The Young People Issue

Local Network Fund

a profile of funded projects in Hackney

EMASHI, EAT & DAKROBI

from Hackney to Africa and back

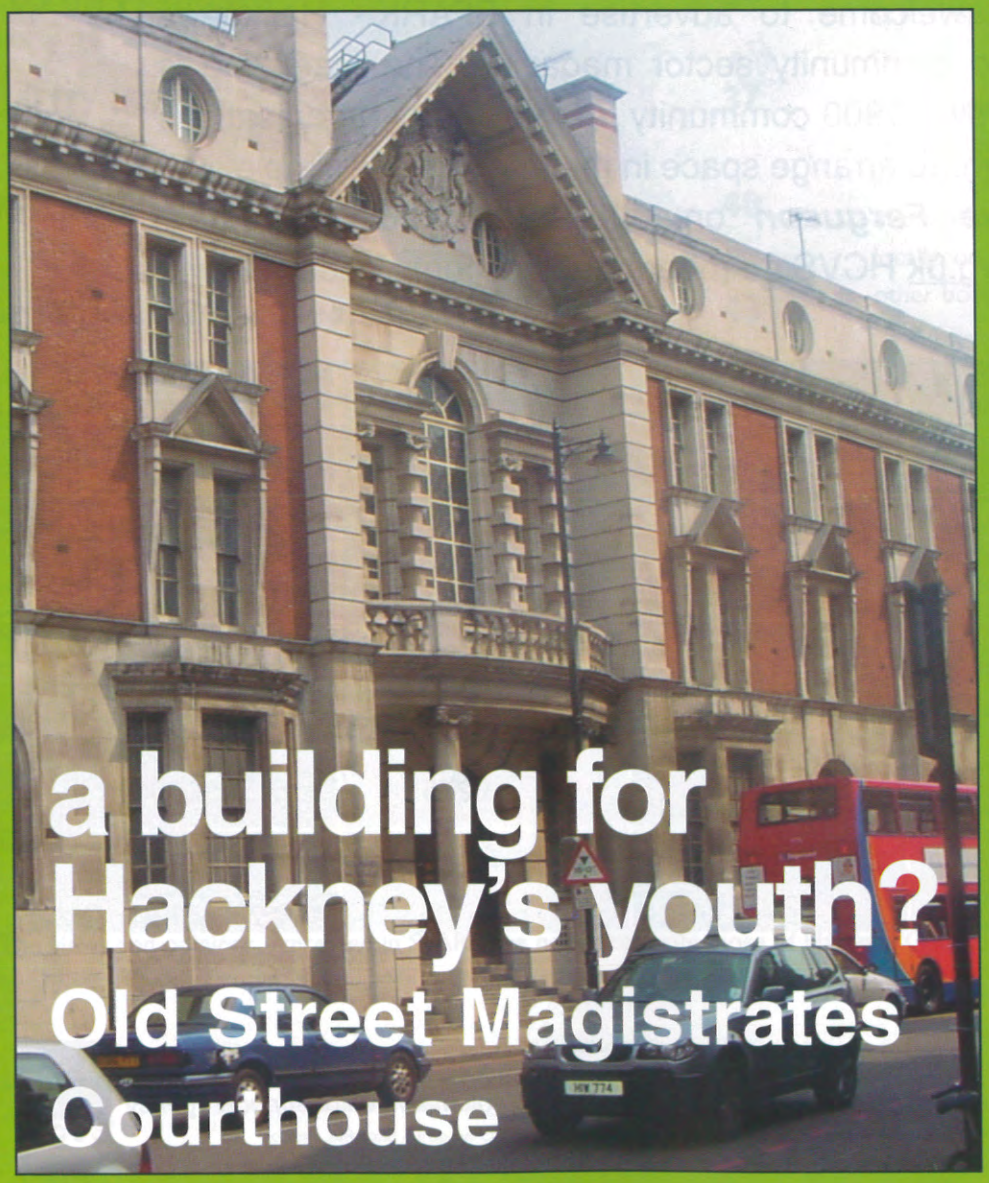
THE SPARK INTERVIEW

Meg Hillier, new MP for Hackney South & Shoreditch

The magazine for Hackney's voluntary sector

SPARK

August 2005



a building for Hackney's youth?

Old Street Magistrates Courthouse

In this issue:

Streetwise and PAYP

Youth service spending

FOCUS on Premises

Hackney's Football teams

Emashi, Dakrobi and EAT

LB Hackney Grants Review

FOCUS on community markets

Funding Directory

Meet the Local Network Fund

Equality issues

HCVS projects

advertise in this SPACE

Everyone is welcome to advertise in SPARK - Hackney's voluntary and community sector magazine. The magazine is circulated to over 1900 community and voluntary organisations in the Borough. To arrange space in the magazine is simple, just contact ***Jake Ferguson*** on 020 7923 1962 or email: jake@hcvs.org.uk HCVS members get discounts - see below.

	full page A4	*half page A4*	*quarter page A4*
HCVS members	£75	£50	£35
Non members	£125	£90	£65
Regional VCS infrastructure bodies	£250	£175	£125
Statutory/public sector organisations	£400	£275	£200
Back page	£500		

hcvs
Supporting Hackney's Communities

SPARK is an intiative of HCVS, Hackney's leading voluntary sector support agency

contents

August 2005

NEWS FROM THE SECTOR 3

SPARK INTERVIEW - MEG HILLIER, MP 10

POLICY MATTERS: YOUTH SERVICE SPENDING 16

ARTS, CULTURE & SPORT 20

FOCUS ON COMMUNITY MARKETS 26

COVER STORY - COMMUNITY COURTHOUSE 30

YOUTH SPEAK 32

FOCUS ON PREMISES 34

EQUALITY ISSUES 37

WHO'S WHO IN THE SECTOR: EAT 40

developing organisations capacity 43

HCVS SERVICES 46

ALG REVIEW - LB HACKNEY 51

THE LOCAL NETWORK FUND - CASE STUDIES 52

CHANGE UP 54

FUNDING NEWS 55

I cant be believe how big this edition is. Special thanks to all those that provided contributions. As this is the youth issue I wanted as many young people to contribute as possible and I am more than happy with the results.

I hope those people who have the power to change things locally start to listen to young people more and what they want and deserve. Data about about how much is spent locally on our youth services compared to other boroughs makes depressing reading.

Editing
Jake Ferguson (jake@hcvs.org.uk)

Community Reporter
Liz Hughes (pool@hced.co.uk)

Photography & Youth Reporting
Josh

Design and layout by HCVS

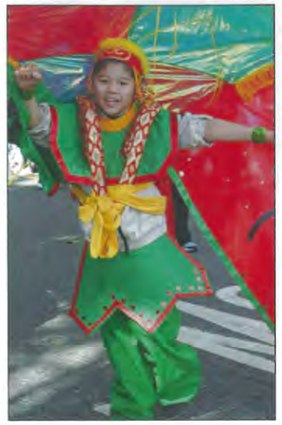
This edition of SPARK is part funded by the ALG Hackney Grants Programme and the Single Community Programme.

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

hcvs
Supporting Hackney's Communities

SPARK is a publication of Hackney Council for Voluntary Service (HCVS), Hackney's leading voluntary and community sector support agency. Over 1900 local organisations in Hackney look to HCVS for support and guidance. HCVS offers a host of free services for local community groups, including advice, one to one development surgeries, and training. HCVS administers funding programmes, including the Single Community Programme small grants scheme, NRF and European Objective 2 Projects on behalf of the Community Empowerment Network, and the Local Network Fund small grants programme. We also act as the accountable body for the Community Empowerment Network (CEN).

Prize winning oriental carnival band, Jun Mo Generations, celebrates 10th anniversary



'We have a lot of media attention but it's very difficult for us to survive in Hackney'

Last year saw Jun Mo parading through the streets of Notting Hill portraying the theme of Mythical Gods. Three of the Jun Mo children won first prize trophies for their individual portrayals of the 'Spider Spirit', 'Goddess of Mercy' and 'Monkey Magic'. Also winning the best Children's Traditional Band on the road and the best traditional presentation at the Notting Hill Carnival splash, which took place in Alexandra Palace - in total winning seven prizes, five of which are first prizes.

This year's theme is "Festival of Lions", a celebratory theme for Jun Mo Generation's 10th year at Notting Hill, based on the Chinese traditional symbolism of lions and dragons in celebrations, and the costumes promise to be more dazzling than ever before.

Jun Mo Generations was founded by the Man Family. All the members studied, were brought up in Hackney, and formed the carnival band here. They are looking for private sponsors - Sindy Man, Jun Mo Generation's main designer, said "We have a lot of media attention but it's very difficult for us to survive in Hackney. We hope to encourage businesses to be part of the event and activities, and to help us reach out to those who know little of the oriental culture and art forms".

JMG aims to find support and sponsorship funds so they can provide workshops and ongoing activities all year in a fulltime premises. Sindy Man said "We want to teach and educate the coming generations - welcoming all to celebrate and enjoy the eastern art forms together".

To contact Jun Mo Generations please call Sindy Man on 020 7690 9699 or email: sindy@junmo.co.uk

Exciting opportunity to work with
HACKNEY CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENTS
Pioneering Community Economic Development

HCD HACKNEY CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENTS
pioneering community economic development

Business Advice Officer

One year fixed term contract.

3 days p.w. Pro rata £27 - 30k p.a.

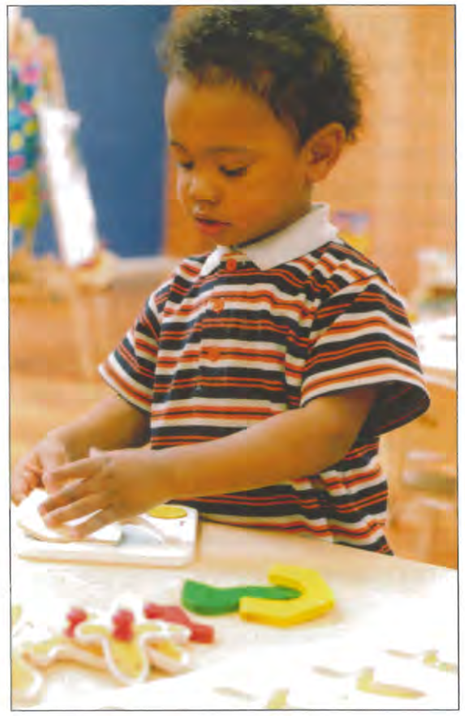
Hackney Co-operative Developments (HCD Ltd) is a successful and growing Community Economic Development organisation. We have our roots in the co-operative movement and have a portfolio of managed workspaces in the multicultural Dalston area of Hackney. We seek to further the principles of democracy, co-operation and equal opportunity in Hackney's economic life.

Currently HCD's local business development team is funded by ERDF and the local Neighbourhood Renewal Fund to work with the widening opportunities for local community enterprises and businesses. We now require an additional staff member for this team, who will advise, train and network in business and community economic development.

This is a front-line post, which requires the ability to establish a good rapport with local businesses as well as individuals, and groups who are starting-up in business. You will have a pro-active approach to these projects, and the skills to help them towards success. Besides the ability to develop outreach networks, a track record in business advice or running a business or social enterprise is essential.

For more information contact HCD on 020 7249 4185 or email info@hced.co.uk or write to: Hackney Co-operative Developments, 62 Beechwood Road, London E8 3DY. Closing date for applications 25th August 2005.

Springboard Nursery gets "excellent" Ofsted



Springboard Nursery has just been awarded the highest grade for a nursery by Ofsted and are now able to offer places to children from 12 months old (which is very unusual - most nurseries start at 2 years).

The nursery, which shares landscaped playspace with Burbage School in Hoxton, takes up to 24 children and has a few places still available.

Springboard Hackney started in 1985 in the basement of a church in Stoke Newington as a youth project. It now offers a wide range of training, education and employment support across all age groups - projects include;

- The Springboard Nursery

- The Diamond Project - alternative education 14 to 16 year olds not in school

- Youth apprenticeships in childcare, business administration, customer service, accountancy and IT

- Employment programs for 16 to 18 year olds - skills training and vocational options

- Skills for Life programs for people for whom English is second language

- Learn Direct self teach programs with support online

Springboard Hackney director Vida Bond said "We'd like to expand the range of community based education, training and employment support for people who've not had opportunities to access these services before. We do reach quite a lot of those people - but there are clear gaps.

"For example we would like to do more work with children excluded from school. And there is also a demand for practical apprenticeships in construction skills, motor mechanics and horticulture skills. These are areas where it is difficult to find funding, despite the need.

"But we are pleased with the range of education and training we do offer and are absolutely delighted to have such an excellent Ofsted inspection for the Springboard Nursery".

More information from Springboard Hackney on 020 7684 2345 or visit www.springboardht.org.uk

Springboard Hackney started in 1985 in the basement of a church in Stoke Newington as a youth project. It offers a wide range of training, education and employment support across all age groups

Access the HCVS Capacity Building programme and help your organisation get stronger...

Call Kristine Wellington at HCVS on 020 7923 1962

Important information about.....

OFSTED

What are Ofsted's responsibilities for early years?

Since it was formed in 1993, Ofsted has been responsible for inspecting the quality of education in all state-maintained nursery schools in England. OFSTED inspect children's progress towards early learning goals associated with six areas of learning set by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority.

In 1997, the government decided to fund a free nursery place for every three to four year-old whose parents wanted one. Many of these places OFSTED offered in the private, voluntary or independent sector, and the government asked Ofsted also to inspect progress in these settings towards the same early learning goals.

In 2001, Ofsted became the regulator for childcare for children aged under eight (prior to this local authorities had regulated the childminders and day-care providers in their area). Before a person or organisation can work as a childminder or provide day care for children under eight they must apply to register with Ofsted. They will check that they are able to meet 14 National Standards that are set in law by government. After registration they will usually inspect the setting again within seven months, and at least once every three years. They will investigate any concerns from parents or other interested persons that the standards are not met, and take account of any compliments OFSTED receive about a setting.

Information for childcare and early education providers

If you work as a childminder, or provide day care for children under 8 years old for more than two hours each day you must register with Ofsted and be inspected regularly. Nursery education settings which are on their local authority's directory to provide free places for three to four year olds must also be inspected regularly by Ofsted.

A new programme of early years inspections will start in April 2005. Providers may notice some changes, in particular:

- OFSTED will give you little or no notice that OFSTED are coming to carry out an inspection
- OFSTED will ask you to complete a self-evaluation form
- OFSTED have introduced a new grading scale with four grades: outstanding, good, satisfactory and inadequate
- OFSTED will inspect your provision at least once every three years and more often in some circumstances
- if you provide free nursery education for three to four year olds, your report will fully integrate OFSTED's findings on the childcare and nursery education you offer.

What are the minimum national standards for childcare?

There are 14 national standards set by government. They represent a baseline of quality below which no registered childcare provider may fall. Ofsted has issued guidance on how to meet the national standards for:

- childminding
- full day care
- sessional day care
- creches
- out of school care.

The National Standard on Full Day Care can be found on **www.ofsted.gov.uk** Standards for the other types of childcare services listed above can be found on the Sure Start OFSTED website at **www.surestart.gov.uk**

Information supplied by Hackney Play Association

Champion for her Community

Ali Riza Aksoy, HCVS's Community Champions worker tells us about Ayfer Yildiz, a local success story

Ayfer Yildiz is from Turkey and has been a refugee since 2000. Since she arrived in this country Ayfer has been on ESOL classes and accessed Child Care training.

She was recruited by the Refugee Community Champion Project based at HCVS in September 2004 as she was committed to serving her own community.

After an interview with me I initially referred her to an Advance ESOL course and IT Training. Meanwhile she regularly attended the Community Champions meetings where she could meet other community champions. After improving her English and building her self confidence she started working as a part time crèche worker in a community centre in November 2004. She also became a more active volunteer in Anatolian People Cultural Centre (APCC). Ayfer and I jointly organised two ESOL classes for Refugees attending the Centre and the classes are still going on now. She also organised an anti-drug campaign and assisted people by interpreting and filling out application forms. She has also attended Capacity Building training at HCVS such as the Fund Raising training and Health and Safety courses. While attending Refugee Community Champion meetings she also learnt about advocacy/interpretation and Forum Theatre Techniques.

She has learnt how to fill in a grant application form, and has successfully secured grants for her community centre from the Local Network Fund, the Single Community Programme and Fast Track small grants schemes.

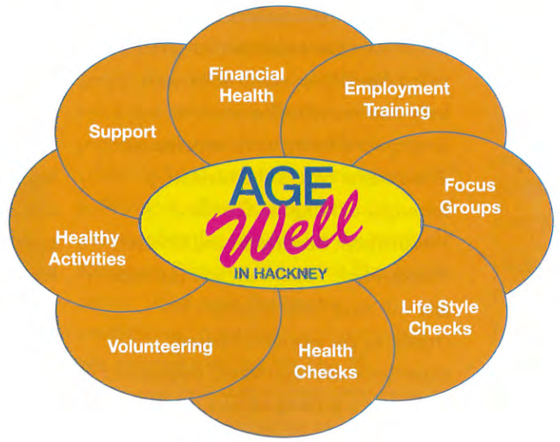
In conclusion she said she feels so happy being part of the Community Champions Project and she intends to further improve her skills to better serve her own community.

More info about the Refugee Community Champions project from Ali on 020 7923 1962 or alisermin@hotmail.com

AgeWell in Hackney invites all 50-65 year olds and interested professionals to a Health Fair for Black and Minority Ethnic Communities

on Thursday
29 September
11am - 3pm

at the
Old School Rooms
Round Chapel
Powerscroft Road
off
Lower Clapton Road
London E5



Information & Advice · Workshops · Refreshments · Complementary Therapy Tasters · Blood Pressure Checks

Contact: **AGE WELL** tel no: **020 7241 5909** e-mail: **agewell@ageconcernhackney.org.uk**

Run by AGE Concern Hackney

Funded through H·S·P Hackney Strategic Partnership

Age Concern Hackney - Charity Registration No: 1061633 - Registered Company: 3346199

Drug research Sounds Good

Elaine Paul, Director of local arts and cultural hub in Homerton, Sounds Good Multimedia tell us about their new drug research programme

Sounds Good Multimedia is a music organisation started by musicians for musicians and those interested in music. We specialise in Sound Engineering, Live Performances through the Musicians Club known as 'Silent Whispers' in the genres of Reggae, R&B, Jazz and Gospel. We also provide music tuition - keyboards, guitars, vocals, drums and music production for 11-16 year olds through our after school club due to be launched in October 2005.

