

# The Neighbourhood Issue

## HOLLY STREET

a Neighbourhood  
torn apart by  
drugs speaks



## NEWS FROM THE SECTOR

Teenage Kicks  
cup winners



## HEALTH

BEMWG Refugee  
guide published in  
many languages



The magazine for Hackney's voluntary & community sector

# SPARK

Winter 2005



## What will become of Dalston?

In this issue:

Muslim, Jewish and  
Christian faith profiles

The Olympic debate

Local Area Agreements

CAPACITY BUILDING:  
Monitoring & evaluation

Refugee Premises  
Needs Survey

HOLLY STREET - a  
neighbourhood talks

Teenage pregnancy -  
Special feature

HCVS's Objective 2  
European Programme

News from the sector

# adverti se 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@hcv.org.uk](mailto:jake@hcv.org.uk) HCVS members get discounts - see below.

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NEWS FROM THE SECTOR	4
SPARK INTERVIEW - ADIAHA ANTIGHA	10
FAITH TO FAITH	13
FEATURE - DALSTON DEVELOPMENT	20
MORE NEWS FROM THE SECTOR	30
ARTS & CULTURE	34
FEATURE - HOLLY STREET NEIGHBOURHOOD	36
ESF OBJECTIVE 2	45
CAPACITY BUILDING - DOC ISSUE 3	46
SPECIAL FEATURE - TEENAGE PREGNANCY	56
CHANGE UP IN HACKNEY	62
HCVS PROJECTS - LEAD & LEGAL ADVICE	63
THE OLYMPICS	66
FUNDING DIRECTORY	71



It's that time of year - things to do, presents to buy, people to meet. Well - for those living the life of leisure maybe. We here at SPARK have literally worn the skin off our fingers to get this edition to you before the New Year.

Its packed with up to date news and gets to the core of many of the big neighbourhood issues of the moment - namely the dispersal of Holly Street and the planned development for Dalston. Regular readers will no doubt be accustomed to SPARK's style. We aim to give all sides to the story and help those in the community without a strong voice to be heard. ALL THE BEST FOR 2007.

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Thanks to everyone who supplied articles and information for this edition

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

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).

# Teenage Kicks Cup winners

Teenage Kicks was started in 2002 by local residents who felt that there were too many young people "hanging around, causing trouble and not doing anything". They approached SKY Partnership for help and Teenage Kicks was born.



EC1 12-14



EC1 15-18



Heatwave Alpha



L.M.D

The tournament has teams for boys and girls aged 12-14 and 15-18. Each team consists of 7 - 9 players with a Manager who can anywhere between 12 - 30 plus years old. Before the tournament started, all Managers had to attend a Managers meeting which included a conflict resolution workshop. This workshop

### What young people say about the event

'TK Rules'

'TK is Da Bomb'

'TK is a great event which brings together youth in every area'

'It is a very good place to show off your football skills'

was very successful and a lot of issues were resolved before the games started, i.e. rules of the games, role of the Managers, what is expected of the teams etc.

Teenage Kicks attracted 65 teams of which 57 actually registered. 570 young teenagers came from Hackney and Islington estates, youth clubs, schools, the local Islamic Centre and many other local community groups including Shoreditch Street Wardens.

The tournament acts as a deterrent to crime, drugs or boredom on a Friday night and the opportunity for local youths to be spotted by talent scouts. One of the reasons SKY held the tournament again this year was because a lot of the young people who participated in the games live within neighbouring estates of each other, yet they don't mix because of the inter-estate rivalry. Many of the boys are afraid to cross the road for fear of being attacked by other gangs, so it was a very proud moment for SKY to see them all playing football with each other. Alice Phillip, SKY Partnership Manager said "This project is a real testament of the voluntary sector in Shoreditch working together in the face of council cuts".

This year Special Guests included Danielle Shittu, QPR's best player, Chris Riley and Under 18's player for Tottenham Hotspur and Clcouncillors Fran Pearson and Rita Krishna who all presented trophies to the teams. UBS Bank provided refreshments and snacks for over 300 young people each night. 100 volunteers helped out as stewards, looking after the football teams, admin tasks in the office, refereeing, score keeping and publicity.

SKY Partnership stands for South Kingsland Youth, a voluntary sector youth project in South Hackney established in 2001 to provide guidance, information and support to young people through encouragement, participation and development of local services.

### 1st place winners of the Cup and Plate Competition

Cup 15 - 18 - Boys

1st - LMD (From Homerton)

Cup 15 - 18 - Girls

1st - EC1 (From EC1)

Cup 12 - 14 Boys

1st - Heatwave Youth Alpha (Shoreditch)

Cup 12 - 14 Boys

1st - EC1 (From EC1)

Plate 15 - 18 Boys

1st - Somalia Youth (From Leyton)

Plate 15 - 18 Girls

1st - Copenhagen

Plate 12 - 14 Boys

1st - Incredibles (Shoreditch)

Plate 12 - 14 Girls

1st - Wardens (Shoreditch)

SKY Partnership is seeking sponsorship for this football tournament in 2006. If you can help or for more information please contact Ebony Skerritt, Teenage Kicks Co-ordinator on 020 7729 6970.

# Have you got a Warm Home?



Left to right – Laurence Budge, Age-Concern Approved Contractor, Mr Yusuf, happy recipient of Warm Homes Scheme and Olexandra Stepaniuk, Age Concern

**"The idea is to make older people's homes more comfortable for them to live in, to help reduce the risk of hypothermia and the cost of fuel bills, and at the same time lower the level of CO2 emissions in the environment" said Age Concern Hackney's Chief Officer, Olexandra Stepaniuk.**

**T**he over 60's now have a chance to help reduce global warming and simultaneously warm up their homes under measures introduced in the Warm Homes scheme recently launched by Age Concern Hackney. People over 60, on benefits or on a low income and who live in their own homes or rent from a private landlord are entitled to a whole raft of home improvements. Age Concern will

arrange for draught proofing, loft and water tank insulation, the fitting of a new boiler and, if necessary, new central heating. The scheme also addresses damp and condensation problems.

In addition, Warm Homes will advise householders on how to save energy in the home, thereby reducing fuel bills, on finding the best offer on fuel bills and on maximising their income by having a benefits check.

Information on cold weather payments and winter fuel payments is also available from Age Concern this winter.

**The Warm Homes scheme runs until March 2006 so if you think you're eligible, don't delay, call Age Concern's Warm Homes Co-ordinator, Jo Bridger, today on 020 7241-5906 or pop in to their offices at 22 Dalston Lane to pick up an application form.**

## **AGE CONCERN HACKNEY COLDLINE PROJECT COLDLINE EMERGENCY WINTER HELPLINE 0207 241 2299**

The winter is approaching and Age Concern Hackney Coldline will be operating its 24-hour Emergency Winter Helpline in conjunction with London Borough of Hackney (Out of Hours service) from 1st November 05 to 31st March 2006. The Coldline project specifically works with vulnerable groups (older people, people with disabilities and families with children under 5).

The Coldline Project will be able to assist you by providing

Advice on ways to stay warm this winter

Advice on saving energy in the home

Advice on benefit checks & applications

Delivery of emergency equipment (such as heaters and hot plates) to vulnerable people to stay warm & well

Please contact Age Concern Hackney Coldline Emergency Winter Helpline if you need help and assistance this coming winter or to prevent potential ill health because of the cold.

**EMERGENCY WINTER HELPLINE NO: 020 7241 2299**

# Chats Lunch Club Community Health Day

an account by Suj Ahmed, Community Development Worker at Social Action for Health

**C**hats Lunch Club held a Community Health Day on Saturday 24th September at the Basement Hall, Clapton Park Methodist Church, 99 Chatsworth Road.



Chats Lunch Club is an Older Peoples Lunch club based in Chatsworth Road. Most of the users are African Caribbean but the club is open to all sections of the community. The club is run and organised voluntarily by some of its members. The Club was set up by Clapton Park Methodist Church, and uses its premises. The main co-ordinator is Beatrice McClean who is 70 years young. She has boundless energy and commitment, and works tirelessly for the club. She is an inspiration to us all. As well as providing a cooked lunch

every Thursday, the club offers exercise classes, yoga classes, health speakers and practitioners, and social events. For the past 18 months Social Action for Health has been helping the Club to access funding, book health speakers and practitioners.

This was the first Community Health Day the club has held. Over 85 adults and children came along (more than we expected!) and enjoyed the day. There were various stalls, activities, health practitioners and food. The activities included massage, Indian head massage, reflexology, blood pressure checks, a talk on managing medicines, an art workshop for children and a 'Healthy Moves' exercise session. Entertainment included Quadrant dancing display and workshop, a live Piano recital, and a sing-a-long.

The following organisations helped to make the Community Health Day such a success.

[www.hcvs.org.uk](http://www.hcvs.org.uk)

[www.awhackney.org](http://www.awhackney.org)

[www.disabilityhackney.org](http://www.disabilityhackney.org)

[www.hoxtonhealthgroup.org.uk](http://www.hoxtonhealthgroup.org.uk)

[www.inshapeinhackney.org.uk](http://www.inshapeinhackney.org.uk)

[www.safh.org.uk](http://www.safh.org.uk)

A big Thank You from the Chats Club to the Community Empowerment Network for funding the day, to Rev Shaun Sanders, Joyce Hewitt and especially to Beatrice McClean from the Luncheon Club for arranging the food and hall and everything else. To health practitioners Florent Chastagner, Ann Miller, Rose Maxwell, Elsa, Juliet Namarome and to Quadrant Dance group.

**More info from Suj Ahmed, Tel:020 7275 2736, Email: [suja@safh.org.uk](mailto:suja@safh.org.uk)**

# Hackney Council wins communication award

**H**ackney Council's innovative work with young people and faith communities was recognised recently when it was awarded the prestigious Chartered Institute of Public Relations Excellence in Communication Award for its Good Place to Grow Up consultation.

The team fought off competition from Chelmsford and Southwark Councils to claim top prize at the awards ceremony in Cardiff on Friday, 23 September for its imaginative one year consultation to find out what will

make Hackney a Good Place to Grow Up.

Working with partners in education, health and the voluntary sector, Hackney's challenge was to produce a strategy setting out how the Council planned to make the borough a good place to grow up. The Council set out to involve local people from all Hackney's communities, especially young people, to get their views - 1,500 local people played an active role.

Working with faith groups, ethnic community groups, schools, and the country's only children's news agency, Children's Express, the Council was able to engage hundreds of people from all backgrounds and age groups. The feedback received enabled Hackney to produce a strategy that reflected the needs and aspirations of its communities.

Cllr Carole Williams said: 'This award recognises the work we have done and we are very proud to receive it.'

# Developing Information Resources & Improving Services to Refugees

Anna Collard provides us with an insight into the Welcome guide for refugees

The Black & Ethnic Minority Working Group (BEMWG) announced the launch of its new Welcome to Hackney Refugee Guide to Health & Social Care Services PDF, at its AGM on 29 September.

The Welcome Guide is aimed at helping smaller refugee and community groups, some of whose workers may themselves be recent arrivals to the borough. More generally, it is for those service providers in all sectors who may not have easy access to refugee or cross

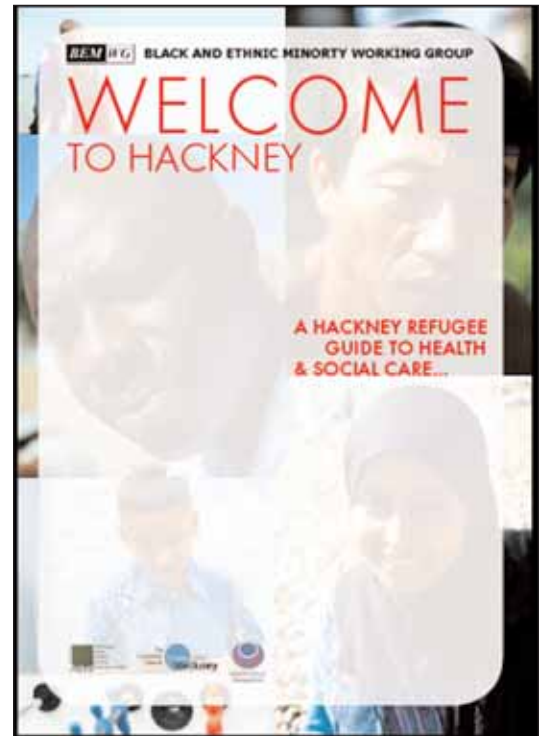
**The Chinese, French, Spanish, Somali & Turkish versions will be available by the end of the year**

service information in the normal course of their work. Earlier work carried out by BEMWG, for example, drew attention to local teachers' needs for a better understanding of health services; requests from GPs for access to more community information and queries about the availability of mental health services among refugee community groups.

With an emphasis on health, social care and education, the Guide brings together in one place some basic information, key links and contacts for a range of local services. Where possible language specific services or those with bi-lingual workers have been identified. Some procedures and

referral routes to mainstream services have also been highlighted and there is a glossary of health related terms and about the roles of different NHS health workers. The Guide is by no means comprehensive, however, but aims to provide some first POINTERS to other sources of information and resources which may be of general use to those working with and wishing to improve their services to Hackney's diverse refugee communities.

The Guide PDF grew out of an earlier, printed information booklet intended for distribution to refugee users themselves. The booklet was part of a refugee and asylum seeker project undertaken by BEMWG through City & Hackney PCT's Neighbourhood Renewal Programme which, among other things, highlighted an urgent need for more and better information about health and social care services in particular. Since its publication in 2004, feedback on the booklet suggested that it should be targeted at workers rather than users, as a first step, partly because refugees were thought to be more likely -initially at least - to seek face-to-face oral information from community groups. It was also felt that the information should be available in a more flexible Portable Document Format (PDF) for use on computers and available on CD. Such a format is also more sustainable: easier to update, less



The creation of the PDF was supported by the Single Community Programme (Community chest) through HCVS and City & Hackney PCT's Neighbourhood Renewal Unit. The PDF was designed by Ochee design + art direction & compiled by A. Collard on behalf of BEMWG.

costly and additional languages can be more readily added. It will shortly be available in Chinese, French, Spanish, Somali and Turkish as well as in English.

The Welcome to Hackney Guide is not just a source of information but, BEMWG hopes, something pleasant to use and above all a reminder of the rich diversity which lies behind the drive to know, understand more and provide better services.

**For further information on the English version contact BEMWG, Unit C4, 3 Bradbury Street, N16 8JN Telephone: 020 7275 9875, email: [post@bemwg.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:post@bemwg.fsnet.co.uk)**

# Inspiring challenges for Hackney Students



Inspire, the new education business partnership for Hackney, began actively working with local schools early in 2005. The aim of this independent organisation is to work with education providers, business and the community to inspire, support and open doors for young people in Hackney's schools and colleges, giving them access to a world of choices and opportunities that may otherwise have remained out of reach. Inspire places a particular emphasis on helping young people to prepare for and learn about the world of work.

Among the wide-ranging initiatives through which Inspire prepares students for life after school is the Challenge Programme. This is designed by and delivered in partnership with the youth development charity, FOCUS and brings together teams of young people, with a trained facilitator, to undertake a project that benefits

the local community.

Several challenges have taken place but the most ambitious involved The Skinners' Company's School for Girls. "We had more than 100 students working in teams on 14 separate projects. Each brief was set by a local community or voluntary group - or a school - and the girls were required to interpret the requirements and deliver an end result," explains Kita Jiwani, Inspire's secondary project manager.

Challenges ranged from playground murals and creating gardens at Early Years Centres, nurseries, primary schools and the London Wildlife Trust to organising a tea party for users of the Alsen Day Care Centre for the Elderly.

The students were provided with support and guidance on planning, project management, team working,

**'It's really great fun and you feel proud with yourself when it is finished'**

leadership, budgeting and working to deadlines as they began creating and implementing their ideas. Each team had three days to complete its task.

