The Culture Special

Youth

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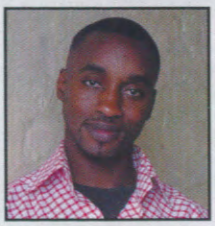


Faith info

Reports about **Jewish** and **Muslim** communities in Hackney

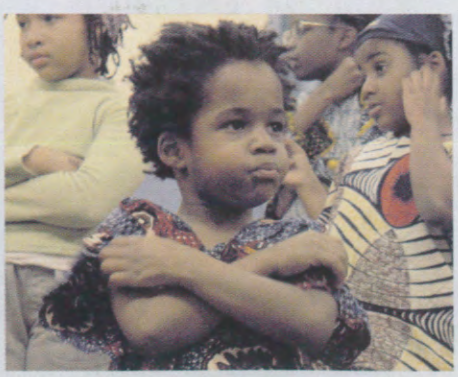
Disability

Pictures from the European Year for Disabled People Awareness Day held by Disability Hackney & LBH

The magazine for Hackney's voluntary sector

SPARK

Summer 2003



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 local voluntary and community groups, give advice on organisational development and 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 your correspondence to the address opposite.

MORE COPIES OF SPARK ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

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Talk about busy!! We have not known anything like it. These last 6 months has seen HCVS undertake endless initiatives. We've had the community elections, the end of last years grant programmes to run, BEMA exhibitions, research programmes, monitoring and more monitoring, finding new money for groups and now Black History Month amongst others. I love the results but hate the stress. Still, my marriage is still intact and I'm sure all our users still get a good service. This year offers tons more challenges but as usual we couldnt do it without you. Enjoy the weather and keep on fighting to make Hackney's voluntary sector the best sector in London.

Editing
Jake Ferguson
(Supported by Nathan Richards)
Printing
Hoxton Printhouse

Supported by
BRIDGE HOUSE ESTATES TRUST FUND

CORPORATION OF LONDON

Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) and small grants extended till 2006

Government announced on 4th April that it intends to continue NRF and Community Programme (small grants schemes and Community Empowerment Fund) funding for the current 88 eligible local authority areas in 2004-05 and 2005-06 at the current 2003-04 level (i.e. £400m for NRF and £43m for CP each year). A more detailed announcement will be made shortly regarding the individual NRF allocations for each local authority area. More details from www.neighbourhood.gov.uk

HCVS to manage more small grants this year

Following a successful year, HCVS has been contracted by the Children and Young Peoples Unit to manage the Local Network Fund small grants scheme again this year, 2003/4. Funding is targeted at projects that work with disadvantaged young people up to 19 living in Hackney. The Fund represents around £500,000 for Hackney. Keep an eye on the HCVS website for more details www.hcvs.org.uk

New BME networks - let ROTA know

Race on the Agenda (ROTA) have established the Minority Ethnic Network (MiNet) which is a London wide network that will facilitate involvement and participation of London's Black and Minority Ethnic (BME), organisations and communities in a range of policy and development initiatives. It will also promote and advocate for the BME voluntary sector as a whole in partnership with other networks and umbrella bodies activities and programmes that aim to address the social exclusion of BME communities'. The project is funded by the Government's Active Communities Unit. Contact Rafiu Williams on 020 8983 7144 if you are a local network that ROTA should know about.

futurebuilders fund

The Treasury, together with the Compact Working Group, has launched the consultation document on proposals for how to use the new £125 million futurebuilders fund which was announced as part of the 2002 Spending Review. http://www.access-funds.co.uk/archive/2003/may/futurebuilders_fund.htm

Tenants can fight crime

A new campaign to involve tens of thousands of tenants in fighting crime and anti-social behaviour has been launched by the Home Office, starting with a new training programme especially designed to help residents tackle issues most affecting their communities. The 'Crime Reduction Basics' toolkit available from www.crimereduction.gov.uk is a training manual that can help thousands of members of tenant associations to find suitable ways to address the crimes most affecting them at a local level.

£107 Million to Tackle Young People's Drug Problems

The Home Office has announced a £107 million package of measures to help steer vulnerable young people away from a life of drugs and crime. For the first time treatment and drug services will be targeted at under 18's who are starting to use Class A drugs and turning to crime to fund their habit and a new Youth Crime Programme will work directly with young drug users in communities particularly affected by drug related crime. The Home Office has published three reports: Substance use by young offenders: the impact of the normalisation of drug use in the early years of the 21st century; Youth homelessness and substance use: report to the drugs and alcohol research unit; and One problem among many: Drug use among care leavers in transition to dependant life. Copies are available from the Home Office press office on 020 7273 4545 or from www.drugs.gov.uk

BEMWG moves to Bradbury Street

New contact details are as follows: Unit C4, 3 Bradbury St, Hackney, London N16 8JN, Tel: 020 7923 2229 / 7275 9875 Fax: 020 7275 9401 E-mail: post@bemwg.freeserve.co.uk

London's missing millions

London is losing about £265 million of funding for the regeneration of run-down areas according to new research published by the Association of London Government and Greater London Enterprise. Research into the way that the Index of Deprivation used by the Government to calculate ward differences suggests that there are serious underestimation happening which affects London.

Charity law s3et to change

David Blunkett, home secretary has suggested that 400 year old charity laws will change and a draft bill will be released soon. Speaking at the NCVO annual conference, Mr Blunkett was responding to research which suggested that 80% of the public did not know that the Royal Opera House was a charity. The Charities Bill Coalition a group of top UK Charities and NGO's have joined forces to campaign for changes to current charity law. More details from NCVO on 020 7713 6161.

£18m for extra refuge to help domestic violence surviviors

Barbara Roche, Minister for Social Exclusion and Equality, has announced how £18.8 million funding with the Housing Corporation, will be allocated to build and develop refuges over the next twelve months across England to help women and children fleeing violent partners. The money will be used in partnership with local refugee groups, Registered Social Landlords and local authorities to ensure better availability of safe accommodation for women and children who have suffered from domestic violence and have been forced to leave their homes. The Housing Corporation are contributing £9.9 million to the total investment and will assess the bids, ensuring that the money is allocated to projects around the country, where a real difference can be made to the lives of women living in fear of homelessness. More details from http://www.access-funds.co.uk/archive/2003/apr/Domestic_violence.htm

Improvements in Learning Disability Services

Health Minister, Jacqui Smith, has published 'Making Change Happen' the Government's report to Parliament on learning disability services. This is the first ever government report to be specially written in straightforward, jargon-free language that people with learning disabilities can understand. It shows the process made over the past two years on implementing the programme of action set out in the White paper 'Valuing People: A New Strategy for Learning Disability for the 21st Century' published in March 2001. For further information and to obtain a copy of the report see:
http://www.doh.gov.uk/learningdisabilities/annualreport/annrep_flyer.pdf
http://www.info.doh.gov.uk/doh/intpress.nsf/page/2003-0144?OpenDocument

Tough New Community Penalty Targets Young Adult Offenders

Home Office Minister Hilary Benn has launched a new intensive and demanding community penalty. The 'Intensive Control and Change Programme' (ICCP) is designed to cut offending by 18 to 20 year olds- a group who are normally reconvicted after release from prison or a traditional community sentence. It will be piloted in London, Nottinghamshire, Northumbria, Humberside and West Yorkshire from April and in a further six areas later this year. ICCP keeps offenders off the streets, tackles their offending behaviour, aids rehabilitation and provides an effective alternative to prison for non-violent and non-sexual offenders. Further information is available from www.homeoffice.gov.uk

Prescott Outlines Reforms to Deliver Sustainable Communities

Culture change and reform of the land-use planning process will play a vital role in delivering the Government's £22 billion Sustainable Communities Plan. The plan described by Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott is a vision for vibrant and thriving communities where people want to live, not leave. Key measure in the Plan include: £5 billion for more affordable housing, £500 million for deserted and rundown areas in the North and Midlands, £2.8 billion to improve social housing and £201 million for improving the local environment. Technology, design and innovation are important parts of this drive to create new, high quality communities and from 2004/5 a quarter of new homes funded by the Housing Corporation will be from 'off-site' manufacture. http://www.odpm.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2003_0069

£100 Million Package to Get Lone Parents into Work

Lone parents will get extra cash in their pockets if they look for work and get a job under an innovation package of measures announced in the budget. Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Andrew Smith said the new measures were aimed at removing the financial barriers to work for lone parents and giving them a real choice. The lone parent employment package includes cash incentives to get a job- from October 2004 eight pilots in London will give lone parents a £40 a week bonus for a year when they get a job and £20 extra a week for up to a year while they are actively looking for one. http://www.dwp.gov.uk/mediacentre/pressreleases/2003/april/emp0904-lonep.htm

Why Britain's Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Muslims Need Dedicated Support Groups

Scarcity of support groups for Britain's gay, lesbian and bisexual Muslims is highlighted in a report sponsored by the ESRC which gives unique insight into the religious and social pressures on their lives. Help groups offer a safe environment to explore the thorny issue of Islam and 'non-heterosexuality' which the wider gay and lesbian community rarely provides. Being gay is widely perceived within their community as a 'western disease' and a natural outcome of secularity, individualism and permissiveness. For further information contact Dr Andrew Yip on a.yip@ntu.ac.uk

More Support for Volunteers

Young people from low-income backgrounds are to get extra Government support to become volunteers for a year after they finish school, college or training. Education and Skills Secretary Charles Clarke and Home Secretary David Blunkett announced the details of a pilot scheme, which will give young people an allowance of £45 a week to encourage them to become volunteers. The £5 million Young Volunteer Challenge, which begins in May, will benefit 1,200 young people aged 18 to 21 through pilots in 10 areas throughout England. http://www.dfes.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn-id=2003_0066

Hackney developing a new Community Strategy

Mayor Pipe is leading on the development of a new Community Strategy for Hackney. Community strategies like this one are a requirement of Central Government and should be developed through Local Strategic Partnerships involving all stakeholders, particularly Community Empowerment Networks. They need to be inclusive, developed in partnership and based on informed decision-making i.e. they need your input to be become a workable document. The strategy itself will provide the context for local policy development and service planning for all public agencies in the Borough.

The old community strategy, the Hackney 2020 vision is now out of date and needs fresh input and ownership by the community. Mayor Jules Pipe will publish a Green Paper in September which will build on the existing policy documents. It will be launched at the Partnership Forum on 24th September. HCVS as a member of the Partnership Forum will report back top you all and will be following developments closely.

If you would like to comment now you can by emailing: community.strategy@hackney.gov.uk or post your comments to Community Strategy, Room 83, Hackney Town Hall, London E8 1EA.

Council consults on its plan for Older People

The draft plan for Older People has been published and describes how Hackney Council would like to improve the quality of life for its older residents. It sets out what they believe are some of the things that are important for older people and what actions they propose to take to improve things. They want to know what you think of these. Are there other areas of concern for older people that they have not paid enough attention to? Do you think the actions they are proposing will help? Are there other things they could do?

You can make your comments known to Hackney Council in a number of ways:

- **You can complete a questionnaire by emailing info@hackney.gov.uk and requesting a copy of the Older People Plan in the message box)**
- **You can write to Carl Blakey, Head of Commissioning, 205 Morning Lane, London E9 6JX**
- **You can phone 020 8356 4656 and leave a message**
- **You can fax the Council on 020 8356 2181**

The plan will say what the Council will do over the next three years that will help improve the lives of older people. The plan covers all aspects of the council's activities that impact particularly on older people. It identifies their aspirations and the practical steps they will start to make to realise these. The plan will be used to produce a list of actions identifying who will be responsible for actions and when they will be done. The plan will be subject to extensive consultation between June and August 2003 and progress will be reviewed annually.

The Council's aspirations for older people relate to eight objectives:

1. Safe and secure

Increasing older people's confidence by reducing fear of crime and reduce the risk of them becoming victims of crime

2. Involved and participating

Enabling older people to participate in community activities that they enjoy. We want them to continue to make a valued contribution to community life.

3. Living independently

Assisting older people to live as independently as possible in the community.

4. Staying healthy

To support improvements in the health of older people living in Hackney.

5. Meeting housing needs

Ensuring that we have sufficient accommodation that is suitable to meet the needs of older people living in Hackney.

6. Out and about

Making it easier for older people to get out and about in Hackney so they can participate in the life of the community and keep independent.

7. Reducing discrimination

Working within the National Service Framework (NSF) for older people adopting a systematic approach to identifying and eliminating age discrimination in access to the services we are responsible for.

8. Consulting and informing

Ensuring that older people are consulted on all aspects of planning and services that may affect them and that they are informed about what is happening in Hackney.

What to call our plan?
We know that our plan's present title is not very catchy. We would welcome suggestions for a suitable title. We think the title should be short (no more than four words), catchy and tell people that it's about improving the quality of life for older people. If we use your suggestion you will receive a small prize (£20 of shopping coupons) and a very big thank you!

Hackney Council need to hear from you by 29 August 2003 and particularly welcome comments from community groups.

The Council for Older People will be running a conference in September about the plan. Call Age Concern on 020 7249 7149 for details.

Health Improvement & Modernisation Programme

Mary Cannon reports.....

Mary is Chair of Age Concern Hackney and Chair of the Hackney Health & Social Care Forum (voluntary sector-led forum to discuss health issues)

The HIMP is a three year local strategy for health that is updated each year, and is developed through a process that:

- begins with assessing the needs of local people and local populations
- considers options for meeting those identified needs
- looks at issues relating to particular groups in the population, and in the way good health is promoted, ill health is prevented, and health services are delivered
- reports on previous action on local needs and issues
- provides priorities for action for future years.

Last year's local HIMP won the national 'Award for Excellence' for being concise, targeted and clear about needs and priorities. This year's is the third annual update, and provides another opportunity for voluntary and community groups and organisations to give our views on what the HIMP includes and what we consider should be priorities.

The HIMP is not a document that includes financial information or spending plans, but is used as the basis for making decisions on how to use local resources. During last year local NHS and Social Services bodies used the priorities in the HIMP to make decisions on their future plans and spending programmes.

Another key use has been as the basis for allocating Health and Social Care Neighbourhood Renewal Funding (NRF), by using the HIMP's principles of prioritising prevention, improving access and removing inequalities. The Health and Social Care Partnership Board's NRF Working Group recommended the funding of a variety of ongoing work and a large number of smaller one off projects to meet HIMP priorities. They allocated about £1.725 million for 2002 / 2003, and about £2.5 million for 2003 / 2004 for 138 projects of all sizes, of which 117 are being delivered by voluntary and community groups, including 44 by black and minority ethnic specific groups.

Many voluntary and community groups and organisations have already contributed ideas and suggestions for the current draft of this year's HIMP. For those who haven't yet taken part in the work to develop the HIMP, or who want to see where the HIMP has got to this year, the latest draft is currently available for comment.

The draft document is about 60 pages long, and is made up of chapters on

- specific user / interest groups, such as children and young people, carers, refugees and asylum seekers
- particular conditions and diseases, such as stroke, diabetes, and cancer
- background and wider health issues including regeneration, the recruitment and retention of staff, and emergency planning.

If you're interested in commenting now, you can obtain the current draft of this year's HIMP now, and feed your comments into the revision process.

You can also ask to be informed about next year's HIMP, and become involved during the drafting of next year's HIMP.

Discussions take place about the HIMP at open meetings held by the Health and Social Care Forum and the Black and Ethnic Minority Working Group, both of whom have representatives on the group that develops the HIMP. Speakers are also able to come to groups to talk about the HIMP.

If you would like to see the whole or part of the draft HIMP, or would like to become involved in the continuing development of the HIMP, then please contact:

Mary Cannon, Age Concern Hackney, 22 Dalston Lane, London E8 3AZ, tel 020 7249 7149 or e-mail cannon@which.net, or David Sloan, Director of Health Improvement, City and Hackney PCT, D block, St Leonards, Nuttall Street, London N1 6JX, tel 020 7301 3249 or e-mail Johhanne.Holland@chpct.nhs.uk.

New two-tier Council Grants

The Council is likely to introduce a new grants system this year for voluntary and community groups in Hackney. Where previously the Council has run a single grants scheme through the Association of London Government it now plans to run two schemes in 2004/5.

The first will be a main grants programme worth around £2.5million and will provide large grants to voluntary and community groups, many of which will already be funded by the Council through the ALG. The second will be a small grants scheme of grants up to £5,000 and will be similar to the Hackney Community Chest.

The Cabinet, the main decision making body in Hackney, will meet on 28th July to confirm these grant programmes. Information will be printed in Hackney Today in August. The application process will start soon after and will be open until 19th September 2003.

The Community Accountancy Project (CAP) are available to help groups fill in the financial aspect of their application forms for these grants. They will also be running seminars on finance issues in early September. Contact Cyndi Smart at CAP on 020 7249 7109.

A COMPACT at last

SPARK SAYS HAVE YOUR SAY!

The Council is finally starting the process of developing a local voluntary sector COMPACT which should involve all stakeholders including voluntary and community groups. This multi-agency approach will also involve social services the advice sector, youth sector amongst others as well as the wider voluntary sector. Jessica Crowe, Deputy Mayor is lead Councillor for COMPACT development. National guidance on COMPACT development stresses that any local COMPACT should address the BME voluntary and community sector specifically.

The Council has statutpry responsibility to develop a local COMPACT. The lead officer for the COMPACT is Maria Weir. For more information contact Community Partnerships in the Council on 020 8356 5000.

Empowering HACKNEY'S voluntary sector

hcvs

- Help with funding applications and one-to-one fundraising support
- **Community Chest grants**
- Organisational development
- **Community Empowerment Fund**
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- FunderFinder
- Assistance with legal matters
- Employment issues
- Voluntary sector representation

Hackney Council for Voluntary Service, The Print House, 18 Ashwin Street, London E8 3DL
Open 9.30-5.00 weekdays. Tel: 020 7923 1962 Fax: 020 7275 8577 email: post.hcvs@virgin.net

Community Empowerment

What are we doing this year 2003/4?

This year HCVS has a little more time to organise things and use the Community Empowerment Fund (CEF) more strategically. Below is a list of the sort of work we will be doing with the Community Empowerment Network (CEN) and CEN Planning Group to ensure the community plays a role in local regeneration and decision making.

1 NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

- Run the Community Empowerment Network Planning Group meetings
- Induction & training for CEN Planning Group reps on the Hackney Strategic Partnership.
- Support CEN reps to attend HSP meetings and events.
- Monitor and follow up HSP decisions and their impact on Voluntary and Community Sector.
- Provide feedback to CEN and wider community on HSP decisions & plans.
- Negotiate a CEN/HSP Protocol.
- Devise & distribute CEN membership packs to members.
- Form Grants Panels to assess Community Chest, Community Learning Chest bids and to make decisions about use of CEF resources.
- Host a community conference in the Autumn and run workshops.

2 RUNNING THE CEN

- Administer the CEF programme.
- Monitor and review the CEF programme.
- Assess the progress and development of CEN using the NRU's Performance Management System (PMS).
- Liaise with GOL about CEN.

3 CAPACITY BUILDING

- Do outreach work to encourage involvement of marginalised groups and communities.
- Provide organisational development to community groups enabling them to fulfil neighbourhood renewal functions
- Support & strengthen local networks and forums

4 RESEARCH & CONSULTATION

- Identify community needs & resources and develop solutions.
- Develop new areas of research.
- Identify participation opportunities by mapping consultation/ decision making structures within Hackney.

