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The magazine for Hackney's voluntary sector

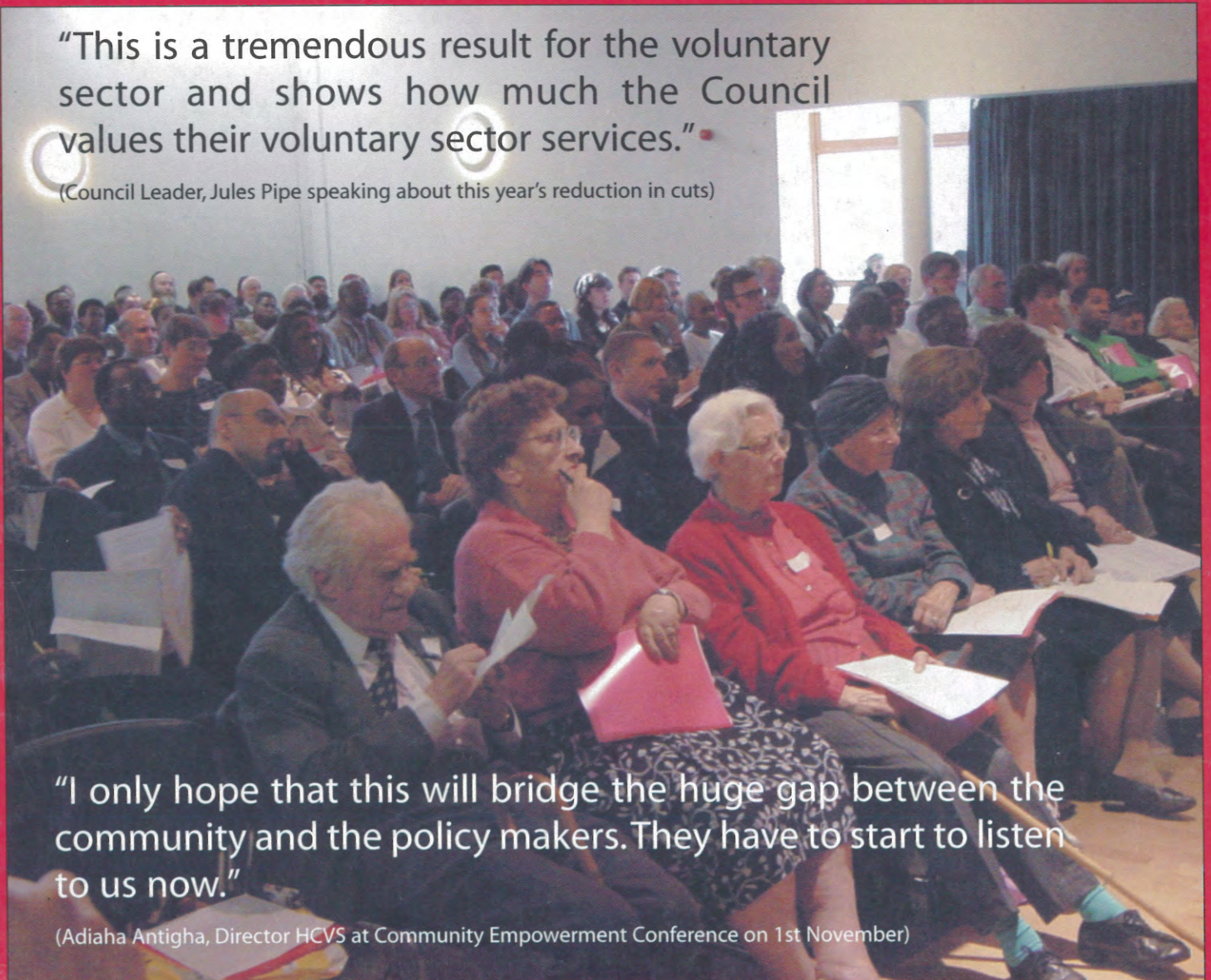
SPARK



DEC 2001

"This is a tremendous result for the voluntary sector and shows how much the Council values their voluntary sector services."

(Council Leader, Jules Pipe speaking about this year's reduction in cuts)



"I only hope that this will bridge the huge gap between the community and the policy makers. They have to start to listen to us now."

(Adiaha Antigha, Director HCVS at Community Empowerment Conference on 1st November)

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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It certainly is an up and down world in the voluntary sector at the moment. What with the cuts announced earlier this year and the subsequent appeal process, then the availability of NRF money for groups, then a reduction in the amount of the cut, then the resolution giving £600k to the sector from the Town Hall square development and now the prospect of no more core grants in 2002 and beyond if the Secretary of State refuses to bail Hackney out of its financial predicament.

Things don't look so good but then, Labour would risk losing its majority in the Borough if it allowed the cuts to go ahead.

Wow - sounds like a Hollywood movie to me. Lets hope justice prevails!

Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year to you all from HCVS - your sector defenders.

Jake X

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Future of Hackney rests with the Secretary of State

Councillors voted on 28th November to proceed with a financial strategy that contains sweeping cuts to education, social services and the removal of all grants to the voluntary sector. The report is Hackney's mandatory response to the Secretary of State's Ministerial Directions imposed on the council under the Local Government Act 1999. This formal response outlines Hackney's 'grave' financial position and requests that the government bail the borough out of debt with a 'long term solution to the repayment of these costs through funded borrowing'.

The report also repeatedly lays the blame on past managers and political parties in control of the borough, describing how 'a normal and well-run authority would be further ahead' in getting its act together. This was evident at the council meeting on the 28th November when each political party repeatedly clashed over who was at fault. Fault aside, if central government do not come to Hackney's aid and are not willing to support the Council then it will be necessary for the Council to go ahead with the cuts outlined in the financial strategy.

It is clear from the report that the Council has 'not been able to produce a strategy that brings the authorities budget to balance within the three year period originally envisaged. This means that by 2004/5, Hackney will still have a deficit of £32million. Four possible scenarios are outlined as ways of making up this further shortfall. They are:

Scenario 1: time-limited support from Government;

Scenario 2: reduction in the level of balances and contingencies;

Scenario 3: on-going funding of the deficit by Government;

Scenario 4: further dramatic reductions in services combined with an unprecedented increase in the local level of Council Tax.

If the Secretary of State refuses to bail Hackney out it will mean

there will be no alternative but to adopt scenario 4 resulting in 'huge reductions in areas such as the Schools budget of the order of £10m, Social Services, the deletion of all grants to the voluntary sector, the closure of the Youth Service, the end of Council funded regeneration activity and an unprecedented increase in the level of Council Tax (e.g. 45% plus).

Poor collection rates of council tax are still a major stumbling block to financial stability. Hackney has the lowest collection rate in London, which is why the Director of Finance and Performance therefore says that the Council will need to top slice its resources to balance its books.

Copies of this report are available from www.hackney.gov.uk/news/index.html

Council's mixed messages

Throughout the Full Council meeting of 28th November which agreed the financial strategy for the next three years, Councillor Jules Pipe, Leader of Hackney Council, appeared very confident that the borough would be saved by central government. In a recent press release, he outlined the road ahead, 'Only by taking a prudent approach towards expenditure and a tough line on inefficiency can we bring the Council's finances under control. For many years the Council was under no overall control, this led to massive financial discrepancies and a very large budget deficit. Now we have a new administration. We

intend to set Hackney back on an even keel, but this won't happen overnight.' This is in stark contrast to his words just a few weeks earlier that celebrated the reinstatement of the majority of voluntary sector grants. "This is a tremendous result for the voluntary sector and shows how much the Council values their voluntary sector services. Through the hard work of councillors and officers it has been possible to limit the impact of the budget reduction so that over the year the Council will have funded the vast majority of our grants to applicants to within 10% of what they requested."

What is happening to voluntary sector?

If the government doesn't rescue Hackney the situation does not look good - all grants to groups will be phased out over the next three years. There are still 15 groups, of which 12 cater for black and ethnic minorities, that will not get any more funding for this years last two quarters. The rest, funded through Community & Learning, have all received a reduced cut of 9.25% over the year (18.5% for the last two quarters). One of the key issues

for the sector however, is that if in 2002/3 there is continued uncertainty about the funding of core grants then external funders such as the National Lottery and the City Parochial Foundation will not replace funding for Hackney's voluntary groups. This has already affected numerous groups in the last year despite HCVS's efforts to placate funders. City Parochial announced at the recent launch of their new guidelines that they would be looking into how they could address this issue and that, while they sympathised with the situation facing Hackney voluntary organisation, they would not replace public sector funding. A quick resolution to Hackney's financial situation and a positive central message from Hackney Council will be crucial in alleviating this problem. This needs to happen sooner rather than later for the future security of the sector.

Council sells community buildings but help is on offer

Several local organisations' premises are under threat because the council is selling off their buildings. One of those organisations, King Bee Music Academy, a leading music centre in the borough, has managed to secure individual pro-bono legal advice from the Society of Black Lawyers on behalf of all black and ethnic minority groups in a similar situation. King Bee, launched at the

House of Commons in the eighties, was officially notified at a Nelson Bakewell auction in October. The next auction is on 14th December.

The council is using auctioneers Nelson Bakewell and Streatham's to sell premises. If you are a black or ethnic minority organisation in Hackney and are facing closure as a result of your building being sold and you need urgent legal advice, contact Rosemary

Emodi (PA Sheila Archdeacon) @ **The Society of Black Lawyers on 020 7735 6592.**

The Local Government Association has released 'Asset Transfers: a can-do guide' that encourages local authorities to take every opportunity to help transfer £1bn of underused land and buildings to community organisations over the next five years. George Nicholson from the Development Trusts

Association has said publicly that, "This [transfer of assets] has primarily been in the housing field, but there is no reason why this cannot be extended in pursuit of other policy objectives. Indeed we would argue that for the current neighbourhood renewal strategy to succeed, the transfer of assets has to be a central concern". For a copy of 'Asset Transfers: a can-do guide' contact 0845 458 8336, £10

The Compact Code on Volunteering is the fourth of five codes of good practice to be published as part of the Compact between government and the voluntary and community sector. These codes cover funding, consultation, black and minority ethnic organisations, volunteering and community groups and

are designed to provide a general framework for a new approach to partnership. The Volunteering Code of Good Practice sets out an agenda of undertakings for both the government and the voluntary and community sector in England. It suggests "a shared vision of how government can support and promote voluntary action, while respecting volunteers' independence and free choice."

New volunteering code of good practice

It is designed to serve as an enabling mechanism to help with the following aims:

- making it easier for people to get involved by implementing inclusive volunteering policies and practices
- recognising the work volunteers contribute
- investing in volunteering and community involvement and ensuring that there are sufficient resources to support this activity
- strengthening the volunteering infrastructure
- promoting the status and image of volunteering and community involvement
- supporting best practice in volunteer management.

The Code, which puts forward sixteen government undertakings, will allow community groups to count voluntary work as the equivalent of a cash investment when bidding for government funds. These new rules will mean that

voluntary work will count as match funding. The undertakings include checking proposed legislation for its impact on volunteering and adopting policies which ensure that volunteering bodies can rely on realistic long-term funding. It also recognises that the volunteering infrastructure should be independent of government and that the government should work in partnership with existing structures to build on models of best practice. Through the Compact, the government and voluntary and community sector have made a commitment to work together to identify a funding framework that allows the maximum independence and the minimum bureaucracy. There are also eight undertakings for the voluntary and community sector. These cover recognising the importance of high standards and effective management of volunteers; identifying a senior manager responsible for volunteer involvement and a board-level champion for volunteering; ensuring proper records are kept of how funding supports volunteering; acknowledging the contribution of volunteers in annual reports and ensuring they receive recognition for their work; ensuring fair treatment, training and support for volunteers and helping them to reach their potential. To download a copy of the Code of Good Practice go to http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/main/gateway/pdfs/compact_VolunteeringCode.pdf alternatively phone the NCVO helpdesk on 0800 2798 798 for your free copy.

The cuts in detail

The response to the Secretary of State's ministerial directions outline cash flow savings of £53.4m still some way short of the total deficit of the council. If implemented, these will seriously affect the fabric of the community and residents. Social services will receive cuts of £14.6m over the next three years, Housing £6.4m, Community & Learning £3.5m, Education £3.6m and Environment £12.6m.

Here is a summary of key losses in the financial forecast over the next three years:

- Reduction in Community & Learning voluntary sector grants by £1.5m;
- Reduction in Social Services voluntary sector grants by £445,000;
- Reduction in bus passes for older people;
- Home care visits to be reduced to half hour;
- No late night noise abatement service;
- No Hackney Playbus;
- Closure of 1 council nursery [undecided which];
- Closure of one play service site and reduction in after school clubs and holiday provision;
- Tightening of eligibility criteria for Community Care;

A decision from the Secretary of State about whether Hackney will be saved is expected at the end of December or very early in the New Year. HCVS will keep you informed.

Community Empowerment update

Community celebrates a new approach to participation in Hackney's LSP and community strategies

Nearly 200 local organisations turned out in force to the Community Participation Conference on 1st November 2001. They came to make their views heard to policy makers from Hackney Council, Central Government and Government Office for London, to decide who should run Hackney's £584,000 Community Empowerment Fund (CEF) and £645,000 Community Chests over the next three years, and to discuss the setting up of a network. The conference, organised by a consortium of local voluntary organisations and held at the Queensbridge Centre in Dalston, also allowed the community to voice its views about the current development of a Local

Strategic Partnership (LSP) for London Borough of Hackney (LBH).

Invited speakers included Diane Abbott MP, Councillor Guy Nicholson, the Chair of Regeneration [did not attend], Tal Michael, Head of Policy & Communication (LBH) whose remit includes Hackney 2020 and the LSP, Alan Smith DTLR, Christine Holloway, GOL and Councillor Bridgewater, Leader of the Liberal Democrats (LBH).

The conference was a resounding victory, not only for the community & the planning group, but also for HCVS who were unanimously voted as the local voluntary organisation to manage the CEF and Community Chest and to take forward the community

participation agenda. Shortly after the conference, Director of HCVS, Adiaha Antigha, said, "We are honoured and of course delighted that the community has asked us to manage the CEF and Community Chest. Even though we welcome the opportunity, we know that it will be a difficult and challenging role not only because of the short timescale but also in terms ensuring equity, transparency and fairness in the process - something which has been sadly absent in Hackney".

Adiaha summarised the year ahead, "This conference has been a big success for all of us and I only hope that this will bridge the huge gap between the community and the policy

makers. They have to start to listen to us now."

The conference included representatives from a wide range of voluntary, community organisations, faith groups and residents groups. One of the participants, Dr Seray-Wurie of Hackney African Development Organisation, said, "You cannot get a more representative body in Hackney than this meeting - everyone is here".

The debate continued throughout the day about how the community should have a better voice in local strategies. It was very constructive and at times very moving particularly as many community groups were facing closure due to Hackney's cuts.

£600k NRF for voluntary groups

The conference came a day after another victory for the community this time in the council's own chambers as Councillor Bridgewater announced that a resolution had been passed by 25 votes to 24 to overturn Hackney 2020's plans to spend £600,000 of NRF money on the Town Hall Square development and instead instruct the partnership to spend this amount on all the voluntary and community sector groups

who have had their core funding cut. Tal Michael informed conference participants about what the council would be doing in response to this resolution. He said that while the rules of NRF make it clear that funding the voluntary sector is an acceptable use of NRF funding, those groups that were deemed by council officers not to be meeting the strategic objectives of NRF and Hackney 2020 will not be funded.

18 groups get NRF rescue fund but 16 fail in bid

After considerable local pressure to help voluntary groups that have been cut through Community & Learning, Hackney 2020 agreed to make money available to local groups by inviting them to demonstrate how they meet the seven Hackney 2020 vision themes and national PSA targets.

Eighteen groups were granted funding, which will replace the 18.5% cut they will receive for their last two quarters funding for 2001/2002. 16 failed in their application and 14 groups did not respond to the letter that was sent. The time scale was extremely

tight, giving groups a week to put something together.

Council officers involved in the judging of applications with Renaisi said that groups who were successful submitted strong, focussed statements clearly demonstrating numerically how they met the PSA targets. They also suggested that these groups should focus on accessing more NRF money through the sub-partnerships.

There is no appeal process but anyone wishing further information should contact Daphne Ramsay at LBH on 020 8356 3193.

What next for the Community Empowerment Network and Community Chest ?

The Community Empowerment conference to launch the Community Empowerment Network was a great success and a real coming together of different elements of the community including residents, community groups, large and small voluntary sector organisations, different faith groups, different ethnic groups, and small businesses - almost everyone was represented. HCVS and the conference planning group would like to thank everyone for turning out in such numbers and for choosing HCVS as the organisation to run the Community Empowerment Fund and the Community Chest. We now need to maintain this unity and really set about empowering our communities.

Since the conference on 1st November, the planning group has met to assess the impact of the conference, its strengths and weaknesses, developments since then and to plan our next steps.

The planning group who organised the conference consists of:

- Dave Mackey - Vice Chair, Tenants Convention
- Ismail Amaan - North London Muslim Community Centre
- Joanne Appavoo - HARE
- Elizabeth Balgobin - HTEN
- Janice Rafael - HAVE
- Melanie Denan - Interlink Foundation
- Lyn Groves - Age Concern
- Andre Joseph - Hackney Society/Origin
- Les Moore - LVSTC
- Patricia Young - Shoreditch New Deal Trust
- Adiaha Antigha - HCVS

At the conference it was agreed to widen representation and to include refugees, African and disability organisations. The representatives who have since joined the planning team are: Ferhat Cinar, RASF and Social Action for Health; Dr Adu Seray-Wurie, HANVO; and Sanusie Sesay, Disability Hackney.

Hackney 2020 Away Day

Hackney 2020 invited members of the Community Empowerment Network to attend its Away Day on 11th December held at ING Barings headquarters, in City of

London. Unfortunately representation from the Community Empowerment Network was restricted to 4 members despite the 8 members of the network wishing to attend.

The Away Day, attended by all Hackney 2020, some council officers (including Max Caller and Tal Michael) and reps from GOL, discussed accreditation of the LSP. All LSPs across the UK have to be accredited by the regional government office, in this case Government Office for London by 28th February 2002. They must assess themselves and also be assessed by the communities which they serve. The government has produced guidance about accreditation [pictured]. HCVS has copies available otherwise contact the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit helpline on 020 7944 8383 for your free copy.

Accreditation of the LSP

To receive funding for 2002/3, Hackney 2020 will need to be accredited by GOL. The process must be open and transparent and



allow local flexibility. GOL will ask Hackney 2020 to assess themselves against the following criteria (selected points):

- The ability of LSP members to make strategic decisions and influence decision-making and delivery within their organisation or community;
- Whether the LSP practices LSP equal opportunity for all;
- The openness and transparency of decision-making, and other processes of the LSP;
- Whether all partners actively seek and support engagement of hard to reach groups and those who traditionally have been excluded from partnership working;
- Seeks and support the input and the

membership of voluntary and community organisations, smaller community groups and local residents especially from hard to reach groups;

- How the LSP supports, and works closely with, the evolving Community Network and how a framework is being developed for integrating the network and the Community empowerment Fund with the work of the LSP

Hackney 2020 will need to clearly demonstrate how the criteria are being met, what plans are in place to address areas for development and a time-frame for progress. GOL have to get the opinions of key stakeholders in Hackney and the Community Empowerment Network before deciding whether the LSP will be accredited.

The Community Empowerment Network is calling a follow-up meeting to update everyone on events since the November conference and top discuss next steps. Most importantly, we need to elect representatives for the LSP. This meeting will take place on Wednesday 23rd January at the Queensbridge Centre, Holly Street E8 and will run from 10.00 to 4.00pm. Please make sure you come along and keep the momentum going. Further details on page 55.

We also wish to discuss the networks response to the LSP accreditation process which must be submitted to GOL before the end of January. Views taken on the 24th will be written up and sent to GOL immediately.

Finally, we will be discussing the plan for the use of 50% of the Community Empowerment Fund (£194k). The Community Chest (£215k) and how you can access it will be launched at an earlier event on Friday 11th January also at the Queensbridge from 10.00-1.00pm. For further information see pages 35 and 55 and also briefings enclosed in this SPARK mailout.

To speak with someone about the Community Chest and Empowerment Fund contact Jake at HCVS on 020 7923 1962.



"You cannot get a more representative body in Hackney than this meeting - everyone is here" Dr Seray-Wurie, (Hackney African Development Organisation)



Kurdish, Turkish and Turkish-speaking Cypriot communities in Hackney

Algin Saydar, Director of Health Advocacy and Counselling Services for Turkish and Kurdish Speaking Communities gives you the low down.

In this and the next issue of SPARK I will be talking about the Turkish, Kurdish and Cypriot communities in terms of the historical background, issues confronting us and our organisation, Health Advocacy and Counselling Services for Turkish and Kurdish Speaking Communities and the work that we do. I will start by putting things into context by explaining the arrival of our communities here.

Members of the Kurdish and Turkish speaking communities are predominantly refugees and/or asylum seekers. It is estimated that the majority live in the London Borough of Hackney which is one of the most deprived areas in the UK.

Hackney has a very high unemployment rate. Almost half the accommodation in Hackney is council housing. There is a high number of immigrant and refugee populations with overcrowding, high rate of long term illness and perceived or real high crime rate. (Source: "The Challenge, a Profile of Poverty in Hackney" by Steve Griffiths, L.B. Hackney publication and the "1991 Census").