At Tyssen Primary School, they created a pond area. The girls came up with the plan, completed the digging, installed the pond liner and laid slabs around the perimeter. They even found time to make some signs asking the children not to feed the fish! "It's really great fun and you feel proud with yourself when it is finished," said student, Samantha Cachia.

Another team organised a tea party for members of the Alsen Day Centre.



Working to a fixed budget, they planned the menu, bought the refreshments and laid on an afternoon to remember. One student entertained with a Turkish belly dance and another gave a musical performance.

Inspire and FOCUS, will be working with more schools and community groups on another series of Challenge Programmes during this academic year.

All Hackney secondary school students are entitled to a two-week work experience placement and Inspire is the organisation that sources and manages these, generating around 1,500 placements every year. The local voluntary sector has been extremely supportive in hosting places. Five new charities took students for the first time this year - Hackney Marsh Partnership, Laburnum Boat Club, The Salvation Army, The Sharp End and the Worldwide Volunteer Centre.

Students learn what working life will be like and the placement may influence their eventual choice of career. The host organisation gains an additional resource for a couple of weeks with a chance for staff to enhance their leadership, coaching and supervisory skills and perhaps gain a new perspective on working practices.

"We have an ambitious portfolio of work-related learning and enterprise projects for schools this academic year. Many will offer opportunities to the voluntary sector to interface with our young people to set them on a path to a positive and rewarding future," says Inspire director, Denise Barrows.

# inspire!

THE NEW EDUCATION  
BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP  
FOR HACKNEY

Inspire is an independent organisation that works with businesses, education providers and the community to deliver a wide range of work-related learning opportunities to young people in Hackney schools. Inspire's programmes complement the national curriculum and range from numeracy and literacy support to work place visits, career talks and practical projects that teach employability skills.

Contact: Inspire, Hackney Technology & Learning Centre, 1 Reading Lane, London E8 1GQ. Tel: 020 8820 7121. Fax: 020 8820 7426. Email: [info@inspire-ebp.org.uk](mailto:info@inspire-ebp.org.uk).  
Website: [www.inspire-ebp.org.uk](http://www.inspire-ebp.org.uk)

## Need furniture or training to make it yourself?



**M**orph is the trading subsidiary of Pecan Ltd, a charity who train and assist people in getting jobs. As a social enterprise, Morph was conceived with three equal objectives in mind: sustainable waste reduction, and recycling; the provision of good quality reuse furniture for the general public but particularly for those on a low income; and to give employment training for the unemployed and those seeking work experience.

Morph volunteers are primarily those who have valuable skills and abilities that have not been recognised or developed and are often socially excluded. This frequently means the unemployed and ex-offenders. Equally, Morph have training and employment organisations who regularly submit clients who require current work experience.

The Morph team are enthusiastic and appreciative about people who want to support this project through donating their time - even one hour a week would make a difference for both parties. No experience is necessary as full training is provided, however those with an interest in furniture or some prior knowledge are especially welcome. So, if you would like to work either in our café and furniture shop learning or brushing up on your retail skills or assisting our driver in the warehouse, delivering and collecting furniture then contact Morph right away.

**Morph**, 19-23 Kingsland Road, London, E2 8AA. Telephone: 020 7168 2531 or email: [info@morph.org.uk](mailto:info@morph.org.uk) 10 minutes from Liverpool Street, Old Street and Shoreditch Stations. Buses 67, 149, 242 and 243.

# The *SPARK* interview

**A**diaha Antigha is the Director of HCVS, Hackney's leading VCS support agency in Hackney. She is an elected member of the Community Empowerment Network (CEN) representing voluntary sector umbrella issues, and one of two voluntary and community sector (VCS) reps on the main Hackney Strategic Partnership (HSP) Board. Adiaha has over 25 years experience of community development, has been a School and College Governor and has a particularly interest in empowering local people to participate in issues that affect their lives. *SPARK* interviewed Adiaha about her role on the HSP.



**What do you think of the 'Fresh Start', Penny Thompson, the new Chief Executive of the Council, has initiated for the HSP?**

Initially, it felt like yet another upheaval, yet more change, and I wasn't clear of the benefits. However, more recently there have been significant improvements in the way that the HSP is functioning. It feels like a real 'fresh start' and people have begun to be able to address things in a much more honest, open and practical manner. We are only at the start of this process but I feel positive that the HSP partner agencies are going forward in good faith - it's beginning to feel like a genuine partnership. The HSP is becoming more distinct as a partnership as opposed to an 'arm' of the Council. The newly appointed HSP Director, Ian Lewis, who starts in the New Year, hopefully will have pivotal role in developing our HSP. Having HSP Board Champions from different HSP partner agencies means that we will all find out about each others areas of work (each champion leads

on a cause that is not their own e.g. Simon Pountain, Police Commander leads on Community engagement ).

**What does the fresh start mean for the CEN and the sector?**

Hopefully, it means that the CEN and the VCS will become genuine partners and make a significant contribution to the work of the HSP and its partners and have their contribution recognised and valued. I also strongly believe that it will help the VCS to participate in the delivery of the HSP's objectives, which will mean real investment in the sector.

**As a CEN rep for the Voluntary Sector and an HSP Board member, what challenges face the CEN over the next few years?**

The CEN is three years old now and has had travelled a hard road. But we have persevered now that we approach the end of that road we need to look back and assess what are our achievements, our strengths and weaknesses and lessons learned before moving on to the next phase. This will ensure that we are fit for purpose for the CEN's role in participating in Local Area Agreements. Some of the challenges we face are firstly, validating our positive role as partners which I referred to earlier and gaining full acceptance of our partners on the HSP. Secondly feeding back to the broader VCS and CEN about our experiences and what impact we are having. An finally, developing a

better profile and ensuring that even more people are aware of our activities on their behalf and what progress we are making. The work we have done to establish a CEN Network of Networks is a strong starting place. We need to further develop this and ensure maximum involvement and ownership of the CEN and its networks. At the moment the CEN is developing its business case to establish a community investment strategy funded in the main through the HSP to maximise investment for the sector. This business case will allow us to negotiate from a position of demonstrable needs in the community and to build on the good practice in the sector.

**What role will the voluntary and community sector have in Local Area Agreements?**

In Hackney HSP Board members have only just begun to address Local Area Agreements and so it remains to be seen what the VCS's role will be but, we have a year in 2006/7 to work up to us playing a key role as partners in this Central Government agenda. According to NACVS 'the VCS has a key role [in LAAs]. It could, for instance, contribute to the evaluation of how local people are able to influence the service design and delivery and how they access them. Whilst there is no new money specifically attached to the LAA, if the VCS can demonstrate its value the LSP ought to make resources available for new and existing activities. These could range from capacity building, service delivery and providing a voice for local people and groups on the key issues'. I think hits the nail on the head and I will be working to make sure that we in the sector participate fully.

**'What makes me proud is that the CEN has overseen and developed a robust grants administration programme which has invested in hundreds and hundreds of community groups and distributed millions of pounds'**

**What has the CEN done best over the last few years? And what has it done worst?**

Its come together as a very diverse group with different agendas and interest, often with very little history of working together previously. As such it has survived over a three year period, despite many ups and downs. The CEN has had difficulties having its role understood by both the statutory and voluntary sector. What makes me proud is that the CEN has overseen and developed a robust grants administration programme which has invested in hundreds and hundreds of community groups and distributed millions of pounds. Its documentation and policies are nationally recognised good practice. However, so far, the CEN has failed to demonstrate its positive contribution to the HSP and neighbourhood renewal in Hackney. This, in my opinion, is a problem of perceptions and prejudgements on both sides and the fact that we have been so focussed on delivery that we have failed to market and profile what we do best.

**What's it like being the CEN's Accountable Body?**

It's a balancing act. We have to keep the CEN, HSP and Government Office for London up to date and satisfied with what we have been tasked to do. Above all we have to ensure good practice, transparency and probity at all times. It's very enjoyable being responsible for the distribution of funds to small community groups. The CEN has worked extremely hard with HCVS to do this well. I am very proud of what we have achieved together over the past three years.

**There's lots of talk about devolving responsibility to local neighbourhoods - What is a neighbourhood in your opinion?**

It's an area that people identify themselves with. Unfortunately it often becomes a theoretical label attached for the benefit of those tasked with delivering services in a particular area. This is often in conflict with how local people view their area or their communities.

**What does your role as Lead Champion for Strategic Commissioning involve?**

This is a huge challenge which I am pleased to accept. It involves working with partners and officers in the HSP to develop and implement a process of assessing need, allocating resources, defining priorities and determining how best they are delivered. It also includes monitoring, implementation and delivery as well as evaluating impact and learning from these processes. For me the benefits of an effective commissioning framework are that it keeps our focus on the needs of service users, unclouded by the considerations of providers. It sets out a framework for the best use of resources, strategically in order to achieve clear objectives and makes the best use of the strengths and

resources of the statutory, voluntary and private sectors

**Which communities have the greatest needs in Hackney?**

I think this is extremely difficult question to answer but I have no wish to shy away from answering it because often those in greatest need are those least able to articulate their needs. I feel as community leaders, we have a responsibility to provide for the most vulnerable people in our communities and to provide opportunities for their voices to be heard. In Hackney this has to include Black & Ethnic Minority communities, Refugee and Asylum Seekers, young people, particularly young black men, and of course vulnerable children.

**What are the important underlying issues which still need to be addressed in your opinion?**

The debate about representation and leadership roles still continues. I feel strongly that the issue of BME participation in decision making structures in the Borough is a key issue that needs to be addressed at all levels including the HSP. I hope that the Equalities Task Group will address this along with the needs of women, disabled people and young people as we have very few structures and opportunities to address their needs.

**Finally, if you had a magic wand what would you wish for in Hackney?**

That everyone involved in an 'official capacity' would come together with local people to discuss what are our joint priorities and how best to tackle them, then decide on joint strategic actions to tackle them together. If we are honest we will properly review our progress in three, five and ten years. The Olympics for example is a yard stick by which we can measure our development over a seven year timeframe. I hope we seize this opportunity with both hands. Of course, if I really did have a magic wand I would wish for a state of the art resource centre for the voluntary and community sector based in Dalston with a fully equipped nursery, arts and exhibition centre, library and conference facilities where we could share backroom resources e.g. photocopies, computers, training rooms, accountancy services with a community information resource second to none. I hope this becomes more than just a dream - but you did ask!!!

## What is a local area agreement (LAA)?

Local area agreements have been introduced with the intention of improving co-ordination between local authorities, the local agencies of central government - such as Primary Care Trusts, Police and Job Centre Plus - and their partners to plan and provide the very best services for local people. The Government has made it clear that this means they must "empower and encourage representatives of the voluntary, community and business sectors to be involved".

The LAA should be agreed by the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and in most cases will focus around four blocks of central government funding that flows into the area:

- children and young people;
- safer and stronger communities;
- healthier communities and older people;
- economic development and enterprise.

Some areas will implement a single pot model, which enables the LSP to allocate resources as it sees fit, irrespective of the original funding stream.

The overall objective is to improve services and ensure better outcomes for local people, irrespective of which agency delivers the service. The Government sees LAAs as a means to:

- on outcomes agreed and shared by all LSP partners;
- simplify the number of funding streams from central government;
- reduce bureaucracy and cut costs;
- join up public services more effectively;
- allow greater flexibility for local solutions to match local circumstances;
- devolve decision-making to local people.

More information about LAAs from [www.odpm.gov.uk](http://www.odpm.gov.uk) or [www.nacvs.org.uk](http://www.nacvs.org.uk)

Welcome to *SPARK*'s newest section all about faith issues. In this edition we find out about the new Hackney Faith Forum called 'Faith in the Community', an interview with the priest of St Ethelbergers interfaith 'talking tent', profiles of the main faith communities, and an interview with the Azize Mosque about its plans for an interfaith event next year. In the next edition we will feature more from the Interlink Foundation, the umbrella organisation for the Charedi community.

## Faith in the Community - a new Faith Forum for Hackney

*SPARK* found out about this new important network supported by the CEN for Hackney's faith communities

**T**he Interlink Foundation, CANDL and Faith in the Future have got together to set up a Faith Forum as a meeting point for representatives from faith communities to identify and act on issues of common concern. It will enable members of Hackney's faith communities to have an appropriate mechanism by which to engage with community issues.

This Forum, funded by Hackney Community Empowerment Network, will be serviced by the three organisations - Interlink Foundation, Faith in the Future and CANDL project. Minute taking, coordination and hosting meetings will be shared between these three. They plan to meet four times a year with executive meetings in between. It will cover a range of issues relevant to the faith sector such as funding for faith based organisations, access to swimming pools for faith groups and hospital chaplaincy services. It will also concentrate on establishing the Forum as an organisation with a constitution and representative set of trustees.

The forum met for the first time on 7th September this year. Members

identified the issues of funding for faith groups and health as being the two key areas of concern but also recognised the need to put an emphasis on establishing themselves as a stable and well structured group. In the short term they will probably not be able to respond to everything that people would like them to be able to do! But they hope that the Forum will gradually develop its capacity and become an important part of Hackney's already flourishing third sector.

For more information about the Faith Forum, please contact one of the three lead organisations:

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### Faith and religion

Faith is important to the social identity of many UK citizens.

Over three-quarters of respondents to the 2001 census reported having some religious affiliation.

Percentage of UK population by faith group:

Faith	%
Christian	71.8
Muslim	2.8
Hindu	1
Sikh	0.6
Jewish	0.5
Buddhist	0.3
Other religions	0.3
All religions (total)	77.3
No religion	5
Not stated	7.7

### Useful websites

Home Office Faith info  
[www.homeoffice.gov.uk/equality-diversity/faith-and-religion/](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/equality-diversity/faith-and-religion/)

National Faith Network  
[www.interfaith.org.uk/](http://www.interfaith.org.uk/)

# Short profile of the Charedi (Orthodox Jewish) community in Hackney

Melanie Danan from the Interlink Foundation and Interfaith Forum member provides an overview

The Charedi community first arrived on these shores mainly from Eastern Europe towards the end of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th, driven by pogroms and severe economic hardship in their countries of origin. This was followed by a more substantial influx of Charedi immigrants from both Eastern and central Europe before, during and directly after the Second World War as a result of Nazi persecution. Initially settling in the East End, the Charedi community quickly moved to Stamford Hill and were joined at a later stage by fellow Charedim (plural of Charedi) from India, North Africa, Israel, Russia, Yemen and France to name but a few. The Charedi population in Stamford Hill numbers between 20-22,000, half of whom are under 16 years of age. (Holman 2002)

Many Charedim speak Yiddish as their first language. Others may speak Hebrew, French or Arabic at home. Some are fluent English speakers while others may struggle with the language. Charedi life is based on the belief in one God and is a combination of religious law, customs and culture. It is centred around the three pillars of Judaism - the Torah, worship (avoda) and acts of lovingkindness (chesed). Torah - Religious law is derived from the Torah which comprises both the written Pentateuch (5 Books of Moses) and the Oral law - the Talmud. These laws have been codified in the



Shulchan Aruch (Code of Jewish Law). Jewish law encompasses all aspects of life, ranging from dress to eating - we have special dietary laws - to business dealings as well as a set of commandments (mitzvos) pertaining specifically to the Jewish religion. A strong emphasis is placed on learning the Torah. Although both men and women have a duty to be acquainted with Torah laws it is incumbent on men particularly to set aside time for Torah learning on a daily basis. In fact, a person who spends several years immersed in Torah learning as a full time occupation is highly regarded by the community. Marriage carries great sanctity in the Charedi community and large families are the norm. There is an emphasis on education both within the framework of the family and outside e.g. in schools, Talmudical colleges (yeshivos and kollelim) and seminaries. Worship - Prayer plays a vital role in Charedi life and there are three daily

prayer services. These are incumbent on men and optional for women (because of their role as the main childcare provider). Chessed - The act of helping people in need is an integral part of Torah and there is a plethora of voluntary activity within the Charedi community. Tzedoko (charity) is a Torah obligation and it is expected that a person spend 10% of their income on this.