5 INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION

- Produce & disseminate information about NR issues and the HSP (e.g. briefings, newsletters).
- Analyse information on existing Voluntary and Community groups, networks and forums.
- With HSP, devise communications strategy to make HSP/NR agenda easy to understand and accessible to participate.
- Further develop the interactive functions of the website for CEN (e.g. email, discussion forums)
- Write responses to HSP consultations and plans, e.g. Community Strategy, Local NR Strategy.

6 TRAINING

- Conduct skills audit with CEN members/HSP community reps
- Plan & deliver customised training programme for CEN members to develop NR skills & knowledge.

7 EVALUATION

- Provide impact assessment of the CEN work so far looking at what it has achieved in the ground.

Check out the next 'EMPOWERING HACKNEY' bulletin out soon FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Community Empowerment

Meet your community representatives on the HSP

Voting ended on 13th February 2003 for the election of community representatives to the Hackney Strategic Partnership Forum. The Community Empowerment Network Planning Group commissioned the Electoral Reform Society to conduct a ballot of all voluntary, community and tenants & residents organisations to elect 13 representatives to the Hackney Strategic Partnership (HSP). The 13 elected representatives will sit on the Partnership Forum which consists of 45-50 members, meets quarterly and is the decision making body of HSP.

Opposite is a list of people who were elected. If you are interested in getting involved in neighbourhood renewal you can contact your CEN representative to ensure your views are heard. Otherwise you can contact the Chair of the HSP sub-partnership that covers your interests. It is these sub-partnerships that have funding to commission projects in the community. Although NRF is not an application process as such many voluntary and community groups have been granted funding to develop local services that meet NRF criteria and regenerate Hackney.

CATERGORY	NAME	ORGANISATION	EMAIL
Community	Andre Joseph	Origin Community Association	origin@printhouse.fsnet.co.uk
Disability	Eddy Okojaja	Disability Hackney	EOkojaja@aol.com
Environment	Jo Lamb	Hackney Parks Forum	jolamb@connordog.netverse.co.uk
Lifelong Learning	Gail Chester	Friends of Hackney Nursaries	gailchester@blueyonder.co.uk
Older People	Stephanie Brann	Anchor Trust	stephanie.brann@anchor.org.uk
Race	Adu Seray-Wurie	African Development Agencies	enquiries@hackneychamber.co.uk
Refugee & Asylum Seekers	Ali Riza Aksoy	Hackney Refugee Forum	post@bemwg.fsnet.co.uk
Tenants & Residents	Dave Mackey	Shellgrove Tenant's and Resident's Association	davidmackey@supanet.com
Tenants & Residents	Les Moore	East London Food Access	lesmoore@mailbox.co.uk
Tenants & Residents	Dawn Bishop	Clapton Community Housing Trust	Dawn.bishop@guinness.org.uk
Voluntary Sector Umbrella	Adiaha Antigha	Hackney Council for Voluntary Service	jake.hcvs@virgin.net
Voluntary Sector Umbrella	Melanie Danan	The Interlink Foundation	melanie@interlink-foundation.org.uk
Women	Nazima Osman	Asian Women's Advisory Service	No email - contact jake.hcvs@virgin.net

What is the CEN?

The Community Empowerment Network (CEN) has been set up by the Government to help voluntary and community groups and residents' groups get involved as equal and full partners in the Hackney Strategic Partnership (HSP). The CEN also helps the local community and voluntary sector to influence decisions made by the HSP. Funding is available through the Community Empowerment Fund (CEF) to do this. HCVS has been commissioned by Government Office for London to develop the CEF. The Community Empowerment Network (CEN) Planning Group has several roles:

- Making sure that the CEF works well and does what it is supposed to do
- Making sure the CEF is accessible to all groups in Hackney
- Ensuring that groups which are often excluded from decision making are involved
- Planning each year's activities
- Ensuring that the principles of community involvement and participation underpin all of the CEN work
- Working with HCVS to make best use of the CEF monies and resources available.

What do all these words mean?

Community Chest (CC)
Now in its second year the Community Chest provides grants of £50-£5000 for projects that will improve the quality of life of Hackney residents.

Community Empowerment Fund (CEF)
The Community Empowerment Fund is used to commission activities which facilitate participation in neighbourhood renewal and the Hackney Strategic Partnership.
Community Empowerment Network (CEN)
The CEN is a network of over 330 voluntary, community, and residents' organisations in Hackney, committed to improving the borough through participation in neighbourhood renewal.

Community Empowerment Network Planning Group
The CENPG was set up by the CEN to devise a development strategy for the CEN and to represent the CEN on the HSP until community elections take place.

Community group
A Community Group is a group of people who come together to pursue a common cause or interest for the good of their community. This community can be a geographic area eg Dalston or a group of people, eg Somalis. They are often run by volunteers, manage themselves and, although they don't necessarily have to have a management committee or set of rules, many do.

Community Learning Chest
Grants for individuals (up to £500) and groups (up to £5000) who want to develop their skills and knowledge. This includes activities such as training, participation, subscriptions to journals, good practice, helping communities explore their cultures, IT
Community sector
The Community Sector describes all community groups and associations in the borough.

Disabled group
A Disabled Group is a group that provides services to disabled people on a not-for-profit basis. It can be a community or voluntary group.

Environmental group
An Environmental Group is a group that addresses environmental problems on a not-for-profit basis. It can be a community or voluntary group.

Hackney Strategic Partnership (HSP)
The Government requires the development of a Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) in each area to bring together representatives of the public, private, voluntary and community sectors to deliver improvements in social, economic and environmental well-being.

HSP Partnership Forum
This is the upper tier of the HSP which includes 45-50 members and meets quarterly. The forum is the decision making body of HSP and is the "custodian" of the Vision and the Neighbourhood Renewal (NR) strategy.

HSP Steering Group
This group is in effect the Management Committee of the HSP, dealing with the management of programmes and channeling issues, reporting progress and being accountable for agreed actions to the Partnership Forum.

Lifelong Learning group
A Lifelong Learning Group is a group that encourages access to education and learning relevant to individuals' personal goals and the needs of the community. It can be a community or voluntary group that operates on a not-for-profit basis.

Local Network Fund
Grants of £250-£7000 for voluntary and community groups working with vulnerable children and young people up to age 19 which are providing local solutions to the problems of child poverty.

Neighbourhood Renewal (NR)
"*A New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal - National Strategy Action Plan*" sets out the Government's policies to tackle deprivation wherever it occurs in England. A key element of the strategy is the improvement of mainstream services to produce better outcomes in the most deprived areas of which Hackney is one. Go to **www.neighbourhood.gov.uk** for more details.

Older People's group
An Older People's group is a group that provides services in the community on a not-for-profit basis for people aged 65 or over. It can be a community or voluntary group.

Race group
A Race Group is a group that alleviates problems associated with race on a not-for-profit basis. It can be a community or voluntary group.

Refugees & Asylum Seekers group
A Refugee & Asylum Seekers group is a group that alleviates problems associated with immigration and asylum on a not-for-profit basis. It can be a community or voluntary group.

Tenants & Residents Association (TRA)
A Tenants & Residents Association (TRA) is an organisation run by and for tenants and leaseholders of council and social landlord-owned property. It usually is a community sector organisation that operates on a not-for-profit basis.

Vision themes of HSP
The Seven themes which comprise the Hackney neighbourhood renewal strategy are:

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

Voluntary sector
Although both self help and community organisations are voluntary organisations the Voluntary Sector term usually describes the network of larger organisations many of whom will have a policy remit. Such organisations often have a strategic or advocacy role. NCVO describes voluntary organisations that are: formal (have a constitution); independent of government and self-governing; not-for-profit and operate with a meaningful degree of volunteer involvement.

Voluntary Sector umbrella group
A Voluntary Sector Umbrella Group is a voluntary sector organisation providing support services for a network of voluntary and/or community organisations who provide direct services to the community.

Women's group
A Women's Group is a group that provides services in the community on a not-for-profit basis for women of all ages. It can be a community or voluntary group.

Somali Women's Day

Somali Women's Support Group celebrated International Women's Day on 8th March at Kings Crescent Hall, Finsbury Park. The event included workshops about integrating the Somali Community with the wider community in Hackney and how they can access services. Somali culture and dances were performed to entertain people.

The Somali Women's Support Group Coordinator says that, 'Our Women are keen to attend more meetings and acivities like this in the future so they can reduce their isolation and build up contacts outside their own community'.

Contact the Somali Women's Support Group at 5 Princess Crescent, N4 2HH 020 8802 7713.

Polari in Partnership project

This is a three year project started in May 2002 and is working with older lesbians and gay men in the 60+ age group.

Polari is independent but they are working in partnership with commissioners and providers of services in Housing, Health, Community Care and Community Safety on the issues that affect the lives of this group of people.

Polari want to find out if local services are meeting needs.

Polari want to support older lesbians and gay men assess these services.

Polari want to help in the planning of appropriate services.

Polari want to share examples of good practice.

Polari want to ask older lesbians and gay men in Hackney - Do you have views on? Sheltered housing, other housing? Does your accommodation suit your lifestyle? Do you or your partner need Community Care, have you considered this an option? Are you safe in your area? Do you have appropriate healthcare, would your loved one have a say in telling medical staff what your wishes are?

Would you like to find out more or know someone who may benefit from knowing about us?

CONFIDENTIALITY IS ASSURED.
Contact Polari, 2 Plough Yard, Shoreditch High Street, London EC2A 3LP. Tel: 020 7422 8649 email polari@madasafish.com

Latest info on Haggerston pool

Hawkins\Brown architects have started working with HCD on plans for the re-opening of Haggerston Pool. One of the architects will be coming to the Pool meeting (see below) to discuss their initial plans.

Hackney Council have agreed in principle that Haggerston Pool should be part of the London Open House program that takes place on September 21st and 22nd. This is a London wide event, widely publicised, when many buildings not normally accessible, are opened to the public. (More information www.londonopenhouse.org or 020 7267 2070). The opening of Haggerston Pool depends on agreeing how the public access can be managed - probably by allowing in small groups of people accompanied by Haggerston Pool Campaign members, and on the Council checking the insurance held by Open House.

Haggerston Pool Community Trust made a presentation to the Shoreditch Neighbourhood Committee at their June meeting attended by about 30 local residents. The Committee agreed to follow up with the Council the issues of access to the baths by the Pool Trust and other interested parties, the clearing of the rubbish and the Council's continuing involvement in the future of the pool. Following this the issue of access has been resolved and the Council have also agreed in principle to allowing public access to the building in the Open House program (see above).

This information is taken from the Haggerston pool email bulletin by HCD. If you wouldlike ot receove it regularly contact: pool@hced.co.uk or send a blank email to news-join@haggerstonpool.com Tel: 020 7690 6662 Liz Hughes, Haggerston Pool Community Trust c/o HCD, 62 Beechwood Road, London E8 3DY

'Food for Thought' review

Gareth Fields feeds back to spark readers about Soul Vibe Entertainment's talent extravangza 'Food 4 thought' which was held at Stratford circus on Friday 13th December 2002.

Friday December 13th 2002 turned out to be an unforgettable night as Soul vibe entertainment hosted it's third talent showcase at Stratford Circus. Co-ordinated by 22 year old Kevin Brazant aka Lyrics and 19 year old Ilyas Patel aka Jazz.

There was a wide range of talent on hand from the melodic sounds of Jazz and Gospel to the gyrating beats of hip hop - there was something there for the young and old a like.

There were ten acts on the night which also included an open mic session. This gave talented or talenteless members of the audience a chance to strut there stuff. The acts that performed on the show were of the highest quality. The two who caught the eyes of the public and definitely have a big future in front of them are Andre Elliot and ten year old Jordelle. Talented Andre performed on the open mike session and gave a nostalgic performance of R. Kelly's 'I Believe I can fly' on the saxophone.

While Jordelle danced to Missy Elliot's 'work it' and performed the Fugee's classic 'Killing me Softly' to perfection.

The public loved the show and welcome more positive showcases from 'Soul Vibe entertainment' this is just a sample of what they had to say

"I think the show was excellent it showed a different range of talent".

"It is evident that with the talent showcased urban music has a bright future in this country."

Dalston Culture House gets the go ahead with secure funding

HCD have now secured the necessary funding for the Culture House project in Gillette Square, Dalston. Works are scheduled to start on site this Autumn and to complete by June 2004.

The Culture House will feature a gallery/shop/cafe and performance/meeting areaon the ground floor well as and a studio space for artists on the upper floors.

Currently HCD is negotiating with the Stoke Newington Vortex Jazz Club who need new premises. This innovative project will provide a new focus to Dalston in terms of culture and the arts and will also give the community a say in the management of this space.

For further details visit the HCD website at www.hced.co.uk

African Community School wins award from the Trust

The African Community School run by Frank Owusu and administered by Kome Owusu has been awarded funding from the Learning Trust to contribute to their out-of-school activities that they run as part of their Supplementary School. ACS, who operate from Princess May School in Stoke Newington, will run their activities each Saturday 9-1.30pm and during the summer from 9 till 4pm for 2 weeks.

ACS can be contacted on 020 7923 3630.

Save our building!

2002 was not a good year for the Turkish Cypriot Cultural Association. After seeing their funding repeatedly slashed and then revoked completely, they now watch helplessly as the Council attempts to reprocess the property that was bought on their behalf more than fifteen years ago.

The Council's initial bid was only discovered by chance as the centre's co-ordinator, Sermet Mustafa, browsed the pages of a local real estate newsletter. Imagine his shock when he saw a full-page advertisement picturing their property and offering the lease for £6,500 per annum.

"It's a long story", says Zekia Alsanjak, chairperson of the association. "It is sad that the Council that should be serving us is trying to bring us down".

The story begins in 1977. The society began their weekly meetings in a founder members shop and soon established themselves at the heart of the Turkish Cypriot community. Their aims were to aid integration and to break down language barriers, with particular emphasis on caring for the elderly and disabled. With the help of the society, many were able to begin new lives in Hackney, forming a vital part of the economic infrastructure and making a rich contribution to the vibrant culture of the borough. The group also strived to maintain their traditions of folklore music and art, gathering for meals and offering their members not only practical, but moral support.

Every year the TCCA deals with over 3,000 applications for advice ranging from health to employment, translation, housing, legal matters and social support including a drop in service.

"It is sad that the Council that should be serving us is trying to bring us down".

Of these applications, more than 60% are from persons over the age of 60 and are most are health related. Thus they provide services that the Council, Benefit Agencies and other Government departments cannot not fully effectively offer. In 1984, the Council acknowledged their valuable work by offering them funding and the then Inner City Partnership (ICP) granted them the money to buy a building to house the organisation. In the same year, they found 14A Graham Road, ironically, an old Labour headquarters. It was perfect. The location was good and there was plenty of space for their growing membership. The ICP stumped up the cash and the freehold deeds were transferred to the Association for the princely sum of £1.

Finally TCCA had the base they so desperately needed. But there was one snag: As the property was for public use it had to come up to fire regulation standards. A temporary license was obtained to permit the use of the building and the modifications were carried out. It was all over. The property was theirs. The group held a small party to celebrate, attended by the then Mayor of Hackney. And then the TCCA went about their business of serving their community in the belief that everything was complete and above board, with a solicitor's letter to prove it.

Now this solicitors letter is all that they cling to as proof that the building is theirs. What was once a warm working relationship with the Council has turned sour.

> "They (the Council) sent us letters about selling the property which were worded in such a way that by simply replying implied that we had accepted their terms", says Alsanjak. He goes on to explain: "We thought that the council wanted to help us repair our buildings"

In hindsight it all becomes horribly clear.

"Our funding came down gradually from £70,000 per year to just £20,000. In the September of 1999, the council told us we had no more money...and it was then that we started to get letters from Nelson Bakewell [auctioneers working for the Council]."

They were told that the property did not legally belong to them. The Council were planning to sell it, but said that if the group wanted to make an offer, the Council would consider it favourably.

Understandably, they panicked. "We are not solicitors ourselves, there seemed to be nothing we could do. We made an offer for the opening price of £140,000. We were refused."

Dismayed at the increasingly perplexing chain of events, the group decided to stick to their guns and to fight for what they know to be theirs.

"They know that we have no budget, no money to operate with. They want to squeeze us out and then take the building. The Council have already been paid on behalf of us for this building. The fact that Nelson Bakewell tried to trick us into saying that it was not ours should not be held against us."

They now deeply regret not following up the deeds for the building with the Land Registry. This is certainly an oversight on their behalf. But what it does not mean is that the building no longer belongs to them. What they do have is the signed solicitors letter to certify that, on 22nd June 1986 the property of 14A Graham Road was handed over to the TCCA. They also have the knowledge and belief that they are right.

For now they are scraping by with the help of some lottery funding. They continue to operate despite the crippling lack of funds. "We haven't even switched the heating over the winter. We had a community meeting in the hall and everybody froze."

The future looks precarious and hostile, but Alsanjak is resigned. "Even if I have to pay the money out of my own pocket, we will fight it."

Premises - time for a new relationship

The Council is keen to develop a new relationship with community groups who rent or use Council property. Will they meet the sector's needs?

The Council are the first to admit that such relationships in the past have been varied and in some cases quite difficult. Many local residents and community groups have been appalled by the Council's past policy of selling community spaces to meet its financial deficits. Similarly, Nelson Bakewell (estate agents) operating on behalf of the Council, have treated many community groups terribly.

HCVS knows through local research that the availability and need for premises is the biggest problem facing the sector locally. Many cannot afford Hackney rents, many operate from home and some do not have enough funding to maintain the buildings they are in. Equally, there are not enough general community spaces for groups to access. There is a huge need for an ethnic minority voluntary sector resource centre for instance as well as communal spaces for conferences, meetings and the like.

It seems however, all this is about to change. A new Working Group led by Councillor Jessica Crowe (Deputy Mayor) and Max Caller (Managing Director) which has representation from Hackney CAB, HAVE, the Community Empowerment Network and Age Concern, has been established to look at new arrangements for community groups in Council property and the availability of community space. This Working Group will come up with proposals for the sector to comment on.

At its first consultation meeting at the end of last year, Jessica Crowe made the welcome announcement that there would be no more sales of community building in this financial year. The Working Group have since met and are looking at a number of issues.

Here are some key points from their discussions:

The Government and the Audit Commission requires all Local Authorities to list all their properties and their values, and to charge market rents for them.

The Council is looking to regularise its relationship with voluntary and community groups because previously some of their property has been let at low or peppercorn rent and in many cases there is no clear understanding who is responsible for repairs or insurance etc.

Some community groups only use a small part of the buildings they rent. In future, they will probably have to use all of the space or return the unused space to the Council.

The Council does not know exactly how many buildings it has or what condition they are in. Many are in a state of disrepair and would need substantial investment. On the other hand many community groups who have been in properties for many years have maintained those properties in a tenable condition which would need to be recognised and compensated for in some way. The Council will be looking at this in any future agreements its makes.

The Working Group has looked at various models for letting premises and community reps favoured an option whereby properties are run by Management Committees, comprising representation from users but also recognised that other arrangements may need to be made e.g. properties let to single users may only require a straightforward lease.