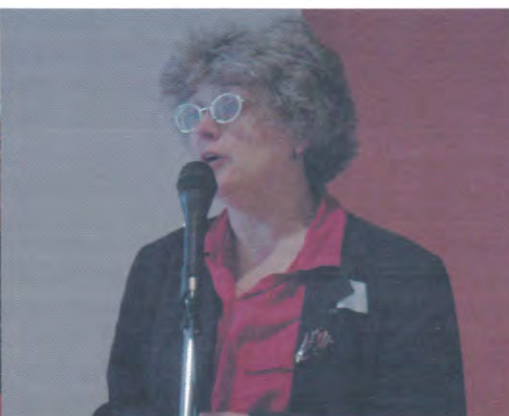
In terms of poverty, the worst affected sections are the recently arrived immigrants and refugees/asylum seekers. Turkish Cypriots are relatively more established, many having come here in the early 50s and 60s. The first immigrants from Turkey started arriving in Britain in the 70s but the real influx of asylum seekers came in the late 80s. They were all fleeing political, social and ethnic persecution in Turkey. The majority of the Turkish and Kurdish speaking people in Hackney are now Kurds and the combined number of Turks and Kurds are estimated to be around 30 000.

People in the Kurdish and Turkish speaking communities face a host of problems such as poverty, unemployment, inadequate housing, mental health problems, language barriers and the inaccessibility of the system to those who have no knowledge of it as well as an uncertain future as they try to come to terms with the feelings around everything they have left behind and the fact that they are now living in an alien world. The luckier ones may one day go

back and see the land they were born and raised in, but for some the possibility of ever seeing their loved ones or their home once more is very slim and the smells, the colours, the tastes, the pleasures and the happy and sad memories they left behind they may never experience again. Some come from burnt, destroyed villages; others have experienced torture, deprivation, and persecution. The system here disables them further through a labyrinth of immigration and asylum rules and regulations, language barriers, benefits system and others.

It has to be said that sadness is one part of the equation. The Kurdish/Turkish communities have also been very enterprising and innovative in both the business and social arenas of Hackney life. Since our communities have been arriving in Hackney festivals, musical/folk dancing events; restaurants; from hair dressing to dry-cleaning to flower shops, supermarket type stores and political slogans in Turkish and Kurdish have sprung up in the streets of Hackney. They have brought a new, exciting and colourful dimension to the diversity of the borough.

In the next issue of SPARK, I will tell you a little bit about our organisation, what we do and how we try and address the issues of exile.



"Those who make decisions in Hackney seem to have a vision that is far removed from that of the community. We need to look at Hackney 2020. If it continues in its present form it will not have any community confidence."

Jo Lamb, Hackney Tree Wardens



"This conference has been a big success for all of us and I only hope that this will bridge the huge gap between the community and the policy makers. They have to start to listen to us now."

(Adiaha Antigha, HCVS)



Volunteer Mentors

Go on Make a Difference to a Young Person's Life

Dalston Youth Project, an award winning mentoring & education project based in Hackney, needs volunteer mentors to work with young people aged 15-18 who are "at risk" of offending.

We require from you: a 1-year commitment of 2 hours per week, reliability and enthusiasm.

We offer: accredited training, support & supervision, expenses and a chance to make that difference.

Do Yourself Proud

Call now on 0208 525 9696



News in brief

Local announcements

Interlink Foundation has moved address. Their new office can be found at: Lower Ground Floor Office, 124 Stamford Hill, London, N16 8QT Tel: 020 8802 2469 Fax: 020 88005153.

Shoreditch New Deal Trust has changed its name to Shoreditch Our Way. Their contact details still remain the same Tel: 020 7613 9595 Fax: 020 7613 9543.

A community publishing project is planned for the Kingsland Regeneration Forum area. The planned community newsletter, *The Kingsland Gazette* will highlight many of the activities that go on in the area. For more information contact Les Moore on 020 7254 4593.

National

Faith groups should anchor renewal

A new report by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation claims that a range of neighbourhood renewal organisations from faith groups and ethnic minority networks to development trust should be the anchors of community renewal. However, their short term funding and financial insecurity means they are in danger of burning out. The report calls for a guarantee of funding for community and voluntary organisations in local authority community plans and a commitment from local strategic partnerships to sustain the third sector. For a summary of this research, 'Building communities, changing lives - the contribution of large, independent neighbourhood regeneration organisations' go to www.jrf.org.uk

New Compact code

A New Code of Practice on Volunteering launched by the Home Office will allow community groups to count voluntary work as the equivalent of a cash investment when bidding for government funds. These new rules will mean that voluntary work will count as match funding. The code can be obtained from NCVO on 0800 2798 798 or from their website www.volunteering.org.uk/compact.htm or alternatively pop into HCVS for a free copy.



Useful website for new organisations

NCVO's Trustee and Governance Team have just setup a new website which includes information briefings, fact sheets,

reports on good practice, details of events and lists of useful links. You can download lots of free documents at www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/tgt.html

BME groups left out of funding

Stephen Stone, an adviser to the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry, spoke at a recent conference on the funding of BME organisations stressing that BME organisations do not get their fair share of funding because grant-givers are institutionally racist. CEMVO disagreed stating that there wasn't enough evidence to make such claims.

Core costs most important

An ACEVO membership survey has found that the funding of core costs, access to funding and VAT exemption were the top three priorities of charity chief executives. "If the Treasury does not tackle the issue of funding and core costs, then something is wrong", said ACEVO Chief Executive, Stephen Bubb. ACEVO also argue that government should simplify and standardise its funding regimes across government through similar application forms, tender arrangements and contracts.

Charities are law breakers

A survey of pay and conditions in the voluntary sector by NCVO and trade union MSF found that of the 197 that were questioned, many smaller voluntary organisations break the law by not providing employment contracts and paid holidays to their staff. 13.5% of organisations with income below £100,000 do not provide paid holidays.

Money for groups who care for the elderly

Age Concern England is offering grants to voluntary groups that benefit older people. Small service grants of up to £2000 are available for new or expanding local projects providing services such as home repair, carers, or health & fitness programmes. Small grants up to £120 for clubs for older people to cover new equipment such as crockery, games, and bingo equipment. You can make an application any time. Call 020 8765 7738 or grants.unit@ace.org.uk

New immigration website

Immigration Index focuses on all matters relating to immigration such as asylum and refugees, conflicts, deportation etc and contains lots of funding information.

Free Consultancy for groups

The Pan London Regeneration Consortium provides free consultancy to London based voluntary organisations involved in regeneration programmes or receiving regeneration funding. More info from: PLCRC, 356 Holloway Road, London N7 6PA 020 7700 8120 www.lvsc.org.uk/plcrc

Government announcements

November 29th - £140m Recycling Fund (England and Wales)

A new £140 million fund for waste minimisation and recycling, provided over the next two years, is designed to help local authorities deliver their legal obligations to increase recycling.

November 29th - £300m for innovative approach to managing council housing (England)

Eight councils have been provisionally awarded £300m to improve the quality and management of housing. Stephen Byers, Secretary of State for Transport, Local Government, and the Regions, has announced. Bids for the second round of funding need to be made by the end of February 2002.

November 26th - Fuel Poverty Strategy (UK)

The Government's newly adopted Fuel Poverty Strategy, sets out measures to ensure that no low-income or disabled household will be in fuel poverty by 2010. The new elements of the strategy include a £10 million micro-scale combined heat and power pilot involving up to 6000 households across England and Wales and a £5 million pilot to test the potential for using renewable energy to heat homes not connected to the gas network.

November 26th - Supporting People (England)

Allocations of £42m to help local authorities and their partners improve housing support services for the most vulnerable have been announced.

November 22nd - £52m fruit and veg cancer prevention boost (England)

The National Lottery good cause funding will radically expand pilots of healthy eating schemes to reach 10,000 schools and communities by Spring next year. The twin schemes announced today are part of the New Opportunity Fund's £300 million Opportunities for Health programme.

November 22nd - New Opportunities for PE and Sport (UK)

The new opportunities for PE and sport programme has been launched in England and Wales in November 2001. Similar programmes will be launched in Scotland and Northern Ireland by the end of the 2001-2002 financial year.

November 19th - Report published into free professional support for voluntary and community organisations (UK)

Voluntary and community organisations are missing out on free professional advice and support, according to a Home Office funded report.

November 19th - New Era of Partnership for Local Education Authorities (England)

Local Education Authorities (LEAs) should soon be able to work in partnership with other LEAs, private companies and charities to deliver a wider range of education services, Schools Minister Stephen Timms has stated.

November 15th - Adult and Community Learning Fund (England)

Ministers have decided to extend the ACLF into 2002/3. This is very good news as DFES will now be able to fund new projects for up to 2 years, starting in April 2002. A revised prospectus and application form are now available. Completed application forms to be sent by post by 7 December 2001.

November 15th - Best Value Review (England)

Stephen Byers, Secretary of State for Transport, Local Government and the Regions has announced a three month review of the Best Value regime for local authorities aimed at improving the quality of services.

November 12th - £1m boost for refugee integration (UK)

Community groups working to support refugees are invited to bid for a share of £1 million by Home Office Minister Angela Eagle.

November 8th - Local Employment Strategies and Innovation (EU)

For the period 2001-2002, one of the priority themes under Article 6 of the European Social Fund Regulation is the support of innovative actions to develop local employment strategies in order to reinforce the implementation of the European Employment Strategy at a local level.

November 8th - Environmental Quality Pathfinder Programme (England)

The Government will be providing an extra £1m for the Local Environmental Quality Pathfinder Programme which will involve 50 local authorities in establishing effective schemes to improve local areas by tackling litter, graffiti, dog fouling and other nuisances.

November 8th - Neighbourhood Wardens on Patrol (England and Wales)

More than 700 wardens will be hitting the streets following the announcement

of some 120 new schemes. The £50 million Street Wardens programme is designed to provide a friendly face on local streets to stamp out the neighbourhood nuisances - graffiti, abandoned cars, litter - that seriously reduce people's quality of life.

November 1st - Strategic service-delivery partnerships (England)

Councils across England are being invited to become pathfinders to trial new ways of working with the public, private and voluntary sectors that will deliver better services to local people, Local Government Minister Dr Alan Whitehead has announced.

November 1st - £91m for children with special educational needs (England)

Pupils with special educational needs in mainstream and special schools across the country will benefit from £91 million of funding in 2002-03, Schools Minister Catherine Ashton has announced.

October 29th - £15 million to boost activities for disabled young people (England)

Ivan Lewis, Minister for Young People and Learning, has announced a vision for the future of the Youth Service backed by an extra £15 million to boost activities for disabled young people.

October 25th - Brown announces £90 million to combat disadvantage (UK)

Over 70 organisations across Great Britain will be awarded funding from the EQUAL programme, part of the European Social Fund, aimed at testing and encouraging new ways of promoting employability, entrepreneurship, adaptability and equal opportunities.

October 25th - Improving services for children at risk (England)

Central and local government and voluntary sector expertise will be drawn together to identify ways to make services for children at risk more effective, Minister for Children and Young People John Denham has announced.

October 25th - Unlocking the £50m Community Chest (England)

A £50 million chest for community groups in the most deprived parts of England first announced in the national strategy for neighbourhood renewal - has been unlocked by Regeneration Minister Lord Falconer.

October 22nd - Making Connexions: A vision for the future (England)

The Government has set out its vision for the future of Connexions - the integrated advice and support service for teenagers.

October 18th - Next steps guidance published on Local Strategic Partnerships (England)

New guidance will help local residents, businesses, voluntary and community groups join forces with public sector agencies to drive forward the government's neighbourhood renewal agenda - improving the poorest areas through better local services.

October 18th - 12 new Excellence Clusters announced (England)

Pupils in twelve more areas will soon be benefiting from extra resources to raise standards, provide schools with the support they need, remove barriers to learning and stretch the abilities of the most able, School Standards Minister Stephen Timms has announced.

October 15th - Lone Parents and Minority Ethnic Outreach Service (UK)

The Government recently announced two new outreach initiatives for the unemployed. These services will be delivered by organisations identified through competitive tendering exercises. These services focus on particular client groups: Lone Parents and people from Minority Ethnic communities. Closing date for expressions of interest 7 November 2001.

October 11th - Councils invited to modernise democracy at next election (England)

Councils throughout England are being invited to try out new methods of voting at the next local elections in May 2002.

October 11th - Confirming the international role of Community research (EU)

Call for proposals for indirect RTD actions under the specific programme for research, technological development and demonstration on "Confirming the international role of Community research"

All details from www.access-funds.co.uk/

Any news?

Jake Ferguson, Editor SPARK, HCVS, The Print House, 18 Ashwin Street, London E8 3DL, T 020 7923 1962

Hackney Young Families Support Service

It's just over a year since Hackney Young Families Support Service (HYFSS) was launched in October 2000! Time for an update. To date HYFSS has received 190 referrals, as well as self-referrals. Many of these have come from the Primary Care Trust. HYFSS have been able to provide advice and support on issues as diverse as parenting and relationships to housing and finance. In addition to this HYFSS have been able to liaise with many agencies including health professionals to co-ordinate young people into specialist services. HYFSS continues to see young parents at their home or at their Drop Ins that are run at Homerton Hospital, Lower Clapton Health Centre, Parkholme

Road. They are sending details of the referral process and their Drop Ins to the PCT individually.

In October HYFSS held their fourth multidisciplinary Forum for Professionals working with young parents in Hackney - the focus was Benefits. The forum was well attended by a good mix of professionals and very informative. Having consulted with those present HYFSS will be planning four more for 2002. Details to follow.

For any enquiries or information please contact HYFSS at: Family Welfare Association, Head Office, 501-505 Kingsland Road, London E8 4AU, T: 020 7254 6251 F: 020 7249 5443 E-mail: gaby.ross@fwa.org.uk

Health awareness for Somali women



services are available to them.

The session covered a lot of health issues. They discussed how to prevent illnesses and misdiagnosis. They also watched a video translated into Somali language so that they could easily understand the issues.

Somali Support Women's Group (see Sept SPARK) held its first awareness session on 10th November. The session was very successful and was well attended. The women warmed to Dr Zainab and her colleague, two Somalis who presented the day's programme. Based on open discussions, many women talked about their health experience in England and mainstream service provision. They wanted to know about their NHS rights and to receive information about what

The organiser of the event said, "It was a really successful day, the women enjoyed themselves and they learnt a lot".

Dr Zainab talked about how it is very important to give children immunisation and how it prevents a lot of childhood illnesses as well as other health issues.

If you would like to attend further sessions of the Somali Women's Support Group, contact HCVS who will take your details on behalf of the group.

Wildlife warriors



Holmleigh and Woodberry Down primary schools' pupils spent a week of their summer

holiday learning about the wealth of wildlife to be found in Stoke Newington. The project was led by London Wildlife Trust with voluntary help from parents and funding from Woodberry Down SRB provided by Renaisi.

The project was based in new facilities at West Reservoir, which is an oasis for animals such as hedgehogs, bats, dragonflies, frogs, terns and other water birds. It was perfect for the children's favourite activities - bug-hunting and pond-dipping, as well as a very popular sailing treat on the last day.

The group explored Abney Park Cemetery and Clissold Park, learned about recycling at Eco-Active in Clapton and created works of art, with emphasis on the fun aspects of learning. Even so, they took on board serious messages about sustainable lifestyles - the pupils

used public transport or walked, had healthy snacks and recycled the cartons of apple juice donated by the Alliance of Carton Manufacturers. 'I learnt how to be kind and respect creatures' said Rory from Woodberry Down School, while Gunce, from Holmleigh learned 'how important recycling is.' For many pupils it was the first time they had been on trips out of school and parents noticed how their behaviour improved rapidly. As Shaquille from Woodberry Down said the most important thing learnt was 'Always to be on my best behaviour!' London Wildlife Trust is looking forward to a bigger and better project next summer. Meanwhile, the Trust is running out-of-school-hours clubs during term-time in several Hackney schools and is seeking regular voluntary help, especially from keen gardeners.

For further information contact Becky Prentice on 020 8806 1211 or Sandi Bain on 020 7921 5468.



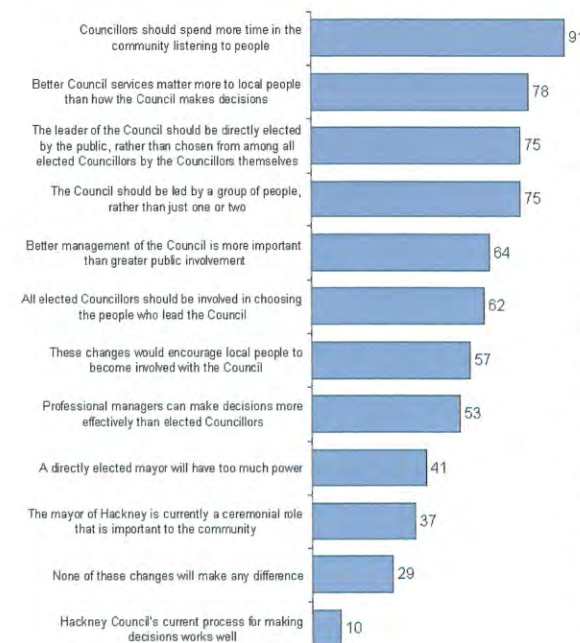
Claudia Jones appeal for Building

Claudia Jones Organisation is embarking on a fundraising appeal to raise the £300,000 to renovate and refurbish an existing property in Palatine Road, Stoke Newington. This building which is about 4,500 sq ft will extend Claudia Jones' services to the black community in the borough. Built over three floors, the lower ground floor will be converted to provide educational facilities for a supplementary school for about 75 students plus staff which operates on Saturdays. Other

floors in the complex will house administrative offices, staff rooms, a library and multi-media suite. The work programme will include lectures, presentations, exhibitions, and a luncheon club for pensioners. Hazel Ellis, Coordinator of CJO says, 'It will help to strengthen the organisation and centralise our activities, especially in relation to our education project'.

To make a donation contact Claudia Jones Organisations on 020 7241 1646.

Hackney residents respond to Mayoral survey



LB Hackney has just published the results of its surveys of residents opinions about which system of governance to adopt in the borough. According to LB Hackney's press statement, 'the overwhelming message is that Hackney residents do not think that the way the Council is currently run works. Of the options available a directly elected mayor with a cabinet was the preferred choice'.

The government has set out three options which all Hackney residents (and

other boroughs across the country) must vote on (likely to be a postal vote in May 2002). They are:

- A cabinet of councillors with a leader (selected by councillors)
- A mayor directly elected by the people with a cabinet of councillors
- A mayor directly elected by the people and council manager

The current system in Hackney is out of date and was designed in the 19th Century. Hackney is obliged by Part 11 of the Local Government Act 2000 to move towards executive arrangements as set out in the Act. The timetable to adopt a new constitution is May 2002 but this may slip to October 2002 if the proposed Mayoral referendum supports an elected Mayor for Hackney. The election would take place on 17th October 2002 and the final version of the new constitution would be adopted shortly after that. Further details about the surveys from LBH Press Office on 020 8356 3541.

Additional services from Addaction

Well-established 'drop-in' drug and alcohol treatment centre, Addaction on Upper Clapton Road, has newly appointed Lorraine Gunter and Berrak Koyuturk to develop services for the Afro-Caribbean and Turkish communities respectively, and Makkedah Idawah for women's community development.

Commissioned by the Hackney Drug Action Team, this recognises the urgent need to provide specialist help for individuals with problematic drug and alcohol use from within Afro-Caribbean and Turkish communities. These three appointments will build upon and develop the important work that Hackney already provides to ethnic communities. Addaction is also making a special effort to make access easier for women as well as ethnic communities.

"Minority groups have very different needs," says Berrak Koyuturk, the development and outreach worker for

Turkish speaking communities. "Individuals find it extremely difficult to talk about their drug dependency, consequently they don't get the help they need. They may also feel alienated by language and cultural barriers, particularly if they are refugees or asylum seekers. My aim is to raise awareness within local minority groups that help and advice is available, within an environment where people can openly discuss their drug use in confidence and in their own language."

Turkish speaking male service user at Addaction Clapton says, "I first came to Addaction Hackney last August. I have an alcohol problems. I did not get the right treatment for my alcohol problem because of the language barrier. Now I can express myself in Turkish and get the right treatment for my alcohol misuse. Addaction is a friendly place and is aware that 'confidentiality' is the



key word in drugs and alcohol treatment. I will continue to visit Addaction in the future. I will be interested to join the Turkish speaking support group within Addaction".

Addaction is seeking to establish and develop links with local statutory and non-statutory service providers such as Sexual Health clinics, social services, child protection agencies, criminal justice services, pre-post natal support services, charities, educational/training services, housing services and other charities or local community groups.

Addaction is located at 98 Upper Clapton Road Hackney. The drop-in centre is open between 1-4pm Monday's to Friday's.

Free web-hosting from Groundwork Hackney!



In order to help Hackney people get on to the web ground-level provides websites for Hackney groups, tenants' associations, schools and clubs. These sites provide the user with an easy-to-use interface that allows you to edit your site quickly and easily without buying any more equipment or software. You update your site through the existing webpages which saves you the hassle of sending webpages off to be updated. With this system you can edit your site whenever and wherever you want so that your

readers know that they are getting new and topical information. For more information contact greg.mcneill@ground-level.org today or visit the website at <http://thenetwork.ground-level.org/> to see how it all works.

participation is...



...creating channels of communication.

MISSING PERSON

Does anybody know the whereabouts of:

LINDA FOWLER
NEE PLOUGHMAN?

She is known to work for a charity in Hackney.

Mrs. Ames (know to Linda as Joan Begg) would like to contact her. If you can help ring Joan on 01638 712595.

Confectioners' Charity and Hackney Citizens Advice Bureau establish joint Help line

Hackney Citizens Advice Bureaux on behalf of the Confectioners Benevolent Fund, will be offering weekly telephone advice as well as a 24 Hour Telephone Information service to employees and ex-employees of the Confectioners industry nationwide.