As mentioned above, the Charedi community's origins are diverse and so are the different customs and cultures. There are a number of sub communities within the overall structure with variations in their way of life. Hence you will find differences in emphasis in the ways each carry out their duties. However, they all share their adherence to the Sabbath and special dietary laws as well as the other tenets of Judaism mentioned earlier.

## The Christian community in Hackney

James Ashdown from CANDL and Interfaith Forum member provides an overview

**4** 6.56% of Hackney's population identified itself as Christian in the 2001 census. We know of course that the majority of these are not affiliated to any church but the following should give some indication of the strength and diversity of Hackney's Church community. The churches can be divided into five main streams. These streams can overlap -- particularly the last two but are nonetheless helpful in understanding the complexity of the church scene

Anglican Church 28 parishes. These form Hackney deanery one third of the Stepney Episcopal area which is itself part of the London diocese. Whilst not dominant numerically the Anglican Church does have an influential role because of its comparatively greater resources -- they have large numbers of buildings which are often important focal points in the community and significant numbers of full-time clergy.

Roman Catholic Church 8 parishes. Part of the diocese of Westminster. They probably have equal to or greater number of attenders than the Anglican Church but fewer clergy and fewer buildings

The Traditional Free Churches comprising:

Baptist churches 6, five of which are affiliated to the London Baptist Association and there is I believe at least one new church plant without a building

Methodist Church 8 churches.

Divided amongst three circuits one of which also includes churches in Haringey

Salvation Army 3 corps  
 United Reformed Church 4 churches  
 Unitarian church  
 These are historically important in Hackney and still an active presence in most parts of the borough.

But there are two further streams of church life in Hackney In 1999 CANDL directory lists the following other churches:

- 11 independent churches
- 51 pentecostal churches
- A Quaker worship group
- 4 Seventh Day Adventist churches
- 2 Spiritual Baptist churches
- 7 churches of 'various other denominations ' which includes Ancient Catholic, Brethren, Cherubim and Seraphim, Jehovah's witnesses and Greek Orthodox

These figures point towards firstly the Older Established Pentecostal and/or Ethnic Churches. These are mainly Caribbean origin pentecostal churches which have their roots in the 50s or 60s. Some of them have acquired old church buildings such as Shiloh Pentecostal on Ashwin Street, others rent space in existing churches. Some are part of large international churches -- such as the New Testament Church of God in Cricketfield Road others completely independent. There are also churches which have a similar vintage but are not pentecostal. These would include the Greek Orthodox Church. Then there are the Newer Churches. These are largely pentecostal and of African origin -- the most well-known

one being the multithousand strong Kingsway International Christian Church but there are many others.

A sixth stream could perhaps be



identified in the Christian groups who operate alongside or outside the churches. Examples of these would be London City Mission, Anglican and Catholic religious orders and house based fellowships and prayer groups of various kinds.

There are no reliable figures for how large the community affiliated to churches in Hackney is. Obviously it is many thousands and would appear to be growing but there are severe practical problems in doing anything other than guesswork for the following reasons

- We don't have a reliable figure for the number of churches in Hackney
- Churches measure their affiliates in different ways
- Churches do not operate within political boundaries and it is difficult to ascertain whether affiliates live in Hackney or elsewhere
- The amount of work involved would be daunting!

## The Muslim community in Hackney

Lema Hamad, Project Manager at Faith in the Future and Interfaith Forum member provides an overview



**T**he Muslim community is one of largest communities in Hackney and has over the years become a very proactive and visible community within the Borough. Contributions from the Muslim community have been made to different areas of life in Hackney; education, places of worship, strategic formation, promotion of multi-culturalism and social interaction. As with the generic make-up of diversity within Hackney, the Muslim community is representative of different cultures who practice Islam.

Current demographics indicate that the Muslims are represented by communities from Turkey, Cyprus, India, Pakistan, Somalia, Bangladesh and some Far Eastern countries. Each community has it's own traditional qualities which enrich the communities as a whole and inform each other of different practices that can benefit others in Hackney. Muslim inhabitants have been present in Hackney since the early 1960's with the migration of people from Turkey and Asian countries. The late 1980's

saw migration from European and Far Eastern countries and to date the total population of Muslims is almost one third of the total in Hackney. Areas such as Cazenove, Upper Clapton and Hackney Wick are

predominately inhabited by Muslims from the Asian subcontinent and places like the North London Muslim Community Centre tend to attract the largest numbers of service users from Asian countries. Dalston, Shoreditch and Kingsland Road areas are mainly associated with Muslims from Turkish speaking ethnicity, there are also large numbers of Kurdish people some of whom are either Sunni Muslims (who follow the way of the Prophet Mohammed (S.A.W)) or Shiites (another branch of Islam which differs in interpretation to certain elements from the Sunni's). The Azizye Mosque on Kingsland high road is a sample of the Turkish influence within the area, its doors are open to all Muslims but the design and features of the 'Blue Mosque' has a very Turkish - Ottoman Empire style replica. With it beautiful mosaic design and distinctive pillars it is a very good example of how Muslims have contributed to the developing regeneration of buildings within Hackney even though the main purpose of the mosque is religious and educational services. Another sample of building regeneration is the

Sulemaniye Mosque located on the borders of Shoreditch, with its glass outlook and amazing minare (pillar) it has attracted much attention and is also used to deliver both educational and religious services. The other Muslim communities tend to be more scattered around Hackney. They often make use of the provisions set up by other communities though new community centers like the Somali Community Center, Bosnia and Serbia community and charity shop are signs that the different cultures are making a stand to define their own cultures but still participate in joining other Muslims during prayer, religious festivals and occasions where unifying as Muslims is needed.

Muslim communities in general still need resources to cater for the growing populations within Hackney. Capacity building and funding is a major issue for a lot of Muslim organizations. Despite some of the negative media stereotypes, Muslims living in Hackney have continued to live their normal lives and have made more conscious efforts to increase long term relations with other faiths in a bid to highlight that Islam is truly a peaceful and very humanistic religion. Examples of this would be the Jewish-Muslim Forum, quarterly meetings between Muslim Organizations and Senior Police Officers and the openness of people to work with local statutory bodies when help from the public is needed.



## Sharing faith values and principles

SPARK visited St Ethelburgas and interviewed Salim Nakhjavani, Inter-faith projects co-ordinator and William Taylor, priest of St Anne's Hoxton and research fellow at St Ethelburga's to find out what the church was doing to bring the faith community together

### What is the Centre for Peace and Reconciliation?

St Ethelburga's is the medieval church in Bishopsgate that was destroyed in the IRA bomb of 1993.

Due to the determination of the Bishop of London it re-opened in 1999 as "The Centre for Peace and Reconciliation". The stained glass window is partly made out of broken shards of Victorian window and the altar is made of oak from organ



The Church in ruins after bomb

loft. It's a building that bears wounds of violence. Our mission statement is "faith is a source of conflict and a resource for transforming conflict."

### The Text Project (Scriptural Reasoning)

The principle is that Christians, Muslims and Jews, who have so much common text, meet regularly to read the scriptures that we love and that shape us, but read them together. So that means that a Muslim can help a Christian understand their texts better and visa versa. We don't water down what we believe or leave out the difficult bits. When we study text together find a new level of friendship and understanding developing.

### What's the underlying aim of the project?

Its for Christians, Muslims and Jews to recognise their inter-dependence. We'd like to nurture groups particularly in Hackney and Tower Hamlets to form a network to act in

solidarity and each other around some of the problems facing society. Being a person of faith is a radical position to have in the modern world;

we have more in common with each other than with the secular world which has its own 'religious' principles that need to be unmasked.

### What have been the difficulties?

There is some resistance. Reading your own religious text is an intimate activity and

reading in the presence of someone from a different tradition can make you feel vulnerable because we have an intimacy with the text; it's a living thing. But if you can lose self-consciousness and give yourself over to it, it opens all sorts of possibilities.

### What has surprised you?

I think Christians want the text to produce pure meaning, whereas Jews have a much stronger sense of open ending, and are more argumentative. As a Christian and a priest I find that very freeing when reading the Christian text.

### Why did you choose text?

Because scripture is taken very seriously, so we can appeal to conservative believers. For example a Christian would have to think differently about something being the word of god if reading the text alongside a Muslim who also thinks this is the word of god.



### Why will the text project be in the Tent?

The principle of tent is that we read text outside our place of worship, and go into the desert. It's a neutral space, a mutual space.

### The Tent of Meeting

It is going to be built in some derelict land behind the church where there used to be a garden and cloister. It's a 16 sided goat hair tent weather proofed to suit the climate and built in Saudi Arabia. Its more than 16m in diameter and will hold 35 people. Surrounding it will be a peace garden in Middle Eastern style with mosaic walkways and a garden and fountain. Beauty and peace in the centre of the city. At the opening in March we are going to have a 1 week festival giving tasters of all things going to happen in the tent like story telling, creative writing, devotional music, dialogues and encounters.

### Why a tent?

WT: The tent is a universal symbol of gathering across many cultures - it's welcoming, but belongs to everyone.

**More information about the Tent Project and the Text Project from St Ethelburga's 020 7496 1610 or visit [www.stethelburgas.org](http://www.stethelburgas.org)**

## Islamic Awareness within the community

The Azizye Mosque is planning its 2nd Islamic Awareness week in the new year. *SPARK* spoke to two of the organisers - Centre Co-ordinator Yasar Kayaoglu and Hackney Councillor Muttalip Unluer at the Education Centre, Aziziye Mosque, Stoke Newington Road about what we can expect.

### Tell us about the Islamic Awareness last year?

MU: We invited scholars from the Norwich Academy and had an exhibition about the history of Islam from start to present day following it through Adalucia, the Moguls, India and all over the world. There were ancient texts, coins and Korans for people to look at and we gave out leaflets and answered questions.

YK: There was lots of discussion - we were very pleased. Some of the elders who don't speak English missed out - but they enjoyed the coins and the history - and there were stewards around who translated some of the talk.

People came from very mixed backgrounds - we had market stalls outside so some people came because they had seen the advertising, and some were just passing by. We had excellent feedback on feedback forms.

MU: There are 2 churches locally and this was the first time the members of church had come into the mosque - yet been neighbours for 22 years.

### What gave you the idea to have the Islamic Awareness week?

MU: Now we are experiencing a generational change; we have been a very tightknit community, many of us did not grow up in this country and we looked inward. The Awareness

week was the initiative of the younger people. Many people only have information about the Muslim community through the media - which is not very helpful. They wanted people to have better information.

It's the young people who have grown up here who speak English. There are elders like myself who are less confident. The Awareness week was all the initiative of the young people - we elders just sat back and watched while they organised it.

They invited the local people, put an advert in the paper - and 700 people came.

YK: We'll be holding another Awareness Week in the New Year - not sure of the date yet, but people should look out for adverts coming out in the New Year.

What young people Activities  
YK: My job is looking after the supplementary school. Also run intensive teacher training. Parents don't go to parents evenings - but we can provide a link - because we have contact with the teachers we can pass on information about the child's progress in school. We also run a youth club and put on films and 'fun days for kids'. We have a 16+ football team that plays in the Turkish League and are setting up an under 16's team.

### What would you like to see here?

YK: There's such a lack of space - we're looking forward to Clissold

Leisure Centre opening again. We also had the idea to have a women's gym here.

### And you run adult education programs?

We also run adult education courses in ESOL (with a crèche), IT and Arabic. We're also running workshops with Hackney Drugs Action Team. These came out of a drugs awareness research program that we ran 2 years ago at the same time as an Islamaphobia research program.

### What was the outcome of the Islamaphobia research?

YK: We found women are more often targeted, we think its because they are defenceless and more obvious from the headscarf or habib. There were instances of people spitting, verbal abuse and cases of people being thrown off buses, and of people trying to remove headscarves.

MU: But in general I haven't seen any bad attitude from the people in Hackney - people give us support. I think it's different in other parts of the country like in Leeds and Bradford. In Hackney the mayor arranged a meeting of all the religious leaders right after 7/7 - all the religious leaders coming together. I feel that Hackney is really, really exceptional and I feel proud to be in Hackney.

## New champions for their community



**T**he Refugee Community Champions Project (RCCP) which is based at HCVS and funded by Hackney CEN has been going for over a year now and is getting stronger and stronger.

The project recently organised a day trip to Hastings for its community champions. Over forty people from different Refugee communities participated. It was a wonderful day and a great opportunity for community champions to meet other champions, exchange information and

experiences as well as swimming in the cool waters of Atlantic!

The project has continued to invite mainstream service providers to its regular meetings. A representative from the Scarman Trust attended their meeting and gave informative

training about their grant criteria and answered questions from the community champions, mostly around filling in the application forms. As a result 21 community champions applied for grants and 7 of them successfully received up to £2000 to use for their projects such as IT classes, Football team kits, Salsa dancing and health exercises and drama training etc.

Ali Riza Aksoy, Coordinator organised another meeting for champions about "How to become a community

Interpreter". An external trainer provided guidance on interpreting and advocacy and helped the community champions to fill in application forms to apply for the PAN-London interpreter Training Programme courses provided free by the organisation, Making Training Work. 9 Community Champions from various RAS communities applied for this training which will be start in January 2005.

The project will hold further meetings this year, one about "What is the Social Enterprise agenda" so that champions can be supported develop their own social enterprises.

**Please contact Ali Aksoy if you need more information about the Refugee Community Champions Project and its activities. Tel: 020 7923 1962 / 8363 or alisermin@hotmail.com**

## Local community groups create spectacular floats for Lord Mayor's show



**L**ondon's sensational parade, The Lord Mayor's Show, on Saturday 12th November, showcased the City's vibrant cultural diversity where military marching bands united with urban hip-hop sounds, inner-city kids strutted their stuff alongside City workers and dazzling charity floats wowed the crowds on the streets of London. Amongst the 5 star floats sponsored by the Square Mile's

Corporation of London were local Hackney groups, Sound Radio and , getting ready to impress at this year's community extravaganza which introduced the 678th Lord Mayor, David Brewer, to the City. From original live music to unique artworks and acrobatic displays, the Lord Mayor's Show, for which this year's theme was 'City Links - A World in One City', was the platform for hundreds of extraordinary performances.

Sound Radio, Hackney's very own local radio station, is a multi-cultural radio project, driven by volunteers from the community. The kids themselves decorated the jeep in

bright and festive colours to make it into a truly spectacular float, with youth groups dancing around a massive inflatable ghetto blaster, celebrating the unifying power of music.

MDMD Arts who work closely with Sound Radio has over three years experience of providing affordable, engaging creative activities for the children and young people living in Nightingale Estate and the Clapton area, operating creative arts tuition programmes that provide diversionary activities and promote self confidence, teamwork skills, social inclusion in a positive, empowering environment.



# Dalston - unravelling the new plans

**SPARK** gives you up to date information about the planned Dalston development, talks with the community about its concerns and proposals, takes a peek at Dalston's remarkable history, and discovers a new Dalston festival in the making. There's a real opportunity to transform the area for the benefit of the whole community, but those making the decisions have to listen to local people to make it happen. We start with the Council.

## Questions to Hackney Council and comments from Voluntary and Community Sector on Dalston Development

**Q.** How does the Council consider that the new developments will lead to Dalston's regeneration and to

greater prosperity for Dalston's people?

**A.** Hackney mayor Jules Pipe said "With the arrival of the East London Line comes a fantastic opportunity not only for improved transport, but for residential, leisure, cultural, retail and commercial facilities. This vision was incorporated within the developer's brief for Dalston adopted by the Council following consultation. It is clear that we need

more affordable housing and homes suitable for key workers, the Council also wants to see well designed public space to complement what is happening in Gillett Square. Within the brief is the opportunity for a specially designed library to support lifelong learning, provide access to computers and create a cultural hub. Above all, I am working to ensure that the developments benefit Dalston's existing and future communities."