We record local artistes and if you are young and talented why not call us for an audition to become part of our recording team. Although we are a music organisation we have an interest in anything that adversely affects the Black Community hence why we are currently involved in a drug research initiative which if funded by the Home Office (under the DIP Programme - Drug Intervention Programme) through the University of Central Lancashire & Hackney DAT (Drug Action Team) to explore the reasons why the Afro Caribbean Community are not coming forward for drug treatment or completing drug treatment programmes.

We want to find out from you what services you would like to see to encourage you to come forward for treatment. **To be eligible to take part in the research you must be 17+, Afro Caribbean, have lived in Hackney or; currently live in Hackney and have used a drug or are currently using drugs, contact 020 8985 0185 or 07832 177 487** stating you would like to take part in the research, all questionnaires and focus groups are conducted anonymously. You can also email: soundsgoodmultimedia@yahoo.co.uk Sounds Good Multimedia is located at 21-23 Sedgwick Street, Homerton, E9 6AA (opposite the fire station off Homerton High Street).

Exciting things are happening at Wise Owls' Dalston offices

The not-for-profit company, which is dedicated to tacking ageism across the UK and beyond, has recently launched several new projects across the capital. The London-wide programmes are now helping to champion older peoples' rights alongside supporting small and medium sized businesses.

As part of an on-going training initiative Wise Owls is now running free courses aimed at boosting the skills base of people aged 45-65 which include IT for Office Work, English Language, Computer Engineering, and Website Development.

It is hoped that the courses will assist older job-seekers to fill the skills shortages across the whole of London and the south east and to find well-paid work through their new areas of expertise.

In a further development Wise Owls has unveiled an ambitious scheme called Age Works which will match baby-boomers seeking work to employers offering work experience. The scheme covers the London boroughs of Islington, Camden, Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea, Wandsworth, Southwark and Lambeth and will allow baby-boomers the chance to get workplace-based experience with accredited employers. The course is being carried out on behalf of the educational body the Learning Skills Council London Central and incorporates respected employment arbitrators ACAS alongside the National Council for Work Experience.

Wise Owls is also carrying out a major operation to boost the fortunes of small / medium sized enterprises based in Hackney, Newham and Tower Hamlets. Titled 'Enterprising East End' the scheme connects east London firms with up to £1,500 worth of free training provided by a wide range of expert organisations including HM Revenue and Customs, the Health and Safety Executive and Global Action Plan (GAP).

For more information about any of the schemes mentioned above email admin@wiseowls.co.uk or telephone 0207 923 7771 or check the websites: www.wiseowls.co.uk and www.enterprisingeastend.co.uk

"Wise Owls is embracing the changing nature of the British workforce with open arms and new ideas. The whole country is getting older and, at the same time, more and more people are becoming self-employed. Older workers are a much under-estimated national resource and we have created these schemes including Age Works to put baby-boomers at the front of the UK's economic development. Furthermore, with more business start-ups than ever before it is important that companies get the best advice they can in the fields of taxation and finance, marketing and PR, environmental business and web presence for example - Enterprising East End provides all that assistance".

Chris Walsh - Marketing Director, Wiseowls.
More info from www.enterprisingeastend.co.uk

Qualify as a trainer

The Innovatory is offering a programme of train the trainer courses with its project Training for Success, leading to nationally-recognised qualifications in teaching adults. This course is open to people resident or working in the East London area, and is particularly suitable for the voluntary sector.

Certificate in Teaching Adults (C&G 7307 Stage 1), for people not currently teaching. A 16 week course, 3 hours a week, daytime or evening at our Old Street site. Courses start in September. Fee £150 (£30 unwaged).

Certificate in Further Education Teaching (C&G 7407): courses for Stages 1 and 2 are starting September 2005. Stage 1 course 10 weeks, Stage 2 15 weeks, 4 hours per week at our Old Street site. Fees - Stage 1: £180, Stage 2: £220

For more information, please call the Innovatory on 0800 169 1008. To apply, e-mail enquiries@theinnovatory.com to request further details and an application form, or download the information from our website http://www.theinnovatory.com. This project is funded by the European Social Fund.

HPA sets standards in play work

On the evening of the 13th April 2005 the hall of the Hackney Play Association (HPA) Training and Assessment Centre was buzzing with excitement and anticipation. After months of hard work and dedication, 28 Playworkers proudly collected certificates for achieving NVQ Level 2 or 3 certificates in Playwork. Certificates were presented by Dr Ute Navidi, the newly appointed Director of London Play and almost 100 friends, family and professionals turned up to congratulate the successful candidates. The 28 Playworkers provide out of school play opportunities for children and young people from all the corners of Hackney some in the most deprived areas of the borough.

Emotions were high throughout the evening, which was capped off nicely by Carol Boland a HPA NVQ Assessor with over 20 years experience in the Playwork field who said 'The dedication, commitment and determination of candidates and assessors should be a true inspiration to everyone in Playwork."

Play for all children is being recognised by both the medical and social professions as being extremely important in all areas of child development.

Achieving NVQ standard qualification recognises the array of skills and knowledge that all good Playworkers must possess.

Hackney Play Association is the largest Playwork NVQ Assessment Centre in England and Wales and has been offering Playwork training for 10 years. The Association was instrumental in putting together "Quality in Play" a toolkit to help Playworkers provide the very best play opportunities for children, which is know being used by play professional all over the UK.

the MEG HILLIER interview

Meg Hillier, MP was elected to the London Assembly to represent Hackney, Islington and Waltham Forest in 2000. She stood down at the 10 June 2004 election after her selection as the Parliamentary candidate for Hackney South and Shoreditch. She chaired the London Assembly's Culture, Sport and Tourism committee. She is a trustee of the charity War Memorials Trust. She is also a member of the Co-op Party which seeks to promote co-operative and social enterprise solutions through political channels.

What do you like about Hackney?

The mixture of people and the different areas. One minute your you're in a leafy street, next your you're on an estate with tower blocks then your in an area with lots of small shops then next your you're in a trendy Hoxton bar. You have everything in Hackney. Every nation, every colour, every creed, every type of business, its fantastic.

What do you not like about Hackney?

The problem of drug related crime. Diane Abbott and I will be doing some work jointly with the Police to address this and develop a local action plan on how to tackle drugs. The Police generally want to get rid of Mr Big in drug terms - which is absolutely right. Whereas local people living next to a crack house want rid of Mr Small. The Council has done some good work closing over 100 crack houses over the last few months, but we still need to do a lot more.

What is your relationship with the Council?

There are good councillors in Shoreditch and South Hackney and I deal with a lot of them on a day to day basis. I am not here to be a 'quasi' Councillor though. I have explained to the Mayor and Chief Executive that, where necessary, I will have robust relationships with them. The point is not to trip over each other but to work in tandem for Hackney's benefit. The Council knows it stills has a long way to go but at least it has financial stability. It is part of my job to make sure the Council has the resources it needs to do the job it needs to do in Hackney but also to be a critical friend.

What are the priorities for Hackney and what changes would you like to see during your term in office?

The priorities are transport, education (including skills training), housing and crime. We have a desperate need for intermediate housing for those wishing to move into the Borough but who can't afford to buy a house. We have a 20% or more turnover of population in Hackney every year across all backgrounds. We are losing very talented people. We have waves of migrants for instance coming in and moving on but we would like them to stay and contribute still more. In education we needed a step change. We needed to show in Hackney that you can stay in the Borough and get a good education. One of the benefits of City Academies is that we can see a visible differnece. Skills training is also critical. I meet so many people who, for various reasons, didn't get the right education or opportunities at school. We have too many unemployed people with lots of good jobs available but they don't have the skills to take the jobs on.

> 'My political background is in decentralisation and I believe decisions should be made by the lowest appropriate level'

What about young people?

I have regular contact with Cllr Carole Williams and we both feel strongly about the danger that young people are lumped together with crime. The government has just brought out a green paper on young people which includes things such as a privilege card which gives young people discounts in certain shops or leisure facilities in return for good behaviour or removal of an ASBO if they have one. There is also a need for better facilities for young people.

What are the opportunities and threats posed by the Olympics?

Without the Olympics deadline we would be waiting a lot longer for better transport links. It has really banged heads together. A good example is the North London line improvements. Hackney also gets an international basketball centre and proper facilities for businesses in the Wick area. We are in danger in London of losing too many of our industrial sites and Hackney is no exception. We need to work locally and that's with HCVS, the Council and others so that local people get access to those jobs - not just international companies from around the world. The Government will be focussed on the money and delivering the Games. The Mayor will be focussed on the transport and regeneration aspects and we in Hackney should be focussed on local peoples' jobs and training opportunities.

Many people in the community feel that the Olympics is a done deal and contracts or jobs will go elsewhere?

The LDA is setting up a business support unit and appointing staff by Christmas. They will have job brokerage and business support to make sure local businesses are ready to bid when contracts are let. I will provide more info to the community in due course.

SPARK believes the voluntary and community sector should be a lead in the delivery of cultural programmes during the Olympics. How can you as MP facilitate this, especially as the Authorities may take one line and the community another?

Hackney is a creative industry hub and has one the highest concentration of creative artists in the country. The opportunity is that it is all here in Hackney in terms of culture and diversity. Any cultural programmes developed need to be long term not just about the Olympics. The threat is that with the Olympics, property prices rise which force artists and creative industries out, and leaves local people feeling alienated. So we needed to make sure this is covered in all the Olympic plans and is on the mind of the planners. HCVS is in a very good position to have a lot of reach to a lot of those cultural and creative industries. There is no magic solution and I am interested in hearing peoples' views. I am meeting lots of people to talk about this further. We need to be proactive and say what Hackney can offer and then we can discuss and negotiate how this can happen, not wait for someone to come to us. Political leadership can help.

There is a lot of negative stereotyping around the crime and disorder agenda. What needs to be done to reduce anti social behaviour amongst young people?

Most young people want to contribute positively and we need to provide those opportunities for them to do so. This is not a cost free issue. We need to promote activities that make a difference. The idea of extending the school day, as piloted in

Brent, so that children have a two hour lunch break which includes proper sports training is a good one and engages young people for longer.

What about young people who do not easily engage?

One good project is in Hoxton (run by Pinnacle) where young people can meet adults and discuss issues they wouldn't normally. How you reach the harder to reach is a challenge . My political background is in decentralisation and I believe decisions should be made by the lowest appropriate level. So if you've got a large estate the people living there will have clearer idea of what is happening. It should be led by the local needs of that area. I see new estates being built with little or no provision for young children to play. If you talk to local people about what they want and include young people in that discussion you can often come up with the best solutions that don't really cost very much and are simple to action.

Do you think Hackney has enough youth workers?

I don't know how many there are to be honest. I think that everyone acknowledges that there needs to be enough physical facilities as well as staff working with young people. It needs to be sustainable. It's not just about youth workers: lots of people work with young people but are not youth workers as such. We should not be hidebound by job titles.

If you had all the money in the world how would you solve the problem of disaffected youth?

I would ask them what they wanted and see how we can help. For example motor cycle workshops are great ways to engage young people and job training is important. I would provide sustainable outlets, not just one offs. It has to be something they own and really want to do.

Newham and Tower Hamlets spends more than twice as much on youth services than Hackney?

What is interesting is that Tower Hamlets is developing a youth village in Mile End Park. I have spoken to Hackney Council about this. It's not just about how much you spend on young people though. Most of the work done with young people is voluntary through youth clubs, sea cadets, after school activities and the like. We need to look at how this can be supported.

Hackney has a large BME population. How can you as an MP help local people from BME communities access services?

I have done some work with the London-wide Somali community who do a lot of work across the Capital. 80% of the UK's black African population live in London and the majority of those are very well qualified. Many have second or third degrees. A lot of them are underemployed: one church minister recently told me that he has 4 PhDs in his congregation and two of them are security guards. For others, especially newly arrived women who cannot speak English, this disadvantages them and their children when they grow up. The Turkish community has a particular problem with educational achievement amongst boys. One thing in Hackney is that you cannot make a blanket statement about how you support BME communities because each one has different needs.

'The best Councils and equality-literate organisations should look at why there are not enough BME people in senior positions'

What about the need for more BME people in high ranking positions?

At the House of Commons I see a lot of white men in suits so there are a lot of areas where there are no role models for the BME community. Hackney has one of the most diverse Councils in London. You have Cllrs Julius Nkafu, Carole Williams and Nargis Khan in Cabinet, Diane Abbott as MP and a Chief Executive, Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Deputy Mayor who are all women. Then there's the hospital and the Primary Care trust which are also headed by women. Hackney is run by women didn't you notice!

Whereas certain political positions reflect the local BME population, the Hackney Strategic Partnership doesn't?

One of the clear responsibilities of any open organisation is to monitor where it is at and they should question where there are gaps. The best Councils and equality-literate organisations should look at why there are not enough BME people in senior positions. If we don't make these points loud and clear organisations won't choose to have it at the front of their minds.

What makes you listen to a community group who needs help?

One example in Hackney is a local nursery that can't be supported by Sure Start. I am meeting the director of the Sure Start to tease out the issues. I can then go to Ministers and say this is a real problem and this is how we could bridge the gap. Ministers don't know it all a number have told me they are most keen to hear about what's happening on the ground.

What can you do that Councillors maybe can't?

Tackling government Ministers. If it's something to do with government policy and how that policy is working on the ground or where they may be gaps. The policy may be is working and needs to be implemented across different Boroughs. Adult education is one area where we are cooperating across different Boroughs as MPs.

What do feel about Government's focus on voluntary sector public service delivery over traditional community work?

A good voluntary and community organisation will take up an opportunity in the public sector. What I want to see from any public service is that it is efficiently and properly run, responsive to the front end user, providing good information and services to local people. Sometimes VCS organisations are better at providing services than Councils or large institutions. The voluntary sector, including social enterprises and cooperatives, have an incredibly important role to play. If you look at home care services in Hackney, it might be better to have a local coop run the service. The voluntary sector should not be afraid to be appear 'used' by the public sector. If it is providing a service it will add huge value if it does it well. Look at Hackney Community Transport. It is contracted to the Council to provide community transport services, has won London Transport contracts on the back of this and now has money it can plough back into local services.

'What I want to see from any public service is that it is efficiently and properly run. Sometimes VCS organisations are better at providing services than Councils or large institutions'

Dalston is part of your constituency. What do you think about the Dalston Area Action Plan?

I have been discussing with the Mayor about the need to do something about Dalston. I remember the old Dalston City Challenge and none of the money was spent in Dalston it was spent down the road! I am very happy that something is happening with the area now. The fact that the East London line station will be covered over will create enough space for commercial businesses which can provide the money to support other things. What you want and what can be afforded can be different things. I want to see a mixed use in the area - commercial businesses which help pay for things, the station, which will attract more people to the area, and more community facilities such as a cinema which will draw people in. The right balance is important.

Are we going to see a Dalston that looks like Shoreditch or a Dalston that reflects what is currently there?

Well no change is not an option for Dalston. It does need a boost. A lot of the property is privately owned in the area so if landlords decide to change the use of their properties then this will be a challenge. It's a huge potential hub next to the City and the spending power of this City is helpful.

Contact Meg about the issues raised in this article at:

MEG HILLIER MP
HOUSE OF COMMONS
WESTIMINSTER
SW1A 0AA
TEL: 020 7219 5325
FAX: 020 7219 8768
EMAIL: meghilliermp@parliament.uk

BEMA the Black & Ethnic Minority Arts Network
a résource for local arts & cultural organisations

BEMA - Open for Business - its Official!!

The Black & Ethnic Minority Arts Network, (BEMA), after almost 2 years as a voluntary sector umbrella organisation working within the Creative Industries Sector, has now become a Company Limited by Guarantee with its own Executive Management Committee. **BEMA's** 3 year business plan has already identified strategic & financial goals that will see it working proactively in partnership with other voluntary and statutory agencies, and has adopted 7 overarching strategic goals that relate to developing the organisations' governance, capacity, membership, programmes and services, finances, premises, marketing and profile.

'To continuously work to improve access to sustainable business growth opportunities for its members through the supply of information, advocacy and the delivery of appropriate, demand led cultural, arts and creative industries support services' - BEMA MISSION, 2005

become a member of BEMA

Membership is open to all Creative Industries Sector organisations who agree to abide by BEMA's Code of Conduct, Data Protection & Retention of Information Policy. The Annual Fee structure is as follows:-

Full Membership Charges:

Not for Profit Organisation (income less than £10,000) - **£10.00**
Not for Profit Organisation (income £10,000 to £50,000) - **£15.00**
Not for Profit Organisation (income over £50,000) - **£20.00**

Associate Membership Charges:

Not for Profit Organisation or Individual - **£50.00**
External Partner Organisation - **£75.00**

At present BEMA consists of 60+ individual organisations

Criteria for joining BEMA:-

Full Members:

Not for Profit Organisations that are BME led (Over 51% of Management are BME)
Not for Profit Organisations that are based in the London Borough of Hackney

Associate Members:

Not for Profit Organisations that are NOT necessarily based in the London Borough of Hackney
Not for Profit Organisations that are not BME led but deliver projects to BME's
Not for Profit Individuals whether from the London Borough of Hackney or notPartner Groups and Organisations working with BEMA
Organisations supplying services to BEMA

bemarts network
www.blackartshackney.org.uk

For more information contact:

Robert Quaye, BEMA Coordinator

ROBERT QUAYE
BEMA Development Officer
c/o 84 Springfield House, 5 Tyssen Street, London E8 2LY
T: 020 7923 1962 **Email:** robert@hcvs.org.uk
Website: www.blackartshackney.org.uk

BEMA is a network that has been set up to support Black & ethnic minority arts and cultural organisations.

Cameras rolling....young people take charge in YSN

The Youth Skills Network was established in March 2003 by a young man named Andrew Fraser. Born and raised in Hackney on a local council estate, his parents saw the different traps that were out there for a young person growing up in such an environment and decided to give him a hobby which could then be turned into a career if he so wished. They registered him in the Anna Scher Theatre School which he attended a few hours a week. This enabled him to express himself and find out his true potential and locate his goals. In seeing what it done for him, he wanted to give others the same opportunity he had, thus the Youth Skills Network (YSN) was formed.