The Council is looking at the number of buildings it can provide for community groups. It is doing this through its planning procedures, namely the Unitary Development Plan which is a strategic document governing the use of land and property by Local Authorities. Previously however, it could be argued that the Council and Nelson Bakewell have ignored this planning document in selling its properties.

The community representatives were also keen to see some kind of security of tenure for groups so that they would not have to move out once their lease or tenancy ended.

Rate relief for charities is also an issue that the Council should look into.

Research about the sector and its needs is vital.

The Working Group will also look at other landlords in Hackney and their relationship with community sector tenants.

In response to the need for better information about premises, the Community Empowerment Network will be surveying the sector to see what your needs are in terms of premises. Your views are vital to this debate.

If you have any queries or if you want your views to be heard send an email to Jessica Crowe at Jessica.crowe@hackney.gov.uk. Alternatively, contact the Community Empowerment Network via HCVS on 020 7923 1962 email: jake.hcvs@virgin.net and we will feed your views into the Working Group.

Useful information

PUBLICATIONS

Are we doing it right? - an organisational health check for management committees of community buildings
The purpose of this book is to provide the tools for the management committees of community buildings, either by themselves or with the help of an external adviser or consultant, to take stock, to ask the questions 'How are we doing? Where are we going? Are we doing it right?' ISBN No. 0 900787 60 0 Price: £8.95 (£6.50 to members of Community Matters)

Managing Your Community Building - 3rd edition
The most comprehensive and practical handbook available covering the law and good practice in the management of community buildings. It has been fully updated to take account of the many legislative, regulatory and other changes that have taken place since it first appeared. ISBN 0 900787 45 7 Price: £15.95

Occupying Community Premises - guidelines for community associations and local authorities
This book is about the legal basis on which charitable community organisations occupy community buildings, where they are owned by local authorities or other public or private bodies. ISBN 0 900787 55 4 Price: £13.95 Disk containing specimen lease with notes, model declaration of trust and sample management agreement £35.25 incl VAT. Book and disk together Special price of £45.00

Building communities: a handbook for community groups (bilingual) November 1998 ISBN 1 871094 73 9
Designed as a practical guide with case studies, good practice recommendations and suggestions for ways of working, this publication is based firmly on the experience of the voluntary sector in working partnership and what we know is needed to make it work. 28 pages £7.50 (£5.00 to WCVA members)

Plan, design and build (bilingual)
Written to help community groups who wish to extend or improve their existing hall or are considering building a new one. (Free to those who made applications for funding). 91 pages £8.00 WCVA members, £10.00 voluntary organisations and £15.00 statutory bodies (all subject to £2.00 p+p)

To purchase any of these documents contact:
Community Matters, Tel. 020 7837 7887 Registered offices: 12 - 20 Baron Street, London N1 9LL Copyright (c) Community Matters

FREE ADVICE

Hackney Community Law Centre
Free legal advice and representation for those who live or work in Hackney. General telephone advice plus specialist legal work in areas of Housing, Community Care, Immigration, Asylum, Employment, Sex, Race, Disability, Police Misconduct, Training and Policy Work in specialist areas.
8 Lower Clapton Road
London E5 0PD
Tel: 020 8985 8364/020 8986 9891 (emergencies)
Fax: 020 8533 2018

Solicitors ProBono Group
The Solicitors Pro Bono Group (SPBG) is a small, national charity whose aim is to enable and encourage lawyers to provide free legal help to individuals and community groups in need. LawWorks for Community Groups is a project launched by the Solicitors Pro Bono Group and aims to provide free business law advice to community groups through a network of volunteer lawyers from both law firms and in house legal departments of businesses.
1 Pudding Lane
London
EC3R 8AB
Tel: 020 7929 5601
Fax: 020 7929 5722
Email:
solicitors@probonogroup.org.uk
Website: www.probonogroup.org.uk

Property Law Website
http://www.propertylawuk.net/
The web site for lawyers, surveyors, property professionals, others with an interest in property law and those looking for solicitors, barristers and experts; containing law, links, courses, books, jobs and directories.

LAW FIRMS

Sinclair Taylor & Martin
9 Thorpe Close
London
W10 5XL
Tel: : 020 8969 3667
Fax: 020 8969 7044
Write to: DX 47601 Ladbroke Grove
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Sinclair Taylor & Martin is a firm of solicitors specialising in providing corporate advice to charities and other not for profit organisations.

Cameron McKenna
Mitre House
160 Aldersgate Street
London EC1A 4DD
Tel: 020 7367 3000
Email: info@cmck.com
www.law-now.com/

Denton Wilde-Sapte
5 Chancery Lane,
Clifford's Inn,
London EC4A 1BU,
United Kingdom
e-mail: info@dentonwildesapte.com
Tel: 020 7242 1212
Fax: 020 7404 0087

Norton Rose
Kempson House
Camomile Street
London EC3A 7AN
United Kingdom
tel 020 7283 6000
fax 020 7283 6500

For links to other useful sites visit www.clickdocs.co.uk/law-associations.htm

Refugee Week Festival at the Arcola Theatre and Halkevi

Ferhat Cinar looks back at a successful Refugee Week and talks about the lessons Social Action for Health have learnt.

Following four months of planning and preparation, good partnership work and with many volunteers' help, we ran successful Refugee Week celebrations at the Arcola Theatre and Halkevi. Over 600 people participated in the activities at the Arcola Theatre and another 400 people at Halkevi. People from various professional and ethnic backgrounds enjoyed activities such as music, forum theatre, seminar discussions, films, dancing, stalls and exhibitions. Activities in Halkevi had been organised by Halkevi with support from Social Action for Health.

On Sunday over 60 refugee women had the opportunity to participate in a coach tour of Central London and attend a Festival at the South Bank. On the Monday of the Festival over 120 primary school children enjoyed the Green Candle Dance Company's performances at the Arcola Theatre. A number of seminars provided information on policy issues and helped raise awareness. Seminar topics were: Refugee Children and Young People (Monday), Refugee Women (Tuesday), Homelessness (Thursday), Mental Health (Friday), Media Images, Racism and Discrimination (Saturday). Over 160 people participated in the seminars.

Many people from local diverse communities and organisations were present at the festival. Good partnership work, organisation skills and initiatives were all reflected in the final outcome. It was a good balance of visual, live performances, & seminars. It showed that we can undertake new initiatives and involve our partners in these initiatives.

There was also African dancing and drumming, music from Latin America, Middle East, Europe, Asia and Middle East, theatre workshops, video shows reflecting on various issues experienced by refugee communities and a community resource day to introduce the available resources to the refugee communities who attended.

Some of the lessons learnt from this process are:

- For a festival activity we need to start preparing long before
- Better publicity and marketing including newspapers and radio channels
- Have some resources ready for administrative tasks throughout
- Revisit structuring of each day for better flow of activities
- Involve more people in the planning and organising
- Improvements to the accessibility of the venue

Partnership development

Refugee Week Festival was organised by Social Action for Health in partnership with Action for Refugee Women Network, Arcola Theatre, Black and Ethnic Minorities Working Group (BEMWG), The City & Hackney Teaching Primary Care Trusts, The Learning Trust - Ethnic Minorities Achievement Service (EMAS), Hackney Community College, Hackney Council for Voluntary Services (HCVS), Hackney Refugee Forum, Halkevi (Kurdish and Turkish Community Centre), The North East London Mental Health Trust, NOVAS - The Bridge Housing Association, Refugee Women's Association.

Next year we are looking forward to an even larger partnership with more groups involved from the beginning. We would like to express our thanks to our partners, funders (Community Empowerment Fund, Neighbourhood Renewal Fund) all the volunteers (too many to name) and all the participants without whose support and commitment the festival would have been impossible.

For more information on refugee activities in Hackney, Hackney Refugee Forum or the Refugee Demographic Profile please contact Ferhat Cinar (Social Action for Health) on 020 7275 2732 or Ali Riza Aksoy (Black and Ethnic Minorities Working Group) on 020 7275 9875.

Building sound foundations for the future generation

By Dr Liz Omole, Sound Life Trust a HCVS member organisation

"It is very exiting to see how the lives of the youths are being transformed at Impact Youth project of Sound Life Trust. As a young adult, I believe my life is truly challenging them that drug and violence is not the best way out in life. I am very much at home with the users." ***Swabrina Njoku***

The comment of Swabrina Njoku, a member of the winning team of Sound Life Trust paint a picture of the social environment and the commitment of the team of Sound Life in the minds of people who have not visited one of the liveliest community centre in Hackney. Established in December 1995 to provide empowerment services, training and education for the deprived and disadvantaged children and youths in the London Borough of Hackney, Sound Life Trust (SLT) has built its reputation on sustained commitment to providing high quality services using professional staff, excellent facilities and equipment to meet the needs of the users. Since its inception, SLT has been improving the lives of African/African Caribbean community Hackney and its environs through the Impact youth project, supplementary schooling, family forum/ Parent Education and mentoring services. The Trust moved to its present location at two years ago.

At SLT Supplementary School, excellent and quality provision of supplementary education for children and youths from 8 - 16 years old is made available. Our supplementary school education programme is based on the National curriculum that is tailored to meet the individual needs of our pupils. One-to-one support is given to our users in order to develop their potentials and improvement their performance for greater achievement.

SLT through its Impact Youth Programme also provide services that prevent "At Risk" youth from a lifestyle of drugs and violence through its Juvenile Diversion programme that build up youths and prevent them from street gang and violence. In this programme, clients receive empowerment training and workshops, guidance, advice and counselling as well as personal effectiveness training.

SLT through its mentoring programme assigned personal follow-up mentors to users on a one-to-one basis in order to assist users to be motivated and be able to sustain and achieve their objectives and goals.

SLT has successfully delivered services in Hackney and surrounding boroughs. Many of our clients have progressed to further and higher education, many are now employed in the city. The projects that SLT offer are contributing to the reduction of crime and street gangs in our community, improving the status of Hackney and its neighbouring boroughs as well as contributing the labour market through the services we provide.

THE NEW PHASE OF SLT: PROVISION OF FREE WORKBASED LEARNING FOR UNDER 25'S.

SLT is growing and expanding daily to meet the needs of the people of Hackney and other neighbouring boroughs. Alongside the services that SLT has been providing since it was established in December 1995, from January 2003 SLT will provide free Work-Based Learning for under 25's in Hackney and the surrounding boroughs. NVQ courses, Key skills and Personal Effectiveness for Employability training will be provided for Modern Apprenticeships. SLT through its Vocational Bridging project will also provide education and training in Key skills and Personal Effectiveness for the challenging, disadvantaged and excluded 14 -16 year olds in Hackney and its environs.

NVQ training for Modern Apprenticeships will be delivered in:

- Business Administration
- Music Production
- Accounting
- Information Technology (IT)

Key skills will be delivered (based on the new framework) in:

- Application of Number
- Communication
- Information Technology
- Wider key skills (depending on the course and the new framework starting in January 2003)

Key skills/ Technical certificates will also be delivered based on the new framework for the Advanced Modern Apprenticeships (doing Administration).

Personal Effectiveness training/Personal effectiveness for employability, seminars, workshops and one-to-one support will be available for all users. The Personal Effectiveness programme will provide training, one-to-one and group support that will help users to develop positive attitude to life and work, self-confidence, self- awareness, life skills and be motivated.

SLT will through its Personal effectiveness programme provide career development training, job search, writing CVs and filing Application forms, Interview techniques/question, pre-employment and employment testing.

SLT will provide Work Placement for all its Modern Apprenticeships and liaise with employers in order to get its users into suitable and gainful employment. Users will receive services and one-to-one support that will impact their lives, develop and improve their skills and potentials, get them into employment and give them a better future.

For more information contact:
Dr Liz Omole
3-5 Furrow Lane
Off Homerton High Street
London E9 6JS

Tel: 020 8985 9922
E-mail: soundlifeuk@aol.com

Does your community group need to carry out research?

ARVAC's community outreach service helps smaller voluntary and community organisations in London build their research capacity.

How can we help your organisation?

The service helps community groups undertake research such as

- assessing needs of their users
- mapping existing local provision
- evaluating the effectiveness of a service or proving its need
- providing substantiated information for a funding application

We provide training, facilitation, and support to help you:

- identify, plan, operate, or manage research
- improve research skills
- access local, regional, or national research information or data
- examine similar research

Who can we help?

The service is free and aimed at:

- small voluntary or community organisations (with less than 4 full time staff or run by volunteers only)
- organisations working with minority or disadvantaged groups
- volunteers, staff, or management committees

How to apply?

We ask interested groups to fill in a brief application. If you fulfil our basic criteria we will visit or telephone you to explore your needs further.

arvac

Association for Research in the Voluntary and Community Sector

If you are interested in finding out more about this service, or you would like some examples of how organisations have used this service, or would like an application pack contact:

ARVAC on 020 7704 2727

The Community Research Project is supported by

COMMUNITY FUND
Lottery money making a difference

About ARVAC

ARVAC aims to provide researchers with a supportive network; to increase effectiveness and good practice in researching the voluntary and community sector; to disseminate research findings to those with an interest in the voluntary sector with a view to informing policy and practice.

For information about other ARVAC activities, including the information service, membership, conferences, and publications contact 020 7704 2727.

Computers, e-Government and Participation

- **Is your group ready for e-government?**
- **Is your group able to take part in e-democracy?**
- **If not - how will you and your members be able to participate in the decisions making processes that effect where your members live and work?**

Mycrosyster reports....

The Government's e-agenda

Whether you love computers or loath them, or whether you have never even had the opportunity to use one to find out how you feel about them, there is a Government target to have all public services on line by 2005. The latest published figures show that 53% of the population have a computer at home and that 42% have access to the internet. In other words over half of the population does not have access to the internet at home. Voluntary sector groups have been identified by the Government as one of the 'partners' in their 'UK Online project' that will 'enable' those more likely to be disadvantaged by the 'digital divide' to access the internet.

But is this possible for your group?

There are some voluntary sector and community groups who do not even own a computer whilst others are getting by with older second hand equipment which may not be powerful enough to allow easy use of the internet. And those groups who do have more up to date equipment often find they can not get the training and support that would allow them to make the most effective use of them. Or groups are so stretched because of under funding that they can not set aside the time to plan out how using computers and accessing the internet might be beneficial to their work and their users.

The influence of e-networks

But on the other hand, those sections of the community that are too often publicly characterised as being techno-phobic or so 'excluded' that they could not take advantage of the internet without direction by others, are quietly getting on with forming their own email networks, keeping in touch with members of their displaced families, or lobbying and campaigning.

However, there is a danger that with this happening in an ad hoc and uncoordinated way that even within the voluntary and community sector we are creating our own 'digital divide'.

E-communities... ?

The development of Community Empowerment Networks across London has thrown up this contradiction.
If the use of email and web sites potentially allows faster dissemination of information and participation in decision making without having to attend endless meetings, should it be used if not everyone has equal access?

microsyster has been funded by the Community Empowerment Fund to find out whether women's groups in the borough want or are able to make use of ICT (information communication technology) and how this could help them work together to influence and participate in decision making processes that effect their work. We hope groups will find the time to complete our survey to help assess groups access to the internet, and also whether:
your group would like to be part of a women's network, and if so whether you think when and how ICT should be used your group would like someone to visit you to look at ways you could use the internet to access information from local and national sources or how the internet could be used as part of your outreach to your own members and users

microsyster is a women's computer group that has been working with women's groups and women working in the voluntary and charity sector in London since 1982.

Contact us at:
No 43, 136-138 Kingsland High Street, London E8 2NS
Tel: 020-7684 3564
Fax: 0870-122 9135
Email: enquiry@microsyster.org.uk
http://www.microsyster.org.uk
http://www.womeninlondon.org.uk

Need free IT support ?

Business Community Connections (BCConnections) is a registered charity which helps other charities develop relationships with business. They have teamed up with IT4Communities, a web based initiative to encourage professional IT volunteering, to provide an exciting opportunity for London based community groups in need of IT support.

You will receive a free advice and training programme designed to help them gain free support from London based IT professionals. It will culminate in an opportunity on 8th May to meet some IT professionals interested in volunteering.

Any interested community organisations should contact Sian Owen at BCConnections for more information - e-mail: info@bcconnections.org.uk Tel: 020 8973 2390. For more information on BCConnections, please visit our website : http://www.bcconnections.org.uk

FACT FILE

Name: **Mamady Kourouma**

Project: TRAMPOLINE out of work into jobs

Start Date: **Nov 2001**

What has your project been set up to achieve?

Empowering young people in the community to use their full potential, through employment training, leisure activities and advice & guidance sessions. The aim is to assist local youngsters to become socially aware of their surroundings and their contribution to it.

What sorts of young people does your project work with?

We target young people from Black and Ethnic Minorities in the community. These usually are the more socially excluded and disadvantaged ones. We also target people involved in crime or who are at risk of imprisonment, including recently released kids. Some are involved in gang activities so I really try to draw them away from that way of life and offer them the opportunity to excel in the right direction. Their ages tend to be between 13-23 yrs old.

Where did you get the idea from to set up the project?

I previously worked in an organisation not too different from my own. Whilst there, I regularly discussed employment troubles with some of the youths. It was then that I realised they needed a lot more then just employment. Attitude and behaviour training was a necessity before even finding work for them. They tended to be apathetic, lacked self-esteem and didn't have the confidence to approach an employer for fear of failure. These are general experiences of people who have been out of work for a long time. So I decided to set up an organisation to make these young men and women aware of their full potential.

How has HCVS helped you?

In every single way. They allow me to work from their offices and make me feel very welcome. They gave, and still do give me advice & guidance, provide me with information and help me establish links and networks between mine and other outside organisations. I owe them a lot.

Mamady at work with young people

How will the project benefit the community?

By empowering the Black and Ethnic youths - improving their attitudes and behaviour in regards to work and society as a whole. Hopefully we will become a voice of the youth, advocating for the needs of the young people in the borough.

Tell me 3 major achievements that your project has had?

I have single-handedly placed over 10 people in employment since setting up Trampoline. I am also quite proud that I have set up session meetings with a number of young people to discuss the present condition and situation in the borough, finding ways to improve services for all. I think this is a very beneficial task for the youth, as most don't obtain the chance to talk to each other on such complex issues.

What problems face young people in Hackney?

Lack of education, lack of employment prospects and lack of social awareness. The local children need confidence, they lack a sense of direction and in turn become socially excluded and discriminated against, which unfortunately leads to them joining gangs. Employers don't want to employ people with bad attitudes, so the workshops we run tackle the issues that lead there. I tell them all to leave the 'bad boy' ways at the door when they come and see me.

What is it like being a Black Young Person in Hackney?

It's like being in the middle of the ocean, you can't swim and there are sharks circling round your feet.

Do you think young people have a say in their future?

I don't think they do. The older generation, which is completely out of touch with youth reality, dictates their futures. We need to make an effort to understand the youth perspective and work in conjunction with the kids to help realise their current concerns, aspirations and needs.

FACT FILE

Name: **Andrew Fraser**

Project: **Youth Skills Network**

Start Date: **March 2003** YSN

What has your project been set up to achieve?

It was set up to give young people between the ages of 16-25 the opportunity to develop skills and gain experience within the Media Production field. The project runs workshops in various media techniques such as; Camera studies, Script Writing, as well as advice and guidance sessions - without which, most of the local talent would go unnoticed. I wish to develop the natural creativity, which lives amongst young people in Hackney, so the youths have more options, instead of the usual activities that take place in this area.