**Q.** What is the council's attitude to the proposal for green space covering the railway line - put forward by the Environment Trust?

**A.** The developers' brief includes for well designed public space. A planning application for green space to cover the railway line has not yet been received and no formal discussions have taken place.

## VCS response to development in Dalston

*Chris Walsh from Wise Owls said*

"One of the main concerns of local businesses, particularly the retailers and small traditional enterprises is the cost of premises and the lack of affordable, good quality retail and business space. The Dalston, transport and Olympic initiatives currently being developed clearly offer opportunities and new markets for local enterprise to exploit, once they are able and supported to do so. Which is why our Enterprising East End programme is focusing on helping local businesses to gear up to be able to offer high quality customer service, marketing and web sites and be able to tender for sub contracts.

"However unless the concerns of existing local enterprises (business and

**'new business coming in could well be the same old big corporation franchises that you see on nearly every high street across the UK, while the traditional local businesses, often run by, and for, ethnic minority communities are forced out of business'**

social enterprise) are met in terms of providing affordable space, information and support about how to access the future opportunities for franchising and retail space and how they might gain finance to improve their existing properties and businesses then these developments could lead to a two tier business environment. There's been considerable concern raised that new business coming in could well be the same old big corporation franchises that you see on nearly every high street across the UK, while the traditional local businesses, often run by and for, ethnic minority communities are forced out of business. This would mean that - like the Docklands - local people risk of losing out in terms of employment and business development while the new incoming corporate businesses and franchises employ commuters from outside of the area.'

*Suj Ahmed from Social Action for Health commented*

'We are in the heart of Hackney and what we really need are more premises for community groups. The

planners need to take that into consideration".

*Bill Parry-Davis from OPEN said*

'It doesn't look like they're building Jerusalem - it could be more like a buy-to-let opportunity for absentee landlords financed by shorthold tenants on housing benefit but without adequate facilities locally to sustain them'.

*Jake Ferguson, from HCVS said*

"Dalston has been a hub for the voluntary and community for years. HCVS and many other local organisations are keen to work with the Council, the planners and the community to ensure that the maximum amount of benefit from the Dalston Development comes to the sector as our members desperately need premises that are up to date. If local people are empowered and communities are involved from the start, community-managed workspaces that reflect local needs especially those working in the black & ethnic minority arts and refugee sector, could provide a base from which to drive regeneration that really lasts'.

*Adam Hart from Hackney Co-operative Developments said*

'Everyone is supposed to be providing community benefit, yet the community sector is always last at the feast - and has to fight to be heard. It is never brought in at earlier stages and is the most vulnerable, but also the most innovative and probably what attracts people here in the first place. The real issue is how all those existing energies from the community can be used'

'Nor for profit enterprises, creative industries surviving in cheap premises, shops that don't make much money but give character, markets, meeting

spaces, public spaces, managed work spaces make a range of intermediate sector activities providing juice between big players'.

'The most obvious threat to this set up is that the private sector will drive development. This becomes a major issue if it follows the dreary course of town centre development - a largely suburban dream conceived by the corporate sector buying bits of land, displacing existing population (by compulsory purchase or rent rise) and replacing with indifferent architecture.

Is there another way? Dalston would be one of the best places for it.

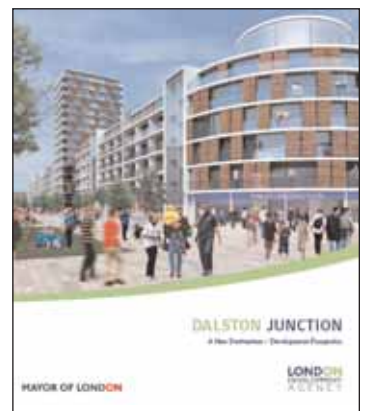
'Its already happened in Notting Hill Gate and Coin Street on the South Bank. You've got to have a mixture of types - old/new, expensive/cheap - successful regeneration happens when whacky people on the margins are involved. It starts with artists and quickly exhausts itself unless there are organisations and structures that help keep prices down.

'So we need a third sector structure into which all the planning gain money goes, controlled by the voluntary and community, and giving core funding for all the voluntary and community sector. We have a fantastic range of voluntary, community and third sector organisations in Dalston - if we could have a structure so that we got together and spoke with one voice - it would be tremendously advantageous, and would enable us to support projects both financially and by other means.

That's why I support the idea of a Dalston Trust'.

# South Dalston Lane development

**Two developments side by side are planned for Dalston Lane. The tube is coming anyway, these are additional building works that are proposed alongside and above the tube.**



## The Four Aces Development ...

The first proposed development is where the Club Four Aces and the Georgian houses are (currently covered in demolition hoardings) and is the project that is being campaigned against by OPEN. This development is on land owned by Hackney Council.

They are planning to pass the site to the LDA as cleared land, and the LDA (the London mayor's agency for economic development) are consulting and managing the development.

## ...and the railway development...

The adjacent site is just air at the moment. The proposal is that when TfL (Transport for London) build the new tube station at Dalston Junction, they would also build a big concrete platform across the railway line, reaching from Dalston Lane back to Forest Road. This is a complicated engineering feat and would cost £24m. The additional cost of the development would bring the cost up to £39 million. The LDA would also manage this development. This is the site that the Environment Trust suggest could be a park for Dalston.

## ...become one big 4.5 acre development...

The 2 projects are being consulted on separately and are getting planning permission separately. At the TfL consultation we were told this was in case one of the projects fails. The project on top of the railway is particularly vulnerable to timescales, because it must fit in with the tube development which in turn must fit in with the Olympic timetable. This project is in the process of being submitted for planning permission - it needs permission in March or it is unlikely to go ahead.

If both projects do get planning permission, they will then be developed together. An invitation to developers has already been issued, and expressions of interest from contractors had to be received by the LDA by early September.

‘The town square would be as big as Gillett Square and would be surrounded by shops. The library would replace CLR James library and also house the Hackney archive, and possibly a learning centre.’

..of about 600 flats (7 storey and 18 storey blocks), a new library, shops and a town square.

The plan is to build about 600 flats across the 2 sites, as well as a library, and a town square and 'associated retail'. Two 18 storey towerblocks would be set well back from Dalston Lane, one on the corner of the new square and one further back behind Kingsland Road. A bus interchange would be built on the railway site (by TfL), and a new throughway would be created onto Kingsland Road where the Oxfam shop is, and an internal bus lane down to Forest Road. The town square would be as big as Gillett Square and would be surrounded by shops. The library would replace CLR James library and also house the Hackney archive, and possibly a learning centre. The railway site does not have to provide any social housing - it will be entirely private flats and shops. All the units would need to be sold to cover the very high cost of development (basically the concrete platform). On the Four Aces site it was initially intended to have 50% social housing - split 35% Housing Association and 15% Shared Ownership. However if the shortfall on the railway site is not met by an ODPM (Office of Deputy Prime Minister) grant of £10 million and the sales of the flats, then, the developers say, it is possible that less social housing will be built on the Four Aces site so that the whole scheme is financially viable.

# Dalston's history

**D**alston the word is thought to come from the Anglo Saxon Deorlafs's tun (farm).

By 1300 Dalston is recorded as a hamlet situated at the junction of Dalston Lane and Cecilia Road while the nearby hamlet at present day Dalston Junction was known as Kingsland. Dalston Lane made a dog leg turn at Queensbridge Road to avoid Pigwell brook (which ran along Graham Road) and the marshy land alongside.

Kingsland Road itself originated as Ermine Street - a Roman road the army built as part of network of long straight roads to connect its military outposts - in this case London and York.

Dalston in the early 1800's was still very rural and known for its nurseries. By 1821 the population of Dalston was merging with Kingsland and numbered 1,366 comprising terraces



of merchants and professionals - and poorer people in the crowded short side streets to the north of Dalston Lane - like Hartwell Street named after a resident cow-keeper.

The big land families - the Grahams, Rhodes, Tyssen-Amhursts, de Beauvoirs and Actons - as well as the Spurstowe Charity were selling fields for housing and are remembered in the names of streets and estates around Dalston. The demand for vast quantities of bricks was supplied locally from Hobson's brickfields, on the east side Kingsland Road, as

market gardens were dug up for the clay beneath.

The construction of the North London Line in 1848 speeded up the construction of the Victorian suburb and by the end of the century Dalston Lane/Graham Road had become a major tram route and Dalston contained a mixture of people who were well-to-do or fairly comfortable - though poorer streets existed behind both High Street frontages and by the railway, where Tyssen Street, soon to be lined by factories, housed the very poor.

# OPEN Dalston - the community campaign

'OPEN' is campaigning to preserve and refurbish the Theatre (which used to be Club Four Aces) and the neighbouring Georgian houses as a cultural and community centre. On November 24th demolition notices went up around these buildings - which form part of the proposed Dalston Lane (South) development site.

**H**undreds of local people have attended OPENs meetings - more at each session - expressing concerns about the South Dalston development and the destruction of the Four Aces Club. The OPEN meetings have also been the only place where the 2 proposed Dalston developments can be seen side by side.

OPEN's opposition to the demolition of the 4 Aces Club and surrounding Georgian buildings centre on 2 arguments - the architectural merit of the theatre and the surrounding buildings, and the cultural and historic significance of the theatre. OPEN also states that the reason the buildings are now derelict is due to the neglect of the Council, and are putting forward an alternative vision for the South Dalston site.

## Architectural Significance

While the council say the buildings, particularly the theatre have no architectural significance and quote the English Heritage report on the building - this is strongly challenged by OPEN. They maintain that the English Heritage report is partly based on the word of the Council, since when English Heritage visited the site the

Council could provide only limited access.

In August 2005 OPEN instructed a highly respected, independent engineer, Mr Brian Morton MBE (who among other accomplishments is structural engineer to Canterbury Cathedral). OPEN report "Mr Morton has found that all the buildings in this group are presently capable of re-use at reasonable expense and that the current dilapidated condition results from the

The OPEN meetings have also been the only place where the 2 proposed Dalston developments can be seen side by side.

deliberate neglect by their owner, Hackney Council. His observations are in stark contrast to the Council's description of the buildings".

OPEN maintains that the 1886 entrance deserves listing locally and nationally, and that all the buildings merit protection as a group due to their various individual architecture and the cultural and social history associated with them.

OPEN go on to say "Retention will assist the preservation of the

character and distinctiveness of Dalston Town Centre and will inform the design of proposed new developments"

## Cultural, Social and Historic significance

The historic, social and cultural significance of the theatre is also in dispute. OPEN's research showed the theatre site has a long and varied history at the centre of Dalston's cultural life.

The main building was completed in 1886 and intended as a circus, but soon became a variety theatre, and then in 1921 a cinema revamped with magnificent art deco interiors, mainly in black and gold - now largely destroyed by the rain that has been allowed to come in the building.

Later the theatre became an auction room selling American vintage cars, before re-incarnating as the Club Four Aces where it became a focus of the growing West Indian community, and attracted stars like Otis Redding, Bob



Dylan. (See Penny Reel's article on soundclash).

The 2 clubs in the building merged as the Labrynth Club - pioneering Acid House and in 1990 the Prodigy played their debut gig here. .

## Neglect

In 1996 the first outline planning permission was given to a private developer to demolish the theatre - alongside plans to re-open Dalston underground. This was challenged by local people and the development did not go ahead.

In 1997 theatres roof slates were stripped and sold from the site.

In 1999 the underground scheme was withdrawn. OPEN say "from this time on, the buildings were abandoned by the council, and have remained empty and increasingly derelict".

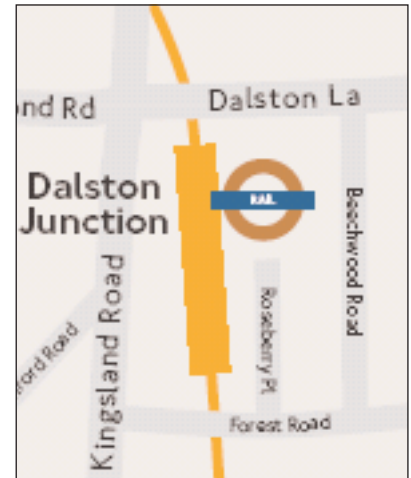
In 2004 the Council refused an outline application by the same private developer to demolish and redevelop the site and an appeal was made to the Secretary of State. This was granted but conditions were imposed that there was to be no development (including demolition) until the final appearance of the site had been the subject of public consultation.

## OPEN Ideas

OPEN's alternative proposal is to renovate the theatre and surrounding buildings to house a cultural and community centre for multiple-use by a theatre company, an art gallery with restaurant/café/bar facilities, a music venue and extensive open space.

# Spark put some of OPEN's concern's to the Council

**Q:** Has there been any specific consultation on retaining or demolishing the theatre site. What are the outcomes of any consultations carried out by the council relating to the site?



**COUNCIL:** '[For] buildings [which are not listed], demolition can be carried out without planning permission, or as permitted development under part 31A of the General (Permitted Development) Order 1995. In the case of this site, because there are buildings which were formally used for residential purposes, a prior approval procedure is required. The Council has 28 days to respond to [this]'.

**OPEN:** 'OPEN believes that reuse of the historic Town Centre buildings would enhance Dalston's existing uniqueness, strengths and character. They, rather than the proposed two 18 storey towerblocks, are what will attract people to Dalston to live, work and play. It's a ready made marketing opportunity for Dalston's regeneration which we think the Council have seriously undervalued.

OPEN considers that the current demolition plans should be the subject of public consultation and the democratic process - not the decision of a few individuals. The development of such a strategic Town Centre site should only proceed once the final appearance of Dalston is determined by the Area Action Plan'.

**Q:** Would the Council agree, that the theatre is an important landmark for Dalston? Has the OPEN engineer's report been considered? Has any feasibility study been carried out to look at renovating the building?

**COUNCIL:** 'No - confirmed by English Heritage who did not list it. We do not accept that the building is capable of reuse at reasonable expense'.

**OPEN:** 'If the Council's demolition policies are to be based on English Heritage listings then there would be very few buildings left standing in Hackney'.

**For more information about OPEN please contact [info@opendalston.net](mailto:info@opendalston.net)**

# What the plans say...

The section gives you an overview of the Area Action Plan and planning framework.

## What is a Local Development Framework?

The Local Development Framework is the borough wider planning strategy - replacing the Unitary Development Plan. The LDF is simply a folder holding the core strategy - which sets out the overall policies for delivering the spatial development and vision for the borough, including a statement of community involvement. [This is being written] and area action plans (there can be lots of these).

## What is an Area Action Plan?

Within the core strategy, Councils are required to produce more detailed studies of areas where there is a concentration of proposals for change.

When writing AAPs, Councils are also required "to ensure that the community is able and encouraged to participate throughout the preparation process".

## Which areas in Hackney have Area Action Plans?

Dalston and Central Hackney. To follow possibly Woodberry Down and Hackney Wick.

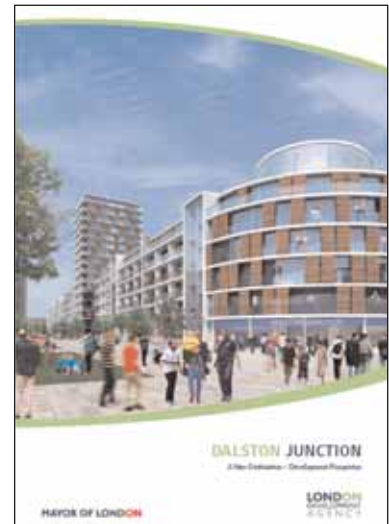
## What's in the Dalston Area Action Plan?

The Dalston AAP is going through an ongoing consultation process and is not due to be adopted until 2007.