YSN is aimed at young disadvantaged individuals aged 16-25 yrs coming from a similar background to Andrew, who have a keen interest in the world of media production.

A programme of Multi Media workshops were devised by the Youth Skills Network and took place between September 2004 - May 2005. The aim of these workshops were to give young people in Hackney the chance to gain skills such as: Editing, Directing, Production, Script Writing and Camera Operations, for them to utilize to make their own short films. The facilitators of these workshops were people from the industry such as:

- Michael Buffong (First permanent black Director of BBC Eastenders)
- Kat Mansoor (Actress and owner of Animal Monday Production Company)
- Dickon Tolson (Seasoned actor, Camera Operator)
- Graham Fletcher-Cook (Seasoned actor, Professional Editor and Camera Operator)
- Steve Rock (Inspirational Poet and Wordsmith)
- Iain Gray (Professional Camera Operator, Lighting Expert and Editor)

After all their hard work, the students have finished their short film called "Gambit" and it can now be viewed online @ BMETV's internet station. Please visit the link below to view it.

http://www.bmetv.net/home.asp?playid=749&name=gambitWM7

More workshops will be taking place very soon. Details to be confirmed.

If you or anyone you know of is interested in the media world and would like to be a part of this, please check out www.ysn.org.uk for more info

Marie Walker

new staff member at HCVS

Hi *SPARK* readers, my name is Marie Walker and I am a new member of the Capacity Building Team at HCVS. My role is to coordinate activities that support community skills and economic development for 1st tier organisations and local people in Hackney. My background is Hackney. I was born and educated in the borough and have over 10 years experience in the voluntary sector working on local initiatives that promote community development through education, training & employment and social enterprise.

The Neighbourhood Facilitators Project is funded through the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Hackney Strategic Partnership and aims to increase the capacity and skills of local individuals to become Community entrepreneurs/champions. The project will also support the development of small community organisations based in Hackney.

If you wish to contact me to find out more about the Neighbourhood Facilitators Project, feel free to call me on 020 7923 1962 or email: marie@hcvs.org.uk

How much is spent on Youth Services?

According to figures released by the Community & Youth Workers Union [right], Hackney Council spends far less than other surrounding Boroughs on its Youth Services. SPARK spoke to Simon Hankinson in the Council's Communications department about the Youth Service and what is planned for the future.

	2003/4 Planned Spend	If 1993/4 Spend Kept Pace with Inflation	Has Spending Kept Pace with Inflation?	% change in 10 yrs	Rank* out of 97
Camden	2,301,702	2,390,200	no	-3.7	39th
Hackney	1,076,533	4,689,960	no	-77.0	97th
Islington	3,159,950	4,457,400	no	-29.1	68th
Lambeth	3,606,551	3,204,160	yes	12.6	28th
Newham	3,185,100	3,333,360	no	-4.4	40th
Haringey	2,096,722	1,033,600	yes	102.9	3rd
Tower Hamlets	4,814,717	5,943,200	no	-19.0	56th
Waltham Forest	1,955,020	2,816,560	no	-30.6	69th

*53 LEAs did not provide data. SOURCE: Community & Youth Workers Union. More detail from www.cywu.org.uk

How many operational frontline staff are there working for the youth service?

Hackney Council's Youth Services directly employs 42 'frontline' full time and part-time staff. This is part of the rich diversity of youth services in Hackney, including the Connexions service, Positive Activities for Young People and many excellent providers in the voluntary and community sector.

SPARK SAYS - It would be interesting to know how many are work directly with young people not in offices and where they are located across Hackney.

How much does this cost?

For 2004/05 that budget was £1.2 million but the Council also funds a wide range of other youth services offered by the voluntary and community sector. The Council is increasing the budget for the Youth Service by £300,000 this year to put more resources into working with the most 'hard to reach' young people through mobile, detached and outreach provision. We want to make the biggest and most positive impact for young people. To enable this we will be restructuring the service and the number of staff is likely to increase.

SPARKS SAYS We need to know how much funding is allocated to the voluntary and community sector, who receives this, how much is spent on running buildings, how much is spent on operational youth workers employed by the Council, and where the funding comes from.

Voluntary & Community service providers used words like 'decimated' to describe what has happen to the youth service - what plans are there to reverse this?

We are developing the concept of the 'Youth Offer', which goes way beyond a purely traditional youth service. This reflects the government's priority to develop youth services and will harness the diversity of youth services the voluntary and community sector offers.

SPARKS SAYS - we need to know the REAL facts like when we can expect to see the amount spent per young person in Hackney equal that of our neighbours in Islington, Newham and Tower Hamlets. This Youth Offer has to be based on local demand and what is really needed for a modern youth service that involves all agencies.

Are there plans to reinstate the Hackney Play Service?

Our current service is the "Early Years & Play Service" which covers the full remit of play and childcare including 22 After School Clubs in schools and two adventure playgrounds maintained by The Learning Trust. A few primary schools provide their own service and there are also other play facilities in the borough. The Early Years & Play Service has appointed a co-ordinator who is currently meeting with schools who wish to extend their childcare provision.

How many council run youth clubs are there in Hackney?

Youth services in Hackney cover much more than just what the Council does directly. We have seven clubs and also run a number of other projects and fund, part fund or support many partner organisations.

SPARK ASKS - Is seven youth clubs really enough for one of the youngest Boroughs in London.

What is happening at the Grove Youth Project?

There is a Young Mother's project, young refugee work, NEET (not in education, employment, training), music production, performing arts, work with young travellers, and homework groups as the national charity Fairbridge. Over the summer there are also plans for peer mentoring training.

Council used to have 50 part time youth workers - are there any plans to bring back this service?

There are currently 31 part-time staff. With the development of the Youth Offer we will look at what sort of provision we need - and whether this is best provided by the council or by the voluntary and community sector.

SPARK SAYS - consultation has to be real and involve the widest spread of voluntary and community sector providers so we can get to the heart of the issues and fill the gaps in provision that exist across the Borough.

Is there any funding apart from PAYP, for youth services in Hackney at present?

Yes. Funding for youth services is offered through the Council's grant aid programme to the voluntary and community sector. The total for 2005/06 to youth schemes from the main grants programme is £820,981 and from the small grants scheme £71,725. Another £119,112 came from the Summer Holiday Scheme.

SPARKS SAYS - We need to think seriously about the savings that voluntary and community sector make in providing positive solutions for young people. Remember - it costs £42,000 to keep a young person in a juvenile institution.

Are there plans to bring back generic play and youth work funding?

It never went anywhere - and our work with partners is about delivering the right services for children and young people in Hackney. In 2005/06 that meant 44 different organisations working with children and young people, received funding from the Council's main and small grant programme. Also the Hackney holiday scheme grants offered play and generic funding.

SPARKS SAYS - applying year on year to the Council for core funding that is limited in scope and size is not helpful to voluntary and community organisations delivering the local youth offer. Those doing the review must listen to the organisations working on the ground. Other Boroughs already have Children's Trusts in place which contract directly with voluntary and community organisations.

Voluntary & Community service providers say they need long term core funding so they can plan their work - any plans to look into this?

We are very sympathetic to the idea that you want to put in place arrangements that allow people to programme their work and there is already good news for the grant programme for 2006/07 which will include two year funding awards.

"The voluntary and community sector have done fantastically well to maintain the level of youth services. SKY Partnership has just been involved in a process to develop strategies around teenage pregnancy levels in Hackney, which has been led by the Primary Health Care Trust. We have been given the opportunity to get involved at a strategic level and feel we have made a valuable contribution. There was an excellent partnership approach and we were valued as a small voluntary sector provider. It would be great if the Youth Service could similarly develop a partnership working approach at a strategic level with the voluntary and community sector to bring about more quality provision".

Alice Phillips, Director of SKY Partnership

	No. of 13-19 year olds	No. of FTE Youth Workers	No. of 13-19 year olds to each FTE Youth Worker
Camden	14,700	19	774
Hackney	no data available		
Islington	13,056	93	140
Lambeth	21,000	30	700
Newham	26,877	54	498
Haringey	no data available		
Tower Hamlets	18,990	48	396
Waltham Forest	19,275	34	569

SOURCE: Community & Youth Workers Union. More detail can be downloaded from www.cywu.org.uk

SPARK wants to hear your thoughts about this article and how youth services should be delivered locally in Hackney. Please email jake@hcvs.org.uk Alternatively contact the Council direct emailing simon.hankinson@hackney.gov.uk For up to date info about strategy go to www.hackney.org

The Council has also launched a review on its grant programme to the community and voluntary sector which will look at this issue. We want to hear what the voluntary sector has to say and ideas that contribute to how best to deliver and get best value from the Council's grant aid programme are very welcome.

SPARKS SAYS - if the Council is serious about its Youth Offer it has to think beyond two years and look at how its mainstream budget can be significantly increased to accommodate greater real term investment in local provision.

Running a voluntary organisation for children and young people is getting more difficult - in part because of insurance and liability issues - is the Council planning any help?

We won't compromise on safety and the need for robust systems and support structures to ensure the safety of organisations and their users is imperative. The youth service is currently working on policies which will be made available to support our voluntary sector partners.

How will the Extended Schools Programme work?

DfES guidance came out in June and we have already started working with the Learning Trust, parents, young people, heads and school governors to jointly shape Extended Schools. The aim is to make it support the five Every Child Matters outcomes (be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution; achieve economic wellbeing), and our own priorities for making Hackney a Good Place to Grow Up.

Already 35 schools have been designated as extended schools and are developing a range of services covering learning, family support and neighbourhood development - example programmes are baseball, Japanese, drumming and Turkish homework clubs.

The new Extended Schools Programme is to be run by the Council and the Learning Trust - how will the youth service liaise with the Learning Trust?

The Youth Service and the Learning Trust are collaborating, together with other youth providers, to come up with ways in which they can work more closely together. This is reaping excellent results with some youth clubs already running in extended schools; some young people on accredited programmes to give them an opportunity to explore youth work as a vocational option; and other extended schools involving young people in neighbourhood regeneration projects.

How can local community and voluntary organisations be involved in the Extended Schools Programme?

The Extended Schools Programme is about making schools the hub of the community. The aim is for local community and voluntary to make more use of school facilities - so for example schools might have specialist resources such as drama studios, gyms or ICT suites that they can use. Beyond that though it's about developing a dialogue between schools and local community and voluntary groups so they respond to local issues and actively participate in resolving those issues.

SPARKS SAYS - we need to practically how local youth and community projects can get involved, with which schools, when etc etc

The Children's Fund was a commissioning body with key priorities - is this changing?

The Children's Fund still is a commissioning body and will continue until the end of March 2008. Its main thrust - prevention, participation of young people and partnership working - remains in place. However the Children's Fund will become one of a number of funding streams available for dealing with the priorities identified in Hackney's Children and Young People's Strategy.

SPARK SAYS - Many areas across the country chose to provide an open fund for applications from local agencies including the voluntary and community sector. How do local projects access the Children's Fund commissioning process?

How will the Children's Fund relate to voluntary and community groups?

From now until 2008, 75% of the Children's Fund budget will be used to commission preventative services. Many of these services are best provided by local voluntary and community organisations and we don't see this changing.

SPARK SAYS - it would be useful to know how the Children's Fund intend to find or commission organisations they are not currently in touch with?

How can young people find out what services and activities are available?

At this moment we have just developed a directory for summer activities which is available in Council offices and libraries. More details appear in Hackney Today and we're set to launch a new Young People's website very soon.

How can young people influence what services are provided?

We're always keen to hear young people's view on the services provided for them and the new commissioning team for children's services has just finished an extensive consultation with young people. There is also peer group work going on where young facilitators are leading three workshops looking at questions like how can young people be involved in a meaningful way in strategic decision making in Hackney. We're also setting up a temporary skate park during the summer as a way of engaging with young people about urban sports facilities.

What work is done to find out what young people think of the services and activities that are provided and to find out what they would like to see?

As well as more consultation, Hackney Youth parliament offers young people another great opportunity to influence the way services are shaped - more information from virgilio.varela@hackney.gov.uk.

The Children and Young People Partnership is also planning another event on 28 September, which will be partly run by young people.

END

HCVS will soon be meeting with Liz Fenton, Youth Services Lead at the Council to discuss how, strategically, the voluntary and community sector can play a bigger role in the delivery of youth services

the race equality partnership in Hackney

WHY?

Because we need to work together

- As one voice to: Promote race equality and challenge racial disadvantages and discrimination.
- To promote: an effective working relationship between Hackney's diverse ethnic minority, the VCS (Voluntary and Community Sector), statutory providers, and business sector.
- Help organisations to their statutory duties to promote equal opportunities and good race relations.
- Develop a network of local BME voluntary and community groups.
- Provide effective, accountable and representation for local BME communities

What Are We Doing?

- Developing a management committee
- Holding Consultations and networking events to develop a local BME, VCS network
- Planning a conference on community safety, stop and search and other local policing issues
- Currently developing a database and two way communication systems

If you are interested and want to know more contact Ian by telephone on 020 7923 9723 fax:020 7254 0571 or by e-mail: treph@btconnect.com , and/or by post: Room 16, The Print House, 18 Ashwin Street, London, E8 3DL

What's going on at the pools?

Sorting out the swimming provision in Hackney has become a Council priority. Hackney is unique in London in having more closed pools (3) than open pools (2) and in employing 24 hour security to guard its closed pools. From next April, for the first time, leisure provision will become part of the annual assessment of Local Authority performance.

Clissold not to re-open until summer 2006

Work started on the new Clissold Leisure Centre in December 1997, and it was expected to be ready in about 2 years. The centre was initially costed at £7.5 million. It finally opened in February 2002 having cost £31 million - only to close again in November 2003 due to technical faults. Court cases followed, and Hackney Council has now ended its disputes with the architects and construction company for undisclosed amounts following a confidential financial settlement.

The Council has said that it is spending a further £6.3 million on repairs and improvements to the centre - it was due to re-open in February 2006. A further delay of 6 months has just been announced, which the Council says is due to being unable to get in the building during negotiations with Leisure Connection (see below) and the further improvements being carried out.

London Fields Lido on track to re-open April 2006

Plans are underway to re-open the Olympic sized London Fields Lido next April. The project is being overseen and financed by Hackney Council. The Lido has been closed since 1988 when protestors stopped bulldozers from demolishing the site.

Following a consultation with the local community, it has been decided to add a 'bubble' removable roof to the lido - which will follow 18 months after the initial development. The removable roof is being added so that the lido - which will be heated - can be used by the public, and particularly the schools all year round.

Work is due to start on site in the autumn. Mike Martin, chair of the London Fields User Group said "Having seen the latest plans I notice many of the User Group's proposals have now already been added to them." He went on to say "I invited Tracy Emin, who is a keen daily swimmer, to officially open our pool next year and she accepted, but said only if she could be the first to dive in".

"I invited Tracy Emin, who is a keen daily swimmer, to officially open our pool next year and she accepted, but said only if she could be the first to dive in". *Mike Martin, London Fields User Group Chair*

Haggerston Pool - plans to re-open?

Haggerston Pool closed in February 2000, for the sake of a £300,000 repair bill, at the height of the overspend on Clissold Leisure Centre. The Council have announced "Work has started to explore options to bring the pool and building back into use under public ownership.... A feasibility study has been started which, amongst other things will identify the regeneration potential for the building to be a catalyst for delivering Hackney's Community strategy priorities and to identify the mix of facilities within the building which would best achieve this". The feasibility study is due to report back in the Autumn.

continued on page 29

Hackney Festivals and events

June and July have seen thousands of people visiting festivals organised by communities all over Hackney. There was Stokefest, a big free arts and music festivals in Clissold Park. Then Finfest - which had 4 music stages set up in Finsbury Park. At Laburnum Street Party, which calls for the re-opening of Haggerston Pool, party goers enjoyed music in the street as well as children's events, boat rides at the Laburnum Boat Club and tours of the Suleymaniye mosque. Spice Festival, organised by Hackney Empire in the middle of July brought shows in 4 venues from pop and classical concerts to dance, puppets and comedy; ending with an all-comers talent quest in the Town Hall Square. And then at the Shoreditch Parade hundreds of children dressed up to take part in the procession which closed all the streets around Hoxton Street Market.

July's festivals ended in Dalston where every evening the touring Monserrat dance troupe Emerald Shamioles, based in England, drew crowds onto the streets, while taking part in activities to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the volcanic eruption,

Upcoming Festivals and Events

- Shoreditch Festival 6th - 21st August. **Highlights include the BBC Big Screen in**
- Shoreditch Park 13th - 20th August, and Shoreditch Africa 05 **- live music plus in**
- Haggerston Park Sunday 21st August. **More information from Shoreditch Trust 020 7324 5595.**
- Springfield Park Centenary Festival **- week of September 3rd**
- Hackney Mare de Gras **- Sunday 11th September - see back cover of SPARK**
- Black History Month **- contact BEMA on 020 7923 1962 or www.blackartshackney.org.uk**
- Hackney Peace Week 11th to 18th September. **Outdoor event in Springfield Park on Sunday 18th plus Peace Walk starting outside Town Hall at 12pm.**

Springfield Park Centenary Community Festival takes place on 28th August to 4th September

To mark the Centenay of the opening of Springfield Park in Upper Clapton, Springfield Park Users Group (SPUG), are organising a series of events between August 28th and September 4th, the biggest of which will be a Community Music Festival on Saturday September 3rd, between 12 and 7pm.

For this, there will be one small music stage, featuring local bands like Section 11, MDV (aka One Style MDV), Slims Cyder Co. and a Hangout Productions local talent show case featuring the likes of Krusty (Stoke Newington Schools top rapper!) and Lady Lively . There will also be a marquee for the Gladdywax Sound System

Stalls are available for rent and there a limited number of food outlets. Prices will be negotiable depending on the company .. low for voluntary sector .. higher for profitable companies ..

If you are interested please rsvp asap. Glyn Harries for SPUG email: spugcommittee@hotmail.co.uk

Football crazy!

Much of Hackney's football is played on Hackney Marshes, and will be in the shadow of the planned Olympic Multi-Sports Stadium at Hackney Wick. We spoke to some of the people who are working with young people and in sports development in the borough about the issues facing football in Hackney and what they hope will be the benefit of the Olympics.