What sorts of young people does your project work with?

Mainly Hackney young people, but other areas are welcome. There isn't specific criteria to make you eligible for the course, although we give priority to people from Hackney. If you live in Hackney you are already at a disadvantage, so that to me, is a good enough reason to come and learn something new. Whether you have a degree in Film or left school at 14yrs, everyone's welcome.

Where did you get the idea from to set up the project?

Well, as I've been an actor myself for a few years and worked really hard at it, I realised that it kept me away from the negatives of street life. I was offered chances to better myself, so I took them. Now I wish to show the youth the same possibilities and chances that I had.

How has HCVS helped you?

They helped me immensely with funding, as well as applications. I can honestly say that if it wasn't for Jake Ferguson, I wouldn't be here today with this project. They helped me clear up so many problems and worries I was having, I have a lot to thank them for.

How will the project benefit the community?

I hope that it will give the community a Voice to be heard. As well as future publications, we have set up a website which will be a forum for discussion, so people will get the chance to talk about issues affecting them, inside and outside of the media sphere. Chances are, if we have over 50 students taking part in one our courses, probably 20 of them will take it further and really progress. There is so much talent in Hackney, but it just doesn't get stimulated enough, so much creativity and hope lives in the black youths - all they need is to be inspired. It's a crime not to take notice and to help develop their creativity.

Tell me 3 major achievements that your project has had?

Getting Michael Buffong, one of Eastenders first Black Directors on board, was a major achievement for the project. He and I worked together in a play a few years back, he has now moved on to bigger and better things, but has agreed to join the project and show the local youths how its done. A second major achievement was getting a bid Writer on board for a small fee. I was shopping around for a writer who would fit into our budget scheme, as so many writers ask for huge sums of money beforehand, without any guarantee that you will get the funding. Now I've met a writer who is willing to take a percentage out of the funding we receive. The third major achievement is still in the pipeline, however if all goes well, we could be exchanging students, equipment and sceneries with some of are Caribbean counters parts. I leave it at that, I don't want to speak too early at this stage but I will say 'great things are expected'.

What problems face young people in Hackney?

There are not enough activities in the borough. The kids are left idle with nothing to do. Too much time and the 'money race' is leading to violence and disruption. There's not enough training programmes of interest, not enough education, not enough jobs - basically not enough of anything positive, just negativity.

What is it like being a Black Young Person in Hackney?

Its great, its absolutely great. Things could be a lot worse. Hackney has given me an opportunity to better others, and myself, so when I reach my personal goals with this project I can say proudly 'I come from Hackney'.

Do you think young people have a say in their future?

I think they do have a say, the problem is - they aren't actually saying anything, and when they do it's being voiced in the

FACT FILE

Name: **Dean Alfred**

Project: **Calibre**

Start Date: **March 2003**

What has your project been set up to achieve?

I set up Calibre to bring to light the current spate of Gun Crime that is happening in Hackney. Calibre aims to tackle the issues that families face, who are affected by these sporadic shootings, the gun users themselves and to discuss ways of overcoming this problem. The project includes film viewings, forums, excursions, plays, concerts and musical expression through multi-media and much more.

What sorts of young people does your project work with?

We target Black youths and young men between the ages of 14-27yrs old. We also aim to target people who are affected by gun crime, whether family members of murdered victims or gun carriers/users.

Where did you get the idea from to set up the project?

I lived a large part of my life in close proximity to the road that has now been nicknamed 'Murder Mile' (a number of gun shootings have taken place on this road in Clapham). I've seen friends murdered and families destroyed by gun violence. As a DJ I've also noticed the escalating gun crime surrounding music venues. Some people are now too afraid to go out and have a good time in case they get shot. This has spurred me on to do something and try to contribute to the fight against this growing 'gun culture'.

How has HCVS helped you?

They helped me purchase equipment with their funding and to secure agreements with outside organisations that would benefit my project.

How will the project benefit the community?

With the workshops and film viewings, I hope to raise awareness about the true nature of the growing gun culture. We can then begin to attack the problem head on with the backing of the entire community to rid ourselves of this so-called 'Black' issue. The project also aims to keep younger members from falling into the same trap as their older counterparts. We will have 'ex' and existing members of local gangs come down and discuss the perils of 'street life'.

Tell me 3 major achievements that your project has had?

Early this year we took quite a large number of people up to Alton Towers for the day. The aim was to set up a forum in which people would feel relaxed enough to air their views in a constructive environment. The whole day was tremendous with lots of ideas and positive thoughts going around. I think these types of events help to build community bridges. I have also set up an event in which to showcase Michaels Moore's 'docufilm' 'Bowling for Columbine', which is based on the media's interpretation of Gun Crime. I hope to show this in Hackney later this year. This next achievement, for me is more personal, but could not have been made possible if it were not for the establishment of Calibre; I was recently offered a chance to join the Youth Parliament, which I definitely will be accepting.

What problems face young people in Hackney?

Firstly, the Political system, which not only fails Black Youths, but also fails to provide for Youth altogether especially in inner city boroughs such as Hackney. We lack Black figures of status to look up to - most of us need something more insightful than rappers, who show us how to 'bling'. We don't have enough investment in our own surroundings and are still dealing with social depravity and overcrowding left over from the sixties.

What is it like being a Black Young Person in Hackney?

It feels like an uphill struggle, it really does. We need to participate in building our community and creating our own opportunities because they will not come from anywhere else.

Do you think young people have a say in their future?

Yes they do, I feel we all have control over our own futures, people will naturally dictate and guide, but ultimately the final decision is going to come down to the individual.

What are the barriers to you developing the project further?

I could go on and on about not having enough money and having second rate premises - but the truth is, none of this is going to stop me from doing what I'm doing. I'll continue to do the best I can at a slow and steady pace, and that's just fine by me.

Trampoline....continued

What are the barriers to you developing the project further?

Lack of funding is a major problem that Trampoline faces - the lack of premises also hinders our progress.

If you had £1 million how would you spend it?

I would invest in a combination Youth Club/Employment Training centre. This would offer the local young people the chance to relax in safe environments and learn new skills and develop social awareness in workshops, IT classes and discussion sessions.

How is the Project funded?

The Community Learning Chest and Community Empowerment Fund which HCVS manages.

TRAMPOLINE is a non-profit making organisation that exists to help unemployed young people, who want to work, find and secure employment and assist local employers to recruit staff. The project is aimed at ex-convicts and long term unemployed Hackney residents but also those from neighbouring boroughs. In supporting young people without jobs **TRAMPOLINE** focuses on young BME people who currently lack the skills, confidence and aptitudes to compete effectively and to retain jobs.

TRAMPOLINE offer's the following: Experienced personal advisers; User-friendly and Flexible Programme; One to one sessions with a personal adviser; Outdoor Activities; Work placements; BSA Assessment, Numeracy and Literacy Qualifications; Personal and Social Development Workshops; Job search, CV writing, and preparation for work as well as Youth and Adult Offenders Advice. ***To contact Trampoline call 07961 350 672.***

Youth Skills Network....continued

wrong way. The youth have so much freedom in what they want to do; they can't make up their minds, and end up following the easy option.

What are the barriers to you developing the project further?

I don't actually see barriers. I just try and stay focused. What the mind can perceive, you can achieve. That's my motto!

If you had £1 million how would you spend it?

I would instantly set up the project to its fullest capacity, I would advertise and say good-bye to my dear old bid writer and really branch out on the facilities and equipment that we use.

How is the Project funded?

Set up costs have come from the Community Empowerment Fund run by HCVS. It's only because of their initial start up money that the Youth Skills Network is here today.

Calibre....continued

If you had £1 million how would you spend it?

I would invest in people of our community. I'd start by paying a few to help develop numerous social and youth clubs - whatever was left from that, I would then set up a program to help College students with their fees and transition to University.

How is the Project funded?

By HCVS's Community Empowerment Fund. I am also in talks at the moment to gather sponsorship from the Army (TA).

To contact these Youth Networks call Jake on 020 7923 1962 or email: jake.hcvs@virgin.net

Youth Participation and the Youth Parliament

Steve Curtis lets us know what the Council is doing to get more young people involved in local policy making

Hackney continues to have one of the fastest growing populations of young people in the country with about 35,000 11-24 year olds. Young people are often stereotyped as the cause of many of the problems we face in inner-city areas like Hackney. However, they form a significant part of their communities and a source of untapped energy, ideas and skills. National reports like "Bridging the Gap" and "Learning to succeed" have led to concerns about how to engage young people who are feeling increasingly disaffected. A large peer research project was commissioned in 1999 to investigate young peoples' interest and ability to become more empowered in their communities and the services they use.

The Youth Empowerment Strategy was produced in 2000 and sought to draw upon successes in Hackney and elsewhere and encourage all those who work with young people to find ways of engaging them as active participants, not merely 'consumers' of services.

"I want to get more young people involved, to have their say in what needs improving....make Hackney a much more interesting place to live in. I want to make Hackney more appealing to young people of all ages. I want to make people feel in control of their time, doing the things they want.....give young people more power!"
quote from a young person in the YES document

Since its publication, groups of young people have continued to push its agenda forward giving presentations at neighbourhood committees and setting up their own projects that enable young people to become more involved with decision-making or delivering parts of services

Peer power

Peer-led projects have made a significant impact on the lives of young people in Hackney, ranging from peer education, research, mentoring, motivation and research; more young people are engaging other young people to claim a stake and have say where they live and the projects or schools they attend.

The Hackney peer-led project CityZEN which leads on a lot of these initiatives, won the prestigious Philip Lawrence Award at a ceremony in Central London in December. Keji Okeowo, 18 Chair of CityZEN says, of the youth parliament:

"Young people in Hackney form a huge untapped potential of ideas, energy and solutions to many of the problems faced by our communities. It is essential they be given this opportunity of putting something back into their communities by joining this process."

Young people have been trained to be peer mentors, drugs peer educators, citizenship peer-educators and carry out research amongst some of Hackney's largest estates.

Peer projects are a particularly effective way of engaging young people who are harder to reach and encouraging them to get more involved and gain a sense of ownership and responsibility for where they live, work or study.

The Parliament

The Youth Parliament aims to acknowledge and draw upon these successes engaging young people as youth representatives who will provide a vocal presence for young people in Hackney.

The youth parliament and the groups that feed into it will ensure a strong and independent voice for young people and will also take on pieces of work that address the needs and concerns of young people.

Cabinet Approval

The youth parliament and much of the development work itself will be youth-led with young people having the opportunity of shaping the parliament itself.

Currently, representatives of the Learning Trust and the youth service are pulling things together.

The work is approved by the council and the cabinet itself: "On the 20th Feb 2002 the Council agreed proposals for a new decision making structure for young people designed to be more efficient, clear and open and increase their involvement. These proposals committed the council to consult on the development of a proper participative framework for young people.....Resources required for the development of a youth parliament will be met from existing and/or external funds"
Deputy mayors report paragraph 4.1

Consultation is currently under way with groups of young people about the best structure and process to realise these ambitions. The aim is to create a structure that all young people in Hackney can access to have their views, ideas and concerns addressed by young people and those who provide services or currently make decisions that affect the lives of young people in Hackney.

Initially there are plans to develop four neighbourhood youth councils which will draw in young people who are currently active in that neighbourhood with either their school council, estate committees or councils, user committees from local youth projects, young people involved with faith groups etc.

There will also be opportunities for individuals who are not linked to projects to get involved.

Peer representatives

Those who come onto the neighbourhood youth councils will act as representatives for young people from their projects and that neighbourhood.

85 young people (aged 13-20) attended a large consultation event on 13th February at the Community College; they attended as representatives of organizations working with young people and some because they had an interest in the youth parliament.

The young people explored and then approved the structure for the Parliament by taking part in an exercise, identifying and sharing concerns and considering how the youth parliament would work for positive change.

There was much excitement about the potential for the youth parliament, so long as it was given real teeth and a budget.

A consultation event with young people will be held on Saturday 10th May 11-4.30pm at Assembly Rooms of Hackney Town Hall

The initial shadow groups of neighbouhood youth councilors and the members of the youth Parliament will work on clear terms of reference and have a clear defined, but independent role to enable young people to influence the social, political, educational and economic life of the borough. Working groups from these structures will work alongside current decision-makers, services and elected members to ensure that the needs of young people are more effectively addressed.

The youth parliament will also be action focused, in time able to commission work and support young people to run their own projects. The youth parliament needs to tap into the huge depth of social enterprise that exists amongst young people. Experienced peers are already driving the process forward and we are exploring the possibility of appointing peer coordinators to each of the four neighbourhood youth councils. In the meantime the development of the youth parliament continues to be a partnership initiative between the Learning Trust and the Youth Service.

The Challenge

This is all very ambitious and will take time to become effective, there is a huge challenge to keep young people motivated and we will be looking at ways of getting young people to realise their ideas in the short as well as long term.

The youth parliament will lead on a number of high profile events to ensure that young people are aware of its role and how they can access it. They will also identify methods of on-going consultation so that the parliament is seen as the representative voice for young people in Hackney.
Young people have had their expectations raised time and again this time is for all of those who work with young people, decision-makers, funders, elected members and the young people themselves to grasp this exciting opportunity and make it a reality that we can all be proud of.
Watch this space.

For more information contact Steve Curtis (working on behalf of the Learning Trust): 0207 729 3589 or Angie Brennan (youth service) 0208 356 7404

Funding to fight youth boredom

The Kids' Clubs Network is pleased to announce the launch of the Make Space £1.2 million Development Fund, sponsored by the Nestlé Trust, to develop a network of clubs for young people throughout the UK.

Make Space is inviting clubs, schools and youth organisations to apply to the fund for grants to create a Make Space Club. The panel will then meet twice per year to award grants of up to £15,000 to. clubs over two years. The use of the grants is determined by the Make Space guidelines which were created in consultation with young people themselves. This is what makes Make Space unique - it is young people who have told Make Space what it is they want after school and devised the blue print which all the Make Space clubs will follow.

Make Space will strike at the heart of teenage boredom, vulnerability and crime by creating a network of new clubs, for 11-16 year olds, open regularly after school and in holidays, providing a chill out space where young people can hang out safely, relax and meet with friends, and opportunities to take part in an extensive range of activities from the traditional to the contemporary, including sports, music and arts. There will also be IT facilities and space to spend quiet time.

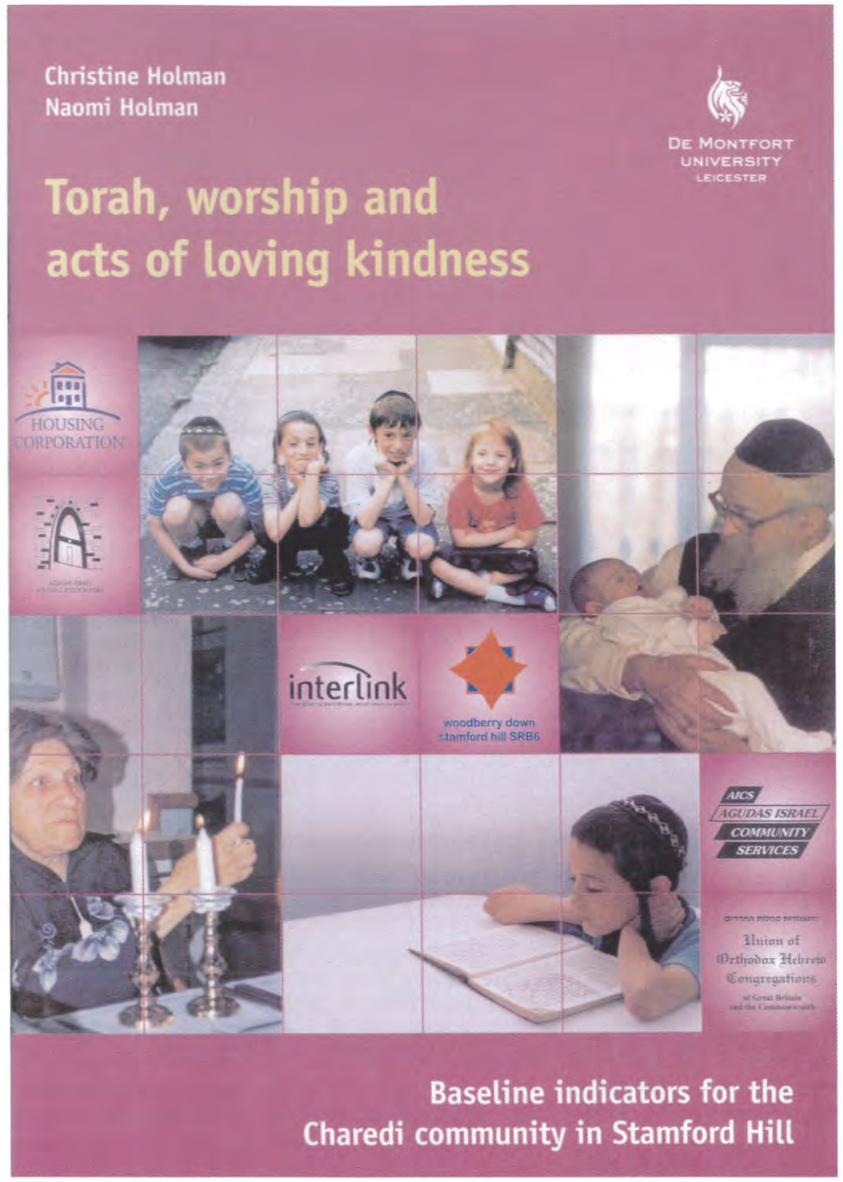
For more information on Make Space call their helpline on 0207 522 6960 or email: information@makespace.org.uk. More details from www.makespace.org.uk

The Jewish Community in Stamford Hill, Hackney

The charedi Jewish community began in Stamford Hill over 75 years ago. Part of the Union of Orthodox Hebrew Congregations (UOHC), it has flourished in the area, maintaining itself around a tightly knit centre of religious practise. The charedi denotes Jews who observe the Sabbath. The community, or kehilla has grown around worship of the Torah, the sacred texts of Judaism and an active rejection of "the false charms of modernity".

The charedi has built itself to be very 'self-sufficient'. Born out of the desire to preserve their faith in the face of cultural dilution, the charedi work fastidiously to keep their traditions alive. First and foremost, the charedi is about a system of "mutual care". All members of the charedi pay a communal tax, which goes towards supporting community activities. There is a dense network of community support which sees that none of its' members fall into destitution. It is religious values above all else that lend any sort of status within the charedi. This means that there is little outward difference between rich and poor, which makes it difficult to assess the level of poverty experienced by individuals.

The religious structure of the charedi governs every part of the lives of its members from food preparation and storage to marriage and personal hygiene. The religious ethics it observes demand full time commitment. Members will be selective in their choice of literature and music and will not own a television. Popular culture is at odds with the values of the charedi and is frowned on. Young people will usually marry within the community and undertake the life long commitment of their religious study. They will undertake to look after those less fortunate than themselves, visiting members of the community in hospital, caring for the elderly and other such gestures.



All members of the charedi pay a communal tax, which goes towards supporting community activities.