## Outcome of Initial Dalston Consultation

The report on the initial consultation says there was general agreement with and support for:

- the new tube and increased accessibility to Central London;
- a mix of high and low rise buildings, with heights away from residential areas;
- retaining the current building heights on Dalston Lane
- local character of retail on the high street



The report states there was general concern regarding proposals for tall buildings, increasing density and crime, and requests for addressing the impact of development

The report also lists comments received expressing need for:

- recognising and investing in local infrastructure and facility capacities
- high standard of design,
- increased focus on historic built environment
- investment into small to medium enterprises and local retail premises
- increased investment and maintenance in community/cultural facilities
- increased increase in open spaces

There were also a number of comments voicing a lack of trust in the Council.

## AAP is at 'preferred option' stage

The Dalston AAP has been fed through all the different levels of planning schemes, and taken account of the consultation exercise and is now in 'preferred option' form. This document is being consulted on until December 16th.

Next stage is re-drafting and submission to the Planning Inspectorate, following which there will be a further six weeks of consultation.

## What does it all actually mean for Dalston?

That the sites in the map below have been identified as opportunities for development according to the principles being set out in the AAP.

# An alternative plan...

By Kate Swade, Environment Trust

**Site 1** is the area above the railway line, owned by TfL and known as the Dalston Junction scheme.

**Site 2** is the location of the Four Aces Club on Dalston Lane, owned by Hackney Council and known as the South Dalston South scheme. Invitations to developers have already been sent out for these schemes.

## Have your say - before December 16th

Drop into CLR James Library and fill in a comment sheet or email John Vercoe of the Hackney Planning Service on [John.Vercoe@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:John.Vercoe@hackney.gov.uk) or phone 020 8356 8231.

All documents and timetables available at <http://www.hackney.gov.uk/planning-policy-aap-dalston.htm>

The extension of the East London Line to Dalston Junction will change Dalston. The Bootstrap Company, development trust and charity based in Ashwin Street E8, is concerned that the current plans for the development on top of and next to the station, will degenerate, not regenerate the area.

Transport for London, the London Development Agency and Hackney Council will submit planning applications in early December for developments on the sites that will include around 560 flats, with at most 50% of them affordable, two tower blocks of 18 and 19 storeys and a small public square.

The Bootstrap Company is concerned that this is a real missed opportunity to create a really fabulous sustainable development at Dalston Junction. There was a really positive reaction to its outline alternative plan at a planning event on 21st and 22nd October, which was attended by more than 200 people.

The main points of the "breath of fresh air" community plan are:

- a new park over the station
- 300 homes, all for affordable equity share ownership
- managed workspace
- a new cultural centre in the restored old Dalston Hippodrome

One attendee at the weekend said "I have lived in Hackney for 50 years and I feel that some open space is needed, along low rent houses and small workshops and a cultural venue. Hackney belongs to Hackney residents - give us a chance!"

Bootstrap is now developing the community plan further, and lobbying TfL, the Mayors of Hackney and London and the LDA to accept the plan. It will be reporting back to the community in late November or early December. To be included on the mailing list, or for more information please contact Kate on 020 7264 4660 or email [kates@envirotrust.org](mailto:kates@envirotrust.org).

# The Mayor's Square

Gillett Square in Dalston, home of the Dalston Culture House, has been selected by Ken Livingstone as one of ten pilot projects 'Making Space for Londoners', the Mayor's campaign to create and upgrade public spaces across the capital.



**G**illett Square 1st phase start January 2006, complete September 06

January will see the start of the 1st phase of the development of the Gillett Square itself. Half the car-park will be pedestrianised and Gillett Street will disappear, marking the start of a new square for Dalston.

The Gillett Square Partnership is made up of Groundwork East London, Hackney Co-operative Developments, Hackney Council and the developers Macdonald Egan (who will build 13 private flats adjoining the square).

Adam Hart from Hackney Co-operative Development said "It's going to have high quality surfacing, a modern lighting scheme and trees -

it's very simple - an idea which doesn't prescribe".

**Dalston Culture House**  
2nd phase start February 2006 complete August 2006

The second half of Dalston Culture House, designed by Hawkins Brown, will be developed from February year, providing an additional 150 square meters of studio space to share in DCH with the Studio Upstairs and the Vortex Jazz Club.

**Gillett Square 2nd phase - no fixed start date**

Pedestrianisation of the second half of the car-park

Adam said "Plans are now being developed to ensure the successful

'Gillett Square will be a sustainable and safe place for public arts and enterprise, which will put Dalston on the map as a destination for Londoners and other visitors, and a showcase for the Olympics'  
Adam Hart, HCD

animation and community ownership of the square, as a sustainable and safe place for public arts and enterprise, which will put Dalston on the map as a destination for Londoners and other visitors, and a showcase for the Olympics, that can celebrate the diversity and creativity of this area".

# the festival

Bootstrap Enterprises and HCVS are currently working on developing an annual Dalston festival starting in summer 2007.



The idea is to engage with key creative and cultural organisations in the area like the Rio, Dalston Culture House, Arcola, Halkevi, BEMA and Centerprise and create a cluster effect. Each organisation will then provide an independent part of the festival, linked by the overall theme. The festival itself will be an international showcase for Dalston and celebrate the area's rich cultures from all over the world. Over one to two weeks and at the start of summer, it promises to be quite an event.

Anthony Djondo from Bootstrap said, 'We'd like to see each location holding 1 or 2 events that involve key artists but alongside independent local artists. It's a priority for us to engage and involve people who live and work in Dalston, in creative and cultural industries especially independent dancers, filmmakers and performers. The idea is to use festival to enhance the visitor destination attraction of Dalston - to run it as an annual event and to fit in with Dalston's development and with Olympics - it could possibly be part of the delivery of cultural strand of the Olympics.

We've had some meetings with local arts organisations, residents and regeneration and cultural officers at the council - so far people have been extremely positive. We'd like to get the draft proposal ready early in 2006. We're aiming to get the funding from the Arts Council, the private sector and other supporters'.

The festival organisers are interested in hearing from any arts organisations in Dalston who would like to take part. The ideas for the festival are still only at the vision stage, but if you'd like to express an interest, please call Anthony Djondo at Bootstrap on 07790 775 578.

## When Two Systems Clashed at Club Four Aces

A snapshot of London reggae culture in the early '70s by Penny Reel, excerpt from *Deep Down With Dennis Brown: Cool Runnings And The Crown Prince Of Reggae* (Drake Brothers, 2000). Penny Reel was the pre-



eminent writer of reggae's '70s heyday, contributing regularly to NME, Black Echoes and other publications Penny Reel was the pre-eminent writer of reggae's '70s heyday, contributing regularly to NME, Black Echoes and other publications.

'WELL, AT this time I am a member of and regular visitor to the Club Four Aces situated in the premises of the old Dalston Theatre at Dalston Junction in Dalston Lane.

Quite apart from any considerations of its architectural, historical and local significance, this site occupies a position as the northeast London epicentre of an evolving Jamaican music scene since the rock steady era in the 1960s and presently hosts a midweek session with a visit from the other side of the river of a sound billed as the Brixton champ, D Unis Hi-Fi.

Every Wednesday night for the previous six months or so, the sound's incursion into Hackney lures a busy crowd to the club's doors with its selection of rootsical upfront lovers, and which by way of current example include titles like In Crowd's 'His Majesty Is Coming', Matumbi's 'Man In Me' and Tetrack's 'Let's Get Started', and where the guests are galvanised further still by the cheerful personality of the stout D Unis Hi-Fi MC Bionic T, a character as large as life itself.'

© Penny Reel 2000. Buy *Deep Down with Dennis Brown* available online [www.reggaereggaereggae.com](http://www.reggaereggaereggae.com). Distributed by Central Books, 99 Wallis Road, London, E9 5LN. Telephone: (0208) 986 4845

# Credit where credit's due...



Hackney's mayor Jules Pipe cut the ribbon to open Hackney Credit Union on 10th November and the launch continued at the Hackney Empire with awards and thanks for the partners and volunteers who worked together to get the credit union open. *Spark* talked to Gareth Evans [pictured right of Mayor] the manager of the new Credit Union...



## **Why was there a need for a Hackney Credit Union?**

There were several small credit unions in Hackney based around churches, estates and workplaces, but each was limited in who they could accept as members. So we have amalgamated into one borough wide unit which everyone can have access to.

## **Where did the idea come from?**

The Credit Union umbrella body (ABCUL) ran a feasibility study and out of this we set up a steering group

and started to raise funds.

We wanted a modern, professional service and shop front presence, and to move away from being seen as the 'poor mans bank'.

## **What was the biggest obstacle in getting the Credit Union started?**

It's been a massive ordeal getting the funding in place - that's why we have so many financial partners. The FSA is very strict so we had to carefully forecast membership, savings and loans and then find the financial shortfall.

It has also been difficult recruiting 19 volunteers with a range of skills and knowledge as the directors. .

## **Who has helped you?**

In the short term we are supported financially by the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund, 6 local housing associations, Woodbury Down SRB, and number of Charitable Trusts. City and Hackney Primary Care Trust have been the accountable body for the development phase.

We've also had in kind local support - like the refurbishment was project

managed by Homerton Hospital and designed by Waugh Thistleton.

### **How many people have joined the credit union?**

In the first 2 weeks 210 people joined - our target for the first year is 1000. Six big local employers are promoting it to their staff; Hackney Council, the Primary Care Trust, Homerton Hospital, Mosaic Homes, Hackney Community Transport and Newlon Housing Association.

### **What is the next hurdle?**

It's going to be difficult raising awareness so that people trust a new organisation with their cash. The Irish and Caribbean communities are very well aware of Credit Unions, and a large number of our members are from those communities.

### **What do you like about your job?**

It's been good seeing the process right through from the feasibility study to seeing 300 people come through door in the first 2 weeks. It's very satisfying to know that we have done what was and is needed.

### **Do you think the Credit Union has a good future in Hackney?**

It's great to see how much potential there is here. There's a good balance of well off people who are active in the community and a large number of people who need credit union services

### **Where do you see the credit union in 3 years time?**

Our key goal is to make the Credit Union financially sustainable. We want to go on to offer subsidised insurances and the facility to pay benefits and salaries straight into an account. It's such an issue that people on benefits or who haven't been in the country long can't get bank accounts.

### **And in the longer term?**

There are very good Credit Unions in Tower Hamlets and Newham which have up to 4,000 members, several millions in assets and access to mainstream services. We're looking to emulate and surpass their example.

## **What are credit unions?**

Credit unions are financial co-operatives, owned and controlled by their members. They offer

- a safe and convenient way to save
- easy-to-access loans at fair rates of interest
- a range of other financial services.

Credit unions are so successful that there are over 100 million members in 84 countries worldwide.

## **How is a credit union different from a bank?**

Banks are owned by shareholders, who share the profits. Credit unions are owned and controlled by members, who employ a small team of paid staff to run things for them. After meeting running costs, all the profits are shared out to members in an annual dividend. So the money stays local and in the pockets of members. However, credit unions are used mainly for savings and loans. You will probably decide to keep your normal current account running as well.

## **Aren't banks safer?**

Since July 2002, credit unions have been regulated - like banks - by the Financial Services Authority (FSA). Rules are set about how credit unions are run. Also like banks, credit unions are covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, which means that your money is safe if anything goes wrong.

## **Who can join?**

Credit union members usually have something in common. For Hackney Credit Union, you need to live, work, study or volunteer in Hackney.

## **How do I join?**

You will need to fill in a membership form, pay a small fee and prove who you are. You then begin saving - whatever you can afford, but you must save regularly. That's how we build up the funds to offer loans and services.

### How will joining benefit me?

A credit union offers you

- good interest rates on your savings
- low interest rates if you take out a loan
- many of the other services offered by banks - such as paying bills, direct debits and money transfers no regular bank charges
- a friendly and professional service
- free life insurance on your savings and loans.

As a credit union member, you own the organisation. However much or little you've saved, you have an equal vote on how your credit union is run and how your money is managed. Credit unions also offer an ethical alternative to normal banking. By keeping your money local, you are helping to benefit everyone in the community.

### How easy is it to pay money in?

Very easy. You will be able to choose between:

- paying at our Mare Street office
- paying by standing order from your normal bank account
- having money paid directly from your wages (if your employer takes part in our scheme)
- paying at any PayPoint outlet in the country

### How easy is it to draw money out?

Again, very easy. You simply ask for your money at the credit union office, and then go and collect it.

### How can I get a loan?

You normally have to wait until you've been a regular saver for at least 13 weeks. The amount you can borrow then depends on how much you've saved.



Your loan will be set at an interest rate of no more than 1% a month on your reducing balance. This is just 12.7% APR (Consumer Credit Act). In addition, you get free life insurance and there are no other fees, hidden costs or penalties for paying early - so the quicker you pay back your loan, the less you have to pay. And when you borrow, you don't stop saving, so when you've paid off your loan, you will also find that your savings have grown.

### What if I wanted to make a complaint?

Credit unions have to have good systems for handling complaints. But if you can't resolve a problem with your credit union, you can also take your complaint to the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS).

***Hackney Credit Union, 225 Mare Street,  
London E8 3QE***

***Tel: 020 8986 6868. Email:  
info@hackneycreditunion.co.uk***

***www.hackneycreditunion.co.uk***

***[Hackney Credit Union Ltd is authorised and  
regulated by the Financial Services  
Authority (FSA) – Firm Number 429043]***



# Somali Cultural Day paves way for more partnership between community groups

Over 200 people attended the Somali Cultural day held at the Tab Centre on Hackney Road on 11th November. The lively event featured a live Somali singer, Somali folk dancers, Somali food and a cultural artefacts exhibition. Councillors Nargis Khan & Linda Kelly opened the event.

The objective of the day was to help strengthen Hackney Somali Communities by encouraging partnership working amongst Hackney Somali Community Groups who have previously not worked together, to

employed by statutory or voluntary sector organisations. This makes it harder for Somali communities to access public sector services such as health, employment, housing, social Services and education.

The event sparked a number of important recommendations including more partnership working amongst Hackney Somali Community Groups and the



The organisers & contacts of the event were.

**Hussain Kolombi, Sahil Housing Association - 020 7226 4494**

**Khatra Ali, Iftteen Somali Women's Assoc - 07961 268 354**

**Mr Said, ISCOM - 020 8806 8757**

**Nafisa Guleid, Somali Womens Support Group - 020 7923 1962**

**Sharif Ali, Hackney Bravanese Self help Group - 07950 362 917**

**Suj Ahmed, Social Action for Health - 020 7275 2736 Email: [suja@safh.org.uk](mailto:suja@safh.org.uk)**

## 'a Hackney Somali Forum may be set up'

promote Hackney Somali Community groups to other statutory & voluntary sector organisations and to foster cross borough co-operation. This is why the Tab Centre was chosen as the venue because it borders on Hackney & Tower Hamlets.

Over 7'000 Somalis live in Hackney but there are very few Somali workers

possible formation of a Hackney Somali consortium or forum.

Thanks to Hackney Council for funding the event and Cllr Nargis Khan & Daphne Ramsey from Leisure & Community Services for their support.

## bassac's national conference 2006: achieving real and lasting change in 21st century neighbourhoods

3 - 5 February 2006 - Thistle Hotel, Brighton

This is a great opportunity to explore ideas and solutions for developing and sustaining your people, money and places. It also provides staff and volunteers from a wide range of local, regional and national organisations with an opportunity to share experiences and good practice. Participants have the option to come for the day, or to attend the whole weekend conference.

For more information, including a booking form, please visit:

<http://www.bassac.org.uk/conference06.htm> or call Mary on 0845 241 0375



## Mile of Art



**F**ive thousand people turned out to view Hackney's first 'Mile of Art' running from Hackney Town Hall to Hackney Road along the old porter's pathway through London Fields

and Broadway Market. 120 artists and craftspeople took stalls along the way and exhibited and sold paintings, pottery, clothing and crafts - while

rickshaw drivers ferried people who wanted to speed shop along the mile.

The big idea came from Stephen Selby who runs Off Broadway Gallery - and he was helped in pulling it all together by the Broadway Market Traders and Residents Association.