Lack of infrastructure and facilities Community football providers spoke unanimously saying that despite football being the most popular sport in Hackney, the infrastructure and facilities needed to develop it are missing. For example there are very few youth football clubs in the borough because of the lack of basic things like good pitches, coaches, kit and changing rooms. People also spoke of the lack of pathways between school sport and youth club sport, and then again from youth sport to amateur clubs. The sorest issue is the lack of semi-professional facilities so the 3 good amateur clubs have to play outside Hackney. Two are talking about leaving Hackney altogether. Even the representative district team for primary schools doesn't play in borough - they play in Waltham Forest where there are good pitches, a social centre and café.

The Football Partnership

Many people talked about the improvements the Football Partnership has brought about. This is a forum for organisations working in community football from across the borough. It has already written a football strategy for the borough (something a local authority sports department would normally do) and started the fundraising process for the facilities needed in Hackney.

Lawrie Baker, funded by Sport England as sports development officer at HVA said "Half the reason we set up the Football Partnership was to get the changing facilities on Hackney Marshes improved. We needed the Foundation to apply for the funds, and the Partnership to write the football strategy. As far as the Partnership is concerned, the changing rooms plans came from the grass roots. Where there is public ownership, facilities are always much better designed and used - and mistakes avoided".

Some on the Partnership complain that the plans and meetings about the changing rooms have now been taken over by the LDA, Sport England, Hackney Council and the Football Association - without grass roots involvement.

The Olympics will come and go and we'll not see any benefit

Another big concern amongst football providers is that Hackney will get left out of the benefits from the Olympics - as John Larter, school sports co-ordinator at the Learning Trust summed it up "I just want to say to the Council 'Come on - lets seize this opportunity' ".

We asked 3 London boroughs how many people worked in their sports development teams

Hackney Council Sports Department
1 principal officer - who also manages the parks department
2 sports development workers
2 active community development workers - shared with Tower Hamlets

Newham Council Sports Department
5 sports development workers
18 members of 'health living and sports' team - includes sports coaches

Westminster Council Sports Department
2 sports development managers
5 sports development workers
35 full time sports coaches
Westminster Council also reported that they have set a goal for their sports department that they should bring forward one young person, currently aged around 14 years old, to compete in the 2012 Olympics.

Interviews with Hackney's community football teams

Nick Friday - East Side Youth Academy

What is East Side Youth Academy?

Daniel Shittu who plays for QPR and Nigeria set up East Side Youth Academy with us in 2002 because we saw there was nothing happening for young people. We decided to concentrate on those that need direction - who are at risk particularly from gun crime and educational failure. We target young people with talent and offer them support and structured coaching. We can then use our extensive links to get young people into clubs.

What is the set up?

Daniel bought the kit - balls, bibs, cones etc and gave us the money to join Waltham Forest and District Youth League. We're now in the Barking Youth League where we have under 14s and under 16s teams playing. We train in

Victoria Park, Well Street Common and trying to get something set up in London Fields.

Every half term we set up showcase matches to play the academies of one of the pro teams - Arsenal, Tottenham, Chelsea, QPR. The aim is to get young people signed up. The first year 2 were signed and its spiralled from there. In 2005 we are working with 80 young people - all voluntarily.

What would make a difference to you?

The main thing would be a solid income so we can plan - and get premises. We've had help from the football partnership who have been very supportive - helped us with filling in application forms for funding, putting us in touch with people doing similar things and getting our name in sports directories.

Does Hackney need a football stadium?

If we don't have stadium we can't have senior team.

What is PESCL?

PE in Schools Club Links - its an FA project that supports us to work in Hackney Primary Schools with the aim to get young people interested in sport early and get links into clubs. It's a good scheme and we need more of this kind of thing.

What's the vision?

We want to maintain our position as one of the leading youth football development agencies in East London, but we need a base. I'd also like to see an increase in the number of people we train as coaches, and its important to develop more links with schools to help ease the pathways into the next steps of training.

More information from Nick Friday 07931 895 784

Windell Ward - Manager of Hackney Wolverines

Who are Hackney Wolverines?

We are a professional Hackney team; the adult team plays in senior league - 1 below Rymans league. The junior team won Hackney's Teenage Kicks competition in 2003.

Where do you play?

We play in Tottenham because there are no football pitches in Hackney that can accommodate professional football. We train on a ground just behind Tottenham FC. Our players have got into Tottenham youth team and Bishop's Stortford FC.

Does Hackney need a stadium?

We are leading the campaign for a hackney football stadium - so teams like ours that want to be in Hackney, and are full of Hackney players, can play in Hackney.

What else does Hackney Wolverines do?

We also run an anti-drugs program and sponsor anti-racism programs and anti-gun programs. We raise money from businesses to fund social programs, local football initiatives and prizes for competitions.

More information from www.hackneywolverinesfc.ik.com

Mike Bracken - Sporting Hackney FC

What is Sporting Hackney?

We've been running for 20 years - we started with a loan of £400 from Hackney Council and that was the last help they gave us. We're entirely run by volunteers. Sporting Hackney is in first division of London Commercial League - that's one step below the Ryman's League. We are the bridge between the youth and amateur leagues. Over the years we've had people of 35 different nationalities on our books, toured 9 countries and been invited to tournaments all over the world.

What's the issue?

For the last 9 years we have had to play outside the borough. We need a facility a step higher than Hackney Marshes can offer.

There's lots of money for football, but if you don't have a ground, you can't apply for funds. We've just been offered a 100 year lease at Hornsey cricket club. Now we can bring youth through and continue to develop the depth of the club. But the sad thing is that over time Hackney young people will not be represented in the club.

We're just one of 3 teams in the borough operating at this level - all play outside Hackney. It puts an obstacle in the way of Hackney people climbing the football ladder - that's a massive talent going to waste.

Does Hackney need a stadium?

Not even necessarily a stadium. At least we need an enclosed grass pitch - with controlled public access - something higher quality that park land.

Any other comments?

All other London boroughs seem to

support 2 or 3 teams of our standard - why can't Hackney? However we want to stress that in the long term we want to be in Hackney and we continue to be open to dialogue with officers of the Council - as we have always been.

What's your Vision?

Our vision is of Sporting Hackney playing in the league on a shared ground with other teams on Hackney Marshes. Then we'd know we'd got the benefit of the Olympics.

Sporting Hackney FC train at Stoke Newington School. More information from Mike Bracken 07769 678 213

Jason Edwards - Crown and Manor International Academy

What is Crown and Manor?

We are Crown and Manor International Academy for 16 to 19 year olds, based in Hoxton. We average 25 to 40 students on our books - between 5 and 10 of theses will come from Japan. We are a youth project using sport to keep teenagers in full time education.

Crown and Manor play in the Middlesex Premier Division. We're fortunate in having an FA youth scout and lot of connections to help the young people move on.

What's the issue?

We are advertising ourselves as an international academy - we have all the qualified people running the organisation and the administration in place - but the facilities are not up to scratch. It's definitely a big problem accessing pitches of a good standard and finding a stadium to play in. We have to go to Mile End to play matches and we now have space in Shoreditch Park for training - in general the training facilities are an embarrassment

What's the future?

We see our general future in Hackney because we run other programs like the boys club and boxing, but the football aspect is threatened here. The international students are a significant source of funding. We have Nigerians and Japanese students coming over to our Academy and then they see the facilities that they're going to play on. So the football project's future in Hackney is definitely under threat.

More information from Crown and Manor on 020 7739 5906

Alex Welsh - Operations Director of the London Playing Fields Society and representative of Greater London Football Partnership

If I asked you to name the biggest sporting events in the world, you'd probably say the football world cup and the Olympics. If I asked you what are the most iconic sporting venues in the world - it would be perhaps Wembley, the Bernabeu Stadium and Sydney's Olympic Stadium. But if I say name a world famous grass roots sporting venue - its got to be Hackney Marshes. We must have a vision for Hackney Marshes which puts local people at the centre.

We have to see 2012 as a fantastic opportunity and not as a threat. I can understand those who see it as a threat - who are worried that the marshes will turn into a car park and never turn back.

The Olympics will bring a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Hackney Marshes to get the kind of investment its history deserves - and so secure for future generations an area where they can play sport and be physically active. So we can't miss it.

SPARK put some of your questions about football issues to Nargis Khan, Cabinet Lead for the Voluntary and Community Sector

Question - Can you comment on the delay in getting new pitches at Mabley Green and Haggerston Park and the changing rooms refurbished - and the concerns that a stadium seems to have gone off the agenda when to keep a senior team in Hackney this is needed?

Answer - Our plans for Mabley Green and Haggerston Park are progressing with tender documents having now been drawn up and a planning application submitted. We expect to see progress with both these projects by January. We are also looking to develop new changing facilities at Mabley Green in partnership with the Football Foundation and London Development Agency.

Question - Can you comment on fears that Hackney won't shout loud enough to get benefits of being in the Olympic zone?

Answer: Hackney is proud to be one of the five host boroughs at the centre of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. We have a strong voice in delivering the Games which bring us an historic opportunity to tackle deprivation in East London. We are working with our partners to ensure we gain benefits for local people including in the crucial areas of transport, regeneration, new and sustainable jobs and legacy including new sports facilities.

The Council's Consultation Team will be working closely with the London

Development Agency around community engagement with the Olympic Games. Plans are already being put into place, but if you would like more information then call 020 8356 3343.

To make your voice heard about football in Hackney please contact Lawrie Baker at HVA on 020 7241 4443 x32 and ask about the Football Partnership.

Do you know anyone who would like to become a volunteer community mediator?

Hackney Mediation Service is recruiting for their next training course. Anyone interested, who lives or works in Hackney, who has the time to volunteer and is available for the training course dates, can apply. You need to have good communication skills and commitment to helping people find their own solutions.

Please contact the Mediation Service on mediation@hackney.gov.uk or telephone Toby Hardman on 020 8356 4725.

State of the market

Broadway market in London Fields had been floundering for years. A traditional London market, still thriving in the 70's, the council tried many times to revive it - painting out 50 spaces for stalls, hanging banners, and announcing relaunches. Each time the market slipped back to 2 vegetable stallholders and the graffiti "Broadway market is not a sinking ship it's a submarine".

Now, thanks to a local community organisation, the market is reborn - 3000 people a week visit a thriving Saturday market with organic vegetables, craft and clothes stalls - you can even buy postcards of the graffiti that used to adorn the street. While some local people complain that the market is not local and too expensive, the traders association has had a long struggle with the council to take on management of the market themselves.

Meantime one of Hackney's most historic markets - Kingsland Waste - which has an ancient charter - has reduced from a vast sprawl of second hand goods along Kingsland Road on early Saturday mornings to just a block of stalls amid rumours that it is to be closed down because of 'criminal activity'.

We interviewed traders at 4 of Hackney's markets and then put their points to Hackney Councillor Jessica Crowe, cabinet member with responsibility for markets.

Interview with Jessica Crowe, Deputy Mayor

Spark took some of the issues raised by the market traders and associations and put them to the Deputy Mayor, who has Cabinet responsibility for markets.

Is it true that there are plans to close Kingsland Waste?

The police want to improve security in the area because of an increase in criminal activity. We feel the character of market has changed lately and gone downhill. Some of the traders have moved to Hoxton market because of what is happening. We are trying to keep market open while police reduce criminal activity - but temporary closure might be the answer. If this happens we are committed to talking to traders about how the market would re-open. Kingsland waste is an ancient market with a charter. We could look at a themed market which could help to rejuvenate the market, but we have no particular model in mind and any development would be done in discussion with traders.

What about public toilets for markets?

We have got 6 new public toilet facilities (with 4 to 6 toilets at each site) being built in Hackney including in Ridley Road and Hoxton Street. We are looking at temporary toilets for Broadway Market.

What about electricity for markets?

As part of Environment capital program we are looking at the whole aspect of street scene including state of road and provision of electricity in markets - we should see this investment within this financial year.

Why isn't it possible for market traders to run their own markets?

This is often to do with whether run on private land or public highway. The ideal is that we work out a compact between the market traders and the Council sorting out who is responsible for what. For example sourcing traders would be the market's responsibility while the council would maintain a regulatory role.

What is the future for Hackney's markets?

We are genuinely trying to make markets work in Hackney. Hackney's markets have played an important role for community life and the borough's economy for centuries. An important part of the borough's regeneration is to ensure that the markets develop in a way that is suitable for our diverse community. Over the next few months Hackney Council will be working together with local people and traders to find out what people think of the markets. This information will help us develop a plan to map out their future. We're keen to raise standards in the markets and make sure local people can buy what they want, at affordable prices and that local businesses thrive.

The Council have just appointed a new markets manager who starts work on 1st of September.

Broadway Market

Broadway Market - Louise Breward - volunteer market director and chair of BMTRA (Broadway Market Traders and Residents Association)

What makes a good market?

Having someone there managing from beginning to end who knows the customers, shops and traders. Then you have to fit the commodity to the clients; we look for cheap products but at good standard. You also need to involve the local community - that's why we hold our events.

I think you need more permanent than casual traders - and you also need ambience - a modern market needs to be more than a market - it needs to be community street.

What has helped you in setting up Broadway Market?

Lots of community consultation involvement and the fantastic loyalty and support from businesses locally and further afield. In a way having no money helped - we had to beg and borrow everything and so many more people are involved.

And what has not helped?

The lack of clear guidance from the Council's market department - the misrepresentation of rules and regulations led to confusion and problems. We spent an enormous amount of time on politics - some negative and some positive. We also have trouble with practical things - we have no gates to close road and no facilities like electricity and toilets.

How would you describe Broadway market?

Quality, speciality, variety. Some people think it's like a French market - but we source mainly British suppliers for food and have a good amount of continental influence. Alongside them we have designers, makers and crafts people.

How would you answer the criticism that the market is not 'local' and 'expensive'

There's very little here that's expensive when you know where the produce comes from and the individual speciality of items. Sainsbury's and Tesco's have both closed delis and fresh meat and fish counters in the 6 months since the market started - so we can't be that expensive.

The traders are mostly local - we went to Spitalfields, Borough and Barnes to find the originals. We also have a huge number of new starts - 4 stallholders have moved into shops in the street, and 6 have moved into shops further afield.

What's your vision for the market?

We'd like to expand the market to another day - after community consultation - so we can have greater income to support the market and community projects. The market pays for itself, but doesn't pay a wage yet. We're also working with local youth club for shop shutter painting and want to get a local magazine up and running.

Anything else?

Every week I'm resigning. Then I walk out here on Saturday morning and it's beauuful. All my life I've lived in Hackney and this is what it's like - it's the people of Hackney - their energy - that's kept Hackney going - for all the Council's problems and follies.

Hoxton Market

Nicky Moule - Chair of Hoxton Market Guild

What makes a good market?

Friendly stall holders - friendly people. Got to realise that not doing anyone a favour taking their money. People like to talk and get to know their customers - which can't do in supermarket.

How would you describe Hoxton Market?

Nice friendly little market - always cater for ordinary clothes, shoes, food, flowers. It's a traditional London market. We've got a lovely pie and mash shop, cafes, Iceland, hairdressers, butchers and just what would expect. And an internet café. But we need a building society.

What does the market need?

We need toilets and electricity - we're waiting for lamp posts to be put it - we've had the grant for 1 year - it's not costing borough anything. It would also help if we took credit cards - we've got to live with the times.

What's your vision for the market?

I'd like to see Hoxton Market prosper and all the gaps filled in with more stalls. We need to bring in new stuff without spoiling what we already have. We've got a glut of clothing - we need to bring in different things. Markets have got to change with shopping habits

Ridley Road Market

Larry Julian - chair of Ridley Road Traders Association (and has been for 20 years)

What makes a good Market?

The main thing is good traders - that's traders with experience, knowledge and willing to give 110% in job that do. We're fortunate in Ridley in that we've got a lot of good, established traders. We're trying to get a happy medium between the established and the young enthusiastic traders - people with a bit of passion who come and try to do the best they can.

How would you describe Ridley Road Market?

Colourful. Very cosmopolitan - people of all races come here - you can buy anything that want to buy here. It's always been a food market. Fruit and vegetables are the basics then toiletries, shoes etc take the cream off the top and make it work.

What are the criticisms of the market?

You know the rumours - monkey meat and live snails!

What does Ridley Road Market need?

It just needs freshening up - we don't need a refurbishment, just a facelift. A few years ago we had refurbishment - which damaged us because some parts of the market were closed while the work was done. It took 2 years to rebuild the customer base.

Basically what we need is electricity, proper drainage, toilets and an improvement in the cleaning.

What's your vision for the market?

That the Council would work alongside us in partnership - rather than seeing it as us working for the Council - because we know how it works. The Council should enforce the market and let us run it.

Anything else?

I want Hackney to work - and all the markets to work. I wish that we were listened to more.

Kingsland Waste Market

In contrast to Hackney's other markets, we couldn't find a traders representative at Kingsland Waste - and following an article in Hackney Gazette claiming there were calls for the market to close - and many rumours - traders were reluctant to give their names - but this is what they said.

"The Council have been trying to close this market for years, but they can't. It was set up by a charter. Originally if you lived in Hackney your could bring your stuff to sell stuff and didn't have to pay".

"You name it they've done it to try to close this market down".

"I hope they don't close it, though I've heard rumblings. The Council try to sabotage this market because they have to administrate it - and it runs at a loss. They've squandered so much money - this could be so good if someone bothered"

"It's not good here in the mornings, there's a lot of drug culture. Police allow it because they know they're here".

"The 'criminal activity' has got nothing to do with the market".

"The Council reckon the stall holders are up to no good - they reckon they haven't bought the goods".

"I don't see how closing it would help - the customers would disappear".

What's going on at the pools? cont.....

Hackney end contract with Leisure Connections

Just 3 years into a 15 year contract, Hackney Council announced in July it has terminated its contract with Leisure Connection Ltd by mutual agreement.

Hackney paid Leisure Connection £1.2 million a year to run the council's leisure centres. Leisure Connections is owned by Danoptra Ltd who also supply gaming and amusement machines. They predicted on their website that they would turn over £5 million a year from the Hackney contract. Their expected level of profit is 5% of turnover.

The audit commission reported in 2002 "we are concerned by the level of control ceded by the Council to Leisure Connection, particularly over issues to do with pricing and opening hours. We found little effective consultation or communication with customers or other stakeholders who have a low recorded satisfaction rating with the service".

Nargis Khan, Cabinet member for Leisure services said " Obviously there will need to be an interim arrangement to take over from Leisure Connection on 15th September, but in the long term we want to involve residents in the decision making process to find a long term solution that will get the best out of our whole portfolio of facilities".