Being an intensely guarded and private community has meant that it has been very hard to establish the level of poverty in the past. The confidence and trust that have been nurtured by the community leaders over the past years could be destroyed by an insensitive approach to such queries. Christine Holman and Naomi Holman have collaborated to tread this fine line and to compile their report, Torah, worship and acts of loving kindness: baseline indicators for the charedi community in Stamford Hill published in November 2002. The methodology they have used has allowed for comparison between the community, or kehilla and the wider population of Hackney and is ground breaking in the fact that it is the first report to do so. It provides a remarkable insight on the level of need experienced by this highly visible, but little known pocket of the community.

The chapters of the report cover demography, education, housing, employment and training, social inclusion, poverty and social exclusion, crime and health. The report is based on a detailed survey, completed by 299 households in the area. Given that there are 2583 listed charedi households, this gives a sample size of roughly 12% and assuming that the Shomer Shabbos Directory, in which the households are listed, under counts the kehilla, a sample size of 10% is settled on.

The results of the investigation show that the charedi represents between 9 and 11% of the total population of Hackney. Numbers are rapidly expanding with a growth rate of 8% per annum, which means that it stands to double in size by 2011.

The structure of the charedi differs enormously from your average British household. The average family size is 5.9 as opposed to 2.4 in the UK and this is reflected in the overall age structure of the kehilla. There is a significantly younger slant, with 56% of the kehilla being under 16 years old (UK average 33%) and only 2% over 60 (UK average 29%). 53% co-habit with at least 6 people or more compared with 2% of households in the population of Great Britain.

Already we see that there must be financial strain. With the population of the kehilla growing so rapidly this means that the dependents are far outweighed by the providers. Plus the cultural demands of religious devotion mean that there is a strong preference for part time work in order to have the time to learn. 25% of men and 50% of women earn under £7,500 per year which is almost untenable, plus their work in and for the kehilla might be unpaid and therefore undervalued by a simple survey. There exists in the community, a strong demand for basic skills like English language and computer training. This shows would feasibly help people who are currently in low paid jobs to improve their situations.

The affore mentioned system of mutual care is very much reflected in the results of the study. It shows that the participants meet with and speak to mostly other members of the community. 51% do voluntary work within the community compared to 7% of the British population. That's seven times more. And because this also includes caring for a sick or disabled person, either at home (14%) or somewhere else (19%) this means that the charedi people sparing the state this expense.

44% of the kehilla own their home and 54% rent, as compared to 26% Nationally. In the poorest wards, this figure rises to 55%, which puts the kehilla statistically on a par with the most deprived communities in Britain. 63% of homeowners struggle to repay their mortgage and 33% of households are overcrowded. On top of this there is the dreaded bills. Many households find it extremely difficult to meet payments resulting in 24% having had one or more utility disconnected. 40% of households have had to borrow money in the last year simply to meet day-to-day costs and many lack essential items.

there is a "rich web of support binding the kehilla together but disguising the level of need from the outside world". Ms Holman, report author

Furthermore, should the families want to educate their children in a culturally and religiously acceptable way they must pay for their children to attend an independent school. This renders them ineligible for benefits such uniform grants and free school meals as well as putting a huge drain on the family's resources.

The incidence of racial abuse is shocking. Men and boys find themselves in the firing line, with a disturbing 43% experiencing verbal abuse in the last year. There is also a high incidence of racially motivated vandalism, which has obviously created an atmosphere of fear in the community, reflected in the number of people who report to be worried about attack or other incidence.

Overall the study is impressively assembled and stands up to close scrutiny. The authors have objectively assessed the situation of the charedi with a thorough and robust methodology, reaping uncompromised and conclusive results, which collectively point to the fact that this is a community in need. Many children do not have books, toys or educational games. 60% of households cannot afford to replace worn out furniture. More than half lack more than one essential item.

These are not encouraging figures. People might argue that the 'self sufficient' charedi community of Stamford Hill have sought to keep themselves apart from the community at large, but this is to misunderstand the charedi and to misinterpret their culture. This study provides us with a unique insight into the domestic and spiritual lives of the charedi community. With this insight we can learn to understand and to support and protect those who are most vulnerable and in need. What this study uncovers is the true levels of poverty, victimisation and deprivation within the charedi. It also offers the community of Hackney a shining example of what being a community is all about.

Copies of the report, *'Torah worship and acts of loving kindness'* by Christine Holman and Naomi Holman is available from The Interlink Foundation on 020 8802 2469.

Muslim Community in Hackney

On 11th September 2001, the world witnessed the most horrific act of terrorism imaginable. The repercussions were many: 2998 innocent people lost their lives; war in Afghanistan where more people died; and, for Muslims all over the world, the heavy burden of atrocities committed in the name of Allah. The Muslim religion was dragged into the fray by extremists who used it as vindication for their own violent means. Fear and victimisation became part of their everyday lives as irresponsible and sensationalist media coverage carelessly allowed the terms 'Islam' and 'terrorism' to become linked.

Islam infact means 'peace'. Al-Qaeda means 'world enemy of peace'. These are two entirely opposed forces. A peaceful life is central to the Muslim faith. Love and respect are the most important values. Once peaceful neighbours to the Muslim community are now verbally and physically attacking them in the name of vengeance. The danger is that they too will become innocent victims of September 11th.

MUSLIMS IN HACKNEY: AN ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS AND SERVICES

(Madina Mosque, Clapton, Hackney)

A RESEARCH REPORT PUBLISHED BY THE NORTH LONDON MUSLIM COMMUNITY CENTRE
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REPORT AUTHOR: SIRAJ GAJIA
EDITOR: ISMAIL AMAAN

PUBLISHED IN AUGUST 2002

The Muslim community in Hackney saw its beginnings in the early 1960s. They came largely to fill the employment gap left after the war. As they grew in number, they began to make arrangements to practise their faith. In 1972, the religious community were re-located from their then unsuitable property to 70 Cazenove Road, which became the North London Mosque.

Throughout the 1970s, Muslims flocked to Hackney because of its existing Muslim community. The North London Mosque was expanded, and other Mosques were built. The Muslim community now stands at 20-25,000 within Hackney. The ethnic base of the community includes Turkish, Bangladeshi, Pakistani, African, Caribbean, Kurdish, Albanian/Kosovan and some native British families who have converted to Islam. The services that the community provide include youth groups and play schemes, as well as religious education.

Unlike the Jewish and Sikh religions, Muslims are not legally recognised as a separate ethnic identity. Many Muslims, however, hold their faith as the key to their identity above their nationality and ethnicity.

Unlike the Jewish and Sikh religions, Muslims are not legally recognised as a separate ethnic identity

Since statutory services in monitoring procedures often do not record faith as a relevant category, it has been impossible to compile accurate and insightful statistical information on these groups. Without this research, organisations find it difficult to plan services that would meet the needs of the community.

Islam in fact means 'peace'

This report, Muslims in Hackney: An Assessment of Needs and Services, provides exactly kind of this information.

The study targeted a total of twelve organisations comprising of two broad categories: Mosques and Community Services. They surveyed these organisations on what services they provided. The services range from employment and health, to marriage and funeral arrangements. The Muslim faith requires that these must be conducted within specific criteria and therefore service provision must suit these needs.

It is clear that services need to be extended and that this should be done in a way that bridges cultural and religious barriers. Housing, Health, Elderly and Youth are all areas of heightened need, and the root cause of the need is lack of funding. Organisations need to attract more funding and pressure needs to be applied to governing bodies who distribute such funds to ensure that the Muslim community are considered equally. The report also states that better communication and co-operation between these organisations would benefit the community, seeing that they receive a more efficient service.

82% of the community feel that they do not receive adequate funding from the Council and other funding bodies

When asked to prioritise community issues the majority response pointed to Community Advice, Housing and Education, with Employment being the 'least important'. The advice service offers vital assistance, particularly for those facing cultural and language barriers. It also offers help with claiming benefits and other such administration.

Identifying funding came out as top priority as a first step in the direction of developing these services. 82% of the community feels that they do not receive adequate funding from the Council and other funding bodies. It seems that there is a need for more staff and also for the knowledge and expertise required to identify possible funds. In order to help themselves to do this, the community believes that better co-ordination between Muslim organisations would create a united voice and would thus increase their lobbying power.

Out of all of those who took part in this survey, 100% answered 'no' when asked whether they felt that Muslims were adequately represented in decision-making bodies. This is a resoundingly stark portrayal of the feeling within the Muslim community that they sit outside the fence, particularly Muslim women. Muslim people need to be actively encouraged to take part in community decision-making processes, which in turn would see their fair representation with issues such as funding.

With current housing over-crowded, too small to shelter the traditionally large Muslim families, 100% of Muslims interviewed feel they need urgent help with this issue. 92% feel that the statutory do not support single sex faith schools, and 100% feel that caring for their growing elderly and youth populations is a particular concern. Better facilities and services are needed for all of these sectors.

To an extent, this report is subjective. What people think that they have and what they have relatively are two entirely different things. What this report does offer is the perceived needs of Muslims living in Hackney. This information is equally valuable, it simply requires definition. It also means that we are hearing the voice of the people. We cannot misinterpret the data as it states itself clearly.

It is more important now than ever that we listen to the views of Muslims and try to fully understand their problems and to address them. Such times as these demand that we rise above the climate of fear to aid a vulnerable pocket of the community that is in danger of becoming alienated. It is only through understanding that we can achieve peace. And it is only through positive action that we can bring about an enlightened community in Hackney.

The report oppposite was written by Siraj Gajia on bhalf of tthe North London Muslim COmmunity Centre and was commissioned by the Hackney Communiuty Fund.

For more details contact, Ismail Amaan at North London Muslim COmmunity Centre, 66-68 Cazenove Road, London N16 6AA Tel: 0208 806 1147 Fax: 020 8806 6859 Email admin@nlmcc.org.uk

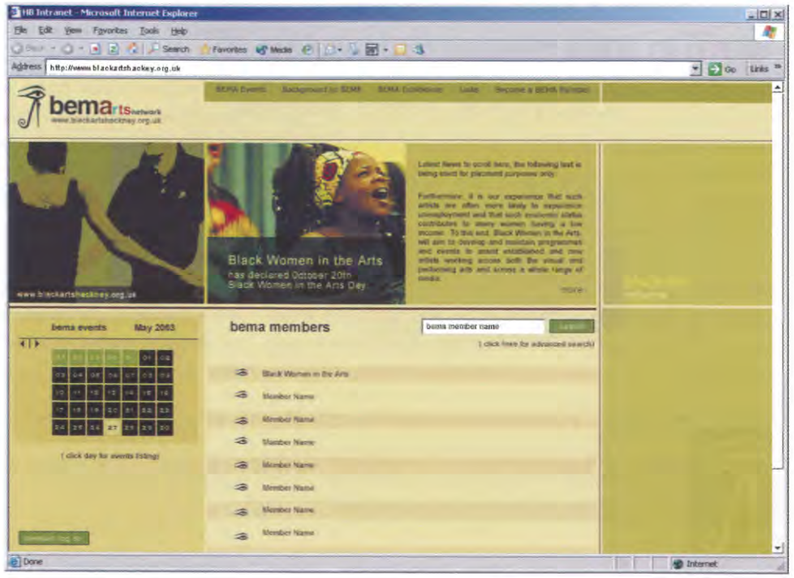
BEMA launch their website

www.blackartshackney.org.uk

BEMA ran a successful exhibition as part of Discover Hackney week. The exhibition was a visual representation of the work of BEMA members. The exhibition also formed the launch of the BEMA website. This provides detailed information and pictures about members and their services. Feel free to visit BEMA at www.blackartshackney.org.uk

"The organisations that make up BEMA are a vital asset to the Cultural Forum and its work",
Chair of the Hackney Cultural Forum, Emmanuel Amevor.

"BEMA members have made a significant but often unsung contribution to the Arts in Hackney and London over the last 30 years in this borough"
Jake Ferguson, Assistant Director HCVS and interim coordinator of BEMA.



The Black & Ethnic Minority Arts network (BEMA) was established by Hackney Council for Voluntary Service (HCVS) in 2002 to promote, service and provide a strategic framework for the development of Black and Ethnic minority arts organisations in the Borough. The network consists of over 50 organisations with many of the leading black & ethnic minority organisations as members. It is a key arts cluster in Hackney, has members in the Hackney Cultural Forum as well as many other networks. The membership is growing all the time and the future looks exciting.

BEMA is currently developing its constitution so that it can be an independent charity. Until then the network is project-managed by HCVS. HCVS is seeking funding for a Development Officer to support the network. Until this position is appointed, BEMA will continue to be coordinated by Jake Ferguson @ HCVS.

For more information contact: Jake Ferguson, Assistant Director, HCVS, The Printhouse, 18 Ashwin Street, London E8 3DL T: 020 7923 1962 F: 020 7275 8577 email: jake.hcvs@virgin.net website: www.hcvs.org.uk

Contacting BEMA
If you would like to get in touch with a member of BEMA or send some information to BEMA members please download the BEMA contact list or get in touch with Jake @ HCVS and we will ensure your information gets to them.

Support for new music

The PRS Foundation offers support for the development and performance of new music, of any genre, via a range of funding schemes.

These schemes are available to new music creators living and working in the UK, organisations, projects and schemes focussed on the development, promotion and performance of new music, and individuals involved in post-graduate music compositional studies. The PRS Foundation also funds specific individual projects with fulfil aims of the Foundation but fall outside the remit of its main schemes.

Launched in March 2000, PRSF is an independent charity whose overall aims are to increase the public's exposure to and positive appreciation of new music and also to encourage, promote and stimulate music creation and its performance of all genres and at all levels of activity. In addition, the PRS Foundation aims to champion new UK music both at home and abroad.

In just under three years, PRSF has assisted over 750 organisations to the tune of nearly £3 million, supporting a diverse and frequently pioneering range of new music projects. The PRS Foundation is now the UK's largest independent funder solely for new music.

The PRS Foundation prides itself on being a model of good practice within the arts funding system, with simple application forms, a fast turn around on decision-making and an open door policy: they will always do our best to help applicants and advise them. More details from:

http://www.prsf.co.uk/index.php

HCVS runs Black History Month 2003 with BEMA

Black History Month (BHM) is held every October in Britain to promote knowledge of Black History and experience; disseminate information on positive Black contributions to British Society and to heighten the confidence and awareness of Black people in their cultural heritage.

The origins of BHM go back to 1926 when Carter G Woodson, editor for thirty years of the Journal of Negro History, established African Caribbean celebrations in America. It is still celebrated there in February each year. In Britain, the BHM has now grown to over 1400 events.

The focus on African and Caribbean heritage pre-dates the work of London Strategic Policy Unit who, as part of the African Jubilee year in 1987, helped to establish the event.

In Hackney, lots of organisations are planning activities such as exhibitions, music performances and heritage workshops. This year HCVS through the Black & Ethnic Minority Arts Network (BEMA) will be helping to coordinate these activities. and needs to hear from you if you are planning events.

Publicity leading up to the start of Black History Month will be widespread but check the BEMA website for more details www.blackartshackney.org.uk

Key Black figure dies

Len Garrison, the Chair and founder member of the Black Cultural Archives (BCA) sadly passed away on Tuesday 18th February at BCA. Len Garrison's achievements were many; they included being a founder member in the mid sixties of the International Social Group whose work led to the establishment of the Wandsworth Council for Community Relations. In 1977 he founded The Afro-Caribbean Resource Project (ACRP) to publish and produce learning materials drawn from the black British experience for use in the school curriculumm, the Black Young Writers Award scheme, which encouraged and exposed the talents of hundreds of young black writers in the 1970s and 80s and co-founded the Black Cultural Archives (BCA) in 1981. It houses documentary evidence of the black presence and struggle. BCA also works in partnership with Middlesex University and created the charitable organisation, the Archives and Museum of Black Heritage (AMBH).

Please see the biography in memory of Len Garrison at www.black-history-month.co.uk/len_garrison.html. Please contact BCA on 020 7738 4591or email info@aambh.org.uk, if you would like to send condolences to Len's family.

Dee Buckham
Financial Management & Training Services
for Voluntary Organisations
Tel: 020 8800 6628 Email: d.buckham@virgin.net

DO YOU NEED HELP WITH YOUR FINANCES ?

Freelance community accountant with 14 years experience in the sector offers a full range of financial & training services for voluntary organisations including:-

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- Other ad hoc assistance/advice on request

All of the above are available on a short or long term basis. Friendly, reliable & supportive service - with no accountancy speak! To discuss your requirements contact Dee Buckham on 020 8800 6628 or email: d.buckham@virgin.net

Positive Activities for Young People

A new multi-million pound programme of Positive Activities for Young People, has been launched to help steer the energy and talent of vulnerable 8-19 year olds into a positive direction in life.

Positive Activities will provide a broad range of school holiday time activities providing structured occupation and personal development opportunities, diverting young people away from taking part in criminal activities, and giving those at risk of being socially excluded a chance to fulfill their potential.

The programme will also seek to bring together young people from different neighbourhoods and communities across England, breaking down prejudices and improving community cohesion. Volunteering opportunities will be offered to help engage young people in activities that will benefit the local community.

There will be a focus on supporting pupils who are most at risk of losing contact with education and training opportunities especially during the long summer break. Summer activities can also help to ease the transition between secondary school and adult life and there will be opportunities for gaining accreditation for attendance and achievements.

Young people will be able to choose from quality arts, sports and cultural activities during their school holidays and those who show a particular interest or talent will be encouraged to pursue the activities both on return to school and in subsequent holiday periods.

Positive Activities have been designed to meet local needs - often in close consultation with young people themselves - the schemes will offer a wide range of creative and development opportunities on which young people can build. Key workers will help to support young people with the greatest needs both in identifying and gaining access to suitable programmes and in subsequent transition back into education or training.
The impact of such schemes on youth crime alone is startling. Similar programmes run last summer were able to cut youth crime by up to 11 per cent. The number of young people brought to the attention of the Youth Offending Teams for robbery offences was cut by 9 per cent, and breaches of statutory orders declined by 16 per cent.

The 'single pot' of funding for youth activities builds upon the expertise of the partners and the lessons learnt from precursors of the schemes, such as Summer Plus and Splash programmes.

Young people will benefit from key workers who will support them in fulfilling their potential through education, training and employment opportunities.

Young people who will particularly benefit from Positive Activities will include those who have a poor school attendance record or have been excluded, and those with a low level of academic achievement. Referral agencies will include the Youth Offending Teams, the Connexions Service and Behaviour Improvement Programme schools.

The funding has been awarded to Government Offices based on a formula that takes into account the needs of young people living in the area, local crime 'hot spots', truancy rates and community cohesion issues.

A total of £25million has been allocated for the first year of the three-year Positive Activities programme from a partnership comprising government departments, the youth and charity sectors. Contributions comprise £30 million from the Connexions Service, £12 million of National Lottery money from the New Opportunities Fund (committed so far, for the first year of the programme) £2 million from the Youth Justice Board and £1.5 million from the Home Office's Community Cohesion Unit.

Government office for London will receive £7,392,995. Youth Justice Board Splash programmes, Connexions' Summer Plus and Community Cohesion schemes will be mainstreamed into the Positive Activities programme. The programme will cater for young people between the ages of 8-19 but there will be a particular emphasis on the 13-17 age group.

Watch the GOL website http://www.go-london.gov.uk/ or contact GOL direct at Government Office For London, Riverwalk House, 157-161 Millbank London, SW1P 4RR, Tel: 020 7217 3328.

