassed a fund in the region of £1.5 million.

SPARK welcomes the idea of community based finance especially as it allows community groups to become more independent from the constant cycle of securing funds from charitable trusts and other funding streams. Naomi Kingsley, Director of London Rebuilding Society wants "to create a different ethos so that the sector is not frightened of borrowing money... we want to be able to help groups who are just getting started".

If you have any queries of would like to find out more, you can contact LRS at 227c City Road (the old Natwest Bank), London EC1V 1JT or telephone Naomi Kingsley on 020 7682 1670 naomi.kingsley@londonrebuilding.com.

- Bodywise
- Hackney Youth Workforce (loan repaid)
- Praxis community projects
- Oxford House

For a full list of projects that have been granted loans by Investors in Society, visit their website <http://www.cafonline.org/community-finance/>. For more details call Helen Taylor on 01732 520 029 Investors in Society, Charities Aid Foundation, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4TA.

The Claudia Jones Organisation

CONCERT

DATE: SATURDAY 16th JUNE 2001



The Students

Of The Claudia Jones Organisation Keyboard Workshop
invite you to an evening of music
6.00pm-7.00 at:

THE HALL

Rectory Road United Reform Church
Rectory Road,
Stoke Newington
London N16

for more details telephone,

The Claudia Jones Organisation
Tel: 0207 241 1646

Meet the networks

by Kristine Wellington, London Voluntary Sector Consortium (LVSC)

LVSC has always been involved in raising the profile of London's voluntary sector, writes Kristine Wellington. During the past eighteen months, LVSC staff in partnership with local voluntary organisations have been paving the way for more effective development of the sector. This has led to the establishment of some new strategic networks and has strengthened the position of existing voluntary sector networks.

We plan to take you on a tour of these networks in forthcoming editions of SPARK. In this article we will set the scene by describing the framework within which networks operate and introducing you to the key networks you will be hearing about.

Why are networks so popular?

The range of external factors that affect London's voluntary sector is vast and the demands from service users are increasingly complex. Voluntary organisations need to keep pace with all this and influence the wider agenda at the same time. But how do we do this? By doing what we do best: putting our heads together. We all recognise the value of newsletters, briefing sheets and the internet, but networks go one step further. Networks provide added value and an opportunity to receive, rationalise and respond to sector issues in a co-ordinated way. Network meetings create the right climate for individual learning, focused exchanges and the strategic development of London's voluntary sector.

Voluntary sector networks

... The 3rd Sector Alliance (3SA) is the generalist network of networks for the London region's voluntary and community sector. The 3SA aims to advocate effectively for the sector at regional

level.

Membership: Second-tier policy organisations and established voluntary organisations.

... The Cross Borough Development Workers Network makes the best use of existing resources to support the long-term development of black-led organisations through the proper co-ordination of organisation development services.

Membership: Cross-borough mainstream and minority second-tier organisation development workers.

... The Funding Advice Workers Network (FAWN) enhances and supports the funding and capacity building advice available to voluntary organisations across London, with a focus on small and black and minority ethnic (BME) organisations.

Membership: Funding advisers and development workers in councils for voluntary service and cross-borough second-tier organisations.

... The Voluntary Sector Forum is the channel of communication between London Boroughs Grants Committee (LBGC) and the groups it funds. The Forum aims to influence LBGC policy and procedure, and be responsive to groups working across more than one London borough that are eligible for funding.

Membership: LBGC-funded groups.

... INVOLVE promotes the participation of users, carers and the voluntary sector in health and social care in the boroughs. It supports its members by sharing information and good practice, providing peer support and responding to policy issues.

Membership: Voluntary sector officers in London and southern England.

... The London Health Alliance promotes improvement in the health of Londoners by influencing policies and practice, and by enabling information to be shared between voluntary organisations and with the statutory sector.

Membership: London-wide voluntary organisations.

... The Councils for Voluntary Service Steering Group provides a platform for CVS to share skills and develop common action and policies to strengthen the role of CVS in London.