Meantime invitations to tender for the running the new lido (along with the Queensbridge Sports Centre) have been advertised to not-for-profit operators.

Clissold Swimming Club (which now has to train in 4 different pools, 3 of them in Islington) commented "The swimming club are just looking forward to someone coming up with a swimming strategy for the borough. While there have been a lot of promises, nothing has been forthcoming, and Leisure Connections ideas never seemed to be a good fit for Hackney".

Turn the Courthouse into a centre for young people and ethnic businesses

The campaign to secure Old Street Magistrates Court as a community resource is well underway. With coverage on BBC London News and the national press, the campaign has high profile support from Ken Livingstone and former Police Commissioner, Sir John Stevens.

The QUESTION IS - should a disused courthouse in Shoreditch owned by the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) be turned into a crime reduction centre for Hackney young people or sold to the highest bidder?

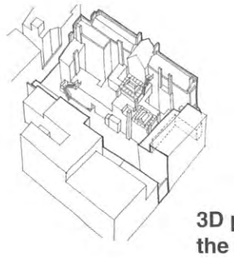
Old Street Magistrates Court was decommissioned as a Court House in 1996 and is now owned by the Metropolitan Police Authority, the strategic body which oversees the Met's property portfolio of nearly £1.5billion. A partnership of national and local charities has been formed to house the Community Advice Project (CAP), a vibrant mix of crime reduction projects and programmes, in the former Courthouse and restore the prominence of the building within the local community. As part of its crime reduction programmes CAP will offer Youth4Justice education programmes; a Business Law Clinic and incubator; mentoring and work experience programmes as well as diversionary activities for young people.

Peter Herbert, an MPA member and CAP Trustee told New Nation magazine, 'It's a choice between crime reduction & social inclusion versus profit. Its one of the best preserved courthouses in the country and could be a centre for excellence and learning'. Local Borough Police Commander, Simon Pountain says, 'I think that the scheme itself would be an excellent opportunity to work with young people in Hackney and divert them from the troubles, both as victim and offender, that we all too often see them involved in'.

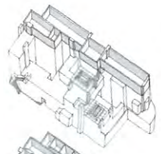
Sir John Stevens - publicly supports project

> 'It's a choice between crime reduction & social inclusion versus profit.'
>
> *Peter Herbert, CAP Trustee*

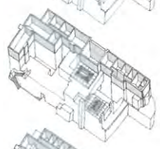
There is no doubt that Hackney needs more community assets since the local authority has disposed of many over the last few years. This building, which has been out of use for many years, is part of the MPA's property portfolio and represents a small part of the MPA's significant London assets. Discussions between MPA members about proposal to grant the building to the community have forced the Authority to examine its responsibilities in terms of social regeneration and community crime reduction initiatives. The MPA are expected to make a decision about the disposal of the Courthouse in September once all the bids for the building have been received.



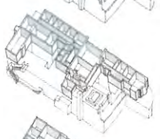
3D plan of the courthouse



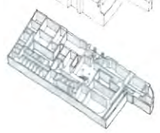
3rd floor



2nd floor



1st floor



ground floor

In its response to questions put by BEMA and HCVS at the MPA meeting on 30th June, the MPA stated, 'In relation to the sale of property, the law requires that the Authority secures the best consideration reasonably obtainable for its property, as a general rule. The Authority has a discretion to sell property at an undervalue, with the consent of the Government. The Government have issued a general consent to all relevant bodies to sell at an undervalue of up to £2m where there is full justification for doing so.'

Government has granted the MPA and other public bodies the powers to sell buildings below their commercial market value so long as there is significant benefit to the community. The Government Circular issued in July 2003 says "It is Government policy that local authorities and other public bodies should dispose of surplus land wherever possible. Generally it is expected that land should be sold for the best consideration reasonably obtainable. However, it is recognised that there may be circumstances where an authority considers it appropriate to dispose of land at an undervalue. Authorities should clearly not divest themselves of valuable public assets unless they are satisfied that the circumstances warrant such action. ... When disposing of land at an undervalue, authorities must remain aware of the need to fulfil their fiduciary duty in a way which is accountable to local people."

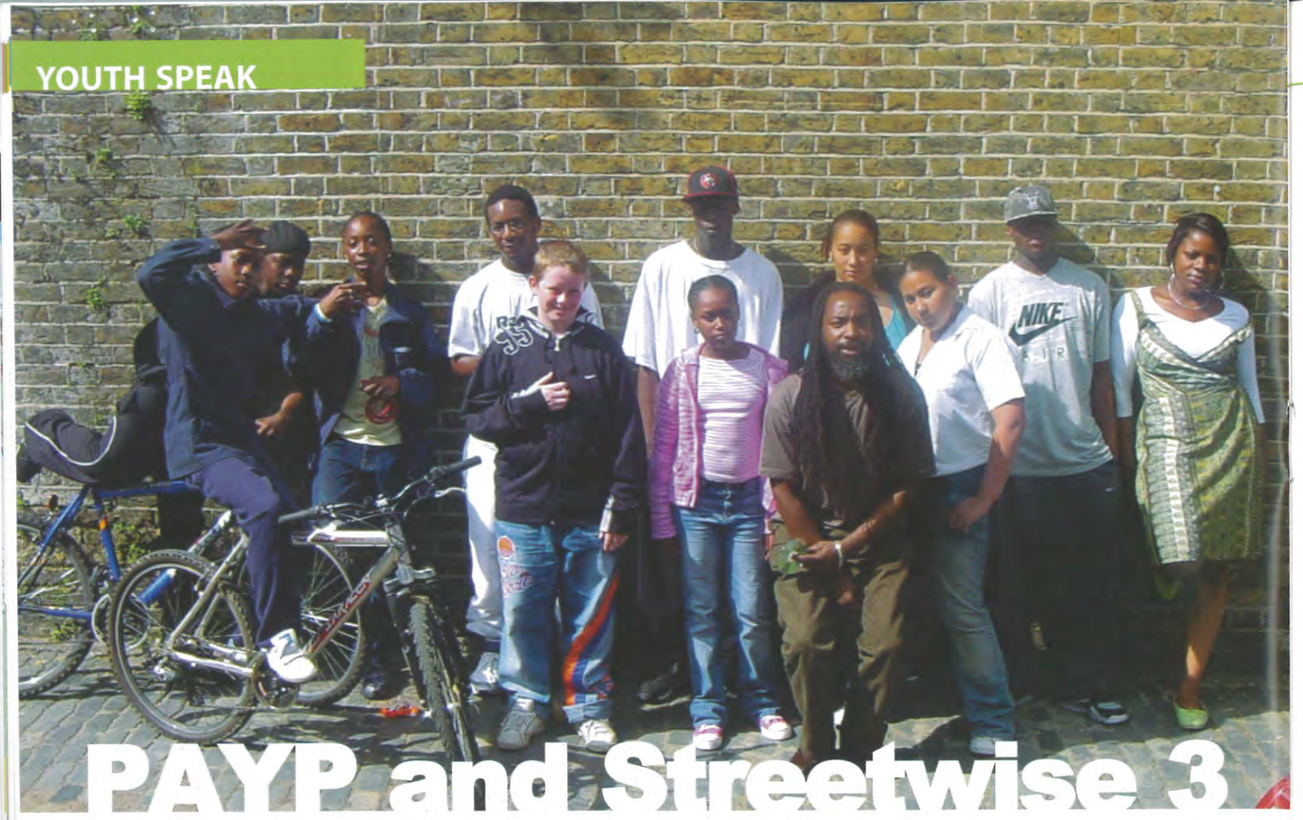
> 'The MPA has an opportunity to make a big statement about how its sees the role of the police in supporting communities to tackle crime.'
>
> *Jake Ferguson, HCVS*

Many would speculate that the MPA's plans to sell the building on the open market will attract developers purely interested in making a profit as opposed to develop a building which helps regenerate the area for local people.

Jake Ferguson, Assistant Director of HCVS said, 'Here we have a building that has been in community use for many years but now stands empty. It would be a travesty and perhaps improper for this local asset to suddenly become part of a hotel chain. Development without local benefit is damaging London. Local people's views just can't be ignored. The MPA has an opportunity to make a big statement about how its sees the role of the police in supporting communities to tackle crime and its related problems.'

Community Courthouse project outcomes over the next 3 years:

- 540 young people successfully graduating from the Youth4Justice education programme;
- 1,500 Black and minority ethnic business members of the Business Law Clinic;
- 70 new jobs created directly within the Community Courthouse programmes and services;
- 100 public service and city law firms signed up to mentoring and work experience programme;
- 300 Long-term training places established;
- Up to 35 potential offenders (14-21 yr olds) steered away from juvenile institutions, annually;
- £120K in saving of Police and Probation Services time in dealing with young offenders, annually.



PAYP and Streetwise 3

SPARK young reporter, Josh, spoke to Devon White and the students of the Streetwise3 programme - a community led recording project for young people funded by Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP)

Devon White has grown up in Hackney all his life and is someone who can see that, where he is from, if he doesn't do anything for the youths then no one will. He's the first to admit that he's not the first to try but at the end of the day its not a job for him it's something he does in his own time as well. And yeah, there is the business side to it because there are talented youths around him, who with the right guidance, will get far. Speaking with Devon has showed me that there is nothing for the street youths apart from trying in vain to get a good 9 to 5 job or getting on the road to recklessness. What Streetwise is trying to do is to make a way for the youth so they know there is a 3rd option in life - doing something you are talented at. It might be singing or it might be producing - Streetwise can help you realise your talents. No matter what skill you have Devon can turn it into a tool you can use. As Devon says himself, 'At the end of the day youths are getting discipline which means self discipline and music. They get educated because they learn about everything they use or do in the studio and if they have strong talents they can get signed to the record label "I like It Productions" and develop into young artists'.

It's not like Devon is some guy who doesn't have a clue and thinks he know what's best for Clapton - he is a born and bread Hackney brother with a musical pedigree to boot.

'We need to bring back the love because the youths are losing respect for the older generation. We need to give them that guidance and respect'

For more details about the Streetwise 3 Music Production Programme call Devon on 07862 211 998.

Hackney Living

Sulekha Yurub Hassan - long time resident, aged 19, gives her view of life in Hackney

Post 9/11 and in the wake of the London bombings on Thursday, I am often asked how my life as a young Muslim has been affected. Not only do I find this question overused and slightly irritating, I also feel it to be irrelevant to me, a result perhaps of living in Hackney for the past 15 years of my life.

In Hackney I am simply Sulekha or as close friends know me Yurub, I am neither defined as Somalian, Black or Muslim. Many of my friends feel the same way, in so many ways this is due to the culture of acceptance in Hackney.

In the evening of the Thursday bombings, school kids returned to the Shacklewell area where I live talking of the day's events. It was so interesting speaking to young people aged from 12-17, to hear their views and I was impressed that they were so informed. I have watched endless political programmes where I have been bewildered by some of the remarks made about Muslims and Islam by people who should know better. For these young people the involvement of the local 30 bus made the world's events relevant and pressing. One friend who regularly takes the 30 bus to university told me 'this happened in London, not in Iraq or some other country in the world, it was so surreal". Another friend told me 'Someone we saw walking around Hackney could have died on that bus' This sense of solidarity which crosses all nationalities and borders makes Hackney the cultural hub that I love so much.

'This sense of solidarity which crosses all nationalities and borders makes Hackney the cultural hub that I love so much'

Whilst in the wider world I am conscious of my identity, here I am a young person worried about much of the things that are common to us. I constantly moan about the lack of facilities and opportunities open to us, in terms of activities there really is not much for us to do. When I speak to fellow teenagers who feel the borough has nothing to offer them I optimistically answer 'Go out there, there is so much to find' the answer is almost always the same -'Where do we go'? 'Who do we see'?

I feel their frustration; having read Spark magazine for the first time I was amazed to discover there was a Somalian community centre in the borough and I consider myself to be relatively informed.

I am frustrated with the lack of sports facilities, my friends and I play tennis, the only courts where we are not required to pay are Hackney Downs. Unfortunately the courts are not in top shape but we are grateful for them and we make do.

I have always wanted to learn how to swim but this was not encouraged at school because of the lack of swimming facilities, nearly all of my friends can't swim.

All around me in this inner city oasis I see potential musicians, sportsmen and women, poets, lyricists and academics all hoping to be given the chance to thrive.

SPARK is keen to here from other young people about their experiences of living in Hackney. Got something to say or know someone who has, simply email: **pool@hced.co.uk** or **jake@hcvs.org.uk** alternatively **call Liz Hughes on 020 7690 6662.**

Premises for the Voluntary and Community Sector

The voluntary and community sector are facing increasing difficulty in finding premises in Hackney. The general rise in property prices in the borough is driving up rents on workspace, and new flats are taking away much of the space that was available for community groups. Now the council, which has traditionally provided subsidised rents, is phasing in a 'discounted market rate' for voluntary and community sector tenants. **What are the solutions?** We asked several voluntary and community organisations how they are dealing with the premise issue at present.

We asked Hackney Council to comment on the shortage of affordable premises, and the effects of the decision to charge near commercial rents to the voluntary and community sector. We also asked Suzana Sheppard from HVA to update us on the progress of the negotiations with Hackney Council about the draft premises strategy. Both their responses are included here.

Opinions are divided on whether the voluntary sector should be charged commercial rents. While many community groups we canvassed expressed the view that they were doing the work of the Council and then being asked to pay for the privilege, others took the view that it makes more sense for voluntary and community groups to pay commercial rents and then if the council or someone else wants to support their work they should give them a grant, so that the sector can be sustainable in the long term.

But everyone agrees there is a shortage of available, affordable premises. As Anthony Djondo from Bootstrap says "This issue is acting as a major barrier to the development and growth of many community/voluntary groups and micro enterprises and thereby hindering the wider social and economic regeneration of the borough but particularly Dalston, where Bootstrap's properties are located. The added impact of the workspace supply issue is that it tends to have a greater affect on BME organisations and enterprises as they tend to have greater funding and sustainability issues".

Getting around the problem of premises

one solution is to **secure your own building** - as for example the Claudia Jones Organisation in Stoke Newington has done.

another solution is to **use another project to help cover your costs.** With the help of the LDA Hoxton Hall have acquired the building nextdoor so that by becoming a landlord they could provide an income stream for Hoxton Hall

some voluntary sector **organisations are left high and dry by the change in Council policy** - for example the Wally Foster centre, offering many community services in Homerton, is left wondering how it can find £150,000 to pay the rent over the next few years

many small voluntary and community groups **rent from another voluntary sector provider** who guarantee 'bottom of the market' rents - though these rents are again influenced by the general property market. We spoke to HCD about the issues of being a provider, and to the Carol Straker Dance Foundation who sub-let part of Harriet Tubman House

HCD - Hackney Co-operative Developments - the landlord pays rent too...

HCD is a not for profit organisation which rents out 70 workspaces to small businesses, voluntary and community groups in Dalston. HCD's units are mainly at 2 sites - Beechwood Road which is leased from Hackney Council, and Bradbury and Gillet Street (including the new Dalston Culture House) which is owned by HCD.

Adam Hart, Direct of HCD said "We run managed workspace providing the lowest possible market rate. We don't want to make a profit, but we don't charge below the market rent because that creates a cocoon. We don't distinguish between voluntary sector and small businesses in our lettings".

"We are in negotiation with Hackney Council about the price of our lease on Beechwood Road. The Council are taking the line that they can only rent at market rate. Their argument is that the voluntary sector should pay this rent and then find grants to pay it. We have 2 arguments against paying a market rent on Beechwood Road. Firstly we have entirely developed the site adding a large percentage to its value, we don't think it's right that we should then be asked to pay for the increase in value that we have added ourselves.

"Secondly - we could rent Beechwood Road to a single client - and then pay the Council the market rate. But we don't, we offer managed workspace and this has far higher overheads, and in consideration of this we think the Council should reduce the rate. We own the Bradbury Street site, but we have a lot of debt and in a way the situation is quite similar to the lease situation at Beechwood Road"

For more information about workspace and business support from HCD please call 020 7254 4829.

premises case studies

Claudia Jones Organisation - have their own premises

We asked Claudia Jones Organisation what it meant to them to have acquired the building. Hazel Ellis, the centre co-ordinator, sent this response:

"Claudia Jones and Ackee Housing Project embrace the vision of sustainable development, the idea of ensuring a better quality of life for everyone. Being able to acquire a building ensures that Caribbean people in Hackney have a resource which they can call their own. The organisation is better able to provide for its community and the community has a sense of pride and achievement. Having a building goes a long way enabling Caribbean people to meet some of their cultural aspirations. It houses amenities that will give a sense of belonging.

"Not only does the building serve as a community resource it's also and education and cultural centre. The space is used for workshops, training, enterprise, meetings, education, performances, reception advice and much more.

"For Caribbean people have settled in Hackney since the late 50's their children and grand children can now meet in one place linking the community together. In excel of 4000 people used the centre in the last year".

More information about Claudia Jones Organisation program on 020 7241 1646.

Carol Straker Dance Foundation - looking for their own premises

The Carol Straker Dance Foundation has been running since 1987. Based at the Harriet Tubman House in Lower Clapton Road, they rent space from the Sam Uriah Morris Society who in turn have a lease from Hackney Council. In line with the Council's new lettings policy, the lease is being renegotiated.

Carol Straker, founder and chief executive of CSDF said "We have 250 children in the dance school and outreach programs in schools. What we are doing is so necessary at the moment with so much obesity coming from children not having exercise. We see many parents who when their workload increases don't have time to go to the park. They come here because they want their children to do something healthy".

"The uncertainty about the premises is very difficult for everyone, but especially for us, because what we are doing - teaching ballet, tap and jazz - is a long term project. The children see immediate benefits in being healthy, but in terms of outputs we need 10 years to have success - it's not a 'flash in the pan' when you are building someone's career for instance. We can't plan anything at the moment - though the parents are banking on us being here.

"We've done quite a few feasibility studies to look at getting our own premises. We would have to raise a substantial amount of money, and we don't think we can buy anything because property prices have gone through the ceiling and the community use for a lot of facilities has gone away. One of the particular difficulties we have is that dance needs a lot of space".

The Carol Straker Dance Foundation has an ongoing program of professional dance training for children young people and adults. They are also offering classes as part of the Learning Trust's Hackney Summer University for 11 to 25 year olds. For more information call CSDF on 020 8985 1221.

premises case studies

Hoxton Hall - an innovative solution...