BTEG Black Partnership Event

The Black Voluntary Secor (BVS) tend to be under-represented in partnership working across London, from sub-contractual arrangements to consortium developments. BTEG's London network members have expressed an interest in addressing this.

BTEG is in the process of planning a partnerships seminar which aims to give Black & Ethnic Minority groups an insight into starting and sustaining partnership relationships on a number of levels - 1) within the BME sector, 2) with the Voluntary and Community sector and 3) across sectors.

PROGRESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIP EVENTS
Tues 16th September 2003
10 to 2pm

If you are a local BME network who wants to get involved and you cover one of the following:cultural education, training & employment, enterprise, and also health, arts, and churches based community development then contact Kristine Wellington at BTEG on 020 7713 6161 or kristine@bteg.co.uk.

LONDON: DIASPORA CAPITAL www.culturalco-operation.org

London's fastest growing network of artists of diverse cultural origin
Are you a London-based artist from one of the capital's many national and faith communities? Would you appreciate greater profile for your work?
Or are you an arts programmer seeking to engage more fully with the city's growing cultural diversity?
Then visit London Diaspora Capital at www.culturalco-operation.org
This new artists' resource increases the visibility of under-recognised or emerging artistic talent within London's diverse communities and encourages cross-cultural dialogue and networking:

- Audiovisual profiles on 100+ artists and growing
- one million page hits in first six months
- free set of professional photographs for artists featured
- initial analysis of training and development needs
- future links being developed with artists from New York, Paris, Berlin, Cape Town and other world cities

Call or email us with contact details of an artist/group you think we should consider for inclusion in this resource.

Cultural Co-operation, Toynbee Studios, 28 Commercial St, London E1 6AB
T: 020 7456 0400/3 F: 020 7456 0401 E: ldc@culturalco-operation.org

GFM radio.com is an African Caribbean radio station on the net

GFM radio.com is a community radio station that aims to educate & enlighten people about the African and Caribbean cultures. Its goal is to create some form of cohesiveness amongst African and Caribbean communities in Hackney and all over the world. GFM radio.com also has a youth project scheme for children and young people in Hackney running after school sessions for them. GFM radio.com also offers training and support for young adults up to the age of 25 during evenings and at weekends to educate youngsters in the use of computers, and to give preliminary training prior to broadcasting. This includes include sound engineering, Djing, mixing and proper use of microphones etc used for broadcasting. GFM radio.com also has links to most local council community activities.

Hackney council has a column on the Gfmradio website where you can find out all the latest information on current and forthcoming community activities.

GFM radio.com supports a vast selection of ethnic minority groups incouding people from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Ghana, Nigeria, Congo, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire
South Africa, Zimbabwe, St Vincent & Grenadines, Jamaica, Antiqua, Guyana and St Lucia. Languages spoken on the station include Swahili, Patwa, French, Afrikaans, Sotho, Xhosa, Ndebele, Zulu Yoruba, Ga, Twi, Fanti, and English.For more details about this project contact Nana Sey on 020 8520 1355 Email: nana@gfmradio.com or visit the website at ww.gfmradio.com

Disability Hackney successful invited the European Year of Disabled People (EYDP) Campaign Bus to visit Hackney on the **4 June 2003.** In partnership with Hackney Council, they held a conference to promote the Greater London Action on Disability (GLAD) feasibility study report which established the need for a disability umbrella organisation in Hackney.

"More than 400 people turned up for the debate at Ocean. I was really chuffed when the team effort was so publicly acknowledged by Jules Pipe." *Ron Newman, Chair of Disability Hackney.*

"I want to put disabled people's views at the heart of policy making." *Jules Pipe, Mayor of Hackney.*

European Day for

Mayor Pipe laid out his plans to ensure disabled people have a say in Council strategies and policies, 'right from the onset, not just as a rubber stamping excerise at the end of the process.' The Council will be helping Disability Hackney find new premises although the funding of Disability Hackney as the umbrella organisation for disabled people is yet to be resolved.

"The bus was great and had a lot of interest from local people. 200 people came to the Freedom Pass stall" *Yvonne Miller, Volunteer for Disability Hackney*

"Everyone has the right to be heard"

Disability Hackney is working with service users and getting their views.

Hackney was one of the few boroughs in London that the prestigious European Year of Disabled People Awareness Bus visited. The Bus is travelling through Europe and reaches its final destination in Italy in September - WELL DONE TO THE DISABILITY HACKNEY TEAM for getting the bus and running a great event!

GLA want disabled people to be better consulted. At the event, Meg Hillier [below] stressed that the GLA can help disabled groups get more involved in local decision making processes.

"Together we're breaking down the barriers"

Disability Hackney is part of the GLA Draft London Plan and its policies.

DISABLED PEOPLE

SPARK SAYS
HAVE YOUR SAY!

"Improved access is top of our agenda"

Disability Hackney are training and recruiting Disabled people into work through Job Centre Plus.

"Better access means more participation"

Disability Hackney is now participating in the Council's Equality Committee.

DISABILITY HACKNEY
The Printhouse
18 Ashwin Street
London E8 3DL
Tel: 020 7923 1962
Email:
ssesay.dishackney@virgin.net

KUSHMA

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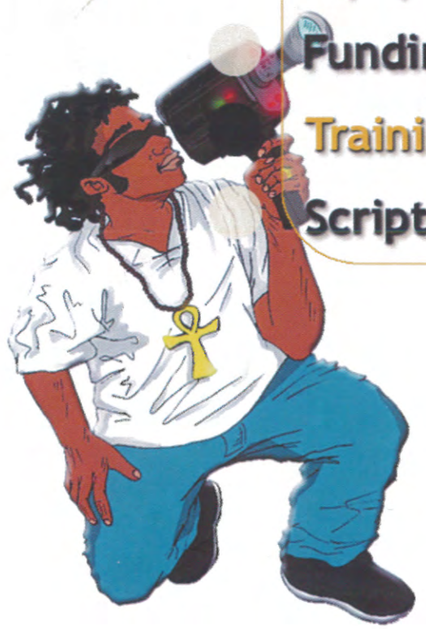

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Kush Films / Media & Arts Development.
Shacklewell Studios, 18-24 Shacklewell Lane, London E8 2EZ
Tel/Fax : +44 (0)207 275 8822, Mobile : +44 (0)7961 977 749
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JOBWISE COMMUNITY TRAINING PROJECT

Jobwise Community Training Project

A New Job! New skills, new career...
That is the promise!

A comprehensive training in Book-keeping, Business Administration, IT, manual and computerised leading to an exciting career as a office clerk, data input clerk, sales ledger, purchase ledger, account clerk, book-keeper, payroll clerk etc.

Courses available with recognised certificate (duration 14 weeks)

1. Book-keeping
2. AAT Bookkeeping
3. Business Administration
4. Payroll
5. Accounting
6. ESOL
7. **IT Skills**- CLAIT, Desktop Skills, Excel, Word, Access and Visual Basic

Work based Short Intensive Integrated skills training with recognised certificate (duration 2 – 8 weeks)

1. Computerised bookkeeping using Sage and QuickBooks accounting software.
2. Accounting, IT and Office admin.
3. Manual and computerised payroll using Sage.
4. Health and Social Care
5. Business Enterprises Training

This project is funded by:

The Community Network Empowering Hackney

Neighbourhood Renewal Unit

In house agency and job guarantee after training for further information contact:

Unit 15
The Meridian Centre
258 Kingsland Road
London E8 4DG

Email: jobwisetraining@yahoo.co.uk
Tel: 020 72495811
Mobile: 07734008412

Living Spaces grants to help improve your area

Living Spaces is a Government scheme open to local community groups across England., it gives people the opportunity to make improvements in their neighbourhood and create valuable places for the whole community to enjoy.

Living Spaces helps people to change their environment for the better by providing funding, advice and practical support. For example you might want to improve a run down playground, ctreat a community garden or clean up your local square or village green.

HOW MUCH MONEY CAN YOU APPLY FOR?

Living Spaces want to support projects of all shapes and sizes, from small to large scale improvements. You can apply for any amount between £1,000 and £100,000.

WHO CAN APPLY FOR GRANTS?

Grants are available to any existing neighbourhood group anywhere in England. You don't have to be a registered charity. You will however need to gain the permission from the owner of the land you wish to improve.

WHAT KIND OF SPACES CAN YOU GET HELP TO IMPROVE?

Any kind of outdoor space can be considered for a grant as long as it is:

- open to the public most of the time
- within two miles of a residential area
- not a formal sports pitch

WHAT OTHER HELP CAN YOU GET?

If your project is eligible for a grant you will be allocated a local Living Spaces Enabler. This is a person who has been trained to help you think through your project and provide expert advice on how best to carry it out. Your Living Spaces Enabler will also put you in touch with local organisations who can help ensure your project is a success - probably Groundwork Hackney or organisations such as HCVS.

For more info and an application pack call 0845 600 3190 email: info@living-spaces.org.uk or visit the website at www.living-spaces.org.uk

LIVING spaces

Funding youth exchanges

Connect Youth, a department of the British Council, promotes non-formal exchanges of young people between the United Kingdom and other countries. They run programmes that give young people an international experience. These programmes range from group exchanges to individual voluntary service. British Council also provide funding to help all those working in the youth field develop skills and establish contacts necessary to do their work better. Activities are supported by funds from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for Education and Skills, and the European Commission (Education and Culture).

Connect Youth is supported by a network of twelve Committees across the UK who make nearly all the grant-giving decisions and offer a wide range of advice and support locally.

Connect Youth, Education and Training Group, The British Council, 10 Spring Gardens, London SW1A 2BN T: 020 7389 4030 E-mail: connectyouth.enquiries@britishcouncil.org

However, if you wish to develop exchanges with the Commonwealth countries, please contact:

Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council, 7 Lion Yard, Tremadoc Road, London SW4 7NF T: 20 7498 6151 E-mail:Mail@cyec.demon.co.uk

Make Space Kids funding

The Kids' Clubs Network is pleased to announce the launch of the Make Space £1.2 million Development Fund, sponsored by the Nestlé Trust, to develop a network of clubs for young people throughout the UK.

Make Space is inviting clubs, schools and youth organisations to apply to the fund for grants to create a Make Space Club. The panel will then meet twice per year to award grants of up to £15,000 to clubs over two years. The use of the grants is determined by the Make Space guidelines which were created in consultation with young people themselves. This is what makes Make Space unique - it is young people who have told Make Space what it is they want after school and devised the blue print which all the Make Space clubs will follow.

Make Space will strike at the heart of teenage boredom, vulnerability and crime by creating a network of new clubs, for 11-16 year olds, open regularly after school and in holidays, providing a chill out space where young people can hang out safely, relax and meet with friends, and opportunities to take part in an extensive range of activities from the traditional to the contemporary, including sports, music and arts. There will also be IT facilities and space to spend quiet time.

For more information on Make Space call their helpline on 0207 522 6960 or email: information@makespace.org.uk. More details from www.makespace.org.uk

The Funding DIRECTORY - web announcements

EXTRA CASH FOR ADVENTURE CAPITAL FUND
The Home Secretary has announced that a further £4 million will be available to the Adventure Capital Fund.
www.access-funds.co.uk/archive/2003/july/Adventure_Capital_Fund.htm

SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL TOWNS
A multi million pound initiative aimed at establishing the first showcase sustainable travel towns has been announced by Transport Minister Kim Howells.
www.access-funds.co.uk/archive/2003/july/Sustainable_travel_towns.htm

PROGRESS2WORK-LINKUP
Invitation to tender to run projects to help the following groups of people into employment; homeless, alcohol misusers, drug misusers and ex-offenders.
www.access-funds.co.uk/archive/2003/june/progress2work-LinkUP.htm

PROGRESS2WORK (LONDON)
Invitation to bid for projects to support former illegal drug misusers into employment.
www.access-funds.co.uk/archive/2003/june/progress2work.htm

YOUTH PARTICIPATION
Call for proposals - Pilot-projects in favour of youth participation.
www.access-funds.co.uk/archive/2003/june/Youth_participation.htm

ESMÉE FAIRBAIRN FOUNDATION
They have updated their guidelines.
www.access-funds.co.uk/archive/2003/june/Esmee_Fairbairn.htm

ETEN
Call for proposals for projects of common interest in the field of trans-European telecommunications networks.
www.access-funds.co.uk/archive/2003/june/eTEN.htm

FAIR SHARE TRUST
A pioneering Lottery funding scheme, the Fair Share Trust, sees £50 million from the New Opportunities Fund, the biggest of the Lottery distributors, invested for the benefit of 70 disadvantaged communities across the UK.
www.access-funds.co.uk/archive/2003/june/Fair_Share_Trust.htm

PARTNERSHIP FUND PROGRAMME
The Fund is a grant award scheme designed to improve employer-employee relationships, workplace productivity and job satisfaction.
www.access-funds.co.uk/archive/2003/june/Partnership_Fund_Programme.htm

DEVELOPING THE CAPACITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL NGOS
Call for proposals - issued by the European Commission for Developing the capacity of environmental NGOs, through transfer of best practice from NGOs in the EU15.
www.access-funds.co.uk/archive/2003/june/Environmental_NGOs.htm

LIVING SPACES
Living Spaces provides grants to help people improve open spaces in their neighbourhood and create valuable places for the whole community to enjoy.
www.access-funds.co.uk/archive/2003/june/Living_Spaces.htm

PROGRAMME OF SUPPORT FOR ACP CINEMA
Call for proposals issued by the European Development Fund.
www.access-funds.co.uk/archive/2003/june/ACP_cinema.htm

EDUCATION THROUGH SPORT
The Commission is launching this call for proposals in order to co-finance projects originating in the Member States and implemented at local, regional, national, transnational or Community level.
www.access-funds.co.uk/archive/2003/june/Education_through_sport.htm

THE BRIDGE HOUSE TRUST
The Trust has announced the publication of its new policies for the next five years.
www.access-funds.co.uk/archive/2003/june/Bridge_House_Trust.htm

LANKELLY FOUNDATION
They recently updated their priority areas.
http://www.access-funds.co.uk/archive/2003/june/Lankelly_Foundation.htm

EUROPEAN EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY
Open call for proposals: Awareness raising for the European Employment Strategy.
www.access-funds.co.uk/archive/2003/june/EES.htm

MOBILITY OF OLDER PERSONS
Call for proposals: concerning cooperation and exchange projects designed to improve the mobility of older persons.
www.access-funds.co.uk/archive/2003/june/Mobility_of_older_persons.htm

COMMUNITY ENERGY PROGRAMME EXTENDED
The government has extended the Community energy programme to invite bids for a third year, into 2004/05, to help to ensure that the full £50million is allocated.
www.access-funds.co.uk/archive/2003/june/Community_energy.htm

ASIA PRO ECO PROGRAMME
Call for proposals - Asia Pro Eco Programme: Operational and Practical Dialogue issued by the European Commission. The Programme is designed to strengthen the environmental dialogue between Europe and Asia.
www.access-funds.co.uk/archive/2003/june/Asia_Pro_Eco_Programme.htm

To receive this on a regular basis email Jake at HCVS with message 'subsribe to funding news'

jake.hcvs@virgin.net

Claudia Jones Organisation

Fresh Start Project- Fun, Healthy Eating and Exercise

For Kids 6-13 years old.
The programme will focus on making exercise fun and giving kids information on Healthy Eating. The project will run from our premises at 6-8 Palatine Road, London N16 and will be on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 5 - 7pm.
FREE OF CHARGE

Self-Awareness & Development

Parenting Classes a five day course looking at techniques, which are vital to good listening. Includes:

- Ways adults communicate with young children
- Stress Management (strategies and coping mechanism)
- Approaches to children's behaviour
- Building & Repairing relationships.

FREE OF CHARGE. Lunch provided and crèche available if booked in advance or contribution towards childcare.
12-3pm on July 16,17,18,30 & 31

Black Families Parent Mentoring Project (IMPACT)

The project aims to reduce the numbers of Black children at risk of statutory intervention and
will work in partnership with families to develop awareness, understanding and training around the various issues which could impact on family life and communities.

We will be able to take referrals from agencies/organisations and individuals. **FREE OF CHARGE.**

Dreams to Reality

We have received funding from to NRF to deliver project aimed at developing, self-confidence, self-esteem and raising levels of educational achievement in young African-Caribbean boys. We are looking for boys 13-16 years of age to take part in this project. We aim to provide tuition, advocacy, counselling team and confidence building exercises for the relevant target group.

Summer school

Focus on numeracy and literacy. From 21st July - 22nd August 2003. Afternoon cultural & sporting activities and focus on black history. Contact us for cost and programme.

Please contact us at:
Claudia Jones Organsation, 103 Stoke Newington Road, LONDON N16 8BX Tel: 020 7241 1646 Email: cjouk@btclick.com

Community Fund promises easier application process but has less money to give out in London

Following its proposed merger with the new Opportunities Fund scheduled for later this year, the Community Fund is likely to make several significant changes to way organisations apply for funding. The merger will mean that the Heritage Lottery Fund, Sports England Awards for All and the main Community Fund programmes will be managed together instead of separately.

Firstly, they are likely to introduce a single point of entry into Lottery Funds i.e. if you are applying you will probably just have to call one number and you will be directed to the most appropriate

funding programme. Similarly, because all the programmes will be grouped together it will be possible for your project to be funded by more than one programme. For example, if you wanted to look at the history of your community, but also hold a community event for residents, this could be funded by Awards for All and the Heritage Lottery.

Another important change proposed is a two stage application process which means that those applying for larger grants (over £10,000) will complete an outline proposal form which will ask for basic information about your project.

This outline proposal form will then be judged to see whether your proposal can go forward to the next stage at which point you would complete the main form. This will hopefully save you work if your project is not appropriate for funding. Also the Community Fund is likely to change its rules so that part of your project can be funded whereas before your project would be rejected outright if some of it did not meet the Fund's criteria.

The Fund wish to place more emphasis on your project's outcomes. Whereas before the emphasis was on the numbers of people your project helped, this new approach means that your project will be monitored against the outcomes it proposes. A project outcome is a positive or negative change in the people that the project is set up to serve. The Community Fund have published an excellent guide to developing outcomes, 'Your project and its outcomes' [pictured]. HCVS has several copies if you would like us to send you one.

There are several important changes to the funding programmes themselves. Awards for All grants are likely to be up to £10,000 instead of just £5,000. Also there will be a new fund called the Young People's Fund which will represent £200million across the UK. The details are yet be decided but will be announced later in the year. Another new programme will also be introduced - the Olympic Fund.

New priorities this year

Linking Communities (NEW)

- Innovative projects that challenge the boundaries of race and ethnicity
- Twinning projects

Projects that address differences in race, gender and age in communities will be prioritised. Also projects that bring communities into partnership with the mainstream are also welcomed.

BME Voluntary Sector Development

- Strategic planning
- Help with monitoring/evaluation systems
- Training (especially that
- which is transferable to workplace)

Aimed at second tier organisations such as CVSs.

Older People

- Victims of crime
- New ageing populations
- Those excluded from provision

Projects that work with older prisoners, ex-offenders and carers are particularly welcomed.