Louise Breward, Chair of BMTRA, said "We had lots of help from some sections of the Council - Parks, Licensing, Refuse and Highways - and with a lot of community effort we put together a day that was an absolute success.

"Next year we plan to fill the whole mile and we'll be showcasing the local schools and colleges artwork, and including more community arts groups



and entertainment. But for a first year this was a triumph; most artists sold a piece of work, some did very well, and the local community and further afield all came out to support us. The sun shone and it made a wonderful, wonderful family day out".

## BEMA to strategically launch in 2006

**B**EMA, the Black & Ethnic Minority Arts network, is intending to hold a borough-wide Community Conference on the future of the creative arts sector within the borough in the summer of 2006. This will double as the formal launch of the BEMA network whilst giving the opportunity for officials from Hackney Council, funders from the Arts Council, New Opportunities Fund, London Development Agency, Creative London, and the Metropolitan Police to come together to discuss how they expect the creative sector to deliver services to Hackney's communities in the future and how they can assist the development of BME creative arts within the borough. This will be a unique opportunity to get the major players, who have been deciding the issues around BME creative arts, under one roof to hear the arts

community's views and ideas on how the BME creative arts should be promoted and funded across the borough.

BEMA was established by Hackney Council for Voluntary Service (HCVS) in 2002 to promote, service and provide a strategic framework for the development of Black and Ethnic minority arts organisations in the Borough.

BEMA 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. 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.

*For further information on the Community Conference or BEMA membership, please contact the BEMA Development Officer, Robert Quaye on 020-7923 1962 or via email at [robert@hcv.org.uk](mailto:robert@hcv.org.uk).*

# PREMISES NEED SURVEY

## FOR REFUGEE ORGANISATIONS IN HACKNEY

**Hackney Refugee Forum** is concerned about premises problems for Refugee and Asylum Seekers (RAS) organisations in Hackney.

Below is a questionnaire which they would like all refugee organisations to complete so that the Forum and the Council have a better understanding of the premises needs of refugee community groups.

If you are a Refugee Organisation kindly photocopy this page and **fill in the questionnaire sending it by fax to: Ibrahim Avcil, Hackney Refugee Forum on 020 7275 8577.**

1. Is your organisation experiencing premises problem?

YES  NO

If your answer is YES, please continue with the following questions.

2. Which type of premises problems is your organisation facing? (You can tick more than one answer)

- a) We have no premises
- b) We have to share our premises
- c) Our premises is too small
- d) Our rent is so high and we are struggling to pay the rent
- e) Our premises is under threat of repossession
- f) Our premises have Health and Safety problems (e.g. No Disabled Access, dangerous stairs, not safe after dark)
- g) Other (Please describe)

3. Are you looking for new premises for your organisation? YES  NO

If your answer is YES, please tell us which part of Hackney is best for your organisation to be based? You can tick more than one answer)

- a) Hackney Central and Chatham areas
- b) Stoke Newington and Clissold areas
- c) Hackney Downs and Lea Bridge areas
- d) Queens Bridge and Victoria areas
- e) Cazenove and Springfield areas
- f) New River and Lordship areas
- g) Hoxton and Haggerston areas
- h) Dalston and De beaouvoir areas
- i) Any area

4. Is your organisation prepared to share large premises with other RAS organisations?

YES  NO

5. Which RAS community is your organisation serving? e.g. Chinese, Somali, Turkish, Congolese etc.)

Name of Your Organisation

Address

Tel no  Email

**Thank you for your time and cooperation**

**HACKNEY REFUGEE FORUM**  
**c/o HCVS, 84 Springfield House, 5 Tyssen Street E8 2LY**  
**Tel: 020 7923 8363 Fax: 020 7275 8577**

# Holly Street

## A neighbourhood responds

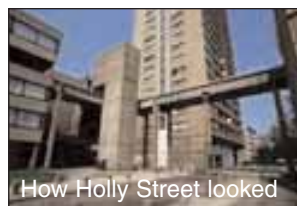
**H**ackney's flagship regeneration scheme the Holly Street Estate was a Government showpiece in how to use private development to help fund estate based regeneration schemes. The estate however has descended into a daily torment for those living in the area, blighted by drugs and anti social behaviour. Holly Street is living proof that regeneration is not just about buildings? As the Police, Drug Action Team, and Council grapple with short term responses to the problems, *SPARK* went to Holly Street to talk to people who live and work there.



**H**olly Street was the location chosen by Tony Blair and John Prescott to launch the Government's new approach to 'joined-up thinking' and the New Deal for the Communities in 1998. The Prime Minister described Holly Street as a 'symbol' for the nation of how a neighbourhood can rebuild itself to cut down crime, improve employment opportunities and improve residents' health. He said it was 'the type of initiative we need to see replicated across the country.'

Yet a few weeks ago, following a long campaign

by residents, the estate was the focus of a series of arrests for class A drug dealing mainly crack cocaine and a dispersal order was brought into force to tackle



anti-social behaviour. One resident said "The only thing its easy to buy round here is crack. In the old Holly Street there was drug dealing and anti-social behaviour. To me it feels about the same - this new estate has definitely gone down hill".

The original estate which comprised 60s system built tower blocks and

'snake blocks', was largely demolished and rebuilt in a more traditional low rise street housing pattern with gardens along with an under fives centre, a day centre for older people and a sports centre.

A Hackney Council press release in 2000 said "Regeneration has had a massive impact on residents' lives - before regeneration, 43% of residents had been witness/victim of crime near their home: this is now down to 1% and calls to the police have been cut by a third".



**'Holly Street is a symbol for the nation....and should be replicated across the country'** Tony Blair talking about a New Deal for Communities in 1998



**'I don't think what the police has done is going to make any difference. The same old boys are here. They took 20 but the ones outside are still there. I don't want to live here. I don't want to live in Hackney, but I got no choice.'**

## a young woman, 14 from Holly St

'Since the police have been here no-one's been out, there's less noise, the place is dry'.

*[Mother intervenes]* 'She doesn't go out round here, not with what's being going on here. She's never played out here, she's not in a Holly Street gang, she's not a Holly Street girl. I made sure she doesn't go to school round here'.

'There are big gangs, they are my friends, but I'm still frightened. They do things like knock down doors, put fireworks through doors, make noise with cars. They say they're going to shoot someone, then later you hear maybe

they did. People think you're involved.

One day I was inside and they broke down the door downstairs. I was so scared. I'd like it to be safe here for people. And more activities - there's the adventure park, but that's for babies, there's nothing for us. I'd really like it if there were trips away from here. I don't think what the police has done is going to make any difference. The same old boys are here. They took 20 but the ones outside are still there. I don't want to live here. I don't want to live in Hackney, but I got no choice'.

## a young man, 20 from Holly St

'The trouble is everyone is separated, if we could get young people doing team building, rock climbing things, motivation and life-skills programs - so they know what's lying ahead. But now all they can do is fight or look for chicks. When they get older they'll all forget about it anyway.

The police have arrested people, but I'm not sure that helps because they'll go into prison, then when they come out they'll be stuck with that life. I used to hang about with them. I got a criminal record. But then someone helped

me - he showed me everything - he took me to nice places I'd never been to in my life and made me see the good from the bad. So I saw that the way I was going I'd get nothing. I listened to him. I think people should know how much good he's doing - his name's Roy Garskin from the Leaving Care Service. If I hadn't met him I would have stuck to the same lifestyle, where there was nothing to do but drugs. I'd left my family so that's all I would have known. Now I'm setting up a charity to help young people to pursue their goals and talents..

## the resident

'I've lived in Holly Street since 1985. I lived in the old Holly Street and now the new. When Tony Blair visited we had this brilliant under 5s centre. Lots of cameras came and it was all lovely. But now I can't get my child in there and neither can my neighbour - it doesn't seem to be for estate people. In the new Holly Street, we've got the Queensbridge Community Centre which is too expensive for anyone to really use.

When I look at Albert Square and see that nearly everyone there has got their own business it annoys me

as I don't know anyone here with their own business

unless you count crack dealing. You can witness dealing all the time. I'm shocked by the blasé way they do it - with the police just standing by. There'll be 15 blokes in the same road, doing crack, and everyone knows about it.

The only way it affects me day to day is that I don't walk some ways home and sometimes the roads are cordoned off. I say that's the only way because

some things are so obvious that you don't mention them like I wouldn't go out to the shop late at night. It's not very nice walking past lots of people doing crack. I get frightened of being mugged by people needing money for drugs. It does affect our personal lives when people you know end up dead from overdoses.

I used to live in one of the old Holly Street tower blocks. When I lived there it was OK. It had the reputation that it wasn't a safe place but 30 years earlier it had been set up

**'I don't know anyone here with their own business unless you count crack dealing'**

like this place with lots of children and babies and filled to maximum density. By the 1980's all the young people had grown up and left. Around me there were a lot of old people and empty flats. In the old Holly Street there was drug dealing and anti-social behaviour and looking back it was very noisy. To me it feels about the same - this new estate has definitely gone down hill.'

## the council

'Hackney Council is committed to tackling and reducing crime, disorder and substance misuse in the borough. The Holly Street estate area is the focus of a multi agency initiative involving Council services, the Police, registered social landlords and street pastors. A working group meets weekly to develop and implement an action plan which residents also input into.

Hackney's Drug Action Team has a significant input into the working group whose actions include: regular police operations tackling criminal activity; a programme to divert young people from anti social behaviour; Sub 19 providing advice and guidance on drugs misuse for young people, parents and carers; actions tackling older peoples' drugs misuse co-ordinated by Addaction; and a Dispersal Zone to stop group disorder.'

*This is a response from Corporate Communications at Hackney Council for Cllr Julius Nkafu - Hackney's Cabinet Member for Crime and Community Safety*

## the Practice Manager

'An elderly gentleman came running in lately saying 'please help me I think I'm about to be mugged'. We looked out and there were lots of young people with hoods up hanging about in the front lobby. He said he didn't want us to call the police, so we just let him out of our back door. We are being harassed. Don't feel comfortable and neither do our patients. There are a lot of vulnerable people who come to the surgery. We're having to get CCTV. We want to foster a good, calm and safe feeling in the area - rather than being paranoid looking over your shoulder all the time - we don't want it to turn into the Bronx do we?'

*Jude Kidd is Practice Manager at Holly Street*

## the Police Inspector

'I've been Shoreditch Safer Neighbourhoods Inspector for 6 months. Safer Neighbourhoods is a Met Police community policing and engagement initiative to put one

### 'Police operations on the Waste market led to the displacement of drug activity onto Holly Street'

sergeant, two constables and three police community support officers in each neighbourhood. Because Hackney Council have assisted with the funding, we've brought forward the program in Hackney so that it now operates in every ward.

The result of successful police operations on the Waste market led to the displacement of drug activity onto Holly Street. In August we had 150 residents at the Queensbridge Centre for the Community Police Consultative Group (CPCG). People complained of drug dealing, fighting, needles and people using drugs in front of children - they just wanted us to do something.

From August we set up and ran an intelligence led operation. After this we had public meeting and asked residents if they wanted a dispersal order. We handed out leaflets at the meeting and to every home. We got 360 replies and 355 were in favour of the dispersal order. The operation culminated in a number of arrests. We've got 14 people in custody, both youths and adults, and are charging them with supplying class A drugs.

We're looking to arrest about 20 in all. If they are convicted we're hoping for substantial custodial sentences.

We've got a policy of displacement, dispersal and enforcement. We want the dispersal order to tackle the Anti Social Behaviour, the displacement to prevent the vacuum being filled from elsewhere and the enforcement (arrests) so the drug dealers don't move on somewhere else. We've been talking to the press because we want people to know where Holly Street is and that drug dealing will not be tolerated.

Its got to be a partnership with the local community . The dispersal will be there for 3 months, it will be enforced for 2 weeks then we'll have another meeting to ask "Has it made a difference?" "What have we missed?". We've also set up a police surgery at the Queensbridge Centre one day a week.

There is youth activity every evening at the Queensbridge Centre for 2 weeks - we're looking for something like this for the longer term. The Drug Action Team are putting some outreach in - we've taken out the dealers but the users will still be there. So we're also looking for a place for a drop-in centre.

I started in August and said to residents, "Give me 3 months and I'll sort the problem" - I think we're working towards solving it.'

*Insp. Liam Harrington is Safer Neighbourhoods Inspector for Shoreditch which covers Holly Street*

## the Council officer

'Sub 19 (young peoples substance misuse services) began a new weekly satellite substance misuse advice and support service for young people and parents/carers last Tuesday. The service is open on Tuesday afternoons 2-5pm at the Queensbridge Centre. The DAT Family Support worker is providing a workshop for parents/carers concerned about substance misuse on Thursday 8th December, 5pm- 7pm, as part of the dispersal activities, again at the Queensbridge Centre. In addition Addaction Harm Reduction Team are providing two open information and drop in sessions on the 1st and 8th December at Queensbridge for all local residents concerned about local drug use.

There will also be a careful watch kept on the neighbouring areas to make sure that if displacement occurs there is an effective response to the problems in terms of additional intervention and support.'

*Martin Davis is Head of Safer Communities Services, London Borough of Hackney*

## the tenants association rep

'In the winter when its dark early, there'd be trees covering the lights and a big bunch of boys standing talking in the alley way. It was intimidating walking into the area - I didn't feel safe. I only ever went round there in the day.

But I didn't realise how bad it was - it seemed like little kids pretending to be big kids - fighting over territory. The first time we realised we had a gang was when there were 2 separate occasions when someone got stabbed. It was very frightening. No-one would allow their children outside when it was dark for fear of what they might get caught up in.

It got worse when drug dealers and users came onto the estate when the police moved them off Kingsland Waste. That moved them round the corner to here.

Everyone was very upset, we felt nobody was doing anything. It was upsetting to see the police talking and laughing with drug dealers. It defeated the object of calling the police.

I'm quite in agreement with the dispersal order because we felt there was no other way. At least we wouldn't have the crowds, at least it would be safe. I don't really know what this will bring to us. I'm at the point at the moment where I don't care what they do with them because its such a relief to be listened to and have it acted on.

We're holding a 'Reclaim the streets' because we feel we're no longer working as a united development - it just didn't belong to us any more. We've got such a mixture of people here - we don't want people to think it's just the elderly who don't feel safe.

Now we need to feel empowered so that this situation never happens again. Most people don't know the symptoms of drug use. As parents we must identify the information we lack to be able to deal with our children and the problems they are going to face. It doesn't matter how well brought up they are - there'll be pressured and we need to understand - otherwise they will just turn round to us and say "You don't know what I am facing". Children won't just say - they'll wait for us to see the signs.'

**Hettie Peters, chair of CPCG  
said, "It is as a community  
that we have to come  
together to make a  
difference - the young  
people on Holly Street  
desperately need hope -  
until we do that, we're  
getting nowhere".**

## the community worker

'There needs to be more investment in community groups to work with young people in troublesome areas. At lot of what is being provided now in the area is a knee jerk reaction to the crisis that existed. The police should have given the community a chance to solve its own problems and the authorities should have given more time to find out who could work best in the area. Holly Street should have had real investment in the community over many years so that young people at risk of getting involved with crime had a million different options available to them not just two weeks of youth projects when it reaches critical point'

Unnamed community worker, Hackney



# the Housing Association

'The problems of Holly Street are inherent to Hackney. They are also linked back to Kingsland Waste area and other drug areas. When Transport for London reclaimed the derelict land for the new way rail line, this drug activity moved directly onto the Holly Street estate. This meant up to 40 people congregating in a menacing way.

**'Their lives are set up as street lives - being safe only in a pack. It's a destructive lifestyle. These boys are hardened street people, they need a subtle approach, they're not going to go to a traditional youth centre'**

Holly Street is strategically placed at the centre of a lot of estates. The problem has been gradually getting worse due to a lack of action from police, Housing Associations and the Local authority. We have to get this sorted out properly before the tube line arrives here, because then Holly Street could become a drop-off point.