Hoxton Hall was opened in 1863 as a Music Hall and went on to run for many years as a multi-arts venue presenting and producing theatre, dance, music, film, cabaret, new media and visual arts. The Grade 2 star listed hall is leased from the Church Commisioners by a registered charity, also called Hoxton Hall.

Hoxton Hall has 15,000 square foot of arts space, and yet no support at all from Hackney Council. The stopping of grants from the Council and the Arts Council (who both put major amounts of funding into the failed Ocean music venue) led to a difficult financial situation for Hoxton Hall. The building had become run down and the Church Commisioners were threatening the lease.

Hoxton Hall devised a radical solution. Realising they needed an income stream, and with the help of the LDA, they bought the building next door to the Hall and created "Hoxton Works" a dedicated studio and workshop space for arts groups. They predict that once it is fully functioning the rental income from Hoxton Works will provide £40,000 - £50,000 a year for the running of Hoxton Hall.

Chris Bowler, board member of Hoxton Hall said 'Unfortunately because of problems acquiring the building, Hoxton Works has been a bit too little too late and we have had to downsize the work of Hoxton Hall - however it is an innovative solution to a common problem and in the longer term should secure the future of Hoxton Hall"

Meantime the Youth Arts program continues at Hoxton Hall - more details from Paddy Chatterton on 020 7684 0060. Hoxton Works offers workspace and business development advice for arts groups - more information from Hayley White on 020 7012 1600.

Report on Refugee Week Activities 20th - 26th June 05 *By Ferhat Cinar*

This year, as in previous years, many from our local communities celebrated the diversity through multi cultural activities and welcomed the resources and the cultural richness that refugees bring into this country. There were over one hundred events and activities for Refugee Week in Hackney - here are some examples.

Photo: Birsel Ayaat

Benefit Event for refugee communities was organised by Hackney Refugee and Migrant Support Group (HRMSG) on Friday 24th June, at the Chats Palace. Over 150 people took part.

Community Conference organised by Latin American Advisory Committee, Refugee Workers Cultural association and IFTEEN Somali Women's Group to discuss information and access issues took place on Saturday 25th June at the Mayville Community Centre and over 150 people participated in the event.

Hackney African Forum Refugee Week Celebration Event was held at the VLC Community Centre in Haggerston with participation of over 150 people.

Multi cultural celebration at the Shacklewell Primary School. Schools play an important role in community cohesion, particularly in integrating refugee families into society. Over 60 parents and 50 children attended the event organised by the Social Action for Health and Shacklewell Primary School. Participants took part in the Turkish/ Kurdish and African folk dancing and enjoyed the food.

A two days Community Theatre and Forum Theatre Course was organised 20th - 21st June by the Refugee Arts Project funded by the Single Community Programme (SCP) run by HCVS. 16 people participated at the training which addressed issues around access, communication, involvement and participation for the refugee communities. Through using interactive techniques, such as story telling and drama, it provided an opportunity to work with health and social care issues such as mental health, diet, exercise, refugee issues, and homelessness.

REFUGEE SCHOOL'S OUTREACH PROJECT

Refugee School's Outreach Project is a pilot project developed to provide advice and support to refugee parents at 4 primary schools. It aims to help with access to services, integration into the schools process and through interactive techniques help build confidence to deal better with organisations and institutions.

For more information please call Ferhat Cinar on 020 7275 2732 or email: ferhatc@safh.org.uk

Diane Abbott MP in her letter of support for the Refugee School's Outreach Project had this to say: "Despite the fact that many refugees are fully-qualified doctors, scientists, construction workers and academics, thousands of refugees and asylum seekers are experiencing difficulty in finding jobs in Britain that reflect their talents and qualifications. These problems can be compounded by a sense of isolation within local communities which frequently display prejudice against foreigners often branding refugees as freeloaders who sponge off state benefits and steal jobs from honest, hard-working citizens. This must change and communities are beginning to recognise that refugees have an immense amount to offer. Refugees and migrants are a crucial resource to this country and the more we can do to welcome and help them become fuller members of the community the better."

New partnership for unemployed disabled people (NEWPUD)

Simon Maty, NEWPUD Project Coordinator at Disability Hackney provides the facts.....

The New Partnership for Unemployed Disabled People (NEWPUD) is a new London-based initiative aimed at fostering partnerships between organisations of Disabled People and Local Employers. The main aim of the project is to create training and employment opportunities for unemployed disabled people in London. NEWPUD is co-financed by Jobcentre Plus and the Learning Skills Council under the European Social Fund Objective 3 Programme.

It costs you nothing - NEWPUD offers FEE - FREE Recruitment of trained staff.

WHAT DOES NEWPUD TRAINING COVER?

- Customised training-for-work based on the skills required by local employers
- Employability training in interview techniques, job-hunting, CV writing, and completing job application forms
- Training in office administration and customer service based on the skills and knowledge required by today's employers
- Catering and basic hygiene
- Work placement to enable trainees to put their new skills into practice

CAN YOU HELP NEWPUD?

- Reserve some vacancies for NEWPUD disabled trainees?
- Offer some work placement opportunities to NEWPUD disabled trainees?
- Use NEWPUD as one of the mediums to advertise your vacancies?

According to the Institute for Employment Studies, staff turnover among disabled employees is very low and people are highly motivated to work. All NEWPUD candidates undertake training and work placement based on the requirements of the employer before they are recommended for any vacancy. The services / wages of NEWPUD trainees will be subsidised for 13 weeks. Employing someone through NEWPUD is an excellent PR exercise to show that your workforce reflects the diversity of your community and customer base and demonstrates that you are fully committed to equal opportunities.

NEWPUD'S KEY DELIVERY PARTNERS & FUNDERS

Disability Hackney is the lead partner of the NEWPUD project together with Jobcentre Plus, the Learning & Skills Council and our local delivery partners we have put in place a comprehensive training and development programme

DIAL Waltham Forest is offering apprenticeship in advocacy and office management.

SEETEC is offering training in employability and confidence building, which includes writing a CV, job application forms and interview technique.

Greater London Action on Disability (GLAD) is providing training and work placement in Disability Rights Advocacy and Office Administration, targeting mainly black and ethnic minority unemployed disabled Londoners.

HARMONY is providing vocational training and work placement in advocacy, catering and in mental health awareness

For more details contact:

Simon K. Maty
NEWPUD Project Co-ordinator
Disability Hackney
Telephone: 0207 249 7849

Refugees organise information day for providers

On Saturday, 25 June 2005, the Refugee Community Champions Project based in HCVS assisted three refugee organisations to organise an event called 'Refugee Access to Information Day' at the Roundchapel. It was a nice and warm Saturday but it did not stop 9 organisations including Hackney Council, Learning Trust, HCVS, East London Advanced Technology Training Centre and others) to open stalls. There were two workshops on Education and Health, access issues and employability and 'Why we are here and positive integration into the society'. 150 people registered for the event and they enjoyed tasty food from three continents.

During the workshops all panel contributions and suggestions were translated into four main languages. Entertainment included Turkish Women's Folkdancing, Latin Salsa dancing and an opera singer from Colombia. A TV set, invitations from many local restaurants owned by BME communities and otantik gifts were the prizes for the fund raising raffle. At the end of the event all the people with colourful dresses enjoyed salsa dancing. But scoop of the day fell to the Ifteen Somali Women Association who got new premises when they met a service provider during the discussions and now have a very nice place to provide their services from.

Contact the Community Champions Project at HCVS on 0207 923 1962.

DIVERSITY Xchange
speak your mind

A new magazine aimed at providing a stimulating, challenging and radical forum for news, views and discussion on a wide range of diversity issues.

The No.1 Publication Tackling Diversity & Equality Issues

Diversity Xchange Magazine
11 Seymour Street
Liverpool L3 5PE
e: info@diversityxchange.com
w: www.diversityxchange.com
t: 0151 709 7748

Readership
All MPs
CEO'S
Senior Decision Makers
HR Departments
Diversity Managers....

HAVE YOUR SAY

SPARK discovers Africa through EAT, EMASHI & DAKROBI

Hi SPARK readers. My name is Ngozi [centre] and many of you will know me from the African dance group Emashi, or as the woman who keeps asking you to part with your money (for EAT) to help young people in our community or as the workshop leader of Dakrobi African Arts. For those of you who are not familiar with Education Africa Teaching (EAT), we raise funds to send young people from our community to African countries to learn first-hand about the continent and culture. The young people then return home to school, college, university or other educational establishments sharing their knowledge and experiences. I present a series of articles in this edition and the next SPARK from EAT, EMASHI and DAKROBI students to say thank you and to let you know how our young people have benefited from the visits. In October this year, we will be visiting Gambia where 'Roots' by Alex Hayley was filmed. This is the birth place of Kunta Kinte, the Mandinka warrior.

Djanomi (9 years old)

I have been to Ghana and Barbados. I have also been to Darsham even though it is not a country (it is a town). In Ghana I learnt about Slavery and about animals. On the trip I also learnt about our ancesters, dancing and drumming and of course sharing. In Barbados I learnt about safety, friendship, caring, listening, sharing and most of all respect. In Darsham I learnt how to have fun, play pool and how to sleep in noise. I am fundraising to go to Gambia with the rest of E.A.T (Education, Africa Teaching). When I go to Gambia I want to meet other children, go to museums, and taste the food. I want to know how many beaches there are and how good the dances are. Two more things I want to see - the drummers and the schools.

Kas (19 years old)

I am one of the original EAT members. Although other commitments mean I am not as fully involved in EAT activities, I remain part of this great team. I have travelled to Ghana and Barbados; I would like to travel to Gambia if university allows me the time off. Since joining EAT three years ago, I have achieved much, I was a radio DJ and played at many events, I also was the head of the youth section for EAT. I am now a full time professional dancer and choreographer with my own production company called Phase II Productions. I teach dance at several institutions including Stoke Newington School and White Lion youth club. I play African drums, steel pans and keyboards. I hold a full driving license and I am one of the drivers for the Emashi and Dakrobi arts groups.

I am preparing for a major event shortly; this is the UK Street Dance Championships I will also be travelling to do a performance in Time Square, New York. In October I will be studying Media and Criminology at Middlesex University. This will limit the time that I have to participate in other activities.

I started out with the Emashi African dance group when I was three years old. Since joining EAT I have not looked back.

Janine (18 years old)

From the age 0 - 13 I didn't really know much about my African heritage and ancestral background. I knew little bits here and there about the conflict between black and white people and that the world is full of things to do with black history but as a youth it was hard to dig deep into the culture head on and soak in all the information.

At the age 14 I began to do African dance with Emashi and it helped me to pick up on African dance skills quite rapidly and learn a lot about my culture.

Little did I know that I was about to be given one of the greatest opportunities in life which was to travel to Africa (the motherland) for the first time. This trip to Ghana was to be with a group of people from my dance class and others from my community. The group was called E.A.T (Education Africa Teaching) and our reason for travelling to Ghana was to build up on our historical cultural insight. Not forgetting to mention that is was my first time leaving England as a whole.

I travelled to Ghana in West Africa with 16 other youths and 10 adults on a cultural visit, meaning we were to go through rights of passage like those of our ancestors from many many years ago and we followed the same type of lifestyle that they lived. Rights of passage were not so hard for me because my up bringing as a youth was not more than 40% westernised.

Tasting the varieties of foods over there has to have been one of the hardest things to do for me because I was so used to chicken and chips and the traditional English lunch (sausage and mash), but after about two days of breakfast, dinner and lunch I began to get used to the different textures, temperatures and tastes of the Ghanaian food.

The atmosphere was overwhelming and the people were so easy to create relationships with. The trip was meant for everybody to grasp African cultural insight and it was very successful in doing so. Personally it opened up my mind to exploring different cultures and comparing them in different ways. It also helped me to know a great deal more about myself and who I really am inside. The trip was an experience that I would find very hard to forget. I was particularly inspired by the beauty of our black history and how it has a great effect on our futures as Nubian creation.

Almost every black youth between 12 and 20 has a huge lack of respect for their cultural history and its traditions. Being a part of E.A.T and its programmes is being part of a solution to that problem.

'I am black and proud and I can scream that out loud without any feeling of shame because one thing I know is that I am a Nubian queen with no doubt about it!' Janine, EAT Junior Management.

Femi (Aaron) Tanice, Assistant Manager for EAT

We have been to a few countries now and I am going to share my personal thoughts and experiences of one of the countries I have been to.

I have recently returned from Gambia, it is my second visit there as part of the preparation for EAT's visit in October. Gambia is very rich in cultural heritage if you look at a map; you will see that Gambia is a slim, finger like slot in the heart of Senegal, hence the name Senegambia.

Gambia was a British colony that gained independence in 1965. Even so long after independence, nothing much seems to have changed. It is not uncommon to see old Europeans with very young Gambians. Sometimes the age difference exceeds over 30 or 40 years. You can see that it is economics which dictate. For the sake of a few Dalasi (Gambian currency), foreign visitors can call the shots. Even with that situation being so blatant Gambia still remains rich in culture and the place to go if you are looking for good food, the history, sun, real people and good living.

Under guidance from the Most High I was exposed to people that I would not ordinarily come into contact with. On a visit to Juffere, the home of Kunte Kinte I had a very unpleasant experience. My journey had begun at 10am that morning. We took a cab from the African Village Hotel where we were staying to Banjul port coast. We paid the sum of 300 Dalasi (47D = £1) it was 5D to get on the boat, which took us to a place called Bara, then we paid 900D to return by cab. To cut a long story short we ended up paying at least 1500D for what should have been a total of 62D return! Unfortunately it is not such an unusual for a visitor to pay over the odds, but it was the way it was done, it was done under the guise of friendship.

In summary, when you have the fortunate and blessed experience of travelling to Africa (or anywhere), if you are open enough you will find that it can heighten your sense of reading other peoples vibe or spirit. One should learn to trust this sense or ability because it is very important this sixth sense or third eye, can guide you from those who are not genuine in character or from wolves in sheep's clothing. The ability to be intuitive and aware of your surroundings is one that will help you wherever you go.

Some of the original EAT members

Ngozi Headley-Fulani
Managing Director & Qualified Secondary school teacher of English and drama. Will be receiving her MA in November.

Dr Sandra Richards PHD
Executive Director has completed her doctorate and holds the prestigious title of Doctor since forming EAT.

Frances Burley
Primary school teacher St Matthias School

Kas
International performer had appeared in many dance videos on television, preparing for a performance in Time Square New York

Micheal (Bill Trojan) Muirhead
An extremely valued member of the EAT initiative. Mike is extremely well known and has the respect of the many community members, his presence made the difference to our visit to Ghana.

Eschoffomie Couprie
Had everything that the group needed. Humerous when humour was needed, an auntie and a friend to the younger members of the group. 'Shoff' keeps in regular contact with EAT and supports our activites.

Chineze Oniah
Our camera woman who volunteered her expertise to EAT and recorded well over 30 hours of priceless film. Formely from Sky TV, Chineze has now branched out and continues to support the community and EAT.

Terri Henry
Our very own herbalist and woman of nature. Terry was on hand to nurture the younger members of the EAT initiative and give us the value of her knowledge of the environment. You have not lived until you hear Terry's talk on water. Shortly after returning from Ghana, Terry emigrated to Dominica where she is continuing her good work. Miss you T.

Aaron Tanice. Assistant Manager
Initially we were worried about this young man who hardly ever spoke, we soon realise that this wise young man only spoke when he had something positive to say. Aaron is in his second year of studying carpentry. He has moved up to a management position in EAT. Aaron is a silent grafter, often doing the behind the scenes work.

Janine
Continues to work tirelessly for the good of EAT. Janine often spear heads the fundraising events. Janine is the head of the youth section for EAT and the junior dance teacher for Emashi. Janine has taught in many schools in Hackney and beyond.

more from EMASHI, DAKROBI and EAT in the November issue of SPARK

DOC: *developing organisations' capacity*

issue 2 - aims, objectives and outcomes

Understanding aims and objectives

There are 12 areas of organisational development - the least favourite for most is the monitoring and evaluation element. Monitoring and evaluation is one of the most important aspects of good organisational planning. We can grow to like it by taking brave steps towards understanding it. First it's very important from the start to be clear about the results you want to achieve by the end of the project. This requires an understanding of the distinction between aims and objectives.

Aims are the measurable changes you want to see, for example;

to increase confidence amongst parents;

to improve access to refugee health screening;

to reduce truancy amongst boys aged 12- 15

KRISTINE SAYS:
'We use the Weavers Triangle to help plan your project outcomes'

You may achieve you aim through a variety of activities ***or objectives,*** in the case of the aims above you could:

Co-ordinate weekly personnel development sessions

Run a mobile health visiting service

To set up a school mentoring programme

What's common is that they all the aims are measurable. The objectives are the activities or services you provide to meet your aims.

As part of our **free one to one advice and guidance sessions** at HCVS we can guide you through the process of determining your aims and objectives, help you understand what outcomes you are delivering and better communicate your project activities to the funders.

Does it really take a magician to measure your organisation's outcomes?

If you are active in voluntary and community sector regeneration, I am sure you are familiar with the term "Outcomes Culture". The problem is that the definition of outcomes varies depending on who you are talking to.

Are there times when you wonder if you are describing aims or objectives?

Are you clear about how to describe the changes that occur as a result of your input and at what level?

How can you realistically measure the results at social policy level?

Yes, it used to be difficult to distinguish the difference between an aim and an activity, but now the Charities Evaluation Service has been funded by Big Lottery and endorsed by ALG to create single UK wide outcomes approach which will be used across the sector. At HCVS we have our very own Outcomes Champions who can assist you to measure the results and impact of your work clearly and concisely.