From the first of November, callers can ring a national number and choose information from a menu of topics, including Debt and Consumer matters, Employment problems, questions about Housing, Social Security etc.

In addition they will be able to speak directly to a Hackney CAB adviser via a weekly telephone helpline.

Hackney CAB Service Director, Mr. Leo de Boer said, "The Hackney Citizens Advice Bureaux have provided advice and information to the people of Hackney for over 35 years. As far as I know, this is the first time a local advice agency has been commissioned to provide advice services nationwide." "This," he said, "comes at an especially important time for us, when

Hackney council has announced drastic cuts in its funding to the local voluntary sector, including the CAB".

Demand on services is very great. The Hackney CAB local Service assisted with more than 26,000 inquiries last year, mostly from Hackney residents. The vast majority of these inquiries are dealt with by volunteer advisers, trained locally by the CAB Service.

For further information contact: Leo de Boer, Service Director. Tel. 020 8985 6062 email SD@dalston-cab.demon.co.uk



Thru the eyes of!

views from members of the public, police and traders who have experienced the problems first hand.

A Bridge to Normal Living is a pioneering Hackney project that commenced in April 2001, as a result of

The students of A Bridge to Normal Living have filmed a documentary set amongst the streets of Haggerston and is intended to be used as an educational tool in schools, community and youth centres nationwide.

The documentary tackles problems such as crime, drugs and poverty, through the use of music, poetry and dance with

financial assistance by the Haggerston Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) to offer a course in digital video making. It is specifically designed for disadvantaged youngsters, ex-offenders and former substance and alcohol users.

The idea behind the project comes from Project Director, Marlon Palmer who also runs Kush Film Club, which promotes independent black film and film makers.

He said, "The course is a dream as a black person, to help the community, coming from the streets myself. I decided to change my life and give something back." He continued: "the course provides a sense of family unity and the emphasis is to teach them about themselves, working with others and opening up to people."

Director and Writer, Wayne Robb, a trainee on the course said, "I had the idea mentally, but no channel or outlet to focus it through and this course has offered me that. Something positive has been created from my experiences and I can share that with others."

Further info from Kush Films on 020 7275 8822.

Ten years for Anika Patrice

The Anika Patrice Project is celebrating its 10 year Anniversary on 18th December at 7.30 at the Hackney Caribbean Elderly Centre on 39 Leswin Road, N16.

"We are pleased to have provided services for people with learning difficulties and their carers for the

last 10 years and we hope we will continue with our success for the next 10 years and beyond. Come and join us in our celebrations, your support will be much appreciated".

For more details contact Laia Gasch, Anika Patrice on 020 7923 9033.



Hackney has Access Forum for disabled people

by Sanusie Sesay,
Coordinator,
Disability Hackney

Now winter is upon us it was a cold and rain swept morning when Disability Hackney, an umbrella organisation run by disabled people, held an open meeting in Hackney on the 8th November, with the aim of setting up Hackney Access Project (HAP).

Disability Hackney is setting up HAP to train disabled people to become consultants in disability and access issues. The project is also needed in Hackney because it is one of the few London boroughs that has no Access Officer. According to many leading national disability organisations like Radar and GLAD, any borough that hasn't got an Access Officer and Access Group tend to have poorer quality services for disabled people and the council will struggle to find out the needs of residents with disability. HAP will campaign for an Access Officer in Hackney so that residents with disability can contact them within the council.

Ruth Bashall, the Access Consultant commissioned to set up HAP, recruit participants and provide training, welcomed guests who were predominantly disabled people and representatives from local organisations. She went further to tell the meeting the programme for the day and what access is all about.

The programme included recruiting disabled people for training in conducting access audits. The day was also about identifying the access needs of the trainees so that Disability Hackney can cater for them in

the course of their training.

Access is about removing physical barriers, such as high curbs and steps and also about choice, equality and freedom. Access is not only about buildings/houses with flights of stairs and no lift, but also about transport and streets, information and equipment attitudes, facilitation and support. All these access needs will be covered in the training.

HAP aims to make Hackney a more accessible borough by setting up an access forum, to talk and listen to the people that matter.

At the meeting everyone with different physical and learning disabilities worked together to understand each other's needs. They broke into workshops to discuss the access needs of disabled people and how to work jointly in finding solutions to the difficulties facing them in accessing goods, services and facilities. It was very interesting to learn about each other needs and the various disabling barriers disabled people encounter everyday.

Here are some of the issues:

- How many community centres or housing offices in Hackney have facilities for Deaf people?
- Do they have information about their services in alternative formats, such as large print, tape and braille?
- Are Council offices accessible for all disabled peoples needs?



· How many shops have full wheelchair access?

· How many crossings have audible signals so that blind people can cross the streets safely?

There is a lot to do and with your help access for goods, services and facilities will improve for disabled people.

HAP wants to establish partnerships with organisations in the voluntary, public and private sectors. It will give you assistance and advice on how to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and improve access to your services and facilities for disabled people.

Disability Hackney and the Hackney Access Project welcome local community projects and businesses at all levels to work and network with us to make Hackney a better and safer place for disabled people. The Hackney Access Project will continue its specialist training in access auditing into building and facilities, by visiting different places, and teaching people about the good and bad access in our community.

The latest training session was held on the 28th November 2001, at 11am at Homerton Public Library, Homerton High Road.

To find out more about the work of Disability Hackney or how to join the Hackney Access Project, please contact Sanusie Sesay, the project Co-ordinator on 020 7923 1962 at HCVS.



disability
HACKNEY

Housing provision for people with disability in Hackney

Since Disability Hackney was set up about two years ago as an umbrella organisation to co-ordinate disability issues in the borough, we have received more complaints about housing provision for disabled people than any other council service. The problems with accessing housing services range from overcrowding and damp to a situation where wheelchair users or people with some form of mobility impairment are living in a flat between the first and fifth floor in a building with no lift.

In response to these complaints, Disability Hackney (DH) has attempted unsuccessfully on many occasions to meet with the Director of Housing to discuss housing provision for people with disability. The main problem with this department is that they are very inflexible when dealing with disabled tenants and are reluctant to consult them on how to improve services.

On the 12th November 2001, the Co-ordinator of DH and Ron Newman, the Vice Chairman, met with Ms Veronica Beasley, an Occupational Therapist, responsible for co-ordinating housing provision for people with special needs. Part of Ms Beasley's job is to identify

ground floor accommodation that could be adopted for disabled people. Before employing Ms Beasley, the council did not have records of ground floor accommodation, including those already adopted. One of the effects of not having these records means, disabled people were offered accommodation which was not accessible for them.

The information collated by Ms Beasley since she has been in post is available on SAFFRON, a database accessible to all housing officers. This information is used to match disabled people to properties that are accessible. The council's inflexible transfer policy is making it extremely difficult for disabled people who were offered inaccessible accommodations prior to Ms Beasley employment to be rehoused.

Based on her experience in working in this field, Ms Beasley said that there is a need for larger units with 5 to 7 bedrooms, because many people now want to share their home with their older relatives who would take care of them. However, when the council was planning to hand over large estates to Housing Associations (HA), they did not consult with Ms Beasley to advise on how

disabled units could be created by merging two smaller ones on ground floors. This meant the council did not have enough accessible properties for disabled people.

According to the requirement of the Community Care Act 1993 and the Children's Act 1989, the housing authority should work jointly with officials from Social Services and Planning, the Health Authority, Housing Association (HA) and voluntary organisations in the housing field. This is the reason why the housing authority is relying heavily on Social Services and Health Authority in the assessment of the housing needs of individual tenants with disability.

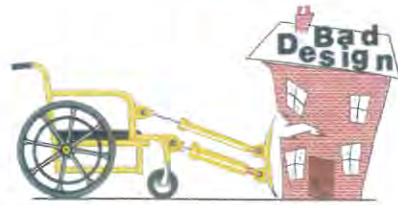
According to joint working policy, when a disabled person applies for transfer or accommodation, they should be referred to Social Services to be assessed by an Occupational Therapist (OT). The report of an OT often assists in the approval of transfer applications because their recommendations are taken serious.

However, officials in the housing department are not referring or informing disabled applicants about OTs. Those applicants finding out by themselves

"wheelchair users or people with some form of mobility impairment are living in a flat between the first and fifth floor in a building with no lift."



Designing to Enable



through either Disability Hackney or an advocate in the voluntary sector have to wait for one year to see an OT. In our observation, communication between housing authorities and Social Services is very poor and limited.

Joint working with the Health Authority seems to be working, but not in the best interest of tenants seeking transfer on the grounds of disability. Every housing application form is submitted with a medical assessment form. If an applicant is applying for transfer on medical grounds, they should fill out the medical assessment form. These forms are assessed by medical advisers, employed by the department of Public Health of East London and City Health Authority (ELCHA), based in the Local Authority housing department.

London Borough of Hackney (LBH) has only one Medical Adviser, with over 5000 forms to look at in every quarter.

News from Leonard Cheshire - Workability

It is wholly unacceptable that in the first years of the twenty first century over a million disabled people who want to work are not in work. This represents an enormous waste of talent and potential. The Government is working with disabled people to develop initiatives that are as effective as possible in helping them to overcome the barriers they may face in entering into, or retaining work.

There is such help to help you challenge these barriers. Leonard Cheshire Workability award winning project is seeking to break down these barriers and provide disabled people with the skills

Therefore, the medical adviser is likely to underestimate in their reports the impact of disability on each individual applicant's housing needs, because they don't have the time to assess each situation thoroughly. As a result, many disabled people prefer to be interviewed face-to-face by a medical adviser when assessing the medical forms. Interviews like this will not only prevent underestimating each applicant's disability and housing needs, but also will deter unscrupulous able-bodied tenants from having accessible accommodation or getting rehoused by claiming to be disabled.

The council also has joint working relationships with Housing Associations. They fund Housing Associations, such as Anchor Housing Trust and their "Staying Put" project, which adapts existing homes to enable disabled people to remain in them. The council nominates tenants on their housing register to be rehoused by Housing Associations. Disabled people who are not on the register, because they haven't got sufficient points to be rehoused, cannot be nominated to HAs. The Housing Associations will only rehouse tenants nominated by the council and in some cases by voluntary sector organisations, which is very unfair.

The council is on the verge of changing their re-housing policy. The point system will be replaced by a banding system which means people seeking

transfer or council accommodation will be re-housed on a first-come-first-serve-basis rather than the point system which depends on the applicant's health condition, overcrowding and other social factors. The misgiving Disability Hackney has about the new policy is that it will not give preference to people with special housing needs. The new system will be discriminatory against disabled people because, even if they are next in the queue, they will lose their turn if there is no accessible property. The possible solution to this disadvantage is by adapting more older properties, especially those on the ground floor, and making sure that all new properties are accessible for disabled people.

At the end of the meeting, Sanusie Sesay told Ms Beasley that Disability Hackney wants to convene a public meeting to discuss housing provision for disabled people in Hackney. All the key stakeholders including the housing authority, social services, health authority and tenants with disabilities will be invited to this meeting. Ms Beasley agreed to take part in it. Before the date of the meeting is set, Sanusie Sesay will liaise with all the key stakeholders to set the objectives of the meeting.

If you have an interest in this topic as a tenant or landlord or a professional working in the field, please contact Sanusie Sesay on 020 7923 1962.

community groups' representatives are using the skills and knowledge they have gained.

Successful trainees are working within the voluntary sector with these new skills. They have volunteered their services to be computer volunteers for which in return they have received individual awards (with the assistance of HCVS) from the Millennium Commission, and become part of its Fellowship team for outstanding project work in their own communities.

More information from Ron Newman ronald.newman@getreal.co.uk

Disability Hackney working on a protocol

Sanusie Sesay, Coordinator, explains how a protocol will improve disability equality and access to services

Disability Hackney (DH) has completed a protocol on Disability Equality and Access to Services. The protocol will be part of East London Charter of Access (ELCA), a working document East London and City Health Authority (ELCHA) intends to use as guide to deal with equality issues, including ethnicity, gender and sexuality.

Majority of disabled people consulted in our studies are unemployed, poor and living lives of disadvantage and deprivation. Throughout the world the majority of disabled people are amongst the poorest of the poor, but our finding was very astonishing - the standard of living of 26,000 disabled people in Hackney is more deplorable than other parts of Britain or the developed world.

People with disability suffer from multiple disadvantages in Hackney:

- 1 Financial hardship, because of loss of earning capacity;
- 2 Housing, because of specific needs of mobility not being met;
- 3 Social in a number of senses, including the first two and lack of access to social facilities, and opportunities as a result of discrimination.

There are two different ways to explain the causes of the disadvantage and deprivation facing disabled people. These can be illustrated by using models namely:

- a. an individual (or medical) model of disability, and,
- b. a social model of disability.

The medical model regards disability as a personal tragedy caused by

individual impairment (loss of limb, organ and functions). Therefore, the disadvantage and deprivation encountered by disabled people is the result of their impairments, which prevent them from achieving a reasonable quality of life for themselves by their own efforts. In other words, they are disabled by their physical, intellectual or sensory limitations.

According to the medical model, disability can be cured medically and psychologically. Medical cure could be by helping a blind person to see or a wheelchair user to walk. If that cure is impossible which is the case for most disabled people, the alternative is psychological cure in the form of counselling a blind person or wheelchair user to accept their impairment and lower expectations.

The social model describes disability as a social oppression cause by economic and social barriers, which prevents disabled people from participating fully in society. This model shifts the explanation for disability from individual impairment to society's disabling environment and negative stereotyping. The Disability Hackney protocol is based on this model and is the view of disabled people in Hackney.

As described in the protocol, disabling barriers are in three categories:

The first is physical access. Places we visit everyday either to acquire services or work or socialise ourselves are often not accessible for disabled people. Therefore, the disadvantages encountered by disabled people for not visiting inaccessible places have

nothing to do with their physical, sensory and visual impairment; but rather more to do with the social barriers such as high kerbs, steps, narrow doors and poor lighting. Improving access to the designed environment will minimise, if not eliminate disadvantages encountered by disabled people.

The second disabling barrier is inadequate access to information. Information is seen as power - we all need it to make constructive decisions or for the purpose of acquiring services, employment and studies. By reading newspapers, magazines and leaflets picked up from the libraries or GP surgeries; able-bodied people acquire information with very little effort and in most cases by chance. The information we acquire everyday is often in print and not in the right print size or font accessible for people with visual impairment. The disadvantages encountered by disabled people because of inadequate access to information, has nothing to do with their impairment, but rather the failure of our society to provide information in print and in alternative formats, i.e. Braille, tape and large print.

The third disabling barrier is the negative attitude or stereotyping against disabled people. For example, employers often assume that disabled people can't do jobs, involving an answering phone if the applicant is a deaf or using computers if the applicant is a blind. Refusing to offer jobs to disabled people for reasons related to their impairment is discriminatory and unlawful according to Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995 because computers and phones, like many other workplace resources, can be adapted to enable employees with

disability to work as effectively as their able-bodied counterparts.

To give the legal framework to disability equality and access to services, the DDA 1995 is also analysed in the protocol.

What is unlawful according to the Act is discrimination against disabled people, which occurs where:

A service provider either in the voluntary, public and private sectors refuses to provide a disabled person a service, which is provided to the general public for reasons related to his/her impairment.

For example, an assistant in a small corner shop refuses a disabled person on wheelchair admittance to his shop, because access to the shop floor is through a flight of stairs and the spaces between the shelves are too small for wheelchair. This is a refusal of service for reasons related to the customer's disability and it is likely to be in breach of the Act. This does not mean that service providers could not withhold services from disabled people when they are abusive or violent against their staff. What is unlawful is withholding services for reasons, which cannot be equally applied equally to able-bodied people.

Secondly, discrimination occurs when disabled people are served in a lower standard or worse manner compared to the way able-bodied customers are served. Services could be viewed to be in a lower standard or worse manner, when providers are rude to disabled people or found to be harassing them for reasons related to their impairments.

For example, the manager of a fast food outlet tells a person with a severe facial disfigurement to sit at a table out of view of other customers, despite other tables being free. This is likely to be unlawful.

Thirdly, discrimination occurs when services are provided in terms worst than that offered to able-bodied customers without justification. This includes imposing extra charges or conditions on a service for reasons related to disability.

For example, the bank is used to providing monthly statements in print, but a blind customer requests it in Braille. According to the Act, the bank should provide the statement in that format without imposing extra charges on the customer.

The Act also requires service providers to make reasonable adjustments to their service provisions when they are not accessible for disabled people. To comply with this duty involves the following:

Firstly, changing policies, practices and procedures, which are making it unreasonably difficult for disabled people to access your services. For example, the video rental shop has a membership policy that requires a driving licence as a proof of identity. This policy is unlawful, because it discriminates against visually impaired people who could not obtain a driving licence because of their disability.

Secondly, the reasonable adjustment clause of the DDA also involves offering reasonable alternative methods of providing services when they are not accessible.

For example, a voluntary organisation providing advice and information to refugees and asylum seekers is located on the fifth floor of a building, which has no lift, and it is only accessible by a flight of stairs. The location of this organisation, no matter how efficient they are, is making it unreasonably difficult for a refugee in a wheelchair to access their services. By the year 2004, it will be likely to be unlawful for this voluntary organisation to continue to operate from such a

building. The duty to provide services by alternative methods requires this voluntary organisation to adopt a new policy involving outreach, to give advice to disabled refugees and asylum seekers in their home if the organisation wants to maintain its existing premises. Alternatively, the organisation could install a lift in their premises or move to a more accessible location.

Thirdly, the reasonable adjustment clause requires the provision of auxiliary aid and service to enhance access to goods, services and facilities.

For example, at the Hackney Access Project (HAP) meeting on the 8th November 2001, some of the guests were deaf and they could not participate in the meeting without the assistance of a British Sign Language (BSL) interpreter. Disability Hackney, the umbrella organisation, that coordinate HAP, commissioned an interpreter to translate into BSL what was said in the meeting. According to the DDA, the service of that interpreter is an auxiliary service.

At the same meeting a loop system was provided to enhance the performance of the hearing aids of guests with sensory impairment. The provision of that equipment is an auxiliary aid.

Auxiliary aids and services are required to enhance access to information and services. Failure to comply with any aspect of the Act as discussed in the protocol, is subject to litigation and complaints, which will be a waste of time and resources.

The protocol is not yet published, but if you need a copy when it is available, please contact Sanusie Sesay at HCVS on 020 7923 1962 or write to Disability Hackney, The Print House, 18 Ashwin Street London E8 3DL.

Justina Oyekunle - Hackney Sickle Link



What does your organisation do?

Hackney Sickle Link is a shared care service for children and their families living with a Sickle Cell disorder. Hackney Sickle Link provides a respite service for children and their families living in the local community, where an individual is living with Sickle Cell disorder.

Hackney Sickle Link recruits and trains people living within the local community to step in as carers to assist a family when the disorder affects their ability to care. A carer offers flexible support and care in the family home, the carer's home or through hospital visits. Carers are carefully assessed and trained in aspects of Sickle Cell disorders and within procedures laid down in the Children's Act 1989.

How many people do you think suffer from Sickle Cell in Hackney and how many can your organisation help?

In Hackney there are an estimated 600 people living with sickle cell disorder. We can help about 100 people living with sickle cell disorder.

What links do you have with the community?

We have links with both voluntary and statutory organisations. We have links with HCVS, Disability Hackney, Choice in Hackney, Hackney Carers Centre. We have links with Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Centre, Royal London & Homerton Hospitals.

What is preventing your organisation achieving your aims?

I am happy to say that the future looks good. We have made excellent progress achieved and exceeded our targets.

For more information contact Justina Oyekunle @ Hackney Sickle Link on 020 7241 4022.

Dave Mackey - Tenants Convention

Dave Mackey has been involved in tenants and residents groups since 1976 and has extensive local knowledge and contacts in the voluntary and community sectors. "Being a member of the ethnic minority and a tenants rep, I am in a position to see the problems affecting the people of Hackney at grassroots level thereby enabling me to identify the causes of the problems and after careful consideration and deliberation, to offer recommendations to remedy problems".

He made a successful application to the council to refurbish the much needed playground at Hackney Downs. In addition, when the bowling green pavilion was burned down due to vandalism and the council didn't want to replace it, he campaigned strongly to ensure it was replaced and did so within the restraints of small monies received for insurance, around £26,000 and had a fence erected around the green to prevent further vandalism. On the tenant side of things he fought and campaigned for a community resource centre for Stoke Newington tenants in 1999. The borough-wide resource centre had been shut down by the council and there were widespread cuts being made across council's services that year, so it was quite a success to get a local centre established.

He was selected to chair the Community Empowerment Fund Conference in Hackney on 1st November and is also a member of the steering group leading discussions about how the community and voluntary sectors should progress with the Community Fund network and Community Chests. "I am honoured to hold this position and hope that it will lead to more transparency in the LSP process and improve the ways that the



community gains access to LSP funding and policy making. NRF presents a perfect opportunity to get things right and to ensure the community not only has a voice but can directly influence the long term agenda and provide a much-needed and sustainable status quo in the borough that everyone feels they own and can play a part in.

Dave Mackey has been Chair or Vice Chair of Cowper Road Tenants Association, Shellgrove Tenants Association, Stoke Newington Neighbourhood Panel, Hackney Tenants Convention and Hackney Downs User Group.

Timeless Sounds of Our Generation



Ujamaa Arts Project Ltd has received an award of £21,000 from the National Foundation of Youth Music to promote the company's music activities under the Foundation's Music Maker Programme 2001/2002.

Ujamaa Art's programme works young people in Hackney aged 11 to 18 and started in September this year and finished in July 2002. It involves workshops with the participants to create original music for studio recording and public performances in a musical review.