Refugees & Asylum Seekers

- Work with statutory agencies
- New partnerships

The Fund has introduced a new priority for funding called Linking Communities. This is aimed at innovative projects that challenge the boundaries of race and ethnicity and has arisen out of the race problems in the North of England. It means projects which seek to solve race problems at a local level will be prioritised. Linking Communities will also be able to fund inter-generational projects e.g. a project which improves relationships between young and old generations. The box above sets out all the Fund's priorities.

More details about all the proposed changes from **www.community-fund.org.uk or contact Regional Office on 020 7587 6609.**

The London region will receive less money this year which is one of the reasons some of the changes above have been introduced. It will get £25m instead of £29m last year. The Community Fund has seen an increase in the amount of funding granted to BME groups over mainstream projects, but its BME Pilot Project reported that certain communities, namely the Black Caribbean, Indian and Bangladeshi communities, were significantly less successful than other communities in receiving funding. Average success rate for BME organisations over the last 2 years is 23.5% compared to 35.6% for mainstream projects. For details of this BME Pilot Project contact Orkun Ari BME Development worker on 020 7587 6600 or orkun.ari@community-fund.org.uk Ask them to send you a copy of their newsletter which comes out quarterly.

Bridges House Estates Trust Fund answers your questions about their new funding programmes

What type of grants do you give?

The Trust makes both capital and revenue grants, although not both at the same time. Applicants must demonstrate the benefit of their project to the inhabitants of Greater London, the geographical extent of the Trust's giving. Capital grants are made, for example, as contributions to building projects where the purpose is in line with one of our priorities - although we do not fund the capital costs of residential care or sheltered housing. Many capital grants are in connection with disability access improvements. Revenue grants are made for up to three years.

Will the Trust fund core costs?

Yes, the Trust also awards project grants which may include a contribution to the core costs of an organisation, especially when there is a good case that they cannot be found from existing resources. Make sure what you ask for is reasonable in relation to your request. However, if you have no other core revenue funding it is unlikely that the Trust will help. The Trust does also make some core revenue grants to organisations which are key to delivering services which meet our objectives.

How much can we ask for?

Strictly speaking, there is no minimum or maximum grant. In practice, it depends on how strong your case is and what kind/size of organisation yours is. Large grants to small organisations are unlikely to be made, nor small grants to organisations with substantial reserves. Very large grants are usually only made to substantial and well managed charities, most often for work which is ground-breaking, unique or which demonstrates pan-London or cross-sectoral benefit. The Trust will not be your only or major funder.

Does the Trust require match funding?

No, but we would look at what other funders are either already involved in the project or have been approached. We are though interested in the concept of partnership funding especially on larger projects.

Do you have deadlines for receipt of applications?

No, the Trustees meet ten times a year and applications are welcome at any time. Applicants should however allow four months from the time a proposal is submitted for a decision to be reached.

Do you only give grants to registered charities?

Almost always. All the Trust's grants must be for charitable purposes benefiting Londoners. Making grants to registered charities helps ensure this end is achieved, and is preferred by the Trust. Occasionally, grants are made to charities whose registration is applied for but not yet achieved, where the constitution clearly describes charitable aims. Grants can also be made to Friendly Societies, Housing Associations, Industrial and Provident Societies and not-for-profit companies, as long as the work is clearly charitable and meets all our other assessment criteria. On rare occasions we ask an established charity (usually the local Council for Voluntary Service) to handle and account for a grant to a non-registered charity.

We will have to close next month if we cannot get any more money. Can you help?

No. We do not provide deficit or retrospective funding or make grants to solve this sort of crisis.

We have a good project which meets your criteria and current funding for it is about to expire. Can you help?

Possibly. A number of grants have been made to extend good work on the expiry of funding from another charitable trust. The Trust does not normally pick up cut statutory funds so you must show that the original work was funded on a time-limited basis. Expect tough questions about where future funds will come from.

SMALL GRANTS SCHEME

What kinds of organisations can apply to the Small Grants programme?

The scheme is targeted at constituted voluntary organisations with an annual income of under £50,000 and working for the benefit of Londoners. All our grants must be for a charitable purpose but you do not need to be a registered charity to apply. There are five priority areas: disabled people; children and young people; older people; the environment; and community activity.

What type of grants do you give?

We can give grants for capital costs or running costs. Any grant should be spent within 12 months of receipt. Please bear this in mind when deciding what to request. This scheme is ideal if you need items of equipment, or one-off help with the costs of transport, training, events, decorating, publicity materials or support for volunteers, for example.

How much can we ask for?

The Small Grants Scheme has grants available ranging from £500 to £5,000. Please ensure that you supply competitive quotes and only ask for what you need.

CONTACT DETAILS
Main Grants & General Enquiries
020 7332 3710
Small Grants
020 7332 3705
Minicom: 020 7332 3151
Fax: 020 7332 3720
bridgehousetrust@corpoflondon.gov.uk
www.bridgehousegrants.org.uk

***New * £93m ACU VCS Capacity Building & Infrastructure Fund**

The Home Office's Active Community Unit (ACU) have been working with the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) and other government departments on how to best enhance the capacity of the VCS, following the announcement last year of that £93 million in extra resources has been set aside for capacity building. The ACU were due to launch their proposals out for consultation in early July. However this is delayed until the autumn for the following reasons: to allow more time for: government and the VCS to work up some detailed areas of the document; for government departments and local government to firm up joint proposals in the strategy; and to avoid running public consultation through the summer holiday period.

***New * Electoral Commission - New Initiatives Fund**

The Electoral Commission operates a fund to promote awareness of and engagement with democratic processes and elections in the UK. The 'new initiatives fund' (NIF) enables organisations to run innovative projects encouraging people to get more involved with deciding how their communities are run, as well as promoting understanding of how local, national and/or European government works.

Decisions on most funding allocations will be made by a committee of senior staff, chaired by a Commissioner, but larger grant applications need to be approved by a full Commissioners meeting. Funding is only available for activities which: are consistent with the aims set out in Section 13 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000; are a fixed-term project; are a genuinely new initiative (or a request for assistance in rolling out a previously successful pilot); require funding from the Commission for no more than two years; have a fully costed project plan; with measurable outputs; could be expanded or replicated, if successful; and do not explicitly or implicitly promote a particular political or policy objective.

The fund's budget is set each financial year and for project expenditure April 2003 - March 2004 is £300,000. Decisions on new applications to the Fund will be made from August 2003.

Application forms and Information can then be downloaded from website: www.electoralcommission.org.uk/your-vote/newinitiativesfund.cfm

Alternatively, more information is available from the Liaison Team Tel: 020 7271 0561, Email: nif@electoralcommission.org.uk or write to Liaison Team, The Electoral Commission, Trevelyan House, Great Peter Street, London SW1P 2HW

***New * The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation Loans Programme**

The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation Loans Programme is a £3 million fund offering loans to the UK voluntary sector. Set up in partnership with Charity Bank, initially it will run from May 2003 for up to three years.

The minimum loan is £10,000 and the maximum loan £250,000. Interest rates for loans made in year one range from 0% to 7%. The maximum interest rate for new loans will be reviewed annually.

The aim is to offer support where we cannot make a grant. It is a pilot programme to test demand for loan finance in the voluntary sector, and to establish Esmée Fairbairn's capacity to provide loan support in the future. They will make loans to: (a) charities; (b) other organisations with charitable objects; (c) organisations with a social purpose but whose objects may not be charitable, as long as the loan is for charitable purposes.

Loans will be made for work in the Foundation's areas of interest and funding priorities outlined in their guidelines. Where they are unable to make a grant a loan might be an alternative way of giving support. They are also open to new ideas for making loans.

They are unlikely to make loans for bridging finance (where the need arises simply because of the timing of the payment of funds that have already been agreed, e.g. arrears of European funding).

Before making an application and for more information about the Foundation's funding priorities see their website: http://www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk/loans.html or Tel: 020 7297 4700

***New * YHA - Give Us a Break**

Being concerned that children and young people on low incomes or from low income families were not using the Youth Hostels, YHA's Trustees established a scheme known as 'Give Us A Break'. The scheme is used to support those who could benefit from a residential experience linked to activities they are involved in within their school or local community. It does not support young people travelling as individuals but rather disadvantaged youngsters who, without help, would be unable to join their friends on a Youth Hostel trip. The money required to fund the scheme is raised by YHA from its members, companies, charitable trusts and through fundraising treks.

The scheme has no administration costs attributed to it. All donations YHA receives are used to support Youth Hostel costs for disadvantaged children and young people. This simple approach works in the following way:

A group makes a provisional Youth Hostel booking and calculates the costs involved.

Having identified that some youngsters in the group will be unable to afford the cost of the trip, the leader then applies for and completes a 'Give Us A Break' application form.

Upon receipt, the form is dealt with immediately so that no group is kept waiting for a response to their application. The amount given is deducted by the group leader when making their final payment to the Youth Hostel. The scheme relies on the group not having already paid in full as YHA is unable to refund money paid.

If you think your school or group could benefit from a 'Give Us a Break' grant contact Judith Briddon Tel: 01629 592638 or Email: judithbriddon@yha.org.uk for more information Website: www.yha.org.uk

***New * YHA - Diversion Partnership Fund**

YHA's Diversion Partnership Fund is aimed at young people at risk of offending. Funding is available to help with the cost of Youth Hostel residentials for those involved in multi-agency crime reduction and prevention programmes. These include summer schemes, school exclusion and good citizen projects, youth action schemes and Youth Offending Teams as they become established.

Email: diversion@yha.org.uk <mailto:diversion@yha.org.uk> If you think your group could benefit from the Diversion Partnership Fund please contact Jane Town on 01303 246 621 or Email: diversion@yha.org.uk YHA, Trevelyan House, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3YH

***New * Publicise your group or organisation through the Community Channel**

The Community Channel is the UK's only national television channel dedicated to inspiring people to do more with their lives. They want to change lives and challenge people. They're on air every day from 8am to 8pm on Sky digital 684 and Telewest Channel 233, and you can catch them on Freeview 46 from 3am to 5.30am.

Each week their magazine show "The Action Hour" focuses on a theme or campaign that aims to give people new ideas about what's going on and to give people a chance to sign up to get involved or help out in some way.

The Community Channel website is brimming over with ways you people get interactive with them.

You can tell the world about the wonderful work you have been doing by sending in your pictures, videos and letters - don't forget to mention how others can get in on the act.

This is a fantastic way to appeal to volunteers, promote your cause, gain inspiration and valuable advice from other charities and community groups. There's just one catch: when your organisation takes off, you must tell them all about your success!

Or, if trying out new experiences is right down your street and you want to see what everyone else is up to head for My Story. There you can check out what you too could be up to.

They know that some of the charity fanatics will do anything for charity and that's why they dedicate the weekly slot 'I'll do Anything For Charity, Me' to them.

Singing for the Channel

They're planning another day's shoot in north west England in just a few month's time and they're looking for lively musical acts to film. This is the perfect opportunity for you to show them what your community music group can do!

Send them your group details in an email or letter headed 'Top That!'. Don't forget to tell them what kind of music you perform and, if possible, do include a sample tape cassette and picture or video of your group performing.

Send your details through to: The Community Channel, 3-7 Euston Centre, Regent's Place, London NW1 3JG Email: info@communitychannel.org Website:www.communitychannel.org

***New * KORDA guide to Arts Funding**

The European Audiovisual Observatory launches KORDA, the online database of public funding for the film and audiovisual sector in Europe: http://korda.obs.coe.int/web/en

Accessible free of charge, KORDA contains details of 141 funding bodies and 502 funding programmes in 30 countries. European, national and regional programmes are presented. KORDA is a valuable resource for anyone seeking to raise film finance in Europe, as well as for funding bodies, regulators and policy-makers. The Observatory estimates the overall value of public film funding in Europe to be EUR1.3 billion a year.

KORDA enables users to scroll through a list of funding bodies and programmes, or to narrow the search by inputting different criteria: the type of production supported, the phase of intervention, and who can apply. Each summary of funding programmes gives information including the amount of funding available, terms and conditions, required documentation, and application deadlines.

Developed by the Observatory over the last two years, KORDA has been compiled in close co-operation with funding bodies across Europe. These bodies have also been given access to the administrative section of the site to enable them to edit and update information about their programmes.

KORDA will also form the basis of a major report on public film and audiovisual support in Europe, due to be published in October 2003. The European Investment Bank will partner the Observatory on the study, and on a conference on public film finance to be held in London in November.

Tesco Charity Trust

Tesco helps local and national charities as well as voluntary organisations to provide practical support for children, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

Charity initiatives include: Community Awards and donations through: the Tesco Charity Trust; Local Community Sponsorship; Community Vouchers; Staff fundraising.

The majority of appeals from local community charities are handled through the Tesco Charity Trust Community Award Scheme. This scheme distributes some £350,000 each year to charities in communities where Tesco has stores. Community Awards benefit charities that deliver practical benefits to children's welfare, children's education, the welfare of elderly people and people with disabilities. Donations generally range between £1,500 and £5,000.

Charities concerned with children's welfare and educational projects should write with details of their projects for funding by the end of January each year and charities concerned with elderly people and people with disabilities should write with details of their projects by the end of June each year.

The Trust adds 20% to all approved fundraising carried out by Tesco staff in respect of charities or the community.

Contact address: Tesco Charity Trust at address below

Charity of the Year - In 2000, Tesco raised over £3 million for Macmillan Cancer Relief, the Tesco Charity of the Year for 2000. It is the largest amount ever raised in a single year by one organisation.

Tesco Charity of the Year

As the part of its continued commitment to support local communities, each year Tesco adopts a charity to be the main focus for staff fundraising activities.

The Tesco Charity of the Year 2002 is the Cystic Fibrosis Trust and Tesco staff throughout the UK will be taking part in events and activities to raise funds.

Criteria for Charity of the Year: The charity provides local, practical support for children, the elderly or people with disabilities; The charity is well-known and it's name clearly conveys the nature of its work; The charity has local branches/ support in local communities around Tesco stores; The charity has a national corporate fundraising department, supported by regional offices; Money raised through Tesco Charity of the Year should be donated to local projects near to where that money was raised.

Tesco Give as you Earn - This is an easy and tax-free way for all Tesco staff to give to charities they care about directly from their pay. Tesco launched the scheme in 1987, and approximately 15,000 employees have donated almost £900,000 in the past two years to local and national charities.

Tesco Community Gift Vouchers - Each Tesco store holds a number of Community Gift Vouchers to support local groups requiring support for their fundraising events, such as raffle prizes. Tesco Community Gift Vouchers may be redeemed at checkouts at any Tesco store in the same manner as ordinary Tesco Gift Vouchers, but they may not be exchanged for cash.

Charities should apply in writing to the Customer Service Manager at their local Tesco store, explaining about their charity, the event they are organising and how they intend to use the vouchers. Requests over £50 should be directed to Local Community Sponsorship, CSR Unit, Tesco Stores Limited, Tesco House, Delamare Road, Cheshunt, Herts. EN8 9SL Tel: 01992 646768 Fax 01992 646794

Charity collections at stores - Tesco stores are regularly asked by charities to allow them to collect at their local stores. However, the number of charities requesting collection dates far exceeds the number of dates available for booking.

Local community sponsorship - Tesco is committed to supporting its local communities. To underline their belief that 'Every Little Helps', they support projects and initiatives at store level which give practical benefits to children, education, people with disabilities and the elderly.

These include initiatives such as the purchase of high visibility tabards for children involved in a winter road safety campaign.

Contact Address: Community Sponsorship at address below.

Activities which fall outside the criteria are support for individuals, funding of events, advertising and overseas projects.

From previous page/ Charity badge sales through checkouts - Tesco works in partnership with several charities to promote public awareness by selling pin badges through the checkouts. Regeneration - Tesco has forged 12 regeneration partnerships in the last year, to help regenerate derelict brown field sites in

urban areas. The new store in Dragonville, Co Durham is only the second store of its kind to be opened following a successful link up with local community groups. Tesco Community Awards

The Tesco Charity Trust operates a Community Award Scheme which gives one-off donations of between £2,000 and £5,000 for projects based in areas where Tesco has stores, to build links with their local communities.

Charities concerned with children's welfare and educational projects should write with details of their projects for funding by the end of January each year and charities concerned with elderly people and people with disabilities should write with details of their projects by the end of June each year.

For further information contact Tesco Charity Trust, Tesco House, Delamare Road, Cheshunt, Waltham Cross, Herts EN8 9SL Tel: 01992 646768 Fax 01992 646794 Website: www.tesco.com/corporateinfo (under Local communities).

DEADLINE - JULY

*New * Comic Relief - UK Grants

The UK grants programme aims to tackle poverty and promote social justice by helping people make lasting, positive changes in their lives and their communities.

Their aims are to: reach the poorest and most disadvantaged people; help people find solutions to the problems they face; help groups who face discrimination get their views heard and their needs met; support groups which are user-led, or which can show they want to move towards users running the service; make the public more aware of the needs, hopes and rights of the disadvantaged people they support; and support work which influences social policy at national, regional and local levels.

Comic Relief knows that there is an enormous need and that their resources are limited. To be as effective as possible in meeting their aims, during 2003-2005 they will give funding to five specific areas. As a result, they can only consider applications under the following programmes: Supporting Young People; Fighting for Justice; Domestic Abuse; Refugees and Asylum Seekers; Local Communities /over Working For Change. See website for more details of each of these programmes at: www.comicrelief.com

Some of the programmes have a main programme and one or more special programmes. Special programmes are areas of work they have supported before and want to build on, or areas they have a specific interest in promoting. In these programmes they will work closely with organisations, encouraging them to develop and send in proposals. They will also accept applications directly from you.

When they look at applications, they want to make sure that they consider equal opportunities. They believe it is important that they consider everyone's needs, especially the needs of those who often miss out.

Comic Relief welcome applications from all sections of the community. They are especially keen to hear from you if your group works in the programme areas they support and is very disadvantaged or finds it particularly hard to get funding. welcomes applications from projects that specifically benefit the following: People from Black and minority ethnic groups; Women; Lesbians, gay men and bisexuals; Older people; Disabled people; People who live in rural areas and people living with HIV / AIDS. They are especially keen to hear form projects that find it hard to get funding elsewhere.

To apply, these groups must still fall within one or more of our grant-making programmes. They give grants to voluntary organisations and self-help groups in Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland. They pay particular attention to parts of the UK which often miss out on funding, especially towns and cities outside London, and rural areas. They welcome applications from small community projects and larger organisations.

Any work they fund must be charitable and most funding goes to registered charities. However, you do not have to be a registered charity, as long as the work you are planning to do has charitable aims.

They can give grants for running costs and capital costs, depending on the programme you are applying to. Applications for up to £5000 are only available to organisations with an annual turnover of less than £100,000. Comic Relief will give priority to core costs and equipment costs. If you are applying for a grant of up to £5000, they will deal with your application through a fast-track process and 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 7 July 2004.

Grants over £5000 are available to voluntary organisations of any size that work within their grant-making programmes. Please check the guidelines for the individual programme to which you are applying, to see how much money you can apply for and for how many years.

If you want to apply for more than £5000, there are two stages to the application process. Once they have received all the summary forms, they will draw up a shortlist of applications for stage 2. If your application is shortlisted, they will send you their full application pack. This will give you plenty of time to send them more details.