Applying an Outcomes Approach to your ALG Hackney grant application

Monday 12th September, 10.30 - 1.00pm at HCVS offices

Instead of being swept away by the shock wave of outcomes, we want both large and small organisations to enjoy the magic of outcomes, well enough to apply it across all your organisations activities. In preparation of applying to the large and small grants Kishore and Kristine have developed a special half day writing better funding application seminar. The workshop will equip participants to apply outcomes to a range of applications. For this reason organisations are encouraged to send up to 2 people per organisation on the workshop, whether trustees, paid staff, volunteers or a mixture. For further information email kristine@hcvs.org.uk or register your interest on 020 7923 1962

KRISTINE SAYS: Come to our event on **12th September** to learn more about outcomes

DOC: developing organisations' capacity

issue 2 - aims, objectives and outcomes

Meet the HCVS Capacity Building Team

Kishore Kanani - Senior Capacity Building Officer

Kristine Wellington - Children, Young People and Families Advisor

Robert Quaye - Black & Ethnic Minority Arts Network Coordinator

Marie Walker - European Funding Project Coordinator

Clifford Hinkson - LEAD in Hackney Training Network consultant

call the HCVS Team on 020 7923 1962

How to access Capacity Building at HCVS

HCVS has the following capacity building programmes:

General advice and guidance, one to one sessions	kishore@hcvs.org.uk
Frontline projects working with children & families	kristine@hcvs.org.uk
BME arts and cultural organisations	robert@hcvs.org.uk
Street level 1st tier training organisations	clifford@hcvs.org.uk
European funding, community facilitators and enterprise	marie@hcvs.org.uk

One to one sessions are provided free of charge to all Hackney community organisations. We provide over 400 one to one sessions every to hundreds of new and developing community organisations.To book a session with any if our Capacity Building Team simply contact Reception on 020 7923 1962 to make a booking.

HCVS Capacity Building programnmes are supported by the following agencies

>lsc Leading learning and skills
EUROPEAN UNION European Regional Development Fund
EUROPEAN UNION European Social Fund
London Government
H>S>P Hackney Strategic Partnership
Hackney
The Community Network Empowering Hackney

Community Accounting courses

The Community Accountancy Project (CAP) and Hackney Council for Voluntary Service (HCVS) are running the following courses at HCVS:

Preparing Budgets & Cash Flows
10.00am to 3.00pm
Wednesday 30th August

How to prepare a small budget. What are overheads, direct costs and contingencies? How does a cash flow work? Will break-even analysis help your organisation? Budgets are used for grant applications and your internal financial control.

Financial Record-keeping
10.00am to 3.30pm
Monday 5th September

Manual Book-keeping: Setting up a simple book-keeping system, choosing analysis column headings and their relationship to the budget, filing invoices and records of income, cheque signatures and controls, bank reconciliation, petty cash imprest system, and cash income. For organisations with incomes up to £150,000.

Bank Reconciliation: Checks the accuracy of your cashbook entries and bank statements. The module can be taken by itself, or as part of basic book-keeping.

Petty Cash: The imprest system, choosing column headings, changing the size of the float, accounting for cash income, controls to prevent fraud.

Finance Reports for Management Committees & Funders
10.00am to 3.30pm
Monday 15th September

How to write a report, which compares income and expenditure to budget, shows variances, and includes creditors, debtors, accruals and prepayments. How to present finance reports to committees and funders.
An essential course for reporting and monitoring income & expenditure.

If you would like to attend the following courses please contact Sindy at CAP on 020 7249 7109 alternatively you can contact HCVS for a booking form on 0207 923 1962.

Supporting Hackney's Communities

HCVS 2005 services

Hackney Legal Connections

Hackney Legal Connections is a free legal advice service, which runs once a fortnight at HCVS. We provide free, one-off legal advice on Corporate and Contract Law, Leases and Property Law, Intellectual Property Law, Tax & VAT law and non-contentious employment matters - please see below for more information about what we can assist with. The service is available to all small/new businesses (and also to community groups) in East London. To book an appointment please ring Popi Begum (HCVS) Tel: 020 7923 1962.

Here are some of the topics covered through Hackney Legal Connections

Corporate and Contract Law

What we can help with:

- General advice on setting up a business, including the advantages/disadvantages of setting up as a sole trader, partnership, limited liability partnership or limited company.
- Advice on the duties and liabilities of directors and partners.
- Advice on general contact issues, for example, how to enter into a contract, whether a binding contract has been entered into and what the terms (including any implied terms) of an existing contract mean.

Property Law

What we can help with:

- Advice on legal issues surrounding occupation of premises, including lease and licence arrangements, the terms of leases and licence arrangements and options for the negotiation of rent and service charges.
- Initial advice on disputes with landlords and licensors which arise during the course of a lease or licence.

Intellectual Property

What we can help with:

- Advice on applying to register a brand name, corporate name or logo as a trade mark.
- Advice on the exploitation and commercialisation of intellectual property assets, for example in a licensing arrangement or through a joint venture.
- Initial advice on disputes, for example assisting when a third party claims that its intellectual property rights are being infringed by a business/community group or when a business/community group finds that its intellectual property rights are being infringed by someone else.

Employment

What we can help with:

- Advice on what should be included in an employment contract
- What general rights and duties you have as an employer
- What you should be thinking about when employing staff

If you would like to access FREE Legal Advice please contact HCVS to make booking on 020 7923 1962.

Supporting Hackney's Communities

Free one to one advice & guidance

Hackney Council for Voluntary Service (HCVS) provides FREE one to one capacity building sessions as part of its main objective to build the capacity of voluntary and community groups in the London Borough of Hackney

These sessions are for groups and individuals who need advice and support:

- To make a funding or grant application,
- Develop their organisation
- Develop skills to profiling their organisation.

To compliment the above we have set up a ***series of sessions*** on:

'How to write a better ALG application'

'Outputs and Outcomes'

The Aims of these sessions are to develop the capacity of voluntary and community groups to make successful application to the ALG.

The objective is:

- To develop the profile of voluntary and community groups.
- To show a tried and tested way of making application.
- Get more groups to gain vital skills in grant application.

On going every Monday, Wednesday & Thursday	**One to One hour surgeries: Groups booked in advance**
Friday 9th September 2005	**2.00 am to 4.00 pm Seminar on 'How to fill in an ALG application'**
Monday 12th September 2005	**10.30 to 1.00 pm 'Outputs and Outcomes' training for funding applications.**

To book a place simply call Popi on: 020 7923 1962 or e-mail info@hcvs.org.uk

Introduction to Community Research

A one-day course hosted by HCVS and ARVAC (the Association for Research in the Voluntary and Community Sector) on 26th October 2005

How do you know there is a need for your project? Community groups are asked these questions by various stakeholders especially funders. Knowing there is a need for your project or services is not enough - you may need to prove it. This is where research skills are essential.

HCVS is working in partnership with the Association of Research in the Voluntary and Community sector to sharpen your research skills. **The training day is on 26th October 9.30- 3.30pm - its absolutely free but there are a limited number of spaces so please book early.**

Doing community research - gathering information about the community you serve is a great idea: this information can help your community group to get you services right, to lobby local decision makers, and to apply for funding. This course entitled 'An Introduction to Community Research' aims to do just that - introduce you to world of community research. It is aimed at those who are involved in the running of small London based community organisations. We will cover the following topics:

- What is Community Research?
- How can community research help small community organisations?
- Needs assessment, evaluations, and community profiles: what are they? How can these play a part in project development?
- What are the steps involved in conducting a piece of community research?
- Who can provide help in conducting community research?
- How to get help with conducting community research

In sum, the aim is for you to gain an understanding of when it is appropriate to carry out research and what the kind of processes you need to go through in order to do this. It will be a fun interactive day in which you will have lots of opportunity to share problems and network.

For further information about the research training please contact kristine@hcvs.org.uk or 020 7923 1962

Hackney Voluntary Sector Grants Programme 2006-2007

Hackney Council and the Association of London Government invite community and voluntary sector organisations to apply for Hackney Voluntary Sector Grants 2006-2007.

Applications are invited in areas that provide:

- advice and information services that provide welfare benefits, legal advice, debt counselling, and translation and interpreting services
- schemes that complement the Council's "Supporting People" and "Well Old Well Valued" programmes and offer innovative projects that enable people of all ages to access accommodation, achieve permanence and a better quality of life
- environmental schemes that sustain, protect and improve Hackney's environment including education schemes, recycling, volunteering, improving community spaces and community transport and support the council's Community Safety Strategy
- youth schemes that support the Council's Youth Strategy and present new opportunities for excluded and disadvantaged young people involving them in democracy and decision making while encouraging them to lead healthy lifestyles and be active citizens.

Applications for Arts and Cultural activities will be considered where they contribute to one of the above objectives.

The Council will consider two year funding for advice and legal, youth and disability services. Advice and legal services need to have achieved charter mark accreditation.

Hackney also welcomes bids for the Small Grants Programme 2006-2007 for schemes up to £5,000. Details of the programme are available at:

www.hackney.gov.uk/hackneygrants

The closing date for the receipt of completed application forms is 23 September 2005.

Eligible organisations will be based in Hackney and clearly show benefits to Hackney communities. Applications must include links to appropriate Council strategies. Copies of these documents are available at www.hackney.gov.uk

Free one to one advice sessions for organisations intertested in applying are available from HCVS, simply call 020 7923 1962 to book an appointment.

Information, application forms and details of the ALG conditions of grant may be downloaded from the Hackney website; www.hackney.gov.uk, or www.hcvs.org.uk

Public launches of the Hackney Voluntary Sector Grants Programme 2006-2007 will take place at 2 venues across Hackney:

7 September 2005 - Shoreditch Town Hall, Mayor's Parlour Room - 2:00pm, 380 Old Street, EC1V 9LT

8 September 2005 - 2:00pm, Stamford Hill Library, Portland Avenue, N16 6SB

'Our vision for a fairer and more equal Hackney includes a borough with strong, vibrant and independent community and voluntary sector organisations. Through the Hackney Voluntary Sector Grants Programme we support local voluntary organisations working to make a difference to the lives of the people who live in Hackney. This year priority areas for funding include advice and information services, housing schemes for older people and people with special needs to access accomodation, the environment and young people'.

Hackney's Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure, Cllr Nargis Khan

Remember HCVS is here to help with your ALG application

Hackney

To: voluntary and community sector organisations in Hackney

Dear Colleague,

OPTIONS REVIEW OF HACKNEY COUNCIL'S VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY SECTOR GRANT ARRANGEMENTS

Hackney Council has appointed Three Horizons Consulting Ltd to carry out an options review of our voluntary and community sector (VCS) grant arrangements, which is currently administered by the Association of London Government.

The consultants working on the Options Review are Brenda Taverner and Sharon Hanoomansingh.

The objectives of the review are to:-

- Identify the most appropriate method/s for funding the VCS to deliver services that sustain and improve the quality of life for Hackney residents; and
- Explore the most efficient and effective mechanism for distributing funds to the VCS.

We also want to align VCS funding more closely with Hackney's Community Strategy and Council priorities as well as testing the current arrangements for VCS funding against 'best value'. This will ensure that we establish management and delivery arrangements which are 'fit for purpose' and best meet local needs.

The review process will include a series of research and consultation focus groups with VCS organisations, including an information session to explain the project in more detail. Dates for these focus group meetings will be publicised in early September when we will write to you again.

The timetable for the review is:-

Research & Consultation:	**August to October 2005**
Interim Report:	**November 2005**
Stakeholder Workshop (Options Appraisal):	**November 2005**
Draft Final Report:	**December 2005**
Final Report to Cabinet:	**February 2006**

The Review is supported by Cllr Nargis Khan, the Lead Cabinet Member, who fully endorses this work and we look forward to sharing the outcome of the review with you towards the end of the year.

If you have any questions, **please contact the Project Manager Daphne Ramsey on 0208-356-3134 or by email at daphne.ramsey@hackney.gov.uk**

Yours sincerely,

Karen Balam
Assistant Director - Resources
Community and Leisure

Case studies from the Local Network Fund

The Local Network Fund is a government initiative providing grants of £250-£7000 for voluntary and community groups to improve the lives of children and young people who are living in poverty or are experiencing disadvantage. In the past twelve months, over 94 Hackney based organisations have accessed grants of up to £7000.

local network fund
for children and young people

'Any local small voluntary or community organisation working with children and young people, aged 0-19 or up to 25 for young people with disabilities, can apply to the Local Network Fund to support their projects. Outreach support is also available to assist groups to develop a project proposal against the criteria and all the necessary documentations. We want to make sure that vulnerable and hard to reach children and young people throughout Hackney thrive and reach their full potential by getting involved in activities that they might otherwise not be able to.'

Nadia Capogrosso, LNF Grants Officer

The Government believes that local communities have the power to make a real difference to the lives of disadvantaged children by providing local solutions to the problems of child poverty. The Department of Education and Skills administers the fund across England in partnership with local umbrella voluntary organisations. The Department has appointed HCVS as the grant administrator for the London Borough of Hackney.

The aim of the Local Network Fund is to help children and young people in poverty achieve their potential by investing directly in the activities of local community and voluntary groups working for and with children and young people aged 0-19.

The funding has been used to set up projects including activities for children with disabilities, breakfast and after school club, arts & crafts workshops, sports sessions, teen-age pregnancy and sex education workshops, drama and music sessions, youth clubs, young ex-offenders mentoring and employment workshops, mother and toddler play groups and many other activities benefiting local children and young people.

HUNDRED FLOWERS CULTURAL CENTRE

Project was funded to organise cultural folk dance classes for children from the Turkish and Kurdish community.

Yusuf Acil the project coordinator said " The project started few months ago and its having a very positive and stimulating effect on the children. It is helping the children to have a better understanding of their cultural heritage and folk dance. He added, " We would like to thank Hackney Local Network Fund for making a difference to the lives of our children and the Kurdish and Turkish community as whole.

Hanife Ayik Cagla 's mother commented, " The dance classes have broadened my daughter's understanding of her own traditional dance. Because she was born in Britain she has little knowledge about her culture. I have also attended some of the seminars and I found them to be very inspiring."

TRAMPOLINE

Trampoline was funded by the Local Network Fund to deliver a series of employment workshops and attitudinal & behavioural sessions for hard to reach BME and young ex- offenders.

Mamady Kourouma Trampoline's co-ordinator said, "The project has increased young people's confidence, self esteem and motivation. So far the project has assisted 23 hard to reach BME young people to find and secure employment, further education or training opportunities. He also added, "The Local Network Fund grant has also enabled our organisation to prove to other mainstream funding providers that local voluntary and community groups have key roles in providing solution to youth poverty and the regeneration process of the local community as established institutions can't reach out to every young person in need of engagement. This project would not certainly have been possible with out the support of the Local Network Fund and the assistance of the LNF Grant officer Nadia Capogrosso and Development officers Kishore Kanani and Kristine Wellington at HCVS.

GFM COMMUNITY RADIO

GFM Community Radio was funded by the Local Network Fund to provide after school African drumming and dance training sessions for children aged 5-19. Nana Sey the project coordinator said " The project has given disadvantaged children and young people mainly from BME communities the opportunity to acquire new skills, unearth their hidden talents and created a better understanding of their cultural heritage. The vigorous African drumming and dancing sessions provided health benefits through improved fitness and reduced risk of obesity. The children were positively engaged and kept off the streets where they are at risk of getting involved in anti social behaviour."

Audrey Asiedu Natalie's and Desmond's mother commented " As a single working mother I was at ease when I found an after school programme which my children enjoy so much. They found the activity to be very exciting and they would come home and show me what they have learnt with great enthusiasm. I can now concentrate at work without worrying about what they will be doing while I am not at home. I hope the programme continues indefinitely.

SONGOLOLO FEET

The Local Network Fund funded Songololo Feet , a textile co-operative, to roll out the 'Nanoo Feet' project, which is a series of creative arts workshops for children aged 3 to 9. Mia and Durrah the project coordinators said "The project immensely benefited the children by allowing them to gain new skills and develop their creative potentials. They learnt different printing techniques such as potato printing, cardboard and aluminium relief printing, linocuts, batik, silkscreen printing, tie - dying and basic garment construction. The children enjoyed the sessions and exhibited their incredible works. They said that they will miss seeing ' Miss Mia' and ' Miss D' and look forward to another similar workshops.

For application pack please call the national call centre on 0845 113 0161 or minicom 18001 0845 130 0161. For further information please call Nadia at HCVS on 020 7923 1962 or email: nadia@hcvs.org.uk

Change Up in Hackney - an update

The London ChangeUp Consortium Planning Group was impressed by the range and quality of work that has been done so far on local and sub-regional plans. Hackney Change Up initial development plan has been accepted and further work on developing the 10 year plan for Hackney is commencing during August. Draft of a 10-year borough plans needs to be submitted to Government Office for London (GOL) by 1st October 2005.

What is Link Up Hackney?
Link Up Hackney is the voluntary sector support advisors network. The network was initiated in Spring 2004 (as the voluntary sector support advisors network - VSSAN) to create a mechanism for co-ordinating capacity building services and raising standards of support. There are now 15 full members with the local authority as an associate member. Link Up Steering group was created in September 2004 to take things forward. In addition to regular network and steering group meetings activities to date include: initial action plan with objectives and deadlines agreed; funding sources identified; series of seminars organised; events sub-group established; lauch/consultation event held on 10 March 2005, with 96 organisations attending; initial Development Plan agreed in July 2005.

The Hackney Vision
Through the ChangeUp Programme, Link Up Hackney will enable its' members to develop capacity building support services which are proactive, joined up, responsive, high quality and sustainable. This support will help shape a sustainable, effective and influential voluntary and community sector, that contributes fully to social capital activities, community engagement and public service delivery, helping make Hackney a better place to live, play, visit and work.

What next?
Link Up Hackney will hold a consultation event on the 10-year plan for Voluntary and Community Sector organisations on 15 September 2005, 10am-1pm. Venue will be confirmed at the later date.

What is ChangeUp?
ChangeUp is a joint government and voluntary-sector vision of how support for the voluntary sector should develop by 2014. It is a government funding stream designed to improve voluntary and community sector infrastructure. In Hackney Change Up is being developed through Link Up Hackney Network.

For more information contact
Suzana Sheppard, Director, Hackney Voluntary Action
Tel: 020 7241 4443
e-mail: managingdirector@hackneyvoluntaryaction.org.uk
or see www.hackneyvoluntaryaction.org.uk

LinkUP hackney

the funding directory

The information in this directory is produced by the Charities Information Bureau. To subscribe directly please go to www.cibfunding.org.uk or email Andrew@the-cib.demon.co.uk. The Charities Information Bureau is registered charity (no. 1059077).

New * National Lottery Day - National Lottery Awards 2005
Tying in with the 2005 National Lottery Awards will be this year's National Lottery Day, which will take place on Saturday 5th November. This year they are encouraging projects to highlight activities that focus on Lottery support benefiting children and young people. However, nobody is excluded, so if you have an idea for an alternative event we would still like to hear about it. The aim of National Lottery Day is to raise awareness of lottery-funded projects and celebrate what has been achieved. If you would like to find out more about how you can get involved and how to register your event, please check out Website: www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk
Events should be registered by Friday 16th September.