Membership: Appointed by CVS.

... The London Development Workers Network aims to improve the co-ordination of CVS services delivered to borough-based community groups and to provide mutual support.

Membership: CVS development workers only.

... The London Regeneration Network (LRN) is a London-wide network operating in the field of regeneration, providing services to grassroots organisations and influencing policy makers.

Membership: Cross-sector and voluntary sector grassroots organisations, with some public and private sector members.

... London ATLAS (Access To Learning and Accreditation Support) fosters community participation in lifelong learning and aims to influence the development of learning policy.

Membership: Second-tier organisations, further and higher education, accreditation assessors, providers and London-wide learning bodies.

Kristine Wellington is LVSC's development officer for small groups and new learning (Kristine@lvsc.org.uk)

resources to fundraising until the money is perilously close to running out. This is completely understandable, and yet completely avoidable with the development of a Fundraising Strategy.

According to Susan Kay-Williams, Head of Marketing and External Relations at the Guide Association, organisations go through five key phases in terms of the development of their fundraising activity, and these are not necessarily dependant on the age of the charity or where it in terms of organisational development.

Essentially, though, the model reinforces the age old message that fundraising is likely to be more effective if the process is firmly bedded in the growth and development cycle of the

organisation. Projects without the strategy are those in danger of being led away from their values and plans in a great chase for funding.

So, why have a Fundraising Strategy?

• A Fundraising Strategy is a crucial management tool. At every stage of development, a basic plan, or strategy, provides a tool for co-ordinating all of the past present and future work within an organisation that contributes to or interferes with the generation of income.

• A Fundraising Strategy, based on a project development plan, that integrates all of the current thinking about the strategic direction of the project, will bring workers, volunteers

and Committee Members together towards a set of agreed development and fundraising priorities, hence ensuring that conflict and difference is dealt with in the early planning stages rather than emerging during actual fundraising.

• A Fundraising Strategy will indicate to funders that an organisation has carefully thought through the process of securing ongoing funding for the projects they hope to deliver in the long term.

• A Fundraising Strategy will help to identify the fundraising priorities over time. A detailed Action Plan detailing these priorities can quickly indicate to managers, workers, funders and volunteers alike that fundraising activity is on or off course.

Often, the 'Fundraising' or 'Funding Strategy' represents one or two pages within a Business or Strategic Plan.

Effective long-term regular fundraising efforts, which do not rely on the 'as if by magic' philosophy require a more comprehensive piece of planning work, summarised in a Fundraising Strategy.

This is part 1 of 12 by Jane Standing, LVSC which will elaborate on the important elements of a Fundraising Strategy and focus on the diverse sources of funding which can contribute to a wide and sustainable funding mix. LVSC run funding training courses. For more information telephone 020 7700 8113. These 5 articles previously appeared in LVSC's Voluntary Voice magazine.

2. Fundraising 'Resources for Courses' f) Sources of Funding or 'The Funding Mix'

The motivation for this second article is a burning growing realisation that with the changing financial climate for voluntary organisations, many people under-estimate the amount of work involved in the process of raising and sustaining funding. Individually, people just think they are not managing! It can seem inappropriate to actually secure resources to do fundraising and therefore many projects find themselves in a situation where it is virtually impossible to sustain the work involved in the fundraising process.

This is especially true where small and medium sized voluntary organisations are faced with the withdrawal or threat of withdrawal of ongoing funding from organisations like the local authority. With the above in mind, it is essential that organisations of all sizes have a Fundraising Strategy in order to get the best from the resources they do have and to meet this 'business environment' head on.