"We really enjoying providing this programme and the young people are getting a lot out of it. Ujamaa would like to thank our funders for giving us this opportunity", said Paa "C" Quaye, the musicmaker of the programme.

The repertoire of music is categorised into specific historical genres with a central working themes and includes songs chants, drumming and percussion under the title, "Timeless Sounds of Our Generation". The review will be staged at Ocean and Jackson Lane Community Arts Centre in July 2002.

For more information contact Paa "C" Quaye at Ujamaa on 020 7613 9075 or ujamaaarts@lineone.net

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- * Go to Europe * Achieve your goals

Hundreds of people are moving towards their goals with a Prince's Trust Development Award

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Anything else that help you learn new skills and get in to work

You'll get help finding the right opportunities for you

"When you're homeless its really hard to get work. The Prince's Trust gave me the money to buy tools so I could get a job as a decorator." Mark, 24.

To apply for funds contact Princes Trust on 0800 842842 or www.princes-trust.org.uk/

Local Youth tackles bullying and the media

Samantha Newman, 15 Years, tells us all about what shes done to change attitudes to bullying

In being a young victim of bullying that lives in London Borough of Hackney bullying for myself has been very frustrating for a many number of months. In my own attempts I have gained support and understanding from anti-bullying organisations that I have spoken with. I was asked by my parents to put my own situation into words to help others in the education system and in the community with funding from the 'Champions for Change' Peabody Trust Individual Millennium Awards.

I was unsure at first that I could complete such an important newsletter and have not looked back.

Following the launch of Beat @ Bully it shows

that bullying has to STOP!

I have been interviewed on the television shows 'This Morning' and GMTV and being a special guest of Esther Rantzen OBE with Cherie Booth QC and Baroness Ashton Parliamentary under secretary of state for early years and school standards at the Childline 'Bullying and Symptoms' Conference that was held in Central London on bullying?

In the discussion about bullying was Esther Rantzen OBE Chairperson of the charity Childline, my father (Ron) and Jo, a member of the band S Club 7.

Local people often ask me "Am I proud of



what I did"?

Yes I am, but a lot of hurt came from it. I hope that I have raised the seriousness of bullying in Schools and the community and that it must be stopped.

Bullying has a traumatising effect on

anyone and yes, even celebrities have been bullied in silence for many years. Many of the organisations campaign vigorously on behalf of young people to find a more forward strategy in encouraging young people to contribute their views with their parents and find solutions.

For Info contact: Samantha, tel 07931 106833 e-mail newmanr@getreal.co.uk

Addressing teenage pregnancies:

It is well known that the teenage pregnancy rates in Britain are higher than in other parts of Europe and that Hackney has the third highest rates in England. The reasons why some young people become parents at a young age are complex. For some it may be positive choice supported by their families and communities, for others it may be a consequence of poverty and disadvantage which results in young people feeling they have few other choices. Often it may simply be a mistake. Research shows that many teenagers feel pressured to have sex, but are ignorant about the consequences and are misinformed about their bodies and contraception. One young person commented:

"you just think-well, nothings going to happen to me, it's just a one-off thing so you take the chance".

Young people also often feel embarrassed to talk about what they are feeling (especially with adults) and unsure about where they can get advice and contraception. They also worry about their parents reactions if they ask questions or if they find out they are thinking about having sex. As one young man said It seems like sex is compulsory but contraception is illegal. National Research has shown that two thirds of teenagers do not use contraception at first intercourse.

Adults too are often embarrassed and unsure about how to talk about sex with young

talking to young people about sex and relationships

people and worry that by doing so they will be encouraging them to become sexually active. In fact all the evidence shows that education on sex and relationships which encourages the exploration of feelings and values and provides accurate information on accessing and using contraception helps young people delay their sexual activity until they feel emotionally ready. It also makes it more likely that contraception will be used when they do begin a sexual relationship.

The City and Hackney Teenage Pregnancy Strategy: working with communities

As part of the 10 year national strategy to reduce teenage pregnancy, City and Hackney has a local strategy which has been developed in partnership with health services, local authority services and the voluntary sector. The national strategy has four key themes which are also reflected in the local strategy. These are: a national media campaign; improving coordination of services; better prevention and better

support for young parents. Locally services have been working together to improve young people's access to education on sex and relationships both within and out of school and their access to contraceptive services and advice. There are also services providing emotional and practical support to young mothers during the pregnancy and after the birth. Another key part of the local strategy is to work with parents. Siobhan Hawthorne the Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator for City and Hackney says:

"Parents have been telling us that they often feel too embarrassed to discuss sex with their children because their own experiences of sex education were so awful or inadequate. At the same time young people want their parents to be able to talk to them about sex and to support the education they are getting at school".

The teenage pregnancy steering committee now wants to work with community groups to develop projects that help parents do this. These can either be through workshops, by training parents as peer' educators or through music and drama.

For more information or an application pack please contact Siobhan Hawthorne: on 020 7301 3044 or by email on siobhan.hawthorne@chpct.nhs.uk Applications close January 1st.

It's the children that lose out

SPARK met the Project Manager of Clapton Park Play Project to find out how they and the community have been affected by the cuts

Although Community & Learning's core funding cut to organisations has been reduced to 9.25% for the year, the damage has already been done. For one local organisation, Clapton Park Play Project, it's been a particularly rough year for the staff, parents and children who use their service. Not only has it lost two key members of staff from a team of four but, as a result, it has had to turn away 20 children from the project, half the number it usually caters for.

CPPP lies in the heart of Lower Clapton and serves the surrounding estates. It's the only after-school project for kids in the area. The Project Manager knows only too well the problems that develop with 'latch key' kids - kids left alone in the house when parents are absent or out at work. It was set up in 1987 by a Black Action Group that was witnessing similar problems to the Broadwater Farm estates in Tottenham. The aim was to keep the children and youth off the streets after school and during the school holidays. "There used to be a lot of gangs hanging around selling drugs, vandalism and muggings. Having a project

like ours and the youth club has solved a lot of the street problems", the Project Manager recalls.

Many would argue that projects like CPPP are vital elements of neighbourhood renewal and community stability not only in terms of the children's safety and education but also in terms of the wider community.

Like everyone else funded through Community and Learning, CPPP completed their 2001-2004

monitoring in March this year with the view that their funding would be safe for another three years. However, they received a 90-day notice some months later informing them to prepare redundancy letters if their application for funding failed in October. This obviously had a devastating effect on the small project which at the time was running with 4 staff for 40 children. "Half way through this year I am told that my funding is going to be cut by half and they [the council] don't know if there will be any funding for next year. What annoyed me the most was that at the beginning of this year I



"Youths were throwing eggs at management windows. I don't blame them. At the end of the day, this is their place and the council has taken it away from them. You can't do that to children."

was told to increase my intake of children to 40".

CPPP applied for a grant from the Lottery and New Opportunities Fund for one of the staff's wages but was turned down because there was uncertainty about the project's core funding from the council. SPARK asked the Project Manager what the reaction was to the news that staff would have to go. "One of them was really angry with us. I said that we had done our best but that we couldn't sustain her post. The other worker, well, the kids really loved him. He did 25 hours a week here, was the assistant play worker and would

HIC

It's HIP

It's HOT

It's NEW



BUY 'ET CETERA'
This Christmas!

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And finally to all of you especially Mr Bob Turner, who have helped make this publication become a reality by sending information, writing, and creative input. We are now on our way; HIC is now here and is here to stay! May you have a peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Thanks so much!
Maxine Chantel
Editor

A Message from the editor

Hello and welcome to HIC, a new magazine aimed to give you a fresh insight in art and music within our local community. HIC intends to be the voice of creative expression and provide exposure for artists, writers, singers, musicians and community events.

You know what it like! For years you have been yearning for a break! To be discovered as a writer, singer or an artist and yet you still knocking on those doors because the local community and media still has no knowledge of your existence!

Therefore you are confined to singing in your bathroom playing your air guitar and punishing your microphone hairbrush, with your only constant fan the mirror!

The truth is there is so much talent and creative energy within our community that needs uplifting and positive press exposure. In Hackney alone, the art scene is growing yet all we hear mainly is all the negative things about Hackney.

We hardly hear about individuals like Kaday Rose Kamara, who are making changes not only in the community but also around the world.

Teenage sensations that have the potential of becoming future pop stars such as Akilah Morrison. Also charity Organisations, such as ET CETERA that helped people to gain back their lives through art after mental illness and are still struggling to survive.

This is why HIC is here not to be a fancy publication that has no meaning but the focus of the magazine is to promote culture, art, music and creative enterprises and organisations within our community and provide affordable advertising space for creative individuals and businesses.

Secondly HIC aims to be a local database of information to link you up with local photographers, graphic designers, writers, record producers etc.

Remember this is your creative voice so if you would like to advertise or send information please feel free and contact us. Our website address is :

www.hic-mag.co.uk
Editor

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**ART THERAPY
BUY ET CETERA!**

The ET Cetera Art Gallery and Studios are based at 73 Lower Clapton Road, Hackney. They portray a beautiful collection of art, sculpture, jewellery, cards, etc that one can buy at affordable prices. The uniqueness of the Gallery is that most of the merchandise sold in the shop is produced by members of the community who have encountered psychiatric problems. ET Cetera Gallery is an extension of the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association.



The most unusual thing is that so many people do not know about this dynamic organisation. The Et Cetera Art Gallery and Studios not only sell beautiful gifts for you to buy. Its major operation is running a training program in art reproduction and Gallery Management, gaining an LOCN (London Open College Network) qualification.

Speaking to the manager Cirillo Constantino, an acclaimed sculpture and art director he explains the aim of the organisation which is to involve people who are recovering from long-term mental health problems in the day to day running of the project. This in turn will lead to skills, motivation, confidence and assertiveness for

a better future. Many have developed their artistic talent to the peak of becoming successful artists. Cirillo adds that some of the trainees have been commision to create artistic works for hospitals, companies and recently the London Fire Brigade and Nottinghamshire Fire Brigade, Saying this is only possible because of the high standard of training offered.



ET Cetera Art Gallery, Clapton Hackney

Supported by European funding and donations the Et Cetera Art Gallery

stays open. Yet there have been so many cut backs that to remain open without funding and community support is going to be a struggle. One of the changes Cirillo would urgently like to make is to create wheel chair access for those who are disabled and cannot use the stairs, and also have more creative workspace, especially in the garden.

So now you know where to buy your gifts this Christmas, not at Harrods but buy real quality and support a good cause at the same time buy ET Cetera!

For more information
Telephone 020 8 986 75 36

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS



members of ACR celebrating !!!
ACR are out to make a difference

African Caribbean Reunion is an organisation founded in 1996, to unite the Africans and Caribbeans in the Community. Building bridges by having daily meetings each month to share news, tasty dishes and exchange visits to Africa.

Kaday Rose Kamara explains that the organisation is not only for African Caribbeans but for anyone who is interested in African Caribbean Culture. The organisation aims to contribute to the community by serving as an information resource centre, and also helping young people from the African Caribbean learn about their roots not only through lectures but also applying drama, film, music and creative writing.

One of the main achievements of the organisation is taking two elderly African Caribbean ladies to visit Gambia and Sierra Leone, where they had exposure of real African life, not only enjoying the warmth of the African sun and walking through the coolness of the deep African forest. Sojourning



Kaday Rose Kamara, Founder of ACR.

temporary in Juffreh, the village made famous by the legendary film, Roots. It was a wonderful visit according to the ladies but it also made them tearful to see the poverty and living conditions that many local

people face. This is why we are now actively raising funds explains, Rose, so that we can help towards the local development and provide education for orphans in Africa who would not otherwise have the opportunity to go to school. Therefore this is not some posh organisation to only socialise but we are here to make a difference in our local community and in Africa.

For more information contact Kaday Rose Kamara on 020 8986 4090

Community Voice

African Caribbean Reunion is organising a fundraising banquet on the 16 February at the RoseLip Library to raise funds for the building of a school, well and health centre.

There will be lively music and tasty food and a special video screening of the school. ACR is assisting to build. So come along and have a memorable taste of Africa!

To help raise funds tickets will be priced at £10.00 per person unless unemployed. For information telephone 020 8 986 75 36 All are welcome

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PURE GOSSIP

There are rumours, that an AM local radio station is to commerce around next year in Hackney!

Shss! I never said it!

Feature Band: Top Cats

Top cats are making waves with their distinctive delivery of Ska music but why would a bunch of talented young musicians choose traditional Ska music that existed before any of them were born?

Top Cats is an eight-piece band that has successfully brought traditional Jamaican Ska music to a whole new generation. When it comes to music there is no colour bar or barrier as no member of the band are Jamaican, but eight cool London musicians that love vintage, Jamaican Ska music!

Their distinctive and unique blend of vocals, sax, and captivating reggae beat has captured a whole new crowd of listeners from all over the world, making the unthinkable possible. Teenagers are not embarrassed to dance with their grandparents in public and with the older generation of ska music lovers.

Ska is a traditional form of reggae

music from Jamaica that was really popular in the 1960s and thanks to bands like Top Cats, the music is still thriving.

The band is currently in great demand and have appeared at all major festivals from Hackney Volcano, Notting Hill Carnival, Glastonbury, the Royal National Theatre, also London's Official Millennium celebrations and their gigs go on and on



Top Cats in action

The lead vocalist Natty Bo has the magic of bringing musical lyrics to life. His explosive delivery at the Hackney Volcano festival and this year's Notting Hill Carnival stole away the audience from other interesting performances and sound systems.

Blessed with the sassy female saxophonist, Miss Megoo, can certainly steal the show when she wants to with her powerful display and mastery over the sax. Just like any other band, they have faced problems with the music industry but have stayed true to their love for Ska music and protected their own distinctive sound. The band has refused offers from record companies to commercialise their sound and blend into the popular music.

From the look of things the eight-piece - band is doing just great without the backing of a major record company and is gaining recognition not only in Britain but all over Europe.

The band is planning to tour Japan next year and have cut a CD album called Mr. Donkey Paradise and an EP of original songs written and produced live by members of the band. Top Cats have already licensed their music to several independent reggae labels including Porkpie Records in Germany.

Appearing on television, including Channel 4. Top Cats' ability to survive this long shows the power that real music continues to live on.

For bookings or to order the CD/EP contact Top Cats on 020 7701 3703 / 07855 860 577. Or email : info@thetops.co.uk

Written by Jim Smith

Youth Express

Don't let her innocent looks deceive you! Akilah Morrison has some big plans!

Akilah Morrison is just 13 years old; yet has a big plan in mind; to step into the shoes of Brandy and Monica (her favourite pop singers) and take pop music to a new dimension in Britain.

Performing for the first time at the Volcano Festival, an annual music and performing arts celebration held in Hackney, her style and singing portrayed her much older than her years. It was difficult to believe that this was her first performance! She got the hot and sweaty crowd to cool down by listening to her sweet voice.



Akilah Morrison

Her voice is a mirage of Whitney Houston mixed with a bit of Brandy. "I was encouraged by my older sister who noticed my singing voice." says Akilah, smiling at her sister during the interview. "She encouraged me to join the Grove Project in Hackney, where young people come and developed their musical talent. I developed a lot of confidence from the Grove mainly to sing in public!"

Finding out more about this new sensation, it was not surprising to find out that her father was a drummer for local bands. Most popular for playing with the band 'The Royal Raffes,' a famous Jamaican reggae group.

She stole her father's talent only to be found guilty by her nursery teacher who mentioned to Akilah's mother that this



Crowd at the Volcano Festival, Hackney

little four year old can sing and may one day become a major singer when she grows up!

Akilah is already taking those tender and risky steps to fame. Asking her mother if she has any inhibitions about her daughter's musical career and fears of exploitation? With some thought she answers - "I only desire the best for Akilah and for her to have the right training that will developed her musical career!"

I am aware that there are a lot of wolves out there and as a mother I am scared for her. Yet watching her perform at the Volcano Festival, I saw her confidence and personality shine right through and I and the family will back her up all the way."

Akilah Morrison is a new talent that has the determination and confidence to succeed. Her voice is strong enough to survive the test of time and with the right support and recording contract. (Take Notice Record Companies). Akilah Morrison will one day fulfil her big plans!

'MEDITATIONS'

Minimalist in style and a compelling work of excellence, "Meditations" is Dr Steve Eckersley's first artistic collection. And from the look of things it will not be the last! Maxine Chantel, explores this new genius in the making.



'Meditations'

Pictures of the blue ocean sea and stimulating emotions of peace radiate straight at you. Once your eyes gaze upon Dr Stephen Eckersley's selection of abstract paintings called 'Meditations'.

Stephen expresses his creativity through each industrious touch of the paint brush applied on to the canvas. Meditation consists of a number of visual abstract blue paintings displaying a hybrid of square images that transmits a calm aura of tranquillity giving your mind a visual and compelling message to suspend the rush and everyday worries and appreciate the beauty in and around you.

Looking at Steve, I find it hard to conceive how a good looking bulky Australian can create paintings that have such a calming and sensitive effect on the human persona. Steve explains that these paintings have been influenced through his interests in Zen, a form of meditation and yoga.

Having no formal art training has not prevented Steve from becoming an artistic genius. Painting comes naturally to him. Interviewing him recently at ET Cetera Gallery, he says: "I was scared to take up painting as a career because of financial insecurity so I chose a profession in psychiatry instead."

He studied medicine, and Psychiatry, at the University of Queensland. After graduating, he studied for a post-graduate degree and he spent a year as a lecturer in psychiatry before becoming a consultant in psychiatry at Noosa Heads, an internationally known surfing resort in Australia. It is also home to a thriving artistic community and the Regional Art Gallery, of



which he was president and office holder for some years before his retirement.

Apart from painting, Steve encourages people who have suffered from mental illness such as depression, having suffered from manic depression himself, a physical illness that has no reflection on a person's character. He can now relate and inspire other people and make them realise that they can fulfil their potential.

Painting has also helped Steve recover from his illness. He describes it has a wonderful form of therapy, where he can loose himself and allow his spirit to fly free!

Perhaps that is one of the reasons why Steve's paintings seem to sell so fast. People who buy Steve works always report back to him saying that his pictures make them more reflective.

Steve's successful career in psychiatry was still not enough to hold down his creative spirit to paint.

Flirting with art in his native Australia for a number of years, he dabbled with different art forms such as 'Frottage,' which is a form of Japanese Art.

Frankly, abstract art can be a little aloof to understand and trying to apply any meaning or concept to an abstract painting is just not worth the contemplation unless abstract art captures your interest and imagination.

Yet Steve has attempted to make his collective set of paintings have a tranquil effect on the admirer. Trust me, they may not capture your aura but Steve's collective work of 'Meditations' will capture your attention.

The first collective works of Dr Stephen Eckersley, 'Meditations' is on display at the ET Cetera,

All are welcome to come and view the exhibition and speak to Steve.

Gallery and Studios, Lower Iapton Road, London E5 ONP

For more information telephone : 020 8986 7536.

Poetry Corner

Life long Learning

*Life long learning is a plus
It is there for all of us
Regardless of your age or creed
Opportunities are there, if you heed.
Advice to keep abreast,
Of current trends, it's often best
The choice is wide across the city
To miss your chance is a pity.
Gain fresh insights and life skills
Vocational or academic frills,
They fulfil your creativity, within,
Gives you pleasure without sin.
To thoroughly enjoy your work and leisure,
Self development to reach your potential,
Enquire, find out, it is essential
Ask for more information and make a choice
Information technology, is the need
To communicate in the cyber world of speed
Make new friends in a master class.
Go on couch potato
Get off your ass*

Valerie Dunn Karim, is a part-time lecturer, in Hackney College. She also works as a recruitment manager for Wise Owls in Hackney

Jason Kaplan, age 11, has won first Prize in the Poet Voyeur, a national poem competition for school Kids. A "Big UP! To you Jason and well done!" Jason lives in Hackney and attends Baden-Powel Primary School.

TWINKLE, TWINKLE

*Twinkle, twinkle little rabbit,
How I wonder what's your habit?
Up above the world so low,
Like a Santa saying ho, ho, ho,
While shepherds saw an earthquake,
All the women ate a chocolate cake
And when the men began to run,
All the women were having fun.*

Zakheni: 'Build yourself up'.

Megan Redmond, reports on the Zakheni Project, an organization based in Langa Cape Town, South Africa. Where the organization is encouraging local women to produce local crafts and jewellery such as beads. The Zakheni project plays a formidable role by stopping local women from being exploited from greedy merchandisers who buy the labour intensive handmade crafts for pennies and then sell them on at exorbitant prices overseas.

The **Zakheni Project** in the township of Langa in Cape Town was founded in 1999 by Gertrude Ngxilele, a retired science teacher who moved to Cape Town from the Eastern Cape, to provide her children with broader educational and vocational opportunities.

Zakheni is a **Xhosa** word meaning 'build yourself up'.

The project provides training for people who are unemployed, disabled or are suffering from Aids. The six-week training workshops teaching people practical skills that enable them to become self-employed. They also build self-esteem and create a sense of community. Many people in the area have been forced for economic reasons to move to urban Cape Town from the

interspersed with the beads.

The colours of the beads indicated the clan to which someone belonged and those colours chosen by clans to represent themselves were influenced by their geographical location. Hence clans living near the coast used blue and white beads, reflecting the sand and sea. Those living inland used earth



ceremonial beads

tones of red and ochre. The styles of bead necklaces worn represent stages of the life-cycle. New-born babies wear beads around the waist. Additional necklaces are added when teething begins and extra beads are added to show that the pain of teething has passed.

is hard. The prices the beadwork are sold for does not indicate the labour-intensive nature of the work.