The problems for residents is being intimidated, getting drawn into the drug scene and apathy - the lack of response from agencies means tenants accept a level of problems.

Tenants who've lived here a long time say there used to be a community ethos and vibe. The real community spirit is lost partly because of the rebuilding, partly because of the nature of the drugs and drugs business which makes people ruthless. People care less and the level of street violence is high.

We have over 16s - who look 22 with big bodies but underdeveloped minds - standing on street corners selling drugs. They want an outlet somehow, somewhere. Their lives are set up as street lives - being safe only in a pack. It's a destructive lifestyle. These boys are hardened street people, they need a subtle approach, they're not going to go to a traditional youth centre - we've got to go to them. Hackney have got 2 youth outreach workers and they are very boundary specific. We work with the Sub19 drug awareness/educational group but apart from that there are no resources to tackle the problem that is here.

The principle of regeneration is to work with health, police, leisure and transport services to provide joined up

approach, underpinned by tenants shaping services they want. It's been the key to re-empowering the community - with varying degrees of success - but is the way to go.

Now that we've got a clear framework and steering group of all the key people to solve the problem - just the core

people who need to be working together. Putting together enforcement, community development, CCTV and environmental aspects. The enforcement is needed because of the level of threat and fear, and the dispersal order is needed alongside.

But it's also an environmental problem. The estate is dark, there are a lot of trees, and an alley way. We cut down a lot of trees - people kept asking why - but we tried to keep them informed through regular newsletters and meetings. We want to get cameras for the alley way and demolish walls to stop people congregating. And we've put up anti-graffiti paint.

Greenwich Leisure have taken over the sports centre and it seems they are more community focussed than their predecessors - they're talking about subsidies for local community and providing sports that local community interested in.

We've got to look at community development too - like construction training for example - young people want the money to buy a car for instance, so there should be work to rival the lure of drugs. We need schemes that are practical and pragmatic. We need to incorporate DAT and sub19 into existing summer activities. And we're planning a Reclaim the Streets event to coincide with the Police's dispersal order.'

*Tariq Ahmed, Circle 33 Outreach Worker*

## the Councillor

'The Local Authority are completely embarrassed because they've been willing to neglect the situation until the local residents got together and decided to protest.

I'm not convinced that the problem is just displacement from development land. It may have something to do with the Olympics and Hackney wanting to smarten up its act.

The idea of Holly Street development was to design out crime - but bricks and mortar don't tell the whole story - we also need investment in the infrastructure of the estate - so that people are given ownership, a reason to stay and a reason to respect the community that they are a part of. Without that, young people especially feel that they've got no investment in the community and got no reason to invest themselves in what's going on around them. Holly street debacle eg where local authority ignored residents and let them stew.

GLL now have program of youth facilities at Queensbridge and are committed as far as I can tell to consulting young people about the services they want in their area

I hope the Council don't use the success of the raids to go back to doing nothing thinking the whole problem has gone away because some of the drug dealers have gone.

The community has got to carry on being as motivated as it has been - there's often the situation where people only get together when there is a problem. We've got to stick together to make sure that we don't go back to what was a very dangerous environment

Only when Tariq Ahmed from the Housing Association started did the alarm bells seem to ring about the real problem. It was only Tariq who realised that there was a deep problem. Unfortunately not enough people believed him.'

*Andrew Boff is Ward Councillor for Holly Street*

## The Community & Police Consultative Group (CPCG)

We held a public meeting at the Queensbridge Centre in July. More than 150 people attended and people were turned away at the door. Everybody came - young people, elderly people, young mothers, men, women - because everyone is affected.

People complained about drug dealers, prostitution and people defecating and vomiting in their gardens and stairwells. They said drug users would swallow drugs when police approached, then drink lucozade till they vomited in people's living space. If you live in that kind of atmosphere, where you've got male or female prostitution on the stairwell then when you walk down the passage there is a big group of young men hanging around for hours, the children are bound to be asking questions. The danger is that kids grow up thinking that this is normal as well as being frightening and disturbing. If you've got that kind of activity 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, it's exhausting.

Many people talked about the lack of activity for teenagers and children. And many parents said they were frightened of their children getting drawn into the drug activity through boredom and naivety. At the meeting a motion was passed asking for 24 hour policing, an immediate dispersal order, eviction of known drug dealers and meetings set up to look at the design of the estate. The meeting also asked for an arrest referral scheme, where drug users are offered access to drug treatment program at point of arrest - and a third party reporting site (for people who want support, but do not want to report crimes to the police).

I think the police arrests that have happened now are what people living on Holly Street have been asking for. That's what policing should be about, protecting law abiding people from people that are breaking the law.

But there are other issues - the sustainability is important. What's happening after 3 months when the dispersal order runs out? Even though we have included the Drug Action Teams - how can a problem like this that is quite endemic, be actually dealt with? And another concern is the criminalisation of young people. How will this affect local young people who are actually just gathering in groups, not criminal, just hanging out with friends?

*Joan Miller is an Executive Member of the CPCG.*

# The Wally Foster Community Centre - how to find £40,000 a year rent?

The Wally Foster Community Centre in Homerton Street, in the shadow of the proposed Olympic stadium, hosts a range of activities including an award winning theatre school, and yet struggles to keep going.

The WFCC provides services and activities for children and senior citizens as well as after school and

**'I wake up with palpitations every night because I'm so worried that we are not going to be able to keep the centre open'**

adult education classes. The WFCC is also the base for local community Health Visitors and the two local churches.

Hackney Council used to fund the centre £12,000 a year for a manager and charge no rent. First the grant was stopped and now in line with the new lettings policy of charging near commercial rents, the community centre is being asked to pay £40,000 a year, though this will be introduced over 5 years.

Anna Fiorentini, founder and director of the arts school said "It's difficult being in Hackney - for instance last Christmas we suddenly had to raise £4000 because we had our end of

year show cancelled at short notice when Ocean closed, and we had to rearrange the whole thing at the Hackney Empire. We want to be here, but I'm worried because if the Wally Foster Centre shuts, the school goes too".

The WFCC now has to find £125,000 in the next 5 years in rent. Anna Fiorentini, who also works as part time centre manager, said "What we need is some time off from running the centre to do fundraising. We are offering so many services, but I wake up with palpitations every night because I am so worried that we are not going to be able to keep the centre open."

## Anna Fiorentini School Annual Show

The Anna Fiorentini Theatre & Film School is back at the Hackney Empire on 22nd January 2006 for its 5th Anniversary Gala Variety Showcase. The students will be staging a variety performance of acting, dancing and singing with music ranging from pop to musicals.

The school was set up by the Prince's Trust in 2001 to build a safe and supportive environment for children from ethnic minorities, children in care, children from lone parent families and children with learning disabilities. Founder and director Anna Fiorentini said "Some of these children were once low achievers in mainstream schools but since attending our school they have developed lifestyle skills

which divert them from going down the slippery slope of underachievement and unemployment".

The school is based at the Wally Foster Community Centre and runs classes on Saturdays in all aspects of theatre and film production as well as dance, drama, singing, costume and set design. 150 children attend each week, the school has won 3 Business of London awards and children from the school have won parts in West End productions as well as working on films and commercials.

"I think the success behind the school is due to the excellent teaching staff



whose high standards enable the children to develop their abilities dynamically.

Anna says: "What they will see is not just kids on stage, but a truly professional performance."

**Tickets for the show from Hackney Empire Box Office: 020 8985 2424**

**Funders/promoters - or general enquiries about classes ring AFTTs 020 7682 1403**

# The Hoxton Story

Described as 'brilliant' by the critics, Lisa Goldman's theatre piece, *Hoxton Story*, takes the audience in groups of 8 or 10 walking around the streets, bars and estates of Hoxton, challenging through drama, what is good and bad regeneration. The play shows

the different characters' worlds existing side by side, sometimes overlapping, sometimes clashing, but mostly completely separate. At times the audience look round wondering if a dialogue is part of the play or whether they have wandered into a real life drama.

## What gave you the idea for *Hoxton Story*?

I've always been interested in regeneration, gentrification and demise of social housing. Hoxton interested me particularly because Brit Art put it on the artistic and cultural map, but didn't seem to have had an impact on local residents - as an artist I found that an interesting idea to probe.

## What's the aural archive?

The heritage lottery funded us to make a permanent archive as a legacy in the area about how it has changed. We did 35 interviews - some video mostly audio - and they're at Hackney archive unedited for anyone to hear. Then we have an edited version on website, and then we've chosen bits of



testimony for the book.

## Were you surprised at what you found?

I was surprised by how open people were in talking about their discontent and how scared people were about not rocking the boat. I was asked to switch off the tape recorder by quite a number of people. I was intrigued - what could be the comeback? Why should people be scared about talking about their feelings about their own area and what's happening to it?

I was also surprised at how much people were doing to improve their own area - the amount of hours they put in voluntarily to make own estate a better place to live - very humbling and interesting.

## What is the best that could happen for Hoxton?

Proper investment - particularly in the housing infrastructure. Hoxton Hall is a fantastic building and community resource that's completely cash starved. All the buildings with cultural and community use are being sold off. How can you start from nothing? I suppose the answer is from people's self-organisation and demanding funding for projects.

## What's your next project?

I writing a new writing about a child soldier in Liberia - it's about the exploitation and commodification of children, looking at the cycle of violence and trauma for young people. But I'm excited by this process - be nice to take this format and use it in another context.

**More information about *Hoxton Story* from the Red Room on 020 7697 8685 at [www.theredroom.org.uk/hoxton.htm](http://www.theredroom.org.uk/hoxton.htm) or call Hackney Archive at 020 7241 2886**

As an ammendment to the article in Spark (August edition- Hoxton Hall an innovative solution), Hoxton Hall Ltd would like to clarify that it does receive a yearly grant from Hackney Council to support its Youth Arts Programme, and has received Neighbourhood Renewal funding via Hackney Council to improve its facilities and its accessibility. Hoxton Hall is owned by the London & Middlesex Quaker Service Trust.



# European update

## ESF 1.3 Neighbourhood Facilitators project

### The Neighbourhood Facilitators Programme is now well underway

The Neighbourhood Facilitator Programme, which is part funded by the European Social Fund, the CEN's Single Community Programme and Hackney Strategic Partnership, was launched in August 05 to local organisations and residents based in Hackney.

The programme customises individual packages to support the progression of individuals and community groups to become more proficient community workers/advisers in their neighbourhoods. The programme provides direct hands on development and experience for participants.

Since its launch the project has been well received by the local community and continues to be well attended. In the New Year the project will be extending its



Community Facilitators meeting

work to new groups and individuals in Hackney.

#### WORK PLACEMENTS

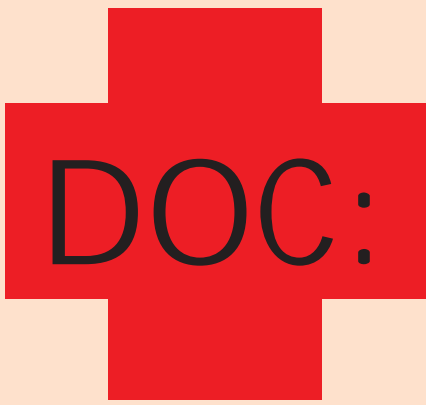
One of the project's objectives will be to identify organisations that can provide hands on experience and support to our Neighbourhood Facilitators while in the work place. Unlimited support will be available to both parties during

the work placement as well as financial assistance to cover any out of pocket expenses.

**If you are a community organisation based in Hackney that can work closely with Hackney CVS in supporting the development of our Community Facilitators please contact: Marie Walker on 020 7923 1962 or email: marie@hcv.org.uk**



The Neighbourhood Facilitator is an innovative project funded by the European Social Fund, Hackney Strategic Partnership, Community Empowerment Network and Hackney Marsh Partnership to capacity build local people and groups based in Hackney, become Community Facilitators/Advisers.



# developing organisations' capacity

## issue 3 - Monitoring and Evaluation



### KISHORE SAYS:

'Good monitoring systems are what every funder is looking for'

One of the 12 areas of an organisation's development is monitoring & evaluation, which is one of the most important considerations for an organisation's long term sustainability. As mentioned by Kristine Wellington in DOC no. 2, its about being clear about the results you want to achieve by the end of the project.

### **How do you check that what you are doing is working and if not, what to do to make it work and not give up?**

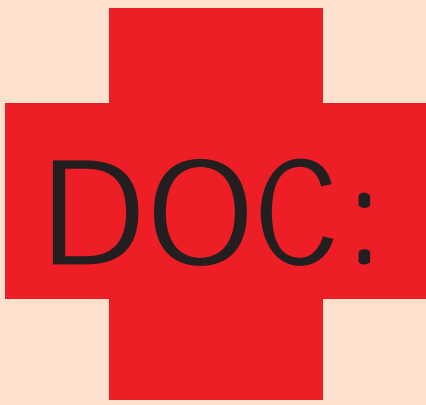
To answer this question I have firstly provided a little clarity on the meaning of Monitoring & Evaluation (as defined by the Charities Evaluation Service), with examples of how to recognise performance indicators. I have also provided some case studies of local Hackney community groups who have succeeded as a result of keeping clear monitoring records and making sure that evaluation takes place on a regular basis.

**Monitoring** The routine and systematic collection of information for the purpose of checking your projects progress against your projects plans

**Evaluation** Using monitoring data and other information to make a judgement on how your project is doing

As part of our **free one to one advice and guidance sessions** at HCVS we can guide you through the process of developing a monitoring and evaluation framework and setting performance monitoring targets, as well as help you understand what outcomes you are delivering and how to better communicate your project activities to the funders.

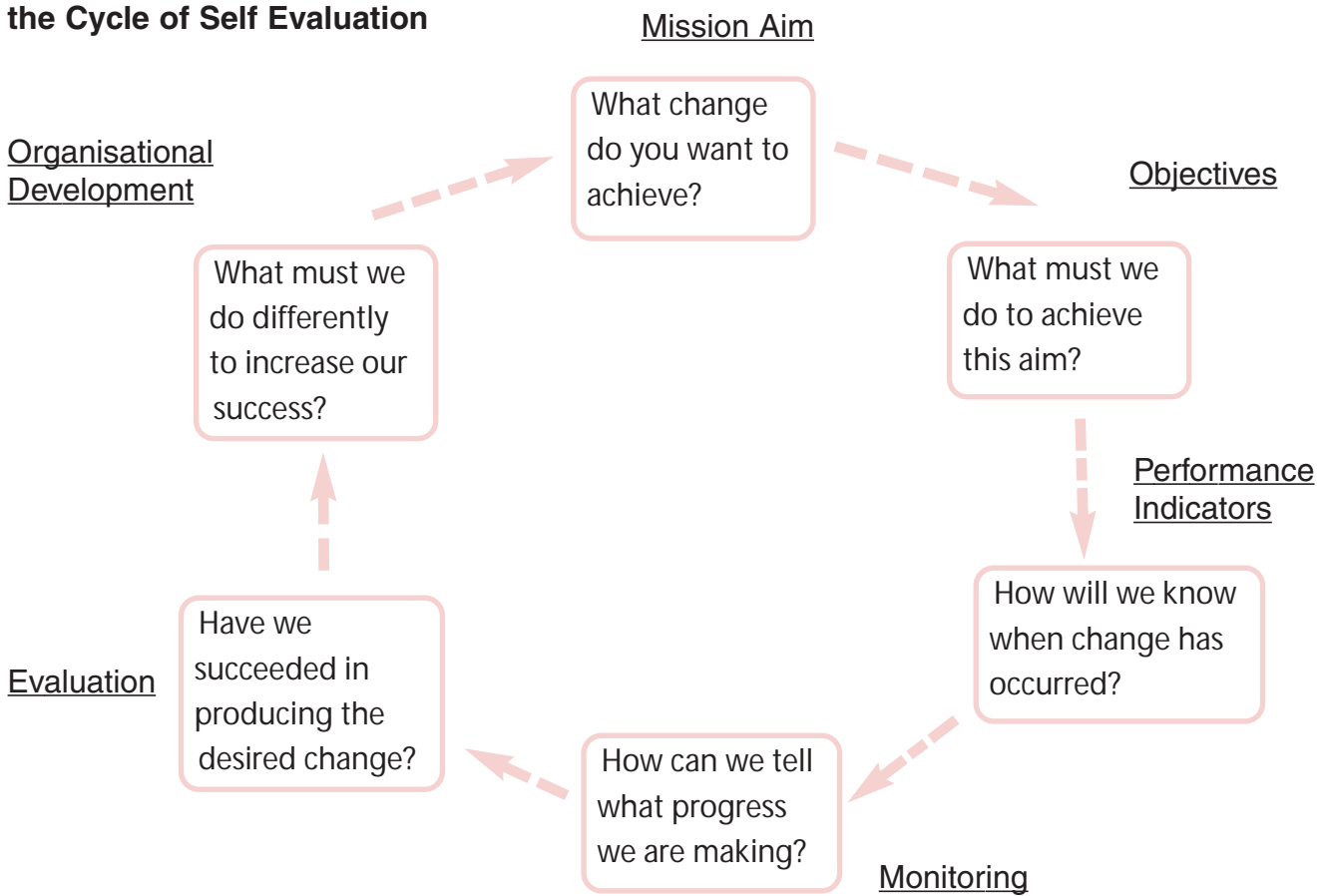
**For more details**, look at the back page of DOC which lists all of HCVS's capacity building team. For general enquiries contact Reception on 020 7923 1962 or email: [info@hcv.org.uk](mailto:info@hcv.org.uk)



# developing organisations' capacity

## issue 3 - Monitoring and Evaluation

### the Cycle of Self Evaluation



### Performance Indicators

The things we measure to make judgements about the progress and success of our services. Alternative terms: *Indicators of success;* *Evidence of success or;* *Signs of success*

There are two main types of performance indicators:

#### ■ Output indicators

Measuring progress towards meeting your objectives

#### ■ Outcome indicators

Measuring progress towards meeting your aims

The following case studies will hopefully provide you with a better idea of how some of the organisations that I have worked with have progressed and developed as a result of recognising outputs and outcomes and then going on to monitoring and evaluating them.