The key elements of a Fundraising Strategy are:

a) Firm Foundations

Like all things that need to 'keep something up for the future', a Fundraising Strategy needs to be built on a solid bedrock, i.e. fully developed plans and ideas about where the organisation is going and what it hopes to achieve. This might be a Strategic Plan, a Business Plan or a basic two-page Project Plan.

b) Key People

The fundraising process is not to be underestimated. People who sit at home in the evening buried under grant criteria from a range of different sources will understand this point completely. The resources, skills, knowledge and experience available within the organisation need to be identified and stated. The resources are almost certain to be inadequate and the first priority of the strategy may be to increase these, either from inside the organisation or from new paid or unpaid staff.

c) Current situation

Many of the people who attend LVSC for advice sessions represent organisations with a fundraising history and also past fundraising success, however the representative is sometimes new to the whole process and not availed of the fundraising history of the organisation. It is imperative that the foundations of the strategy incorporate a snap shot of the current funding situation, expiry dates, allocation of incoming funds, past fundraising and income and expenditure levels. This information will help greatly in identifying the main fundraising priorities. It will also give a good picture of which potential funding sources are currently exploited and where the gaps lie for future work.

d) Fundraising Projects

In some organisations, the only person aware of the fact that incoming and outgoing cash is actually divided up across the various areas of work within an organisation is the Finance Worker. It is important that a section of the Fundraising Strategy breaks up the work and services into distinguishable projects including their own share of the general running costs such as rent, rates, stationery etc. In this way, organisations are certain to be submitting realistic requests for funding based on the actual cost of any one part of their work.

e) Ongoing and Development

Some of the work described as 'fundraising' is to do with the continual exploitation of one source of funding, for example one-off grants from trusts or fundraising events. A second area of this work could be described as 'developmental', i.e. Which sources of potential funding do we just not access at all, and how can we start the process to become involved? The Fundraising Strategy needs to identify how much time or resources there are available to cover both these areas of 'fundraising work'. The work carried out to identify skills, experience and knowledge will also lead organisations down certain routes for which they then seek specific support or training e.g. Getting involved in Regeneration Funding.

f) Sources of Funding or 'The Funding Mix'

This will represent the bulk of the strategy and will outline proposed work to gain funding from specific sources. This will be as much about approach and philosophy of the organisation as the nuts and bolts of who to write to, and will clearly distinguish between the development of new sources and the continued generation of old.

g) Marketing

Somewhere tucked away in the body of the strategy will be a word or a hundred about marketing. Increasingly, even small organisations are realising that 'being out there' is a precursor to getting funding information and subsequently funding. Some activity called 'fundraising' may generate very little income, but has a different positive effect in terms of publicity and networking.

h) And finally! An Action Plan

So here comes the crunch. The action plan. At this crucial stage of the Strategy the organisation is identifying two strands of priority: the priorities in terms of projects that most urgently require funding, and the priorities in terms of the development of the fundraising process. Dates, responsible persons and deadlines will need to be set with care.

'Resources for Courses'! Like anything else, what an organisation gets out of its fundraising will depend largely on what it puts in. It is noticeable that in the early days of project development some projects experience great fundraising success. This is often because it appears to come from nowhere – it is important to remember that key people spend literally hours and hours, over and above the call of duty, preparing applications.

As a Funding Officer (love my job!), I can at times feel resentful that an organisation might seem to expect me to be those 'missing fundraising resources', spending hours and hours doing what perhaps they do not have time to do. But I completely understand why this comes about. Perhaps it would help if we could embrace the notion that 'know how' is just the beginning.

1. Fundraising – As If by Magic

"Fundraising is not a magic wand that can produce however much money is needed in return for however little resource is available" – Unfortunately! *David Saint of Action Planning*

How many out of the people reading this article actually have a 'Fundraising Strategy' in operation within their organisations, how many people know exactly what one might look like, a real life one, written down on paper, used as a working document by people involved in the fundraising process?

Perhaps 'Fundraising Strategy' is one of those

embarrassing voluntary sector terms that all project managers think they ought to be able to define, but maybe prefer to let somebody else have a bash!

A large number of voluntary organisations still find themselves in the situation whereby they secure two or three year funding from one or two funders and then commit no

3. A Good Funding Mix – The Essential Ingredients!

In the third article in a series covering Strategic Fundraising, Jane Standing, LVSC elaborates on the possibilities for a 'Good Funding Mix'.