Traditionally beadmakers have been exploited by curio shops who buy the work at low prices and then sell them on to tourists at inflated prices. Of the items sold at Zakheni, one third of the price goes back into buying materials and two thirds goes to the person who made it. No one receives a salary so all are dependent on sales.

Gertrude would like to see greater recognition awarded to traditional crafts and craftspeople and high standards set for the quality of products, making them suitable for export. She plans to run marketing-skills workshops for craftspeople in order to have as many women as possible become self-sufficient. In her words: "If you empower a woman there will always be food on the family table." And the positive effects will ripple out into the community.

Megan Redmond, works as a librarian at the university of North London. She lives in Hackney and loves the local art scene. She recently travelled to South Africa where she made this report for HIC magazine.

If you would like to know more about the Zakheni Project or send a donation. Please contact Megan via HIC.

Nursing mothers wear grey beads which are believed to have protective powers and also serve to send a warning to men to 'back off.' Girls make necklaces for boys as love-tokens and also to show others that a boy has a girlfriend. Ceremonial beads are also worn by chiefs and traditional healers.

These days tiny, imported glass beads are used and there are many more



A Xhosa lady

rural Eastern Cape and hence experience a sense of cultural dislocation and isolation.

One of the central activities of the workshops is the teaching of traditional beadwork. Beadwork in the Eastern Cape has a long history in the cultural life of the **Xhosa** people who live there. Originally, beads were made of small clay balls pierced with a thorn and painted shades of blue, red, ochre or white. Seeds and bark were also

GO! GO!! GO!!! Gospel

Raymond & CO, win GMTV Gospel and Voice Newspaper Music Challenge!

HIC congratulates Raymond & CO, London's hottest gospel group, who won the GMTV Gospel and Voice Newspaper Music Challenge. The competition was fierce and had some of the best vibrant gospel acts in Britain.

The five gifted vocalists have been singing and promoting gospel music for the past seven years. The group have worked hard to gain their present day success. In the past they faced days, when there were hardly any invitations and when they did perform they sometimes were not paid. Yet staying true to the call to promote the gospel through music the group persevered.



Performing live at Truimphant Church, Islington

Raymond the founder and leader of the group explains: "they

had to totally put their faith in God and trust Him to take them on to bigger and better things."

Now their dreams are a reality Raymond & Co are now one of the major gospel groups in Britain. GMTV will be following the group's progress for one year, and working towards a major record contract. Raymond & Co are a true and living testimony to what the Bible says; 'Do not despise small beginning.' So if you have a dream you desire to fulfil remember Raymond & Co and keep going. Most especially when the going gets tough!



Raymond, lead singer & founder of band

People and Leisure

Let Dance Salsa!

'Watching him teach the mix class of participants, I can see why his classes are so popular. His teaching technique allows you to feel the rhythm, relax and open up to the spirit of the dance!'

After Christmas, you may need to get rid of all that excess Christmas food and holiday festivity. So the thought of exercise makes you instantly sweat and sit back down on the sofa! You need to get up and dance your way to fitness.



Try Salsa! Rodolfo

Perez, originally from Cuba has taught Salsa and Latin American dance for over 11 years. He trained as a physical instructor and developed an interest in Salsa from university. His remarkable steps and unprecedented style soon caught the attention of audiences and tourists when Rodolfo performed.

Soon, requests for him to teach

where in demand. Enjoying teaching, he began his own dance company, educating people in Latin American Dance and how to move properly to the rhythm of music.

The Spanish speaking dancer came to London two years ago to extend his dance company and give people the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of Latin American dance.

Currently, he holds dance classes at the Bar Lorca in Stoke Newington, Hackney, and in Hackney College. His lessons not only consist of Salsa but you can also learn the Rhumba, Meengue, and Hambo. When he is not teaching, he is busy working with famous Cuban bands and also organises Latin American Events. Watching him teach the mix class of participants, I can see why his classes are so popular. His teaching technique allows you to feel the rhythm, relax and open up to the spirit of dance!

"It's a wonderful experience," said one of his participants "much better than being a couch potato." I can't agree more as I start to feel the sweat.

To contact Rodolfo regarding lessons call: 020 7 502 1533

Written by Maxine Chantel.



Rodolfo teaching salsa

MEDIA & CREATIVE TRAINING

Graphic design and training at CGA

Central Graphics Academy located at Cambridge Heath Road, Hackney. Offers high quality practical training for individuals who would like a career in graphic design. The academy has been training people since 1992, where you will gain a solid foundation in QuarkXPress, PhotoShop, and illustrator and advance multimedia training. To date the college has trained over 3,000 people who are working in the graphic or media industry. Speaking to three of the current students on the course they all said that they are happy with the training. Some students have no formal computer training but are now using the latest apple mac computers, to design invitations, CD covers, and brochures within a couple of weeks. "What I like about CGA," explains one of the students, "is that you are given real projects to work on. The trainers treat you as a professional from the day you start the course, and because the trainers are leading graphic designers with a passion to teach and help students. I am now developing my hidden potential and looking towards a brighter future."

For more information on courses in graphics or multimedia contact

Central Graphic Academy on 020 7 613 4455 or write to GGA, 519-523 Cambridge Heath Road, Bethnal Green, London E2 9BU.

Email www.centralgraphics.co.uk

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Arts and Music Community Magazine



Clapton Park Play Project (CPPP) is open from 3pm till 6.30 when parents get home from work and can cater for 5-15 year old children with learning difficulties physical disabilities and also for those who have been excluded from school and often opens earlier to look after them. 90% of the kids are from ethnic communities.

CPPP offers arts & craft, cooking lessons, sports, team games, computer use, music and lots of other things. It can also offer experience to people at college looking to work with kids.

The project was set up to ease the worries of parents so that they could go to work or go to college in the knowledge that their children were somewhere safe. 'Latch-key' children left alone at home or in the street can easily become the victims of drug misuse or crime. At the start of 2001 it provided a play and educational service for 40 children with four staff on an overall budget of £54,000. Parents pay a £1 fee for using the project which is used to buy office supplies. Any additional money remaining is used to take kids on trips outside the borough or for kids parties.

cover for me when I was sick. He could run sessions with the kids on his own and be charge of the other staff. He also ran the tuck shop. Now I'm having to do his job and mine".

The Project Manager was very concerned because one of the two workers she had to lay off, catered particularly for the older boys using the play service, many of whom have behavioural difficulties. She didn't feel either herself or anyone else who worked there could provide for their needs. "He was someone they looked up to. Older boys look to a man to guide them. If its a women, they will say that they don't want to listen to her. We need a man over 25 who can instil some real positive vibes so that they can feel important".

When the two workers were told they would have to leave, it left the Project Manager with an agonising decision as to how let the parents know the project could only cater for 20 instead of 40 children. Eventually parents were informed that it would be a first-cum-first-serve basis.

Things didn't go down to well with parents and the children. The Project suffered a fallback from the community. "Youths were throwing fireworks at the building and eggs at management window. They kept setting off the alarm. We had four police callouts this October which is unheard of in our history. The kids are just protesting. I don't blame them. At the end of the day, this is their place and the council has taken some of service away from them. You cant do that to children. Children are our future."

The remaining staff are understandably hurt by what's happened and feel somewhat disillusioned that a project like theirs, which is balancing its books, has been around for sometime and provides a unique service, should be downsized. CPPP, like all the other groups who have received a top slice cut from the council have submitted an application to Hackney 2020 for NRF monies.

"I thought this £26million that is coming from government is meant to be for poor areas like this. So where is it going? I hope they're going to use some of it for our project because if they don't, there is going to be problems just like in 1987 and we will be going backwards. The last 14 years will be a waste of time and money."

CPPP is located at Nye Bevan House, Overbury Street, Clapton Tel: 020 8985 3470.

blackHOUSING



Community Chest

Small grants up to £5000 available

The Neighbourhood Renewal Community Chest programme is about to start in Hackney. This gives grants of between £50 and £5000 for projects that will improve the quality of life in the 88 most deprived areas in England. Hackney has been granted £215,000 for 2001/2.

To qualify for a grant, your project must:

- **be local**
- **contribute to regeneration and**
- **give value for money**

The Neighbourhood Renewal Community Chest is for small groups, especially those from the most deprived neighbourhoods and people who are hard to reach such as:

- **black and ethnic minority communities**
- **young, older or disabled people**
- **faith communities**
- **travellers**
- **refugees**
- **lone parents**

Here are a few examples of what a grant could pay for:

- **childcare, so that parents and carers can take part in local activities**
- **a sports day or other community event**
- **printing a community newsletter or hiring a room for a meeting**
- **IT equipment**
- **training or exchange visits to other projects or**
- **renovating disused premises or maintaining playgrounds**
- **assessing the needs of your community**

These lists are only examples and you will have lots of other ideas to.

It is likely that HCVS will administer these grants in Hackney which is why we have set up a seminar so that you can find out more about these grants and how to access them. It will take place on

Friday 11th January 2002 at the Queensbridge Centre, Holly Street London E8 from 10.00-1.00pm.

If you want to talk with someone about these grants or the Community Empowerment Network, contact Jake on 020 7923 1962

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 email: blackHOUSING@fbho.co.uk

Older people will suffer if cuts go ahead

Services for older people in Hackney are increasingly hard pressed because of the financial climate in the borough. Last year saw extensive cuts to the Voluntary Sector funded through Social Services which affected many older people's groups and voluntary sector organisations who provide services for older people. Cuts were also made to parts of the statutory sector's provision, which have also affected the services and support older people receive in the community.

Most recently, the Social Services Committee, which met on the 27th November had to find a saving of £6million. £3.8 million

of the savings that were made were directed at services for older people. £900,000 will be saved by the further tightening of 'eligibility criteria' for domiciliary care for older people. To obtain domestic care, service users have to meet quite strict criteria. At the same time,

"We hope this does not create a climate of fear and trepidation for older people"

Dear editor,

I would like to inform your readers of the scandal affecting older and disabled people in Hackney due to the cuts by Hackney Council and the government.

On Monday (26/11/01) representatives of the Council for Older People were alerted to the huge cuts proposed in the Social Services Committee report, released last Thursday (22/11/01). The committee report recommended cuts of £6m. Many older people no longer get home care services due to previous cuts. Are their lives to be put at further risk due to the heavy lifting involved in task like Shopping for example? We feel angry about his and decided to attend the Social Services Committee meeting on Tuesday (27/11/01) to oppose the cuts.

Our case is simple - that these cuts are putting older and disabled people's lives in danger,

causing them unnecessary suffering. When Mary Richardson, the Director of Social Services tried to defend the cuts she said, "We all die anyway". Laura Sharpe, the Head of the Primary Care Trust asked the director what the impact would be on the Health Service. Mary Richardson replied, "I'm not saying no damage will be

Older people: your reaction

done".

I am shocked and totally appalled that the Director of Social Services is publicly announcing that effectively the life expectancy rate in Hackney is going down as a result of cuts she is responsible for. These comments directly contradict government policy - the government this week has asked the Health Authority to increase life expectancy in Hackney by

raising charges for community care services was proposed along with cuts in other areas of services for older people. Two amendments relating to the savings on Services for Older People were sent to the full Council meeting last week, which hopefully means that not all of the proposed cuts will be implemented - although there is no guarantee.

Hackney is currently only spending 80% of the Council's full Standing Spending Assessment for older people's services - the money central government allocates to the borough for older people. Hence, 20% of the available resources ostensibly for spending in this area of provision, are presumably being spent elsewhere.

10% within 9 years. There is no hope of doing this if even the Director of Social Services is admitting that life expectancy in Hackney is decreasing and has no regrets about it. Not only do the comments

contradict government policy on life expectancy rates, but they also contradict government policy on age discrimination which is enshrined in the National Service Framework for Older People.

There are 24,000 older people in Hackney, 15% of the population. The proportion of older people is set to stay stable in Hackney, not rapidly decrease as Mary Richardson is predicting, unless of course people do die unnecessarily.

Mary Richardson's recommen-

Yet further cuts are being aimed at this area of provision. Should older people really be asked to suffer reduced support in this community because the Council is in financial difficulties?

Lyn Groves, Manager of Age Concern, says: "Our organisation is extremely concerned about the implications of further reductions in services for older people - particularly those most in need of support. We hope the publicity around these issues does not create a climate of fear and trepidation for older people who may have concern that proper support will not be available if its needed at certain times in their lives."



dation of the cuts is in contrast with the Director of Education who said he could not support cuts to Education. Not only is the Council not adhering to government policy on age legislation, but it is also acting illegally with regards to the Disability Discrimination Act. The lift in Hackney Town Hall has not been working for the past two months. As a disabled person this denies me, and other disabled people the civil right to attend the Council meetings and engage in democracy in Hackney.

I hope readers can join in our anger and start campaigning for more funding for older and disabled people's services.

Yours faithfully,

Monty Goldman,

AgeWell is an innovative new project, one of eight pilot projects in England, one of two in London, funded by the Department of Health and aimed at promoting health in the pre-retirement age group (50 -65). It is strategically managed by a multi-agency steering group whose members are also partners in the project and on a day-to-day basis by AgeConcern Hackney. Comprehensive medical health checks are being offered to participants who may then take it further and, together with the Co-ordinator, design a Personal Health Plan. This will consist of a series of steps which the individual may take towards improving their health on all levels, thus enhancing their quality of life. Participants will then be offered the opportunity to be part of a focus group where they will receive support and relevant health-related information. It is well-known that if people look after their health at this age, they stand far more



Health promotion for older people

chance of living into a healthy older age.

The project is being monitored at both a local level, by Guildhall University, and also nationally, along with the seven other projects, by Kings College London. Findings will be used to support more funds being allocated by the

Department of Health to facilities for this age group. It is planned to move forward in this area continues after the end of the Project, in March 2002. This is a great opportunity for people to take steps towards living a healthier lifestyle whatever their state of health at present. The Age Well coordinator's intention is to

reach as representative a sample as possible of those living in Hackney, including those whose with English as a second language. The first medical health checks will be happening in January. For more information, please contact Shan Rees, AgeWell Co-ordinator, at Age Concern Hackney, 020 7249 7149.

Prince Charles helps older entrepreneurs to start up

The very first Prime loans for unemployed people over 50 to set up in business were awarded this week in Dalston by Mr John Calf Chairman of PRIME and Chris Walsh Director of Wise Owls.

PRIME Prince Charles' backed national loan fund, aims to help older entrepreneurs in the same way that the Princes Youth Business Trust has done for the young. The PRIME scheme in London is run by Wise Owls Employment Agency, London's leading not-for-profit employment and self-employment agency for over 45s which is both web based and has an office in Hackney.

The first successful applicants to be awarded a loan are:

Abgoola Adeyemi Ibiwoye from Dalston who has set up a medical equipment and supplies export operation between UK and Nigeria. Mr Ibiwoye set up his company, Anuolu Medical Supplies after a long and successful association with a medical laboratory in Nigeria.

Mogens Poulsen, another Hackney entrepreneur originally from Denmark who has set up a natural beauty products company, Easy Health Ltd, importing medical cosmetics from the Mediterranean mainly for the health spa. They are also sole distributors in the UK and Ireland for the Dermafarin range of products from Austria.



Drusilla Verney of UFO (Uniquely Fashioned Object d'Art) from West London has created a beautiful range of hand crafted crystal ware decorated with gold, silver, bronze, semi-precious stones and colour varnishes. These exquisite items for special occasions and celebrations are being marketed to the luxury goods stores.

George Bernard from Haringey has set up as an independent silver and goldsmith (EAB Jewellers) after an extensive experience in the trade. His work can be found in local jewellery shops.

For further information including contact details for the entrepreneurs, contact Wise Owls on 020 7923 7771.



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WWW.WISEOWLS.CO.UK

DO REMEMBER: We are recruiting experienced professionals everyday. If you know of anyone who would like to register with us, tell them to contact us.

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Funding for training and education available to voluntary sector

Hackney Learning Partnerships (HLP), the team responsible for managing the Learning and Skills Council funding for Adult Education in Hackney is inviting local training and education providers in Hackney to bid for funding in

March 2002. The funding is aimed at providing learning opportunities for local adult residents, from August 2002 to July 2003. If you are a training and education organisation and with approved quality standards, and have the capacity to produce accurate

monitoring information and a Self Assessment Report on your organisation and its activities, then you could be eligible.

If you wish to add your organisation's details to HLP's database and ensure that you

receive a copy of the application pack please write to:

Neima Macfoy/Joanna Steele,
Hackney Learning Partnerships, Lifelong Learning Team, Maurice Bishop House, 17 Reading Lane, London E8 1HH. Fax: 020 8356 7426 or email nmacfoy@gw.hackney.gov.uk or jsteele@gw.hackney.gov.uk



City Parochial make applying for funding easier

City Parochial Foundation and Trust for London have issued their new grant making priorities for 2002-2006. The two funds are aimed at Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities; disabled people; established communities often

predominantly white in areas of long term poverty; lesbians and gay men; refugees and asylum seekers; and young people aged 10-25. Historically aimed at the poor, the City Parochial Foundation and Trust for London have both given lots of money to organisations in

Hackney. They recently ran a very busy workshop at HCVS in November informing people that applying for funds would be somewhat easy. If you want to know if your proposal would be funded, then contact the grants team on 020 7606 6145.

Toolkit launched to help black charities to survive

The BTEG London Network are leading the way for black charities through the production of an Interactive CD-ROM designed to help them survive and develop as strategic players in the regeneration of London. The CD-ROM planning for Success - a Guide for Black Organisations Preparing a Business Plan' is an interactive toolkit developed in response to the need for strategic development and

planning amongst black charities.

Many black charities struggle to develop, access funds and therefore survive because they have difficulty planning for the development of their organisations. This is at a time when there are a plethora of opportunities available for black charities to deliver mainstream services and programmes for agencies such as the London Development Agency and

Local Learning and Skills Councils. Hence this innovative method to support black charitable organisations will enable them to plan ahead for success and longevity and take advantage of such opportunities.

Jeremy Crook, Director of Black Training and Enterprise Group said: 'The Black Voluntary Sector should continue to make strides towards the development of structures and activities within their organisations which directly leads to long term success and sustainability, whilst meeting the needs of black communities.

A clear plan for action, which outlines strategies for development in all areas of an organisation's functions, is of key importance. The Planning for Success Package of Delivery provides a guide to achieve this. In our view, if organisations fail to plan, then they plan to fail.'

BTEG is offering a free programme of training as well as the Guidebook and CD-ROM priced at £10 each or £15 for both. All three products cover the need for setting and measuring objectives, financial planning and developing a marketing strategy. For more information contact Melanie Lee or Marlon Dwyer at BTEG on 020 7520 2536.

PQASSO pilot in Finsbury Park

The Finsbury Park Partnership are supporting the PQASSO pilot project as part of their capacity building programme for community groups in the Finsbury Park area. HCVS has been running the PQASSO Quality Steps Project since Spring this year. Over 60 groups have completed the training course to learn about the basics of PQASSO and how to implement this quality assurance system within their organisations. HCVS has been promoting the

use of PQASSO, a quality system designed for the voluntary sector by the voluntary sector to strengthen the infrastructure of community groups and voluntary organisations. Moreover, with increasingly competitive funding and stringent monitoring requirements, pressure is building for voluntary and community organisations to have quality assurance systems in place. In other words it is no longer an option - its becoming a necessity.

Benefits of the PQASSO system, include: strengthening an organisations infrastructure and systems, bringing people to work together on improvements; and re-energising and motivating people to plan their work in a way that supports quality - quality organisations produce quality services. The course will take place at Elizabeth House, Blackstock Road in Finsbury Park. For further details and to book a place on the course contact Jennifer at HCVS on 020 7923 1962.

Small grants for older people

Age Concern England is offering grants to voluntary groups that benefit older people. Small service grants of up to £2000 are available for new or expanding local projects providing services such as home repair, carers, or

health & fitness programmes. Small grants up to £120 for clubs for older people to cover new equipment such as crockery, games, and bingo equipment. You can make an application any time. Call 020 8765 7738 or grants.unit@ace.org.uk

New project grant from the Community Fund

The London Hazards Centre is very pleased to announce a 3 year grant from the Community Fund to run a Health & Safety Training Project for the black and ethnic minority in London. This new project will be recruiting over 300 organisations who are willing to participate in the free training and support. The training will

cover most aspects of workplace health & safety to meet UK legal requirements laid down in the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974. Interested organisations should contact us by writing to: Mrs Mumtaz Mahmood, London Hazards Centre, Hampstead Town Hall, 213 Haverstock Hill, London NW3 4QP T 020 7794 5999 Email: mumtaz@lhc.org.uk

Prince's Trust receives grant of £2.9m for new millenium awards scheme

The Prince's Trust has been awarded £2.9 million from the Millennium Commission to run a new 3-year programme for young people throughout the UK. The Millennium Commission is one of the six good causes of the National Lottery.

The new Millennium Awards programme, which will run from September 2001, aims to help young people develop skills through the

design and delivery of projects that address community needs and issues.

Young people will be encouraged to submit ideas on the following themes: EDUC8 - young people guiding others; Time Out - positive use of leisure time; Where it's @ - using new technologies to improve lives; Eco-Planet - improving the local environment; Harmonize - helping others

to be part of the local community. Grants of between £3,000 and £15,000 are available to groups, which should be young people led, with the support of an advisor.

In order to be eligible for a Millennium Award, individuals will be required to form a group of between 3 and 12 people to take their project forward. They should be aged between 14 and 25 years, should each lack some

form of opportunity, and should be willing to run their projects as volunteers.

On successful completion of their project, each individual Award recipient will receive a certificate and become a member of the Millennium Awards Fellowship in recognition of their personal achievement and commitment to the community.