Cycle 1: Summary deadline 1 July 2003; Full application deadline - 25 August 2003; Trustee decision - 11 December 2003. Cycle 2: Summary deadline - 1 December 2003; Full application deadline - 26 January 2004; Trustee decision - 5 May 2004 Cycle 3: Summary deadline - 15 March 2004; Full application deadline 6 May 2004; Trustee decision - 15 September 2004 Cycle 4: Summary deadline - 7 July 2004; Full application deadline 2 September 2004; Trustee decision - 9 December 2004 For an application form and guidelines please send a SAE (57p postage) to UK Grants Team; Comic Relief, 5th Floor, 89 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TP or download it off the Comic Relief web-site: http://comicrelief.com/entry.shtml or contact Comic Relief via: Tel: 020 7820 5555 Fax: 020 7820 5500 , Textphone: 020 7820 5579 or E-mail: ukgrants@comicrelief.org.uk .

*New * British Community Safety Awards 2003

The annual Marks & Spencer British Community Safety Awards are back - looking for the top of the range crime reduction projects from across the UK. Their website at: http://awards.crimeconcern.org.uk is dedicated entirely to the British Community Safety Awards. This website is jam- packed with everything that you need to know about the awards.

Marks & Spencer British Community Safety Awards are managed by Crime Concern and endorsed fully by the Home Office. The Awards are open to entries from all sectors involved in community safety and crime reduction.

Each year five outstanding projects are rewarded with a certificate, trophy and training prize of £1,500 or £1,000 cash.

They know from past entries that there are hundreds of projects across the UK working with local people and professional partners to cut crime and raise levels of safety and well-being within communities.

Each year the Awards identify many projects which are doing fantastic work. If you are involved in a project or initiative which is showing tangible results in tackling issues such as; youth crime and nuisance; anti-social behaviour; domestic burglary; vehicle crime; burglary; hate crime; shop theft and business crime; crimes committed in schools, hospitals and on public transport we want to hear from you.

More initiatives are showing creative and effective approaches in involving local residents, tenants, retailers, businesses and young people in finding solutions to crime

problems.

If you entered last year, you can simply send us a two-page update on your project's progress. If your last entry was a few years ago, we advise you to complete a fresh application. And if you've applied for the last five years with no success, please do not feel despondent - it's always worth another go. We can cite many winning examples where perseverance has definitely paid off!

If you can't download the application form, and would like them to e-mail or post you a copy please contact their helpdesk Tel: 01793 863 518/517 Email: awards@crimeconcern.org.uk

All entries must be received by Friday July 25th 2003. You can submit as many entries as you like.

Amy Reeves, Crime Concern, Beaver House, 147-150 Victoria Road, Swindon SN1 3UY

Commonwealth Youth Exchange Visits

A Commonwealth youth exchange gives young people the opportunity to get up and go global. To get involved in a world where for some people there is no local take-away, where 'popping to the shop' can mean a five mile trek, or a shower a dip in the river. Part of the challenge of a Commonwealth youth exchange may involve building a school, learning a traditional dance or working on a health project. Every exchange will have its own theme and activities; themes range from sustainable development, young people's health issues, citizenship, through to arts and culture. As importantly its about meeting other young people of the same age and understanding that beneath the obvious differences there's a lot in common.

But all this is just the tip of an iceberg of achievement. It takes two years to complete exchange goals - time well spent in learning new skills, growing in self awareness and confidence and in becoming part of a team of young people who aim to make a difference at home and overseas.

Young people participate in Commonwealth youth exchanges via their local organisations - their youth club, community or youth organisation or school. Its hard work but its also fun and rewarding!

The key features of Commonwealth Youth Exchange are: An inter-cultural experience for local groups of 16 -25 year olds; A 2 year plus programme of personal and group development; A highly participatory process with young people planning, undertaking and reviewing their learning; A two way activity - groups visit and host overseas partners; Thematic - young people share ideas and explore issues of mutual interest to them and their communities ; Active and involved - working together with overseas partners on projects and activities in both communities; Self-help fundraising; Having fun and making new friends

CYEC helps by: Providing information and advice; Helping to establish new links; Making grants for two-way visits; Producing publications highlighting good practice; Training courses and seminars for youth leaders and young people; Holding youth forums and events; Developing new services and special projects.

The final date to request an application pack for funding in 2003 is the 18th July 2003.

CYEC, 7 Lion Yard, Tremadoc Road, London SW4 7NQ Tel: 020 7498 6151 Fax: 020 7622 4365 Email: mail@cyec.demon.co.uk Website: www.cyec.org.uk

Social Enterprise: The 'Inner City 100' Index and 'Enterprising Solutions: The National Social Enterprise Award 2003'

Social Enterprise: A Strategy for Success, published last summer, made clear the Government's recognition of the role that our external stakeholders have to play in ensuring that the potential of the social enterprise sector is realised throughout the country.

There is news of two awards on social enterprise that the Department is sponsoring and which is inviting applications to.

The first is an award for the fastest growing social enterprise in an inner city area, as part of the 2003 'Inner City 100' Index.

Inner City 100's mission is to champion enterprise led inner city revitalisation and to promote the untapped market of the inner city. The Inner City 100 facilitates the winners' future growth via a structured series of events, awards and media exposure, as well as acting as a research and publishing mechanism enabling their success stories, as well as opportunities for the UK's inner cities, to be captured, analysed and

shared. I attach a flyer containing more information including the eligibility criteria as well as links to the Inner City 100 website and application form. The closing date for receipt of applications is 31 July 2003.

The second award is Enterprising Solutions: The National Social Enterprise Award 2003. This Award aims to recognise and celebrate the best social and community enterprises. The winner will receive £10,000 and four runners-up will each receive £5,000. Application forms are available by calling 0800 777 888 (Telephone line open: 8am-8pm Monday to Friday and 9am-6pm Saturday).

It is hoped that an online application form will be made available at www.dti.gov.uk/socialenterprise shortly.

The Civil Society Challenge Fund - DFID

The Civil Society Challenge Fund (CSCF) - Department for International Development (DFID) is open to any UK-based non-profit group, organisation or network/alliance/coalition, which shares DFID's goal of eradicating poverty. Applicants must show that they have established links with partners in developing countries. Applicants do not have to be organisations whose primary purpose is overseas development.

The Fund is expected to contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed International Development Target to reduce by half of those living in extreme poverty by 2015. The Fund's overall aim is to increase the proportion of poor people in developing countries able to understand and demand their rights - civil, political, economic, and social - and to improve their economic and social well-being. Activities funded should be linked explicitly to this.

The CSCF will provide matched funding to an upper limit of £250,000 for single grants. Other initiatives, including short term or "one-off" proposals to promote community networking and information sharing, may be funded up to a limit of £10,000. The DFID is keen to receive proposals as soon as possible. Deadline for proposals with funding commencing 2004 is 31 July 2003.

For information and application guidance look at the website. Civil Society Department, DFID, AH602, Abercrombie House, Eaglesham Road, East Kilbride G75 8EA, Tel: 01355 84 3586, Fax: 01355 84 3457 Email: cscf@dfid.gov.uk Web-site: www.dfid.gov.uk

Better Play

Better Play is a partnership between Barnardo's and the Children's Play Council funded by the New Opportunities Fund with money from National Lottery 'good causes' funding.

The overall objectives of Better Play: to produce opportunities for children to play safely in their neighbourhood; to offer opportunities for community members to take part in providing good play opportunities for their children; to enhance the health and safety of children in disadvantaged neighbourhoods; to address the play needs of particularly disadvantaged groups; to share and disseminate the experience within the programme and externally.

To date £7 million has been awarded to 130 projects across England. In the final round (2003) a further £2.8 million will be awarded to promote inclusive play services for children from 5 to 16 years.

In the final round of funding the emphasis will be inclusive play. In particular, Better Play will

fund: mainstream play services working towards becoming inclusive of disabled children; play services primarily for disabled children working towards becoming inclusive of all children.
Please call the Better Play office on 020 8498 7589 to discuss your proposal. A member of the Better Play team will advise you on whether your proposal is suitable for the Better Play programme and how to develop your bid. Once you have discussed your bid you can phone the call centre to get hold of an application pack.
The closing date will be 5pm Thursday 31st July 2003 and no late applications will be accepted. Projects will be notified of the outcome of their application by November 2003 and funding will be released from January 2004 onwards and must be spent by March 31st 2005.
They welcome applications that can demonstrate how you are progressing towards inclusion. In order to become an inclusive play service you may need funding for one or more of the following: inclusive play opportunities and activities; staffing; staff training; resources & equipment; support & development; outreach and promotion; access - for example, travel, opening times, activities, physical access
It must be demonstrated that your inclusive play project has clear aims and objectives.
'Side by Side- Guidelines for inclusive play' when considering issues around inclusive play is available from Kidsactive at www.kidsactive.org.uk
There is not an average amount of grant as such - your project's budget should be based on what you think your project will actually cost. Better Play is funding largely revenue projects. However, they acknowledge that in order to develop inclusive play services organisations may incur some capital expenditure. The maximum grant will be £35,000. Up to £7,000 is available for capital expenditure - the capital expenditure must be a part of an overall revenue project. They particularly welcome applications from voluntary organisations and community groups. In the final round of funding (2003) projects will be supported for one year. Website: www.barnardos.org.uk/whatwedo/community/betterplay

DEADLINES - AUGUST

HRH The Duke of York's Community Initiative
These achievement Awards are awarded to projects operating within Yorkshire. Projects must have charitable objects with a written constitution; be developed and owned by the community it serves; demonstrate equality of access; demonstrate success in improving quality of life and sense of community; provide an example to others who can draw on their experience; demonstrate success in attracting new resources to the community. Award holders gain kudos, can use the DYCI logo on their printed material and be a part of a network of excellence and good practice which can further develop the quality of their service and be used as a 'kite mark' to attract support and funding. The closing date for applications is 15 August 2003.
HRH The Duke of York's Community Initiative, St William's Foundation, 5 College Street, York YO1 7JF Tel: 01904 557235 Fax: 01904 557236 E-mail: foundation@st-williams.demon.co.uk Web-site: http://www.st-williams.demon.co.uk

*New * The PPP Foundation

The PPP Foundation is one of the largest independent healthcare charitable foundations in the UK. They distribute around £18 million a year to healthcare-related programmes and initiatives, mainly in the UK, but also internationally.
Their Children and Adolescents and Older People programmes have now closed and new programmes are coming on line. The first of these is: Leading Practice Through Research
This award is a competitive award open to people from a wide range of backgrounds in the health sector. The award enables healthcare practitioners, health improvement practitioners, including public health professionals, health services managers and policy makers to undertake research as a means of enhancing their ability to make a significant difference to the quality of patient care or the health of the population. They are particularly interested in receiving applications from people wishing to build on their professional career through the development of leadership skills.
In assessing each application, they will look at how you plan to build leadership skills, the quality of the research you propose to carry out as well as the knowledge transfer plan for the dissemination of the research outcomes.
Look at the website to check eligibility criteria. They realise that a very broad range of professions are covered therefore they would encourage you to contact us if you are still unsure about your eligibility.
The second round closes on 15 August 2003. The PPP Foundation, 13 Cavendish Square, London W1G OPQ Tel: 020 7307 2622 Fax: 020 7307 2623 Email: info@pppfoundation.org.uk Website: www.pppfoundation.org.uk

DEADLINE - SEPTEMBER

Community Care Awards 2003

Community Care is proud to announce the launch of the Community Care Awards 2003.
Celebrating the best in social care, the annual awards recognise innovation and best practice, and highlight the positive differences you make every day.
The Community Care Awards aim to promote and reward the best new initiatives and projects which have led the way as the social care field develops.
Closing date for entries: 5th September, 2003. NO EXTENSIONS ALLOWED.
To request an entry form please e-mail them not forgetting to give us your name, telephone number and address.
We are looking for the successes achieved by individuals and teams within 10 practice areas:. Carers; Protecting children and young people; Supporting children and families; Disability; Drugs and alcohol; Inter-agency; Learning difficulties; Mental health; Older people; Young offenders.
If you feel that you have been involved in a project or initiative which has improved services and shown outstanding practice, then we need to hear from you.
Whether you are in a local authority, voluntary or private organisation, health or housing, Community Care wants to hear about your achievements in social care, to reward your excellence and help share the best ideas.
All shortlisted entries will be invited to a presentation luncheon and ceremony at The London Hilton, Park Lane, on 6 November 2003. Each award category winner will receive £5,000. The overall winner will receive an additional £8,000 to further their work.
Entry Forms for the Community Care Awards can be downloaded from www.community-care.co.uk/cc_whatson/awards.asp and should be returned to: Community Care Awards, H320, Quadrant House, The Quadrant, Sutton, Surrey, SM2 5AS. Alternatively call their Hotline: 020 8652 4861/4455 or email: sarah.bartlett@rbi.co.uk Website: www.communitycare.co.uk

*New * Reading Families Millennium Awards

The Awards are to support you in running a project that gets families and communities reading together. £1.2 million is available to support 390 Award winners in total. Awards will be from £2000 to £3400 and projects should take six months to complete. The scheme is run by the Campaign for Learning, with support from the Millennium Commission. The scheme covers England only. Round 3 closes on 8th September 2003.

You can download the application form and guidance notes from their website: www.readingfamilies.com
Alternatively for an application pack, please write to, fax or e-mail the project co-ordinator for your area at the address below including your name and address.
Southern Region (South West, South East and London) Reading Families, Campaign for Learning, 19 Buckingham Street, London WC2N 6EF Fax: 020 7930 1551 E-mail: RFMASouth@cflearning.org.uk
Northern Region (North East, North West and Yorkshire & Humberside) - Alison Dickinson Campaign for Learning, 10 Egypt Street, Warrington WA1 1DY Fax: 01925 428849 2 E-mail: RFMANorth@cflearning.org.uk
Midlands Region (East Midlands, West Midlands, Eastern Counties) - Geoff Taggart, Campaign for Learning, BVSC , 138 Digbeth, Birmingham B5 6DR Fax: 0121 643 4678 E-mail RFMAMidlands@cflearning.org.uk

*New * Golden Jubilee Awards

The Queen's Golden Jubilee Award for Voluntary Service by Groups in the Community was announced by Her Majesty The Queen on 30th April 2002. It recognises and rewards excellence in voluntary activities carried out by groups in the community. A short-list of 277 groups from 1400 nominations was announced in April 2003.
Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh will present awards to 14 groups, one selected by ballot from each government region and devolved administration, at Buckingham Palace on 2 June. Following the ceremony, Lord Filkin will host a reception for the 14 groups at Lancaster House. The other winning groups will receive their Awards from the Lord-Lieutenant for the county in which they operate, on behalf of The Queen, during June and July. Media are invited to the Lancaster House reception. For information, please call 020 7273 3774.
A successful group will have demonstrated that it: evolved locally and is locally run; has a proven track record of active community involvement, normally over a period of three years or more; is well designed to meet a particular need; adds significant value by directly providing community-focused voluntary activities of a very high quality; and generates a high level of local goodwill and respect.
Applications for nominations were invited in the following categories: Educational; Emergency response; Environment / regeneration; Health; Playscheme / youth group; Recreatio / sports / arts ; Self-help / support; Social / community; Social / preventative (eg crime prevention).
Details of winning groups by region are available on request.
Nomination forms for the 2004 Awards are now available. The closing date is 15 September 2003. Forms can be obtained by visiting website: www.goldenjubileeaward.gov.uk, emailing a request to gjaward@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk or calling 0845 000 2002.

*New * 7th Annual GSK IMPACT Awards

Working in partnership with the King's Fund the Awards will be launched on July 1st and the deadline for completed applications is September 22nd at 5pm.
Applications are welcomed form any registered charities in the UK with an annual income of less than £750,000 which have made a demonstrable impact on the health of their local communities. There is no stipulation on how or on what the money should be spent.
There are ten awards of £25,000 each and ten highly commended projects will receive £1,000 each.
Once the programme is launched an application pack can be downloaded from www.kingsfund.org.uk/grants or can be obtained by sending an A4 self-addressed envelope (no stamp required) to: GSK Impact Awards, Grants Department, The King's Fund, 11-13 Cavendish Square, London W1G 0AN

Commonwealth Youth Exchange Visits

Are you planning a Commonwealth Youth Exchange between April 2004 and March 2005? The Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council is the national agency for the promotion and grant aiding of youth exchange visits between 15 -25 year old Britons and their contemporaries in Commonwealth countries, especially those in Africa, Asia or the Caribbean.
The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of nations which now has a membership of 54 countries. Last year UK groups had exchanges with 25 of them and over 1,000 young people participated in exchanges supported by CYEC.
If your youth group is planning a Commonwealth youth exchange visit during the next financial year and you want to apply for financial assistance from CYEC, please note the deadline dates for submitting your applications: Wednesday 24th September 2003; Wednesday 29th October 2003
You can apply for a grant to help subsidise your group's overseas travel from UK or to help with hosting an overseas group in the UK. It is essential to apply on time because CYEC has normally committed its entire budget by Christmas.
For an application and information pack, please send a SAE with two 1st class stamps to:
CYEC, 7 Lion Yard, Tremadoc Road, London SW4 7NQ Tel: 020 7498 6151 Fax: 020 7622 4365 Email: mail@cyec.demon.co.uk Website: www.cyec.org.uk

DEADLINE - OCTOBER

*New * CULTURE 2000

Websites - UK: www.culture2000.info EU: http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/c2000condition_en.html
The next call, for projects in 2004, is announced in mid June. Deadlines will be in October 2003. Euclid will provide regular updates and the call will be immediately published on the above web-site.
Focus on cultural heritage - Remember that the focus for the 2004 call will be on cultural heritage - though applications for performing and visual arts, and for translation projects, will also be accepted. However, all applications must: have something uniquely European about them (i.e. not just a tour of a UK performance or exhibition); be developed and implemented by at least 3 partner organisations from 3 different European countries; last either for 1 year or, in a few cases, for 2-3 years; have a total budget of between £100-300,000 (for 1 year projects) or £500,000 per year (for 2-3 year projects).
Successful applicants can receive a maximum of 50% (for 1 year projects) or 60% (for 2-3 year projects) of the total budget, but please note this you are not allowed to include expenditure on restoring premises or buying new equipment.
The Culture 2000 web-site (www.culture2000.info) will contains the information on the criteria for this call (for 2004)but check you are not looking at last years information. Although it is likely there will be some changes for the 2004 call, much of the criteria will remain the same (for example, the overall themes that all applications must reflect). Therefore, if you are considering making an application for 2004, you should consult this information and start to prepare your outline application as soon as possible. Remember also that EUCLID provides free advice and guidance on your project - you can contact them Tel: 07000 EUCLID / 382 543 or e-mail: c2k@euclid.info at any time to discuss your ideas or your draft application in more detail.

INFORMATION FROM:
93 Lawefield Lane
Wakefield
West Yorkshire
WF2 8SU
Tel: 01924 239063
Fax: 01924 239431
Website: www.cibfunding.org.uk

small grants up to £7000

for work with children & young people

The **Local Network Fund** is a new government initiative providing grants of £250-£7000 for voluntary and community groups working with vulnerable children and young people up to age 19 which are providing local solutions to the problems of child poverty.

local network fund
for children and young people

children&young people's unit

ncvs information advice support for the voluntary sector

For an application form call

0845 113 0161

(RNID Typetalk 180001 0845 113 0161)