Once again, all over-stretched managers know it, it makes perfect business sense to have a few baskets for all your eggs. However, putting theory into practice requires considerable development time, and resources.

In the previous article, 'Resources for Courses', the point was made that fundraising is always a difficult area, because historically voluntary sector organisations, apart from the very large ones, have had insufficient resources to pursue the process fully.

Increasingly, however, any sense of longer term sustainability is only possible if the mix of funding sources includes restricted and unrestricted income in addition to a wide range of one-off and longer term funding sources.

Again, as every multi-skilled, multi-stressed voluntary sector manager knows, the 'networking, partnershiping and manoeuvring' required to become involved in some funding streams is a heavy burden on resources.

Across small, medium and large organisations, the whole picture of funding sources could

potentially include Europe, Central and Local Government, (including a huge range of separate initiatives from different departments), London Borough Grants, Health Authority (including Primary Care Groups, Primary Care Trusts and NHS Trusts), Companies, Grant Making Trusts, Individuals, (via payroll, direct giving, and legacies), in-kind donations and time, sponsorship, and probably many many more!

So, a useful starting point might be that old favourite, the 'SWOT' analysis, whereby the organisation generates a picture of their fundraising strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

For most organisations, a photograph of the current funding mix would probably represent a direct reflection of the resources they have had available, or dedicated to, fundraising over the past few years. Similar to a strategic approach to organisational development, it is crucial that the funding mix is not left to chance, or to being 'funding-led' in this way.

By further exploring the SWOT analysis, an organisation may see themselves differently

e.g. our involvement in many networks means we are already well situated to develop a partnership to specifically attract regeneration funding.

A different organisation that already has a membership which so far has represented 'a hindrance or an afterthought', could initially pursue this as an income generating source, perhaps to secure unrestricted funding to increase the resources available for more developmental fundraising.

And thirdly, an organisation that already publishes a 'glossy magazine', (definitely not top shelf in the case of Voluntary Voice!), could develop a further plan to turn it into an income generating marketing tool.

The possibilities are endless, and none of the above particularly innovative, but once again, requiring an injection of time, a scarce voluntary sector species.

In conclusion, any organisation, small, medium or large, needs to grab this strategic approach by the horns and initially generate enough resources to invest in the fundraising strategy, using a SWOT to lead to the development of 'A Good Funding Mix'.

The issue of balance is crucial.

Without the strategy, and without this balance, the fundraising process can occur in a completely haphazard, and frustrating, way. Under-resourced projects hear of 'new sources', where the criteria seem to vaguely reflect their work, and the fundraising process commences there. Hence the frustration which so many managers experience, is a consequence of: tight deadlines, rushed and hurried proposals, inadequate statistics, insufficient time for the process, and ultimately, a rushed application. Many many times, efforts are wasted as a consequence.

As a Funding Officer providing advice, I estimate that 95% of the advice calls received are from projects expecting current funding to expire within a very short space of time.

This situation is not inevitable. Like anything else, longer-term change in how projects approach their fundraising requires drive, commitment and motivation. But once the balance is achieved, the rewards are enormous.

Future articles in this series will first of all revisit the issue of core versus project costs, and implications for fundraising, and subsequently run through the main areas of voluntary sector funding and getting started. Watch this space.

4. Strategic Fundraising – Getting the Balance Right

This article is part four in a twelve part series on Strategic Fundraising.

So far in this series it has been argued that anything attempting to look to the future and create stability and sustainability in funding requires a plan, or a Fundraising Strategy.

Subsequently it was argued that once we enter the 'planning zone', (to boldly go.....), the very valuable resource 'time' becomes a big issue, 'we already have a Strategic Plan, what on earth do we need a Fundraising Strategy for?!' (Chair of medium sized voluntary sector project 01.01). Increasingly, however, project managers are recognising that fundraising success requires much more research and development work than a decade ago.