If you require an information pack or application form, please call The Prince's Trust Millennium Awards team on 020 7543 7462.

JANUARY

Monday 14th Jan 10.30

Third Sector Future Skills Taster Session

Diagnostic Skills For Conflict Resolution
gerardo@lvsc.org.uk or Kristine@lvsc.org.uk 0207 700 8206

Thursday 31st Jan 10.00-16.00

LVSTC

ESF Project Management Objective 3T team
020 7249 4441 or Johnathanb@lvsc.org.uk

Saturday 12th Jan

Funders' Fayre LB Waltham Forest

Stratford & Temple Mills Community Voluntary Sector Conference with workshops
The Epic Centre, 41 West Street, Leytonstone E11 4LJ
Aziz.hafiz@pla.lbwf.gov.uk 020 8496-6306
Leeann.lesage@pla.lbwf.gov.uk 020 8558-7807

Tuesday 22nd Jan

'You and the Media - How it all works..'

3rd Sector Alliance is running this highly interactive 1 day event for 2nd tier networks at LVSC, 356 Holloway Road, London N76PA
Course bookings: 3sa@lvsc.org.uk 020 7700 8124

Saturday 26th Jan

Funders' Fayre LB Newham

Stratford & Temple Mills Community Voluntary Sector Conference with workshops
New Vic Business Unit Stratford site 379-381 High Street, London E15 4QZ
Aziz.hafiz@pla.lbwf.gov.uk 020 8496-6306

Tuesday 29th Jan

'You and the Media - How it all works..'

3rd Sector Alliance is running this highly interactive 1 day event for 2nd tier networks at LVSC, 356 Holloway Road, London N7 6PA
Course bookings: 3sa@lvsc.org.uk 020 7700 8124

FEBRUARY

Thursday 14th Feb 10.30-13.00

Third Sector Future Skills

Diagnostic Skills For Conflict Resolution
gerardo@lvsc.org.uk or Kristine@lvsc.org.uk 0207 700 8206

Thursday 14th Feb 10.00-16.00

LVSTC

ESF Project Management Objective 3T team
020 7249 4441 Johnathanb@lvsc.org.uk

Monday 11th Feb 13.30-16.00

London ATLAS Access to Learning and Accreditation Support

A community based learning and Accreditation network meeting
Julia Spiller LVSTC 0207 249 4441 julias@lvsc.org.uk

Friday 15th Feb 10.00 - 16.30

LondonFawn (Funding Advice Worker's Network) meeting

The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund
The County Hall, Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7PB
Jane Standing or Gerardo Romero 020 7700 8118

Thursday 28th Feb 10.00-16.00

LVSTC

ESF Project Management
Objective 3T team
020 7249 4441 Johnathanb@lvsc.org.uk

Thursday 28th Feb

Accrediting for Volunteers

Recognising Volunteers achievements within a National Qualification Framework
steveharper@asdan.co.uk

MARCH

Monday 11th March

Cross Borough Development Workers Network

Meeting of development officers supporting black & minority ethnic community groups across London. Directory Development and report back on Skills Development.
Lillian.brown@fiac.org.uk or Kristine@lvsc.org.uk 0207- 700 8118

Monday 11th March

London CVS Development Workers Forum

TBC
Gerardo@lvsc.org.uk

Thursday 14th & 28th March

LVSTC

Project closure work shops
Objective 3T team 020 7249 4441 Johnathanb@lvsc.org.uk

Going online ?



HCVS gets lots of calls from organisations wanting to set up their own websites. We are currently developing a site ourselves.

In the meantime here are some useful contacts if you are thinking of setting up a site yourself or are planning to get someone to do it for you. Don't forget, some of these businesses listed will be given grants to provide cheaper services for voluntary organisations so make sure you ask.

GENERAL ADVICE

- **Lasa Computer Development Unit**
Phone: 020 7377 1226
Email: info@lasa.org.uk
Web: http://www.lasa.org.uk
- **IT For Charities**
Phone: 020 8347 7293
Email: ivan@itforcharities.co.uk
Web: http://www.itforcharities.co.uk/

TRAINING

- **Happy Computers**
Phone: 020 7375 7334
Email: happy@happy.co.uk
Web: http://www.happy.co.uk
- **GreenNet**
Phone: 0845 0554011
Email: info@gn.apc.org
Web: http://www.gn.apc.org

HARDWARE

- **Bytes Twice (based in Liverpool)**
Phone: 0151 922 3555
- **Recycle_IT**
Phone: 01582 492 436
Email: recycle_it@cix.co.uk

SUPPORT SERVICES

- **Poptel**
Phone: 0800 781 3344
Email: info@poptel.net
Web: http://www.poptel.net
- **Co-operative Systems**
Phone: 020 7793 0395
Email: team@coopsys.co.uk
Web: http://www.coopsys.co.uk
- **Comsat Systems**
Phone: 020 7763 5438
Email: info@comsat2000.com
Web: http://www.comsat2000.com

WEB DEVELOPMENT

- **Poptel**
Phone: 0800 781 3344
Email: info@poptel.net
Web: http://www.poptel.net
- **GreenNet**
Phone: 0845 0554011
Email: info@gn.apc.org

- Web: http://www.gn.apc.org
Alison Bancroft(smaller websites)
Phone: 020 8451 6010
Email: alison@art-net.u-net.com
- **Howard Kitto(larger and database driven websites)**
Phone: 020 7278 6015
Email: Howard@hyena.co.uk
- **Tess O'Doherty(larger and database driven websites)**
Phone: 020 7935 0595
Email: tess@nmt-ltd.com
- **Colin Hiom(larger and database driven websites)**
Phone: 020 7435 8318
Email: colin.hiom@xsnewmedia.co.uk
- **Tim Bird(larger and database driven websites)**
Phone: 01234 575955
Email: tbird@riva-consulting.com

ISPs – INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS

- **Poptel**
Phone: 0800 781 3344
Email: info@poptel.net
Web: http://www.poptel.net
- **Solis (Sheffield Internet)**
Phone: 0114 258 5550
Email: admin@solis.co.uk
Web: http://www.solis.co.uk
- **GreenNet**
Phone: 0845 0554011
Email: info@gn.apc.org
Web: http://www.gn.apc.org
- **Direct Connection**
Phone: 0870 887 8800
Email: sales@dircon.net
Web: http://www.dircon.net
- **UUNET**
Phone: 0845 088 4455
Email: sales@uk.uu.net
Web: http://www.uk.uu.net

USEFUL BOOKS TO READ

- Information technology for the not-for-profit sector. Ian Harris & Michael Mainelli, ICSA, 2001
- The internet: a guide for voluntary organisations. Mike Graven (et al), NCVO, 1998
- Making sense of the internet: a guide for small voluntary organisations. Mark Watson, National Institute for Social Work, 1998
- Making the network: on-line strategies for community-based organisations. UK Communities Online, 1997
- Managing non-profits on the internet: a guide to strategy. Adrian Lanning, Aurelian Information UK, 1997
- Finding the right internet service provider. NACVS, 1999
- Accessible web design. Donna Smillie, NACVS, 2000
- World Wide Web: how to design and construct pages. Anna Smith, ASLIB, 1995

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London Voluntary Service Council
Library and Information Service
356 Holloway Road London
N7 6PA
Phone/Fax 020 7700 8104
email: library@lvsc.org.uk

Please state that you were referred by LVSC when contacting these organisations – thank you.

The Funding DIRECTORY

keeping you up-to-date with the latest funding initiatives

*New * Grants to Voluntary Organisations from DTLR

Information on the grants available to voluntary organisations from DTLR and its non-departmental public bodies, providing a useful overview of what's available, criteria, aims etc.

Contents: Housing Grants; Rough Sleepers Unit; Home Improvement Agencies; S16; Tenant Empowerment Grant; Special Grants Programme; Urban Grants; Regional Development Agencies; (RDA map) - Single Regeneration Budget - English Partnerships; Housing Action Trusts; Special Grants Programme; Coalfields Regeneration Trust; Transport Grants; Road Safety; Neighbourhood Renewal Unit. For full details go to:

www.regeneration.dtlr.gov.uk/grants/vol/index.htm

A reminder sent out by DTLR – web-site information may not be up to date so phone to check before applying.

*New * STEP Enterprise Ltd

STEP Enterprise Ltd is the UK's leading provider of project-based work placements, enabling motivated students to work together with small and medium-sized organisations helping them to solve business problems and develop ideas in areas where there is perhaps a lack of time, knowledge or resource.

Over the last fifteen years, the Shell Technology Enterprise Programme (STEP) has delivered in excess of 10,000 summer placements throughout the UK and we now offer STEP Solutions throughout the year.

Regardless of your area of concern, STEP can help you. STEP provides a quality support service to ensure you gain maximum value from the experience. For eight weeks every summer 1000 undergraduates join small and medium-sized businesses and community organisations to undertake specific business and technology related projects of real and lasting benefit to the host organisation. Projects can vary from setting up an IT system or website to marketing new and existing services.

STEP is a Government-funded training scheme and students receive a weekly training allowance of £150. Recently extra provision has been made to provide training allowance subsidies to charities/not for profit sector organisations in order to help many groups which have been previously excluded or deterred due to the cost, take part in the scheme. Companies also contribute some management supervision but receive a full support service from a local STEP agent. Due to overwhelming demand from organisations, some STEP projects are available outside the summer period. These are of variable duration (from four weeks up to one year) and can be fitted in around your specific needs and requirements.

Contact STEP, Head Office, Harling House, 62 Copperfield Street, London SE1 0DJ Tel: 0207 921 5450 Fax: 0207 921 5451 E-mail: enquiries@step.org.uk Web-site: www.step.org.uk

*New * Active Community Grants Programme, 2002-03

In the light of feedback from the 2001-2 grant round and the involvement of a new ministerial team, the Home Office Active Community Unit (ACU) is currently working on a major revision of the annual grant programme from 2002-3.

Ministers are currently considering proposals for the new programme, the criteria for which will be available shortly.

The Grants & Government Funding Policy Team, Active Community Unit, Home Office, Horseferry House (Room 223), Dean Ryle Street, London SW1P 2AW



The
Charities
Information
Bureau

Tel: 020 7217 8565 Fax: 020 7217 8572

Email: public_enquiry.acu@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk Web-site: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/acu/acu.htm

*New * A Guide to European Funding

The Home Office Active Community Unit have produced a leaflet 'A Guide to European Funding'. It is a basic and useful resource in locating sources of funding with a list of contacts for further information and help. For copies contact the Active Community Unit on 020 7217 8400. Alternatively it is available on the Home Office website at: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/acu/acu.htm and http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/acu/european_funding_leaflet1.doc

*New * CafCash goes online

CafCash Ltd is to become the first bank, dedicated to handling the accounts of the charitable sector, to offer a free online banking service CafCash, the authorised banking institution operated by CAF (Charities Aid Foundation), will bring together the CafCash cheque account and CAF Gold deposit account through a single, secure site on the Internet. The facility will provide round-the-clock access from anywhere in the world, to the 10,500 charities holding CafCash accounts.

Customers will be able to order replacement cheque books and paying-in books, or request monthly financial statements through the post. More crucially, however, is that charities will be able to view full statements of their accounts or use the transaction search facility to identify when cheques and deposits have been cleared.

The website itself has been designed for ease of access and can be navigated by even the least proficient Internet user. The CafCash high interest cheque account and CAF Gold high interest deposit account are provided by CafCash Ltd, an authorised financial institution.

Both accounts are designed exclusively for charities and combine gross rates of interest with easy access to funds and local paying-in facilities.

Full details of the online service are available on web-site: www.cafcash.org.uk/welcome

Charities Aid Foundation, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA Tel: 01732 520 031 Fax: 01732 520 001

*New * Citizens' Action Millennium Awards

Citizens' Action Millennium Awards are grants to enable older people to play an active part in their local communities, by helping them reach out and share their talents, experiences and enthusiasms.

The scheme is being run by Help the Aged in partnership with the

Millennium Commission, one of the National Lottery's good causes. Anyone who is aged 55 or over can apply from anywhere in the UK. You can apply as an individual or as a group of up to three people, as long as all applicants are aged 55 and over.

If you want to become more involved in local issues by taking on new challenges and you have a project idea that would benefit your community, then you could be an Award winner and receive up to £5,000 as an individual or £10,000 for a joint application.

How much time you invest in your idea depends on your energy levels. Whether you spend several days, a month or a few hours a week on activities for your Award, we will fund it for up to one year.

There are two types of Citizens' Action Millennium Awards: Active Citizen Award - This is for individuals who want things to change but would like to learn new skills to do so. The Active Citizen Award is designed to enable you to run your project by providing you with training and support. Experience shows us that people will sometimes join together to undertake a community project. Therefore, for the Active Citizen Award, up to three individuals can make a joint application; Active Mentor Award - The Active Mentor Award is for individuals who have been active in their community but would rather pass on their knowledge and experience to help Active Citizens succeed in their community project.

The Awards scheme offers a programme of training, financial and practical support to individuals for any activity that promotes one of the following themes: Community safety - general home and community safety, crime prevention and/or reduction schemes; Local regeneration - reviving communities by identifying local priorities, developing new ideas and actively leading community initiatives; Social cohesion - working to improve inclusion in community activities for those who are housebound, homeless, disabled, have mental health problems, or are members of an ethnic minority group; Improving the environment - helping communities become better places to live in by improving access, use and enjoyment of the local environment. The environment includes buildings (for example an underused community centre), as well as outdoor spaces.

Applying for an Award is easier than you think. If you would like to discuss your idea of becoming more positively involved within your community or would like advice about making an application, contact one of our trained Advisors who will be happy to talk to you.

Call them on the Help the Aged Citizens' Action Millennium Awards Hotline, 0870 770 3280 between 9.30am and 3.30 pm, Monday to Friday or Email: cama@helptheaged.org.uk

*New * Microsoft Opportunities

Microsoft have a strong belief that if you provide people with the resources they need, they can accomplish great things. That philosophy is the foundation of their software business. It is also the foundation of their community affairs efforts. Through their community support, they seek to bring the benefits of information technology to people and communities in the UK, who do not have access to this technology and the benefits it brings.

Microsoft in the UK supports major charity and educational projects. They also support literally hundreds of Charity activities through their Microsoft Giving Charity Programme. The Programme delivers software and a fundraising ideas leaflet that charities can use to raise funds for themselves.

Charities and non-profit organisations can use the software to either raise funds for themselves (e.g. by using the software as raffle prizes) or contribute towards the efficient running of the charity. A limited number of donations are available each year to charities and

community groups. They are particularly interested in assisting projects that enhance access to technology for disadvantaged communities. In some cases up to three software products can be donated to registered charities to help them in their work.

To apply for a donation, please write to the following address. Applicants should provide a brief outline of their project or organisation and where applicable the software titles required and their registered charity number.

Microsoft Giving, Freepost SC05171, Glasgow G3 7BR or E-mail: MicrosoftGiving@microsoft-contact.co.uk

Unfortunately they are unable to provide multiple donations to any single charity or to local community groups affiliated to national organisations.

In addition to the Microsoft Giving Charity Programme, they offer software at a discount to all schools, educational institutions and registered charities in the UK through the Education Licensing programme. Further information is available at www.microsoft.com/uk/education/ or call Microsoft Education Connection on 0870 60 70 800

It is an unfortunate truth that no giver, corporate or individual, can respond positively to all requests for support. Difficult choices have to be made and priorities set for resources. They are only able to donate cash to selected major charity projects. Their choices are outlined on their web site at www.microsoft.com/uk/info/community They do not support political, religious or racially motivated projects in any way. They do not sponsor or advertise through commercial organisations to support charities. Unfortunately They can't provide PC hardware. For information on recycled PC suppliers visit web-site: www.microsoft.com/uk/info/community/refurbish/ Microsoft has provided financial support for the establishment of an AbilityNet centre for the South East region which is sited at Microsoft Campus in Reading. As well as being open to employed and unemployed disabled people, the centre's services are also available to employers who want to find out how adaptive technology can benefit their workforce.

Microsoft also funded the development of the AbilityNet website, www.abilitynet.co.uk, which is a definitive source of information for disabled people on all aspects of using and adapting technology.

To find out more about AbilityNet, visit the AbilityNet website, www.abilitynet.co.uk or call AbilityNet on 0800 269 545.

Also Accessibility features are an integral part of many Microsoft products to learn more about how you can use these to adapt your own Microsoft products please visit www.microsoft.com/enable/

This item is still not approved and press release is awaited.

Fair Share

Fair Share will be a new joint initiative for the New Opportunities Fund and the Community Fund. This will put £150 million into 50 deprived or deserving areas. An announcement of what these areas will be and how the scheme will work will be made shortly. Funds may be distributed through Local community Foundations. Watch the NOF and CF websites for further information. Web-sites: www.nof.org.uk www.community-fund.org.uk

*New * Her Majesty The Queen's Golden Jubilee

2002 is the Queen's Golden Jubilee year, and Awards for All will be helping voluntary groups mark the milestone.

Local groups are invited to apply to Awards for All for grants of up to £5,000 to help communities join in the festivities.

Their straightforward application and assessment process means

Awards for All is ideally placed to support the Jubilee, enabling even the smallest group to participate.

Golden Jubilee themes are inspired by Her Majesty's 50 year reign, Awards for All wants to support Golden Jubilee projects which as well as meeting the aims of Awards for All also meet one or more of the following themes: Involve all sections of the community; Embrace the multicultural nature of society; Encourage a sense of community spirit and community involvement; Promote or provide service to others; Engage young people

Community groups can apply for Golden Jubilee funding for all manner of projects. Projects can be as diverse as a Golden Jubilee children's football tournament, to an arts festival, or a community fun day with games for people of all ages and abilities.

If you'd like to see what others are doing, have a look at the official Golden Jubilee website, by: www.goldenjubilee.gov.uk

The Golden Jubilee website also offers a host of other information including frequently asked questions and details of nationwide celebrations. There is also an on-line form for Jubilee ideas and queries.

Awards for All Tel: 0845 600 20 40 Web-site: www.awardsforall.org.uk

*New * NOF Fruit & Veg Scheme

The New Opportunities Fund has announced a £52 million fruit and veg Cancer Prevention Boost. Fruit will be on the menu for over one million schoolchildren in England to help fight heart disease and cancer.

The National Lottery good cause funding will radically expand pilots of healthy eating schemes to reach over 10,000 schools and communities by Spring next year before the national rollout in 2004. The twin schemes are part of the New Opportunity Fund's £300 million Opportunities for Health programme, part of the Fund's third round of initiatives: £42 million to extend National School Fruit Scheme pilot which entitles children aged 4 to 6 years old a free piece of fruit each school day; £10m for the Five-a-Day community initiative - to tackle the problem of low fruit and vegetable consumption for families on low incomes. It is proving a success with over 80% of children eating a range of fresh fruit each day.

The Fund's new Five-a-Day community initiative has been piloted in five areas in England to encourage people to eat five portions of fruit and vegetables a day. In order to encourage people to eat more fruit and vegetables a range of schemes are planned, from home delivery schemes to promoting the sales of fruit and vegetables in local shops. Plans are in the offing for the New Opportunities Fund to set up between 50 and 60 projects over two years.

These projects will not be open for applications but from around April 2002 funding will be made available to Local Health Authorities in deprived areas. Local community groups and voluntary organisations will be encouraged to work within Local Health Authority Cancer Prevention programmes making use of these funds.

More details will appear on NOF web-site: www.nof.org.uk when the Five-a-Day community initiative is launched. General Enquiries Tel: 0845 0000121 E-mail: general.enquiries@nof.org.uk

*New * England-wide 'Incubator Fund' Loans

Applications invited for new England-wide 'Business Incubation Loan Fund'

Developers of business incubation projects are to benefit from a new £75m fund launched on 1 October 2001 by the Small Business Service. The Incubators will provide a range of facilities including: an instructive and supportive environment for entrepreneurs in start-up

and early stage businesses; access to small workspace units on flexible terms with easy-in, easy-out terms; access to early stage finance; networking and peer group support; effective technological infrastructure, including broadband communication links; and access to business support tailored to the needs of the client businesses.

The loans will be given to not-for-profit organisations who will set up incubator schemes which will help people at the start-up and early stages of their business.

The SBS is looking for viable and sustainable projects but do not have hard and fast rules about any particular models to be used. This will depend on local and regional needs.

The £75 million is available until March 2005. Interested parties are advised to look at the SBS web-site: www.sbs.gov.uk under "Services", for further details and a copy of the Fund Prospectus. A paper copy of the Prospectus can be ordered from the DTI Publications order line (Tel: 0870 1502 500) quoting the ref No: URN01/1092 "SBS Business Incubation Fund: Prospectus for Potential Applicants".

*New * ESF Objective 2 Funding

For Objective 2 projects in West Yorkshire to start in July 2002 the deadlines to get full bids in to local partnerships will be around the mid-end of March 2002. The deadline for expressions of interest will be January-February 2002. (Exact dates vary for different districts).

ESF Objective 3 Funding

The application pack for cofinanced ESF is now available from the West Yorkshire Local Skills Council. If you are from West Yorkshire and are interested in applying and have not yet received a copy contact the LSC or CIB.

NB in other parts of the country contact your Local Skills Council or Government Office for information of arrangements in your area.

Fundraise by shopping on-line through 'buy.at'

If you and your friends buy on-line from websites they can raise money for your 'good cause'. By registering your charity at the website www.buy.at you get your own online personalised web store www.buy.at/yourcause linking to 1000s of products where you gain commission for every purchase your supporters make with any of the merchants in your store.

No ongoing administration is required and Perfiliate Technologies have recently brought in the Co-op for electricals and pharmacy goods, Blackwells for books, Cdwow for cds, Travelselect for flights and Holidayautos for autohire along with a number of specialised merchants in niche areas.