***New * Baring - The Strengthening the Voluntary Sector programme - 2006**
The Baring Foundation has been reviewing its programme Strengthening the Voluntary Sector. This is currently composed of project grants up to £30,000 through open application and core costs grants, usually of £75,000 over three years which are only available through an invitation offered by the Foundation. Geographical limitations apply. They have decided next year to merge these two streams into a single fund of larger grants. It is likely that these will range from £20,000 - £100,000 and be for up to five years. They will be open to application through an annual bidding process throughout the UK and will be focussed by one or more organisational development themes. Applications for sums under £20,000 therefore will not be considered after the end of this year. New guidelines will be issued in early 2006 and available on the web-site or by phoning the Foundation.
The Baring Foundation, 60 London Wall, London EC2M 5TQ Tel: 020 7767 1348 Website: www.baringfoundation.org.uk

***New * Big Lottery Fund - UnLtd - Big Boost**
Big Lottery Fund is announcing the start of a new partnership with UnLtd that will help thousands of young people in England to make their community improvement ideas a reality with £10 million of lottery cash. Following a tendering process, the Fund has appointed UnLtd as an award partner to deliver The Big Boost under the Grants to Individuals strand of its new Young People's Fund programme in England.
The Big Boost programme will award grants of between £250 and £5,000 to help individuals and small groups of young people, aged between 11 and 25 years old, deliver projects in their local areas. It will encourage social entrepreneurship among young people from all backgrounds, helping individuals develop projects, which will make a lasting difference to them and to their communities.
The programme will support a wide range of youth ideas from school-based enterprises through to larger scale, community projects (examples may range from a counselling helpline for young people, to a youth magazine, which raises awareness of racism). The programme will use strict assessment and monitoring criteria, including face-to-face interviews and follow-up procedures, to ensure that it reaches its target audience, including young people from deprived communities. UnLtd - the Foundation for Social Entrepreneurs, is a charitable organisation that wants to support and develop the role of social entrepreneurs as a force for positive change in the United Kingdom. It will lead delivery of the Big Boost programme in partnership with The Prince's Trust, Scarman Trust and Changemakers.
By working closely with the Big Lottery Fund over the past few months, UnLtd has been able to develop new tools and approaches which will ensure young people are the ones responsible for planning and carrying out projects. This new approach acknowledges the key principle at the heart of the Young People's Fund - that young people should be involved at every stage of the programme. The programme will be launched in September 2005 with applications forms available immediately after that and it will be promoted through existing and new, youth focussed networks of UnLtd and its delivery partners. Full details of the Big Lottery Fund programmes and grant awards are available at Website: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk
Contact UnLtd or see website for their regional offices Tel: 0845 850 1122 Email: info@unltd.org.uk Website: www.unltd.org.uk

***New * The Big Lottery Fund**
The Peoples Millions competition is now closed for 2005, but will reopen in spring 2006. Positive Activities for Young People - The Department for Education and Skills and New Opportunities Fund are joining forces with Youth Justice Board, Home Office and Department for Culture, Media and Sport, to combine existing Connexions Summer Plus and Splash schemes and run a new Positive Activities for Young People scheme, which was launched this summer, to give greater help and support to vulnerable young people.

The delivery of this programme focuses mainly on a regional structure based around Government Offices. Essentially, the

Government Offices have identified a range of lead organisations/providers (i.e. Youth Offending Teams, Connexions Services etc) at the local level and have established a working partnership to oversee the programme in each region. Funding available under this programme has been allocated to the regional Government Offices. The first year of projects has now finished, and the Government Offices are beginning work on planning their second year of activities. Earlier this year The Big Lottery Fund announced first wave of funding within its new framework to deliver new funding programmes for 2005 - 2009. The first of which are due to come on stream shortly and will be the environmental grants. Demand-led programmes and streams will account for one third of all funding UK-wide. The Big Lottery Fund's themes and outcomes and the results from the public consultation will provide the policy framework, with the emphasis on projects identifying needs and offering solutions to local issues. The level of prescription will be minimal, allowing a very broad range of applicants and projects to apply. The Fund has also committed to the principle of full cost recovery and will provide funding for all relevant costs associated with delivering projects we support.

The remaining two thirds of funding in England will be allocated to a range of strategic programmes which will allow specific policy areas to be supported in a more targeted way. The areas decided so far for strategic funding include: Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure (£155million) - Following the public consultation and detailed discussions with key infrastructure bodies, the Big Lottery Fund's Board has agreed that VCS Infrastructure should form a strategic funding initiative in England, covering financing advice, resource centres, developing generic infrastructure in areas currently without it, sharing learning and best practice, governance and cross sector partnership influencing.

Children's Play (£155million) - Based on the recommendations of the report Getting Serious about Play, the Fund will invest £155 million in England over three years in the establishment of a strategic fund to create and improve local children's play spaces in areas of greatest need. Grants will be awarded to projects to develop, create, improve and design innovative children's play facilities with the aim of providing free local play provision for youngsters.

Environmental Programmes (£354 million) - Funding programmes will be developed to enable the Fund to meet the outcome of "improved rural and urban environments, which communities are better able to access and enjoy." This area of funding will include £90 million of funding for parks, which will be run in conjunction with the Heritage Lottery Fund, building on their successful parks programme.

This extra funding will allow the programme to expand and provide support for a wider range of projects across the country. The remaining funding will focus on projects that support and develop community spaces; local community enterprise, including local food production and farming; and access to the natural environment aimed at the conservation and enhancement of the natural landscape with improved access for everyone. Wellbeing Programmes (£165 million) - In response to the consultation process, which has identified a number of areas as having potential gaps where investment could be beneficial, the Fund has identified a number of priorities to support "healthier and more active people and communities". These will include encouraging healthier lifestyles through community sport, physical activity and healthy eating; an intervention programme for common mental health conditions; supporting sustainable and active travel initiatives, that will enable more people to walk and cycle as part of their everyday lives; and a focus on alcohol harm reduction. International Grants (£60 million) - The International grants programme will be increased to £20 million a year from next year. The programme, which will combine both demand-led and strategic elements, will retain its focus on health, education, natural resources and human rights while adding a new priority of economic empowerment.

Big Lottery Fund, 1 Plough Place, London EC4A 1DE Tel: 020 7211 1800 Textphone: 0845 039 0204 Fax: 020 7211 1750 Email: enquiries@biglotteryfund.org.uk Big Advice Line Tel 0845 4 10 20 30 Website: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

Details of forthcoming Big Lottery programmes are included in document England and UK Programmes 2006-2009 downloadable from Website: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/assets/new_programmes.pdf

*New * Safer London Foundation

The Foundation is able to provide a wide range of support for innovative community based crime reduction projects in London . In addition to providing financial help, SLF is also able to provide volunteers from their Skills Bank with a wide range of skills and expertise in areas such as project management, fundraising, mentoring and IT. For further information about the SLF Skills Bank please see the Volunteer section of their website.

Funding is available for both capital and revenue costs for projects costing up to £20,000 with larger funding available for London wide projects. Applications are welcomed from all areas of London where individuals, community groups, charities and Safer Neighbourhood Police Teams want to develop innovative projects to reduce crime and create safer neighbourhoods.

In the first instance, please complete the SLF funding application form available on their website and return it to Melissa Luckin. One of their Operations Managers will then contact you to discuss your application in more detail. The Grants Committee meet every two months and applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application within 10 working days following the meeting.

If you require any additional information, or assistance in completing the Grant Application Form please contact Melissa Luckin. Safer London Foundation, 235 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NW Tel: 020 7021 0301

Fax: 020 7021 0302 Email: info@saferlondonfoundation.org

Website: www.saferlondonfoundation.org

Trust for London

The Trust for London is a registered charity set up in 1986 to fund small voluntary charitable organisations in London. They believe that local people are often in the best position to identify the problems that affect their lives and the possible solutions to those problems. They also believe that small, new and emerging voluntary organisation can significantly improve the lives of people and communities in London. They will fund and, where appropriate, work with new and emerging small voluntary organisations that benefit people and communities in London.

They will give voluntary organisations funding to: identify needs and deliver services; gain access to training opportunities; organise meetings, conferences, seminars and events which identify problems, raise awareness, explore solutions, or promote good practice.

They will also work with other funding organisations and funded groups to identify emerging needs and to develop and make appropriate responses.

Their funding can be used to cover: everyday costs and overheads, including the costs of heating, lighting, phone calls, postage, rent and Council tax; one-off capital costs for buying equipment; the costs of paying for sessional and part-time staff. They do not fund full-time staff either in full or in part.

They are particularly keen to fund work with: Black, Asian and minatory ethnic community organisations; organisations providing creative educational activities for children and young people, including supplementary and mother-tongue schools; the costs of paying for sessional and part-time staff; organisations run by disabled peoplke for disabled people, including people with learning disabilities, people living with HIV or AIDS, and people with mental health problems; refugee and migrant groups; self-help groups.

They will provide funding up to a maximum of £10,000 per year. They do not provide funding for more than three years in a row. The application process takes quite a long time, so you need to contact them at least three months before the relevant deadline. The Grants Committee meets four times a year, in March, June, September and December.

Trust for London, 6 Middle Street, London, EC1A 7PH Tel: 020 7606 6145 Fax: 020 7600 1866 Email: trustforlondon@cityparochial.org.uk Website: www.cityparochial.org.uk

Deputy Prime Minister's Award for Sustainable Communities 2005 Following on from the great success of last year's awards, entries are being invited for this year's Deputy Prime Minister's Awards for Sustainable Communities.

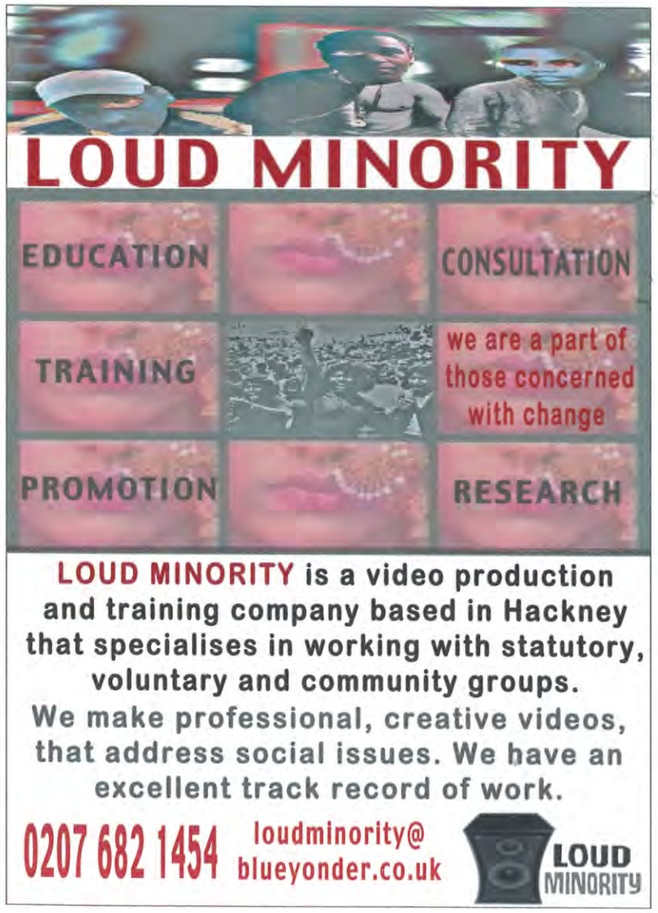
The awards recognise people, projects and initiatives that contribute to making towns, cities and communities, including those in rural areas, better places in which to live and work. They pay tribute to those people whose commitment and enthusiasm are making a significant contribution towards the building of thriving and successful communities.

Entries are invited for projects and initiatives of all types and sizes and any person, including those directly connected with the project or initiative, may submit an entry, which will be considered by a panel of independent judges with a wide level of expertise in regeneration matters.

The whole process will be administered, on behalf of the ODPM, by The British Urban Regeneration Association (BURA), whose objective is the identification and promotion of best practice in urban regeneration.

Entries must be received by Monday, 5 September 2005. The award ceremony acknowledging the achievements of the finalists and showcasing good practice will be held early in 2006. Last year's overall winner was the Grange Park Community Project in Blackpool. The other finalists were Chatham Maritime and the Historic Dockyard, Chatham, Kent; Joining Up Northumberland Park, Tottenham, London; and the Urban and Rural Renaissance Initiative, County Durham.

To apply on-line please visit Website: www.bura.org.uk Further information on and entry forms for the award can be obtained by contacting: BURA - E-mail: awards@bura.org.uk ODPM - E-mail: awards@odpm.gov.uk or on Website: www.odpm.gov.uk



What would improve life in your community?

What could you do with £2,000?

The Scarman Trust is looking for potential Community Champions!

If you live in London and you have an idea for a new project in your community, we want to hear from you.

Perhaps you want to start a music club, a community garden, or a neighbourhood newsletter. Or maybe you want to run a homework club, a support group, or recycling project.

The Scarman Trust is offering awards of between £1,500 and £2,000 to individuals. You could use the money to hire a room, buy materials, or pay for training – whatever your project needs.

Along with the money, we offer on-going support, training, guidance and coaching.

call 020 7713 9306 for an application pack

www.thescarmantrust.org/london/next.htm

The deadline for applications is Wednesday 28th September 2005.

EUROPEAN UNION
European Social Fund

Can Do
THE SCARMAN TRUST

community Champions
Put the heart back into communities

LEWIS HANSON Greetings

QUALITY MULTI-CULTURAL GREETING CARDS.....

FOR ALL OCCASIONS.

BUY & SEND A LHG CARD TODAY!!

'MAKE SOMEONE HAPPY'

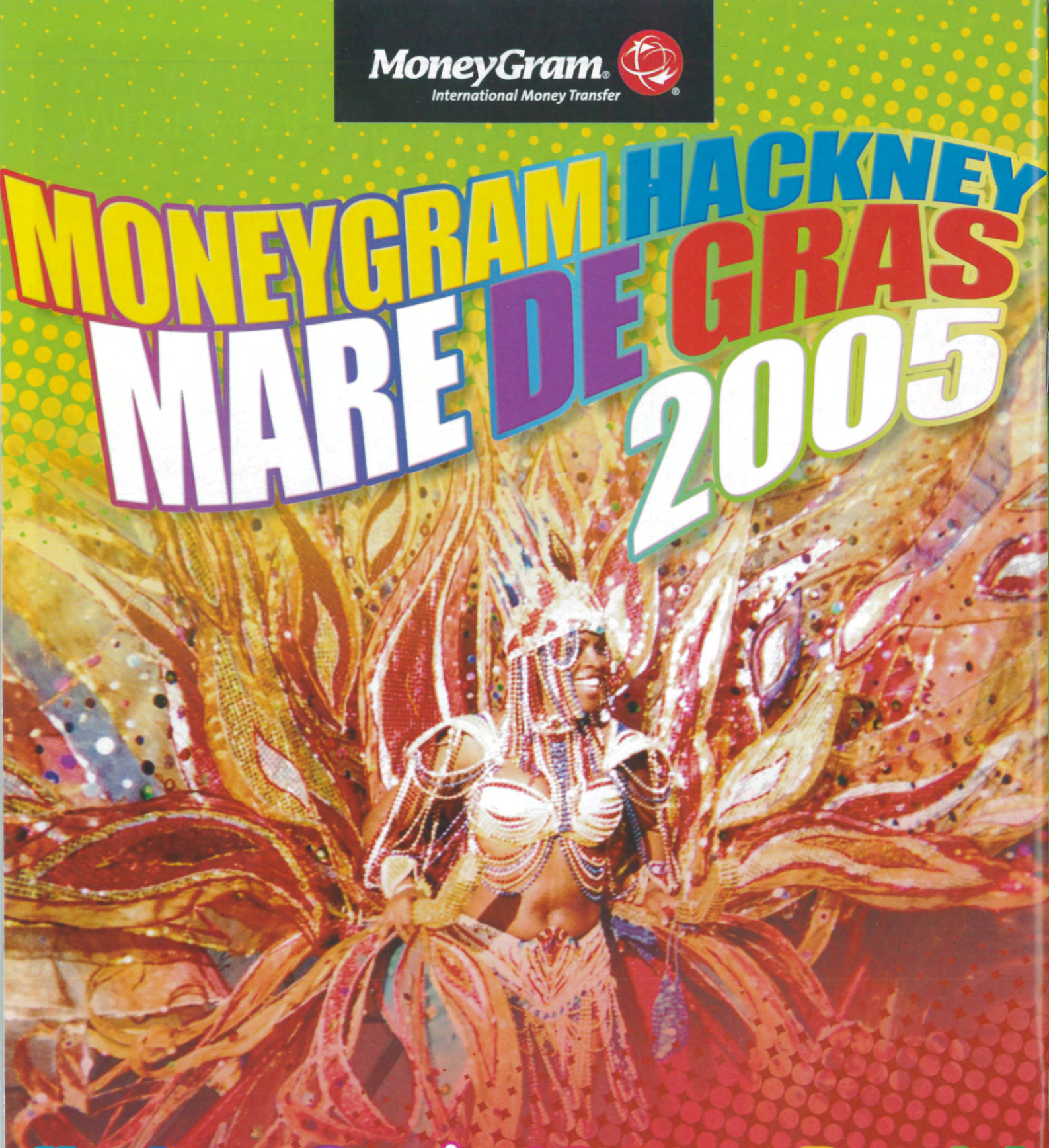
BIG UP YOUR LOVED ONES, FAMILY & FRIENDS

LEWIS HANSON GREETINGS LTD

The Print House 18-22 Ashwin Street London E8 3DL
Tel/Fax: +44 (0)20 7254 0920 Mob: +44 (0)7831 377 587
www.lhgcards.co.uk E-mail: greetings@lhgcards.co.uk

MoneyGram
International Money Transfer

MONEYGRAM HACKNEY MARDE GRAS 2005



Hackney Carnival & Street Parade!

SUNDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2005

Procession Starts @ Ridley Rd, Dalston, London E8 Time: 12pm-5pm

Festival hotline: 020 7254 9632 or visit us at: www.centerprisetrust.org.uk

MoneyGram International Money Transfer | Centerprise | H S P Hackney Strategic Partnership | sn www.socanews.com | ncvs