In the third article, it was argued that one of the ways in which resources can be secured to bolster fundraising activity is to raise funds or resources to do fundraising, including business expertise, volunteer time or unrestricted funding, which can then free up a manager's time, engage external support with planning and research, equip project workers and

volunteers with fundraising skills or purchase fundraising resources like a database or training.

So, up to now, we have a plan, through the SWOT analysis, we know which areas of funding we

exploit currently, and are good at securing, we know where our gaps and omissions lie, and we know who and what resources we have available – and away we go.....

With a strategic approach to fundraising, a balancing act now becomes necessary, and occurs in two different ways. Firstly, if the time being invested in delivering services far outweighs any time available for planning and fundraising, the level of service delivery must be reduced, at least temporarily to free up time. (Loud screams from project managers across London!). Without this shift, the longer-term consequences of this imbalance are project closure.

Secondly, the fundraising efforts need to be sub-divided between time available to secure urgently required funding for existing projects and time available to secure funding from existing or new, previously untapped sources, for new projects.

5. Core Costs – Who is really paying?

In the fifth article on strategic fundraising, Jane Standing refers to Julia Unwin's book: 'Who pays for core costs?' as a useful tool in the fundraising process.

The aim of this series of articles is to provide practical advice for voluntary organisations engaged with the fundraising process. So, before reading on, I suggest an immediate telephone call to ACEVO, (Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations), to order a copy of the new 'Who pays for core costs' 1, re-launched at the House of Commons 20 March 2001.

The issue of core cost funding has been hotly debated across the voluntary sector for many years, with organisations leveling criticism towards funders that their work is constantly required to be new, different and innovative, and funders leveling criticism towards voluntary organisations that they do not effectively or thoroughly cost their work.

Arguments aside, many voluntary organisations are faced with the problem that the funding that keeps the home fires burning is often short term and more difficult to come by, especially since considerable local authority funding has been withdrawn from the sector, and funding is more readily available for 'new and innovative work'.

So, the report is useful because it breaks down the meaning of 'core costs', gives examples and recommends three basic models for funding them, which both funders and voluntary organisations can usefully consider to

reappraise their approach to the funding relationship.

The report distinguishes between two types of core costs: the costs of maintaining the infrastructure of individual organisations – referred to as overheads; and the costs of running the primary activity of the organization. The overhead costs are then broken down into six distinct areas of work:

1. The costs of compliance with regulatory and funding bodies
2. The costs of income generation
3. The costs of responding to consultation
4. The costs of governance, representation and user engagement
5. The costs of support services; premises, IT, finance costs
6. The costs of innovation and quality

This sort of analysis, which is taken further in the report, can be extremely useful during fundraising to help an organisation identify areas of work, within salaried posts, to be pursued during the next phase of growth or development.

The three models for costing, and therefore funding core costs are:

- a) The Full Project Funding Model – also known as the 'business model'. This approach encourages both the funder and the

organisation to recognise the full costs associated with the delivery of a service, or project. In this way 'the price charged covers the cost of providing'. It allows organisations to attach associated core costs, or overheads, to the budget for the service or project.

b) The Strategic Model – this model relates to funders and organisations who may have similar strategic aims, to be delivered over time. Funders support organisations with core costs to provide stability for strong delivery and development of the service.

c) The Development Model – This model relates to funding for particular periods in an organisation's development, possibly due to the external environment, a need for infrastructure development, research or policies and procedures.

Each model has associated benefit and cost to both parties in the relationship, but each encourages organizations to be clear about what they are asking for, and for funders to be clear about what they fund. At a recent meeting of the London funding advice workers network, speakers from NLCB and The Baring Foundation referred to the publication as central to their own internal policy development around the issue.

In general, this exploration of core costs encourages transparency, effective costing and long term planning, all vital elements of the strategic fundraising process – AND ALL GOOD!

Reference: Who pays for core costs? By Julia Unwin for ACEVO 0208 424 2334

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