They have official locally authority approval (and recommendation) for the schools sector. The service is totally free for charities and is accessible for charities of all sizes, big or small.

Because the unique technology is the first to be completely automated, charity commissions are also the highest available.

They want the service to be made available to fundraisers at all levels from the 1st November but all charities can pre-register from today at www.buy.at.

To find out more about registering for this service contact Perfiliate Technologies

E-mail: richard@perfiliate.com Website: www.perfiliate.com
Tel: 0191 241 6500 or freephone: 0800 138 2161

Making-IT-Accessible

Already since 1998, ISdAC (www.isdac.org) has been active in order to achieve an accessible information society for all.

ISdAC (the Information Society disAbilities Challenge) is an

international association with a two-fold mission: - Challenging Europe to make the Information Society accessible to People with Disabilities (PwD); and - Challenging disabled people to show their capabilities to the world within an IS context.

As all of the ISdAC members are PwD with experience in the field, and since we have been informing governments and politicians about the crucial matter of taking disabled people's needs into account when drawing up the guidelines and structure for the Information Society, we are quite an acknowledged organisation within the EC at this time and our efforts are being recognised.

For the year 2001 we are involved as a partner in 2 European funded projects, where we will make sure that the outcome, results and recommendations will imply a full participation and usability by PwD. Most of the activities in this regard will take place online and a provisional budget is available to reimburse those willing to participate for their time and efforts.

In order to achieve this, and to determine user requirements for equal access to this 'parallel society', input is needed from a diversified range of disabled people, spread over Europe with varying disabilities, needs and skills. They will act as a user test bed for the tools and software presented in these projects and will also be asked to fill in online questionnaires, so that high quality, experience-based feedback on these issues will be given to the EC as well as to its different member states. If you are a PwD and want to support our cause by sharing your experiences and requirements in this regard, please send an e-mail to chairman@isdac.org and we will provide you with further information and instructions. Also, don't hesitate to pass this information on to anyone you think might be interested.

So please join us in our battle. Only by joining efforts we can make a difference. Europe is requesting our input, so don't let this opportunity go by!

If you require more info on our organisation and its aims, please visit www.isdac.org or write secretary@isdac.org.

Tony Verelst, Chairman ISdAC International Association, c/o IGL, Boddenveldweg 11

B-3520 Zonhoven Tel. +32 11 819465 Fax +32 11 271622 Direct phone +32 11 720012 E-mail: Chairman@isdac.org Web-site: www.isdac.org

Opportunities with Deadlines

Awareness of Overseas Development Issues

The Government through the Department For International Development have a Development Awareness Fund which continues for 2001. It supports activities which promote public knowledge and understanding of development issues, of our global interdependence, of the need for international development, and of the progress that has been made and that is possible.

UK based organisations or networks can get up to £10,000 a year for up to 3 years for work in England through the Mini Grant Programme (closing around end February 2002) and up to £100,000 through the main Development Awareness Fund (closing date end of November 2001).

For information about the main Development Awareness Fund contact Development Awareness and Education Section, DFID, Abercrombie House AH254, Eaglesham Road, East Kilbride, Glasgow G75 8EA Tel: 01355 84 4000 Fax: 01355 84 3539

For further information about the England Mini Grant Programme contact David Morton, Development Education Association, 3rd Floor, 29-31 Cowper Street, London EC2A 4AP Tel: 020 7490 8108 Fax: 020 7490 8123

Not finally approved by funder but as web-site

BT Lifelong Learning Awards

BT Lifelong Learning Awards are for organisations involved in Further and Higher Education. Applications can be submitted by Sixth Forms, Sixth Form colleges, Further and Higher Education colleges, universities (including the Ufl where the learning provider is a not-for-profit and non-commercial organisation) and libraries. BT is also keen to promote co-operation between educational institutions and the wider community. Applicants are therefore encouraged to include other community organisations as partners in their applications.

Sixth Forms, Sixth Form colleges and libraries are restricted to one application for each Award period. Further and Higher Education institutions may submit one application for each department.

Other community organisations not listed above may work in partnership on the projects but may not apply independently for an Award.

They are looking for collaborative projects that help to deliver lifelong learning in your community. Ideas may be as imaginative and innovative as you can make them but must fulfil the judging criteria and illustrate some of the themes outlined below. Successful projects must be completely new initiatives or add an identifiable new element to an existing initiative. They must commence within three months of the Award being made and run for between 12 and 18 months.

Judging criteria: Use of ICT - Does the project use ICT in innovative and effective ways to increase the impact and accessibility of lifelong learning?

Partnership - Does the project involve a range of partner organisations in order to extend its reach and to make the best use of the resources available in the community?

Meeting needs / adding value - Has the a real need for the learning provision been identified?

Sustainability - BT Awards funding is available for a maximum of two years. Has adequate provision been made (either through funding or partnerships) to sustain the project beyond this period (proof is not required)?

Your project may incorporate several of these themes but you should choose the two that are most appropriate for the purposes of your application: Information and Communication Technology: access and skills - Projects specifically aimed at developing ICT access and understanding across the community, particularly in hard-to-reach areas; Communication - Developing opportunities and tools for communication within the community and offering individuals new ways to improve their communication skills; Innovation in learning delivery - Developing effective routes for encouraging, delivering and measuring learning in new ways and for new audiences; Teamwork - Investigating, implementing and managing new partnerships to share skills and develop provision across the community; New solutions - Developing practical, effective and targeted solutions in identified areas of need, from community issues to internal systems of governance; Skills development - Encouraging and enabling individuals to improve their skills, ranging from literacy and numeracy skills to decision making and problem solving.

Closing date for online applications 19 Nov 2001 Go to web-site: www.bt.com/lifelonglearning for all information but schools and colleges must make the on-line application.

'Reach Out' Travel for Charitable Work

Key Travel operate the Reach Out Programme, an exclusive travel programme designed to save money for people who reach out across

the world to provide vital assistance for the community be it medical relief, aid and development, spiritual or educational.

Key Travel recognises that the essential funds of many organisations are raised from donations or funded by the public purse and are therefore committed to offering travel services at the lowest possible cost. This has been achieved by negotiating with many international airlines. These specialist and competitive products are supported by an efficient, professional and friendly service.

They also provide donations in cash up to £500. Send details of who you are, what you do and what you want cash for to the address below. Annual selection is in December.

Details from Key Travel, 92-94 Evershott Street London NW1 1BP

E-mail: donations@keytravel.co.uk

Web-site: <http://www.keytravel.co.uk>

BBC Children in Need Appeal

The BBC Children in Need Appeal is raising funds for disadvantaged children. Appeal Day 2001 is Friday November 16th.

They welcome applications from not-for-profit organisations working with disadvantaged children.

Application forms are available from 0208 576 7788. They come with guidelines that should help applicants fill in the form. That telephone number will also provide you with the name of your regional contact (based in Bristol, Elstree, Leeds, Manchester or Birmingham).

Your regional contact might be able to attend funding seminars or advice workshops that you are organising in your area. S/he would also be pleased to help applicants who need more personalised advice to complete their application form.

75 % of grants are for five thousand pounds or less.

Closing Dates for applications are November 30th - answers in April and March 30th - answers in August.

BBC Children in Need Appeal, PO Box 76, London W3 6FS Tel: 020 8576 7788 Fax: 020 8576 8887 E-mail: pudsey@bbc.co.uk

*New * Adult and Community Learning Fund 6th Round

The Adult and Community Learning Fund is a programme of small and major grants for the provision of learning opportunities, running between September 1998 and March 2004. It is available to organisations working with adults i.e. people over 16 in England only. Through the Fund they want to: draw more people unaccustomed to education into learning activities of all kinds; open up access to learning in terms of location, delivery arrangements and content; improve basic skills among adults who have difficulties with them; build the capacity of community-based organisations to provide learning opportunities outside traditional education providers and institutions; support effective partnerships between local people, community organisations, other voluntary bodies, education providers and other agencies in delivering learning.

The Fund seeks projects which are: innovative; ensure quality, are sustainable, and build effective partnerships.

They expect that most project participants are likely to be out of work or excluded from the labour market for reasons such as age, disability, illness, or domestic commitments,

They would particularly welcome bids which target the following groups: physical impairments, sensory disabilities or mental health difficulties; black, minority ethnic or linguistic communities; men; refugees; travellers; rural and dispersed disadvantage, industrial decline, seaside towns.

Ideally projects will showing links to partner organisations operating

within those themes: health, including mental health; environment; crime prevention; the arts; sport and fitness; heritage/local history; community capacity-building.

There are two broad types of grant available: Small grants - One-off grants, Cash limited at £10,000; Major grants - For the development and delivery of new learning opportunities, through existing or new mechanisms; Available over more than one financial year for a maximum of two years; Cash limited at £30,000 per year.

The Fund is considered 'clean money' for joint funding purposes e.g. with ESF.

The Fund is managed on DfES's behalf by the Basic Skills Agency (BSA) and the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE).

Completed application forms to be sent by post to either BSA or NIACE by 7 December 2001. By mid-January 2002 BSA and NIACE will invite full bids from a shortlist. Completed application forms for full bids to be sent by post to either BSA or NIACE by 1 February 2002. Round 6 funding begins 1 April 2002

Adult and Community Learning Fund, Basic Skills Agency, 7th Floor, Commonwealth House, 1-19 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1NU Tel: 020 7405 4017 E-mail: andream@basic-skills.co.uk

Email: andream@basic-skills.co.uk

Widening Participation Team, Adult and Community Learning Fund, NIACE, 21 De Montfort Street, Leicester LE1 7GE Tel: 0116 204 4294/4218 Email: wpt@niace.org.uk Minicom: 0116-255-6049 Web-site: <http://www.niace.org.uk> Prospectus at DfEE website: <http://www.lifelonglearning.co.uk/aclf/>

Comic Relief Grants

As ever, their grants programmes - both in the UK and in Africa - are designed to have the greatest possible impact on poverty and social injustice.

They'll be using Red Nose Day money: to reach some of the poorest and most excluded people in Africa and the UK; to help those people to help themselves; to meet their immediate needs and tackle the root causes of their hardship by working towards long-term change.

They know that in the UK there is an enormous need and that their resources are limited. To be as effective as possible in meeting their aims, during 2001-2003 they will give funding to their specific areas. As a result, they can only consider applications under the following programmes: Fighting for Justice; Supporting Young People; Strengthening Services: the Domestic Violence and Refugee Sectors; Supporting Communities

There is a main programme for each of these areas, which will take up most of the money available. You can apply directly for funding from these programmes.

If you're interested in applying for a Comic Relief grant there are several ways to check out the guidelines and submit an application, depending on whatever suits you best. You can read the guidelines and the application forms right now on their web-site (see below). You can print them off while you're still connected or download them as Word documents.

Timetable for grant applications over £5000.

There are still three of the five grant-making cycles forthcoming.

Cycle 3 Summary deadline 10 December 2001 for Full application deadline 5 February 2002

Cycle 4 Summary deadline 17 May 2002 for Full application deadline 2 July 2002

Cycle 5 Summary deadline 9 August 2002 for Full application deadline 17 September 2002

Fast track for grants up to £5000

Applications for up to £5000 are only available to organisations with a

turnover of less than £100,000. They will give priority to core and equipment costs. If you are applying for a grant of up to £5000, they will deal with your application through their fast-track process and they should give you a decision within three months of you applying. They consider applications for up to £5000 at any time and there are no deadlines. However, they will not be able to accept applications after 9 August 2002.

Comic Relief UK, 5th Floor, 89 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TP Tel: 020 7820 5555 Fax: 020 7820 5500 Minicom: 020 720 5579 E-mail: red@comicroelief.org.uk Web-site: <http://comicroelief.com/entry.shtml>

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 materials 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.

Allen Lane Foundation – change of address

The Foundation makes grants for work all over the UK. Trustees only fund work outside London. The Foundation tries to target about 80% of its funds on national, regional or county wide work and about 20% on local projects. Trustees are interested in imaginative or innovative projects, and the size of its grants (which are modest) makes start-up funding of smaller projects particularly appropriate. Grants are made for project costs, or core costs.

Priorities are: the provision of advice, information and advocacy; community development; employment and training; mediation, conflict resolution and alternatives to violence; research and education aimed at changing public attitudes or policy; or social welfare.

The Foundation make grants to organisations whose work the Trustees believe to be unpopular. Priority groups for the Foundation include refugees and asylum-seekers, people from black and ethnic minority communities, those experiencing mental health problems, those experiencing violence or abuse, offenders and ex-offenders, and travellers amongst others. Most grants go to work with these priority groups.

Grants generally range from about £250 to £10,000. Grants to local projects are normally less than £2500. Grants are usually single payments but may sometimes be for up to three consecutive years. The next closing date is 14 December 2001.

There is no formal application form but before applying it is essential to obtain a copy of the guidelines which give details of exclusions from Heather Swales, Executive Secretary, The Allen Lane Foundation, 90 The Mount, York YO24 1AR Tel 01904 613223 Fax: 01904 613133

E-mail: enquiries@allenlane.demon.co.uk

Web-site: www.allenlane.demon.co.uk

Not approved

*New * Everybody Counts Awards Scheme

Everybody Counts was originally launched as the Institute's Millennium initiative. The profession's involvement in the community was substantial, and deserved wider recognition and support. In response to this, the Institute of Chartered Accountants in conjunction with Accountancy Age has launched an annual Everybody Counts Awards Scheme. All members involved in voluntary activity are invited to participate in an initiative which is hoped will draw wider attention to the benefits of voluntary work." Entries are divided into five categories: Members in Business; Members in Practice; Student/Younger Members (under 35); Members of Small Businesses/Firms (max. 50 employees) and Retired Members. Each year one winner will be selected from each category on the basis of the time and level of involvement and commitment devoted to a project or organisation, as well as the difference that the work has made. The winners will be presented with a financial donation for their project at the Everybody Counts Awards Ceremony at the Institute's Annual Dinner during early 2002.

Entry forms for the awards scheme are available on the web-site: www.everybodycounts.co.uk To enter the Awards Scheme fill in and submit the form by December 31 2001.

Further information about the awards scheme contact: Jade Peters Tel: 0207 920 8692 or E-mail: jade.peters@icaew.co.uk Institute of Chartered Accountants Everybody Counts Team

The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, PO Box 433, Moorgate Place, London EC2P 2BJ

Not approved but information as web-site

The Dubai International Award for Best Practices to Improve the Living Environment (DIABP)

These biennial awards recognise and enhance awareness of outstanding and sustainable achievements in improving the living environment as per the basic criteria established by the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the Dubai Declaration.

Best Practices are outstanding contributions to improve the living environment. They are defined by the United Nations and the international community at large as successful initiatives which: Have a demonstrable and tangible impact on improving people's quality of life; Are the result of effective partnerships between the public, private and civic sectors of society; Are socially, culturally, economically and environmentally sustainable.

Best Practices are promoted and used by the United Nations and the international community as a means of: Improving public policy based on what works; Raising awareness of decision-makers at all levels and of the public of potential solutions to common social, economic and environmental problems; Sharing and transferring knowledge, expertise and experience through networking and peer-to-peer learning.

The total amount of the Award is US\$ 400,000 (Four hundred thousand US Dollars). This amount will be divided as follows: US\$ 300,000 (Three hundred thousand US Dollars) for ten Best Practices; US\$ 100,000 (One hundred thousand US Dollars) towards management expenses including travel and accommodation for a delegation of up to two people for each award winning best practice; Each Best Practice Award winner will also receive a trophy and commemorative certificate especially designed for the award.

The Submission Guidelines for submitting Best Practices for the 2002 Dubai International Award are now available online. Submission guidelines for the year 2002 are at web-site: www.sustainabledevelopment.org/blp/awards/

Closing date is 31 March 2002. Submissions reaching UNCHS (Habitat) by 31st December 2001 may benefit from substantive feedback if so requested.

UNCHS (Habitat) Geneva Office, International Environment House/GEC, CH-1219 Geneva, Switzerland Tel: (41 22) 917 8646 Fax: (41-22) 917 8046 Email: iludvigsen@unog.ch

The Jack Ashley Millennium Awards for Young Deaf People

The Millennium Awards, supported by a £1.7 million grant from the Millennium Commission, aims to provide young deaf people aged between 14 - 25 with the opportunity to undertake major challenges across the world. The scheme will enable individuals to boost their self-confidence and contribute to their personal development and make a positive impact on the deaf and hearing community by promoting positive images of deafness and encourage greater understanding of deafness amongst hearing people.

Over the next 3 years The National Deaf Children's Society is looking to make 330 awards to young deaf people. The awards will be between £2,000 and £15,000 and will include the costs of communication support and mentoring. There are four distinct categories under which individuals can apply including projects exploring different aspects of culture, environmental or regeneration schemes, projects which promote deaf awareness or help others develop communication skills and challenging projects which help develop

leadership skills.

Application forms will be available in both paper form and BSL video form. The last round of these grants closes January 2002. Forms are available for current closing date and winners announced 3 months after closing.

To receive full information contact Jill Puttnam, Millennium Awards Team,

The NDCS, 15 Dufferin Street, London EC1Y 8UR Tel: 020 7490 8656 (voice and text)

Fax: 020 7251 5020 E-mail: millennium.awards@ndcs.org.uk

Adult Learners Week 2002 Awards

£5,000 Prize for an Outstanding Learning Project

Have you developed a project which offers new and exciting learning opportunities to adults? You could win £5,000 to help your project develop.

NIACE, the national organisation for adult learning, is inviting entries now for the 2002 New Learning Opportunities Awards. As well as the top prize of £5,000 there will be up to nine further awards of £500. The awards are offered to projects which have shown creativity and innovation in providing more chances for adults to learn.

Organisations can enter the 2002 New Learning Opportunities Awards under a number of themes, as follows: supporting employees' learning; assisting people into employment; supporting adult learners in higher education; encouraging access to new technologies in local communities; improving equal access to learning in the workplace; worked on joint projects with learners from other countries; used informal learning methods to motivate young adults; reached new groups of learners through outreach work; or achieved better learning outcomes for adults (for organisations working together).

In addition there is a 'general' theme for projects falling outside the specific themes.

The awards will be presented during Adult Learners' Week, 11-17 May 2002, the UK's largest national festival of learning.

To discuss the awards please call Francisca Martinez on 0116 204 4202 or Kate Malone on 0116 204 4236. The closing date for entries is 11 January 2002.

Individual and Groups Adult Learners Awards

NIACE, the organisation that runs Adult Learners' Week, is now inviting nominations for its 2002 awards from individuals and groups with a learning story to tell. The awards recognise people who have overcome fear and lack of confidence and who use learning to change their lives.

Winners of the Adult Learners' Week 2002 Individual Awards will receive £200 to help them continue their learning at a regional ceremony. Group Award winners will receive £500 each at a national ceremony in London.

A special award will recognise the accomplishments of one adult learner over the age of 50.

If you would like to nominate someone for an Individual or Group Award for 2002 please call the Campaigns and Promotions Team at NIACE on 0116 204 4200 for an entry form, or fax to 0116 223 0050. Or e-mail them: alw@niace.org.uk. The closing date for entries is 11 January 2002.

(Not approved)

*New * Bremen Partnership Award

Inspired by the Bremen declaration — the final document of the International Conference on business and municipality partnerships — these awards are made for projects from partnerships across the

public/voluntary and business sectors.

Projects from all over the world that have already been or are in the process of being implemented and that are built on the three pillars of challenge of sustainability, urbanity and partnership.

They span the whole range of sustainability issues such as: efficiency, protection of resources; global responsibility; social justice; poverty alleviation; citizens' participation; built and natural environment of urban settings which are defined under five different categories.

Five projects qualifying for the award will be given a donation of DM 25,000 - for each of the five categories, granted a scholarship at the International University of Bremen as top prize and specially invited to and given facilities at the 2nd International Conference "business and municipality — new partnerships for the 21st century" from 4-7 April 2001 in Bremen, Germany. Closing date for applications is 15 January 2001. Contact: Bremen Initiative Tel +49 (0)421 230011-3 Fax: +49 (0)421 230011-18 E-mail: info@bremen-initiative.de Website: www.bremen-initiative.de/award

*New * Harvest Trust Holidays for Children

The Harvest Trust offers holidays for children to those who need one but never get one. They have their own centre at Cardigan Bay in Wales which provides seaside breaks for groups of 12, 8-12 year old children accompanied by 3 adults. Accommodation, minibus transport etc are provided free but payment for food is not included. For further details and brochure for holidays in April to September 2002 contact Harvest Trust, Penboyr, Llandysul, Carmarthenshire SA44 5JE Tel/Fax: 01559 371190 Closing date is 14 January 2002.

*New * Aspects of Life Fund

In the United Kingdom, Aspect Communications give direct contributions through the Aspects of Life Fund, which supports local and worldwide charities.

The focus areas are: Environment - Preserving and protecting the environment: its habitat, its wildlife, and its resources; Disabled - Meeting the needs of the disabled, with an emphasis on helping them to improve their quality of life; Economically disadvantaged - Addressing the needs of the economically disadvantaged, with an emphasis on helping them to be self-sufficient; Children - Promoting the healthy and positive development of children under the age of sixteen; Animal welfare - Protecting wild and domestic animals, promoting responsible pet ownership, and educating people in the proper care of animals.

Fund contributions will be distributed as cash grants up to £ 5,000. To be eligible to receive financial support from the Aspects of Life Fund, an organisation must be classified as a charitable organisation or a registered charity; Have non-discriminatory policies or practices and operate in compliance with UK laws; Base its funding requests on direct programme or project costs and not on general administration expenses

Grant proposals are reviewed and funded four times a year.

The next round deadline is 15 January 2002.

Full details from The Aspects of Life Fund; Aspect Telecommunications Ltd, 2 The Square, Stockley Park, Uxbridge, UB11 1AD or from web-site: www.aspect.com/company/lifefund.cfm Tel: 020 8589 1000 Fax: 020 8589 1001

Unapproved but information as web-site

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*New * Art for Architecture

Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA) operates this ongoing scheme to encourage the inclusion of artists within architectural project design teams. The emphasis is on collaboration, allowing artist and architect equal status within the design team. Any of those involved in a project can apply, but funds go towards the artists fee only. Grants will be given to: building projects; projects using new technology (electronic, digital media, virtual spaces etc.); landscape projects; short-term experimental projects.

The project must be accessible to the general public. Grants range from £2,000 to £15,000. The Advisory Panel meets three times a year. The submission deadlines for 2002 are 18 January, 19 April and 13 September.

Please contact either Jes Fernie (jes.fernie@rsa.org.uk) or Lizzie Tulip (lizzie.tulip@rsa.org.uk) for further information:

RSA Art for Architecture, 8 John Adam Street, LONDON WC2N 6EZ Tel: 020 7451 6871/6865 Web-site: www.rsa.org.uk/afa

(Not checked but as web-site) An opportunity which might help organisations working overseas

*New * Altran Foundation Announces Theme for 2002 Innovation Award

A worldwide search is on for a ground-breaking engineering design to help developing countries.

In its sixth year, the Altran Foundation for Innovation has announced the theme for its 2002 award - 'Technological Innovation for Developing Countries'.

The competition is open to designers and inventors in the 14 countries where Altran has a presence, including the UK. To help the design become reality Altran will award the winning design a year's

free consulting valued at EUR1 million.

There are three criteria the entry has to meet: the innovative nature of the project; its technological and economic feasibility; its potential for creating jobs.

Entry forms can be obtained from: The Altran Foundation website: www.foundation-altran.org/ and also by fax on: 0033 144 095440 The deadline to submit entry forms is 31 January 2002. The judges will announce the winner at the prize giving ceremony in June 2002.

*New * The Yapp Charitable Trust

The Yapp Charitable Trust makes grants to small charities in the UK for many different purposes. In an average year they give about £300,000 to charities in about 100 grants.

They make grants for work with: elderly people; children and young people; people with disabilities or mental health problems; people trying to overcome life-limiting problems such as addiction, relationship difficulties, abuse, a history of offending.

They also make grants to support charities' work in the fields of: education and learning, (including lifelong learning); scientific and medical research.

Grants are only for small registered charities whose normal annual turnover is less than £100,000.

They give grants for capital or for running costs and salaries. Most grants are for one year but they will consider applications for revenue grants for up to three years. Single year grants are usually for less than £3,000. Ongoing grants are rarely for more than £3,000 a year.

The Trustees meet three times a year to consider applications usually in March, July and November. They ask for applications to be in by: 31 January (for March); 30 May (for July) and 30 September (for November)

For Summer holiday projects please apply to the November or March meeting as the July meeting takes place too late for you to receive a reply before your project starts.

Contact Margaret Thompson, 47A Paris Road, Scholes, Holmfirth, West Yorkshire HD9 1SY Tel: 01484 683403 E-mail: yapp.trust@care4free.net Web-site: www.yappcharitabletrust.org.uk

(Not approved)

*New * The Webb Memorial Trust

The Webb Memorial Trust was set up to commemorate the Fabian and social reformer Beatrice Webb and is inviting applications from projects that assist the development of social and economic policy which support a more egalitarian society in the UK and contribute to improving democracy, employees' rights and economic prosperity in Eastern Europe. Deadline is 31 January 2002.

Contact Mike Parker, Honorary Secretary, Webb Memorial Trust, Mount Royal, Allendale Road, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 2NJ Fax: 01434 601 846

*New * European Youth Programme

Exchanges are intended to contribute to the personal development of the young participants. The exchanges are open to all British young people, regardless of their background, education, or socio-economic situation. A youth exchange brings together groups of young people from different backgrounds from two, or several countries, providing them with an opportunity to meet, discuss and confront various themes, whilst learning. Groups of young people aged, in principle, between 15 to 25 years of age, who are legally resident in a country are eligible to participate in the programme.

Each youth exchange has a host group and one or a number of

sending groups. The first step is to form a group, which will develop the project idea. The second step is to identify partners for the future exchange. European youth organisations, which are based in the Member States and have member branches in at least eight EU countries, can set up multilateral youth exchanges.

There should be a minimum of 16 and not more than 60 participants. Partners must be balanced in terms of their number of participants. Duration is from 6 to 21 days, excluding travel. Each group should nominate group leaders. The leadership team's task is to oversee the smooth running of the project.

Exchanges can have many different themes, for example anti-racism, fighting drug abuse, arts or music, environment, information technology, local heritage etc.

An exchange is not: Business meetings of youth organisations; holiday travel; language courses; school class exchanges; study tours.

Multilateral exchanges involve groups of young people from at least three programme countries. The exchange must take place in one of the countries involved in the project. For multilateral exchanges, the host organisation applies on behalf of all the partners for all costs to their National Agency.

There are also other types of activities which the European Commission will consider on a case-by-case basis, such as Itinerant multilateral exchanges which are when the entire exchange group moves during the activity from one country to another

The grant is calculated on the basis of real costs for travel and lump sums for all related costs.

The impact of a youth exchange should also bring the concept of "Europe" to the local community, and raise and promote a more positive awareness of other cultures.

For groups/associations at local, regional or national level.

Project start date: June and November - deadline 1 February; October and March - deadline 1 June; March and August - deadline 1 November; January and June - deadline 1 September.

Third country projects

Youth exchanges with third countries involve groups of young people from the European Union, the European Economic Area and third countries.

There are three priority regions: Mediterranean partner countries, Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Southeast Europe. (see Introduction to the European Youth Programme)

The exchange must be multilateral and involve groups of young people from at least two programme countries and two eligible third countries and may take place in any of the countries involved.

The National Agencies and the European Commission provide the official application forms. Or visit the web-site: www.europa.eu.int/comm/education/youth.html.

For further information, contact: Information Unit, Connect Youth International, The British Council, 10 Spring Gardens, London SW1A 2BN Tel: 020 7389 4030 Fax: 020 7389 4033 E-mail: connectyouth.enquiries@britishcouncil.org Web-site: www.connectyouthinternational.com

*New * The Performing Right Society Foundation

The Performing Right Society Foundation was launched in March 2000 and is the largest independent funding body for the support of new music. The aim of The Foundation is to encourage, promote and sustain music creation and its performance, of all genres, at all levels of activity. It does this through a range of different funding schemes which each have their own application forms and deadlines staggered throughout the year.

Schemes include general Awards to Organisations, Ensembles,

Festivals and Promoters whose main activity is the promotion and furtherance of new music. There are specific schemes such as a New Works scheme for commissioning, a Capital scheme for the purchase of tangible resources.

Foundation Awards are on offer to registered charities or non-profit making organisations, educational establishments and performance groups, but not individuals.

Awards to Ensembles, Awards to Organisations, Awards to Festivals*, Deadline for Applications Friday 8 February 2002; Composers in Education, New Works Awards, Scholarships, Awards to Promoters, Awards to Festivals*, Deadline for Applications Wednesday 24 April 2002, Capital Awards, Live Connections, Music Creators in Residence, Awards to Festivals* Deadline for Applications Friday 16 August 2002; Special Projects Awards, Awards to Festivals* Deadline for Applications Friday 25 October 2002. *Awards to Festivals available at all four deadlines from 2002

For further information please visit The Foundation's website on www.prsf.co.uk where you can find information on the schemes and download application forms.

Alternatively please contact: The Foundation Administrator, The Performing Right Society Foundation, 29/33 Berners Street, London W1P 4AA Tel: 020 7580 5544 Fax: 020 7306 4350

Learning at Work Awards

Learning something new can change the way you live and work – that's the message from NIACE, the national organisation for adult learning, on the day it launches the 2002 Adult Learners' Week Learning Works Awards. The Awards recognise and promote the value of learning in relation to the workplace and are open to all adults in England and Wales.

The judging panel will select five national Learning Works Award winners to receive a voucher for £250 to help them continue learning. Winners will be invited to a national ceremony on Learning at Work Day, 16 May.

If you would like to enter yourself or someone you know for a Learning Works Award for 2002 please contact the Campaigns and Promotions Team at NIACE on 0116 204 4200. To discuss the awards please call Mariyam Sidik on 0116 204 4278 or Francisca Martinez on 0116 204 4202. The closing date for entries is 8 February 2002.

People who want to enter any of these awards might like to consult the case studies of previous winners, available at web-site: www.niace.org.uk/alw/competitions Entry forms are also available at this site.

Adult Learners' Week, 11-17 May 2002, is the eleventh annual celebration of adult learning and is co-ordinated in England by NIACE, the national organisation for adult learning, and in Wales by NIACE Dysgu Cymru (For information in Wales please contact Rhoslyn Griffiths or Kay Smith on 029 2037 0900).

Adult Learners' Week is core-funded by the Department for Education and Skills, learndirect and the European Social Fund.

NIACE, 21 De Montfort Street, Leicester LE1 7GE

*New * Allavida

Allavida (Alliances for Voluntary Initiatives and Development) is a new international non-profit organisation that brings together grant-making, training and capacity building, and research and publishing. It is being formed by two well-established institutions: Charity Know How and Alliance magazine, both of which were formerly part of the Charities Aid Foundation.

They will continue to offer a range of Grants Programmes and longer-term Development Programmes in South East Europe, Central Asia

and the NIS, but they will also expand their activities by working with partners in Africa and Asia.

Grants rounds have been cancelled for 2001 and you will need to check the grant making strategy on their website or contact their office for further details available late this year. The deadlines will be 27 February and 28 August 2002.

Eligible organisations may be formal and informal voluntary and non-profit organisations, or any group or organisation which, under British law, is considered to have charitable purposes.

Allavida, 114 - 118 Southampton Row, London WC1B 5AA Tel: 020 7400 2310 Fax: 020 7404 1331 Web-site: www.allavida.org For a copy of the application form and guidelines by email, please send a blank email to: enquiries@allavida.org at the appropriate time.

*New * After Dementia Millennium Awards - making a new start

(An Alzheimer's Society scheme in partnership with Alzheimer Scotland - Action on Dementia and Carers UK, funded by the Millennium Commission with money from the National Lottery.)

Have you been caring for someone with dementia? Is there a gap in your life now that the caring is over?

After Dementia Millennium Awards can help you rebuild your life through grants to develop your skills and interests. The awards not only recognise the contribution you have made during your caring years, but they will also enable you to re-establish yourself again in your community.

These Awards offer opportunities for people who have cared for a person with dementia to make a new start once the all-consuming nature of caring is over.

These Awards are easy to apply for. There is plenty of help available. The scheme is open to individual carers or groups of up to five for projects of 3 to 12-months. Awards are from £2,000 to £10,000.

There are five broad themes for the awards. They are certain that you can all do something that will fit into one of these categories: Sharing your experiences with others; Organising activities for fellow former carers; Taking up a past interest which could be of benefit to others; Undertaking research, with a view to informing others; Learning a new skill to undertake voluntary work.

Please contact them well in advance of one of these dates: Round 2: 1 March 2002; Round 3: 2 September 2002; Round 4: 3 February 2003.

After Dementia Millennium Awards, Alzheimer's Society, c/o 20-25 Glasshouse Yard, London EC1A 4JT Tel: 020 7566 7840/7841/7842 Fax: 020 7490 8824 E-mail: awards@alzheimers.org.uk Web-site: www.alzheimers.org.uk

*New * Stepping Stone Fund

Consignia has launched the Stepping Stone Fund with £250,000 and a different theme is considered each year. This year awards are for small, locally based projects designed to help adults (aged 16 or over) with writing skills. Applications are especially welcomed from groups in rural areas, inner cities and those for whom English is not their first language.

Funds are for new projects, not core costs like staffing or rent. Deadline is 4 March 2002.

Contact: Stepping Stone Fund, Consignia, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ Tel: 020 7250 2243 E-mail: steppingstonefund@consignia.com Web-site: www.consignia.com under community.

Nuffield Commonwealth Programme 2002

The aims of the Nuffield Commonwealth Programme are to contribute to the improvement of education, health and social welfare in the Commonwealth countries of Southern and Eastern Africa and to promote links between the UK and those countries. It does this by funding innovative and well-defined projects that involve collaboration between UK and overseas organisations in both their design and implementation. A key aim of these projects is the development of expertise and experience of practitioners and policy makers.

In this, the second round of the programme, the Trustees are offering up to five new grants of up to £250,000 over five years, for activities beginning no earlier than January 2003.

Guidelines will be available from the Foundation of from its website from the end of September 2001. The closing date for outline applications is 9th March 2002.

The Nuffield Foundation, 28 Bedford square, London WC1B 3JS Tel: 020 7631 0566 or ring 020 7580 7434 to leave a message on 24 hour answer phone. Web-site: <http://www.nuffieldfoundation.org>

*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 an Asian town, 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.

Contact Alison Eades, Information and Communications Manager, Asia Urbs Secretariat, 205 Rue Belliard, B-1040 Bruxelles, Belgium Tel: +32 (0)2 230 76 88 Fax: +32 (0)2 230 69 73 Email: secretariat@asia-urbs.com PLEASE NOTE NEW CONTACT DETAILS FROM 21 DECEMBER 2001:

Asia Urbs Programme, Europe Aid Co-operation Office, European Commission, 41 rue de la Loi

B-1040, Brussels, Belgium Email: europaaid-asia-urbs@cec.eu.int

Website: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/europaaid/projects/asia-urbs/>

Tentative dates for the deadlines of the Third Call for Proposals are 14 March and 2 September 2002 but these are yet to be confirmed.

*New * Nations in Bloom 2002

Nations in Bloom was launched in 1997 and is now the world's leading awards/competition scheme based on management of the environment.

The judging criteria are: Enhancement of the landscape; Heritage management; Use of environmentally sensitive practices; Community involvement; Planning for the future.

The main objective of Nations in Bloom is the enhancement of the quality of life through the improvement of the environment and the creation of viable liveable communities. A further objective is the exchange of knowledge and best practice across cultural and national

borders.

Closing date 31 May 2002 with finals held 3-7 October 2002 in Stuttgart. All entrants are eligible for bursaries of up to £10,000 for projects that further the objectives of Nations in Bloom.

For further details contact Alan Smith, Nations in Bloom, Globe House, Crispin Close, Caversham RG4 7JS. Tel/Fax: 0118 9461680 Email: nationsinbloom@aol.com

*New * Volvo PEPS

This year the Practical Environmental Projects (PEP) grant scheme will be associated with a new and exciting environmental education programme called the Volvo Ocean Adventure. The new Practical Environmental Information Pack is now available. The Pack contains guidelines for applying for a PEP grant in 2002 and information sheets on Volvo's environmental education website: www.VolvoOceanAdventure.org

The Volvo Ocean Adventure is a new internet based environmental education programme, which will be linked to the world's most famous around the world yacht race, the Volvo Ocean Race. The website will use the route of the race to explore topics including 'Water and heat cycles', 'Climate change and the greenhouse effect', 'Endangered species' and 'Sustainable fisheries'.

Suggested themes for PEPs are: Biodiversity; Energy; Consumption; Water.

For a Practical Environmental Projects Information Pack send your request with name, group/school, postal address, tel/fax number, by e-mail to vcc4.marpep@memo.volvo.se or fax to 01628 476509.

Applications for Volvo P.E.P. grants in 2002 can be made from September 2001 until March 31 2002 via the Action Zone at the Volvo Ocean Adventure Web site. All environmental project plans submitted in this way from the United Kingdom will automatically be considered for a P.E.P. grant and for a Volvo Ocean Adventure global award.

New Opportunities Fund - Building neighbourhood nurseries (England) £85 million available

The building neighbourhood nurseries programme is one of the Fund's childcare programmes in England. It aims to support the construction and renovation of nurseries in deprived areas, helping address the lack of good daycare provision for children in these areas. These new neighbourhood nurseries will all offer full daycare for children from birth to school age and will often be integrated with nursery education and support for families. The programme will play a crucial role helping meet the childcare needs of working families, particularly lone parents.

The programme is intended to complement revenue funding from the Department for Education and Skills as part of its Neighbourhood Nursery Initiative (NNI)

Two types of grants are available under the programme: Development grants - small grants to help applicants undertake the development work required prior to submitting a full capital grant application to the Fund; Capital grants - grants for the construction, extension or renovation of nursery premises.

£100 million is available under the programme.

Information on how to apply for grants is provided on the web-site Information for Applicants page. This information can also be downloaded in PDF format. Printed copies of the booklet are available from the Fund's enquiries line on 0845 0000 121. The enquiries line will also be able to answer general questions. Web-site: www.nof.org.uk/edu/edu.htm

The Development Grants final closing date is 31 June 2002 and the Capital Grants 21 December 2002.

Sure Start Home Start Hackney



We are looking for enthusiastic, reliable and caring volunteers to support families under stress in Hackney.

If you are looking to change your career or have a few hours a week to spare or simply just want to help others we could be the organisation for you.



We offer Volunteers:
free initial and on-going training
travel expenses
support and supervision

We need Volunteers who have:
parenting skills
commitment of 18 months
Up to 5 hours per week to Spare
A caring and understandable attitude

We are also looking for volunteers with language skills, and welcome volunteers from Asian, Turkish, Somalian, Spanish and all other ethnic groups.

Out next training course begins

February 18th - March 16th on Mondays and Tuesdays from 9.45am to 14.45pm

Please contact **Sophie or Baher** for more details.
15 Triangle Road, Hackney, London E8 3RP

Tel: 020 7249 7246/2836

No Smoking Day briefing

March 13th 2002 is national No Smoking Day. City & Hackney Health Promotion team are organising a local debriefing session.

The local briefing is a follow on from the national briefing to relay information to workers in Hackney who are hoping to run events for No Smoking Day. The half day will incorporate the presentation of the year's No Smoking Day theme, NSD campaign materials and other resources, a session on how to support smokers who want to stop, fun ideas for action and displays and where to get support.

**The local debriefing will take place on
8th February 2002, at St Leonards.**

If you would like to attend or want any further information about No Smoking Day, then please get in touch with:

**Sima Chaudhury, at Hackney Health Promotion, St Leonards, D Block,
2nd Floor, Nuttall Street, N1 5LZ, tel 0207 301 3044
email: sima.chaudhury@chpct.nhs.uk**

DON'T MISS AGAIN

Community Empowerment Network meeting: *Next Steps*

**Weds 23rd January 2002
Queensbridge Centre, Holly
Street E8
10.00-4.00pm**



Conference will discuss the following:

- Update on events since November conference and discuss next steps
- The community's response to the LSP Accreditation which must be submitted to Government Office for London before end of January 2002.
- A development plan for the use of the Community Empowerment Fund
- Elections for representatives from the community to join the Local Strategic Partnership.

It is important you come along and have your say about the Community Empowerment Fund and who should be the community reps on the LSP. Come and share your views about how we should move forward. All welcome.

Please try and book in advance so that we can cater for you properly. Expect booking forms in the post.

**Further information about the conference and the
Community Empowerment Fund Network contact
Jake at HCVS on 020 7923 1962.**



VoluntaryVoice

The magazine for London's voluntary groups

"...broadens and informs my view of what's happening in London.
It's a real asset to my work" Paula Jones, Director, Age Concern

A key safeguard of public health ? Grounds for optimism ? London's wildlife wins the Lottery ? One of the better deals ? Models of effective governance ? A serious analysis of multiculturalism ? Towards greater rights for individuals ? Focus on Londonwide groups ? Mission possible ? Developing London's ethnic minority voluntary sector ? An endangered route out of homelessness ? Coming out from the cold ? Better than boozing or over-achieving ? Recent changes in charitable giving ? A different view of London ? Taking note of young people ? The dance of liberation ? First steps into cyberspace ? How to turn your home into a power station ? The difference a year makes ? The movers and shakers of the voluntary sector ? A practical welcome for refugees ? Anti-racist education for the new millennium ? Problem-solving on video ? Funding news ? Jargon buster ? Inputting a new world order ? Delivering better services ? Clever copy ? A powerful voice for Black Londoners ? How Outer London can catch up ? Ensuring 'a strong and coherent voice for the voluntary sector' ? Culturally sensitive care ? New ways to fight prejudice ? Diversity and democracy ? Getting the best possible lease ? One world system ? Good for the community, good for the environment ? Your charity's rubbish ! ? A voice for London's Black Communities ? Understanding fire risk ? Reaching out ? A system of symbols ? London's black infrastructure ? The view from the waiting room ? All change for local democracy ? You and your printer ? The power of dance ? Making race count for voluntary organisations ? No room for complacency ? Happiness is an LVSC computer course ? It's a fair swap ? Students tackle the wider world ? 'Part of joined-up thinking' ? Beating a bad press ? Get yourself a good reputation ? Support for the community's contribution ? Get your community moving ? A stronger voice developing ? Your neighbourhood, your voice ? The value of the voluntary sector ? Wrong in principle ? Brave new world of employment ? Turning viewers into doers ? Reaching out to the voluntary sector ? New maps of London's problems ? Sick of being excluded ? Civil rights or clients rights ? To get London working ? Turning policies into good practice ? Society's standards and practices

"...always interesting and informative, the one publication we would always subscribe to." Lynda Evans, Deputy General Secretary, Kingston Voluntary Action



If you would like a free copy, please contact J.P Houlihan Tel:
020 7700 8116; E-mail: JohnH@lvsc.org.uk

London Government