## DOC Case Study No. 1



### **VALERIE MORRIS**

**Co-ordinator of Upper Clapton Reform Youth Club, which was set up to capture the attention of young people, encourage good citizenship, tolerance to each other and prevent crime and anti-social behaviour.**

#### **Objectives**

The club will look:

- To promote psychological and spiritual development through a mentoring and life skills programme.
- To provide a nurturing, safe and structured environment, where the young people can feel comfortable and find support.
- To enable young people to enjoy social activities in their local area and also embark into activities that will help to develop their cultural awareness.

#### **Performance indicators**

- Increase in take-up of services
- Increasing self-esteem
- Better spread of information and guidance
- Better provision of activities that are not normally available to the youth from disadvantaged families.
- Evidence of youth beginning to excel in non-school environment.
- Continued use of service





### Monitoring performance

Includes:

- Database of all service users
- Signing in sheets for all activities, daily, weekly, monthly or quarterly
- Regular users feedback form
- Regular users meetings to steering the group activities / reflecting need
- Record case studies to show beginning and end of intervention

### Evaluation

- Comparison of membership / number of service users at least every 6 to 12 months
- Progress made by service users as a result of service provided
- New needs of the groups as a result of growth
- Are you still meeting the aims of what you were set up for?

## DOC Case Study No. 2



### **FAIZAL TARVALA**

**Co-ordinator of Ethnic Right To Advice - an organisation that provides a home visitation advice and information service. The organisation was set up to support BME people through advice, information and assistance to lead a more independent existence.**

#### **Objectives**

- To ensure advice, information and assistance is available in different languages.
- To encourage young people to support their own communities.
- To improve the facilities currently available to elderly and housebound people.
- To help remove barriers commonly faced by minorities i.e. disability, house bound and under-educated.
- To develop ways in which families give each other practical help and support.

#### **Performance indicators**

- Cross-section of communities accessing services.
- Increase in younger people taking up volunteering.
- Increase of Elderly people accessing the service.
- Widespread knowledge of services provided by Ethnic Right To Advice.
- Increase in number of referrals from mainstream service providers.



### Monitoring performance

- Database of all service users
- Record of all signing in sheets for all activities, daily, weekly, monthly or quarterly.
- Regular users feedback form
- Regular users meetings to steering the group activities / reflecting need.
- Record case studies to show beginning and end of intervention

### Evaluation

- The number of people accessing the service.
- The increase in quality of life for service users.
- Progress made by service users as a result of service provided.
- New needs of the groups as a result of growth.
- Which new agencies should the organisation be working with in order to meet the needs of service users?
- The need to provide information and service in other languages.

## DOC Case Study No. 3



### **JANET MURUNGI**

**Co-ordinator of RISE Community Action (formally Hackney Women's Project) based at Spencer House, Austin Street. E2. Set up to provide a voice for people living with HIV / Aids and create a bridge between service providers and services users.**

#### **Objectives**

- Train service users to advocate for others and themselves on the needs of people living with HIV / Aids.
- Create better awareness on issues surrounding HIV / Aids and reduce HIV related stigma in the community.
- Provide a better understanding of the 'care needs' of service users.
- Create better understanding of 'basic knowledge of HIV' to health professional / social workers and housing officers, so as to provide a service without prejudice.
- Involve service user at trainings and facilitations, so as to hear the need.
- Reduce isolation suffered by HIV positive people and promote their social inclusion.
- To empower service users to make informed choices on accessing services.

#### **Performance indicators**

- Improvement in service users reflected through casework
- Bridging the gap between service users and providers.
- Better uptake of services, as service users will have more confidence.
- Better understanding amongst service providers of 'basic HIV knowledge' (resulting in service provision without stigma).
- Increase in numbers of service users.



### Monitoring performance

Includes:

- Database of all service users
- Record of all signing in sheets for all activities, daily, weekly, monthly or quarterly.
- Regular users feedback form
- Regular users meetings to steering the group activities / reflecting need.
- Record case studies to show beginning and end of intervention

### Evaluation

- The number of people accessing the service.
- The increase in quality of life for service users.
- Progress made by service users as a result of service provided.
- New needs of the groups as a result of growth.
- Are you still meeting the aims of what you were set up for?



# developing organisations' capacity

## issue 3 - CASE STUDIES

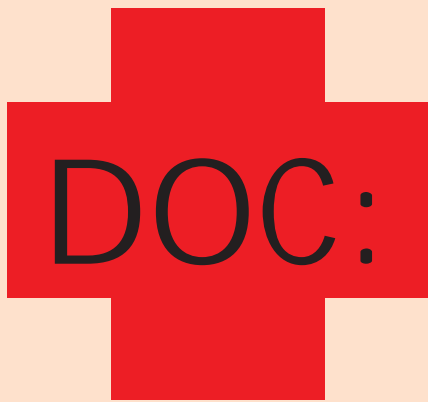
**Example:** *OUTPUT INDICATORS & TARGETS for THE REHABILITATION CENTRE*

**Objective:** To offer service users an opportunity to work in a small business

Output indicators	Targets
Profile of service users	40% women 20% from ethnic minorities 80% with a long history of mental health problems
No. of service users each day	25
Attendance rate	90%
Sales / profit	To break even in year one
Level of satisfaction with activities	80% to be satisfied or very satisfied

In the measurement of outcome indicators the following can be considered:

Output indicators	Targets
<b>CONFIDENT</b>	Whether users display determination to achieve goals. How positive users feel about themselves.
<b>KNOWLEDGEABLE</b>	Level of awareness of issues affecting them Numbers gaining access to education, training or employment Level of understanding of UK system
<b>ASSERTIVE</b>	Number of users able to share knowledge and experience Number of users asserting their rights
<b>INDEPENDENT</b>	To break even in year one



# developing organisations' capacity

issue 3 - Monitoring and Evaluation

## Meet the HCVS Capacity Building Team



**Kishore Kanani - Senior Capacity Building Officer**



**Marie Walker - European Funding Project Coordinator**



**Kristine Wellington - Children, Young People and Families Advisor**



**Clifford Hinkson - LEAD in Hackney Training Network consultant**



**Robert Quaye - Black & Ethnic Minority Arts Network Coordinator**

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@hcv.org.uk](mailto:kishore@hcv.org.uk)

Frontline projects working with children & families

[kristine@hcv.org.uk](mailto:kristine@hcv.org.uk)

BME arts and cultural organisations

[robert@hcv.org.uk](mailto:robert@hcv.org.uk)

Street level 1st tier training organisations

[clifford@hcv.org.uk](mailto:clifford@hcv.org.uk)

European funding, community facilitators and enterprise

[marie@hcv.org.uk](mailto:marie@hcv.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 of our Capacity Building Team simply contact Reception on 020 7923 1962 to make a booking.

HCVS Capacity Building programmes are supported by the following agencies



# Adolescent Health Service - A Hackney Success Story

**H**ackney has been judged a model of 'what works' in involving young people in shaping and delivering adolescent health services. Following a visit by the Chief Medical Officer in June, the Government's "Youth Matters" green paper announced that Hackney has been selected as one of 3 areas in the country to pilot the new "Adolescent Health

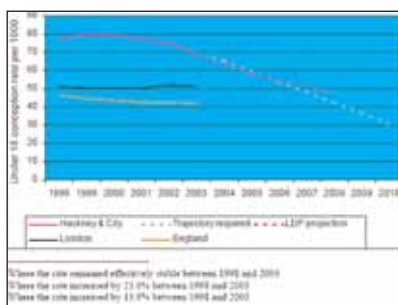
Demonstration Sites" which from 2006 will offer enhanced health services alongside other services used by teenagers such as internet access, sport, leisure and youth services. If the model is successful in improving take-up and helping

**'Hackney was praised by the Teenage Pregnancy Unit for positive working relationships involving the community, voluntary, statutory and private sector agencies across a wide range of disciplines'**

Kelly said "We not only get more resources from the Department of Health, but also expertise from the Royal College to build a really excellent health service for young people in Hackney"

In March the figures from the Office of National Statistics showed that Hackney has achieved a decrease in teenage pregnancy rates of 10.1% since 1998 and is the first London borough to reduce the rate for 4 years in a row. Hackney started from a much higher than average rate, but while the overall London rate is rising, Hackney has shown consistent improvement. Figures show a rate of 69.3 pregnancies per 1000 females aged 15 - 17 in the City and Hackney area - a reduction from 75.3 per 1000 in 2002.

Hackney was praised by the Teenage Pregnancy Unit for



young people to be healthier, the Department of Health will support local authorities, via children's trusts or other mechanisms, to develop it further.

Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator Adrian

having a strong evidence base to the work that was done, good partnership working with well established structures and positive working relationships and the involvement of community, voluntary, statutory and private agencies across a wide range of disciplines.

The Primary Care Trust, in its own analysis of what had contributed to the success agreed, adding "investing in specialist support services for teenage parents and their children, targeting boys, young men and fathers and employing both a universal and targeted approach to service delivery of both prevention and support services"

Spark interviewed some of the people involved in projects working to reduce teenage pregnancy levels in Hackney.



# Condom distribution in Hackney

SPARK interviewed *Anjan Ghosh* from Brook London, based at the City and Hackney Primary Care Trust who runs the Condom Distribution Scheme. This project came about from research done by Brook which looked at existing condom distribution schemes, and the feedback from networking with local organisations. It was discovered that schemes that work are always based on interagency



partnership - with the project acting as an umbrella of organisations. Many schemes, though they may run well, had few ways of evaluating their success from the data they had recorded, so Brook wanted to make sure they put good data systems in place.

## What is the aim?

It's to increase the uptake of condoms through the development of a distribution system which reaches young people who do not currently access services. A condom is the one tangible thing which gives a young person the power to protect against pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs). It is also THE measure that agencies without a background in Sexual and Relationship Education can deliver with some training.

Then we want to mainstream the service - there's no point in setting up something so elaborate it just stops - better to have something simple and universal. We want to leave a well functioning network in which young people have an ownership as well.

## How does the scheme operate?

We set up 'Easy Access Points' (EAPs) for young people to be able to access condoms. The idea is to set up as many EAPs as possible while remaining effective. We've got 10 functioning and should have 20 by mid December.

Most of the service is drop in style; a young person comes into an EAP, they register and are given a card, it has a number, but isn't identifiable. Using the number they can go to any EAP and get the specified number of condoms each week. We've tried to spread the EAPs as far as possible but really that depends on the partners.

## You also have workers in the community?

The detached service goes out to the

hard to reach young people, who are the most at risk, and the least likely to go to a clinic. It's not just about giving out condoms, it's also building relationships, so the young people are better able to access sexual health services in future. The workers create a rapport and give out the condoms, explain how to use them and why they are important. The only information they record is a name or nickname, the postcode (either where the young person lives, or where the service is received) and the number of condoms given out.

## Who are the organisations you are working with?

There are 15 partners ranging from the large like the NHS (through the Choices clinics and the health visitors), Connexions and the

## condom distribution continued.....

Community College to small voluntary groups like SKY, Shoreditch Spa and groups working particularly with the BME population like the Busoga Association and Great Nile Trust.

### What are the challenges?

The biggest challenge about sexual health for young people in Hackney (as everywhere) is to try to engage as many young people as possible to encourage them to view sexual responsibility in a different way.

One of the challenges for young people is to make condoms part of foreplay so it becomes more cool to use condoms.

The next challenge is to make it a model service so that the young people feel that and feel ownership. We've put in a lot of evaluation systems - and we're also using mystery shoppers from CityZEN who provide user feedback. In the next phase we'll go increasingly to the young people for input to fine tune the service.

### Anything else?

One of the things we feel should happen, regardless of who we're dealing with, is that there should be a consistent message. The diverse ethnicity, culture and religions in this borough can mean that young people end up getting mixed messages and forming their opinions and adopting behaviours, including sex behaviour, which are a mishmash of all these messages. By a service giving a consistent message around sexual health - including sexuality, sexual responsibility, and respect in a relationship - it would provide a basis for a young person to have an informed choice.

**More information from Anjan Ghosh 07906 857 061.**

# Get Clued Up

Two community youth projects, CityZEN and SKY Partnership, are working together to train and support peer educators and mentors who have been part of the success of the teenage sexual health service.

CityZEN and SKY work together on the 'Clued up' project using their expertise in youth led programs and in running young mums and young dads groups. Alice Philips, director of SKY said "The idea was to train the young people so they could go into any setting and deliver a sexual health workshop for other young people "

Sixteen young people, four of whom are young parents themselves, were recruited and received intensive training.

Steve Curtis from CityZEN said "The first part of the training was in peer research - as everything they do is evidence based. So they went out and interviewed 200 young people to find out what young people wanted from Sex and Relationship Education (SRE)".

"The next part of the training was to teach the young people to be trainers themselves so they would be able to plan and implement group and interactive training programs.

"Lastly we gave them all the SRE information and from this they developed workshops and lesson plans".

The peer mentors started delivering workshops in Spring 2005, initially to youth clubs and small voluntary organisations and then at the Hackney Summer University. Since then they have focussed in schools - and the program is now delivered in most secondary schools in Hackney. Steve Curtis said "The young people use quizzes role play, drama and contraceptive displays. The schools are definitely liking it - their own ability to deliver SRE has been under strain through the pressure to deliver the Citizenship curriculum".

Steve described one workshop the young people had run "It was for a group of parents from a Hackney secondary school. They put together a piece of forum theatre - where a scene is performed and then the audience can suggest alternative actions for the characters. The story they performed involved a mum, dad, son and love interest. The mum doesn't want to speak to the son about sex, the father is always busy watching MTV, the son is left to his own devices and the girlfriend gets pregnant. The audience then intervened to change the story so the parents start engaging with the son. It was a really successful workshop, the parents were very involved".

# Helping young fathers

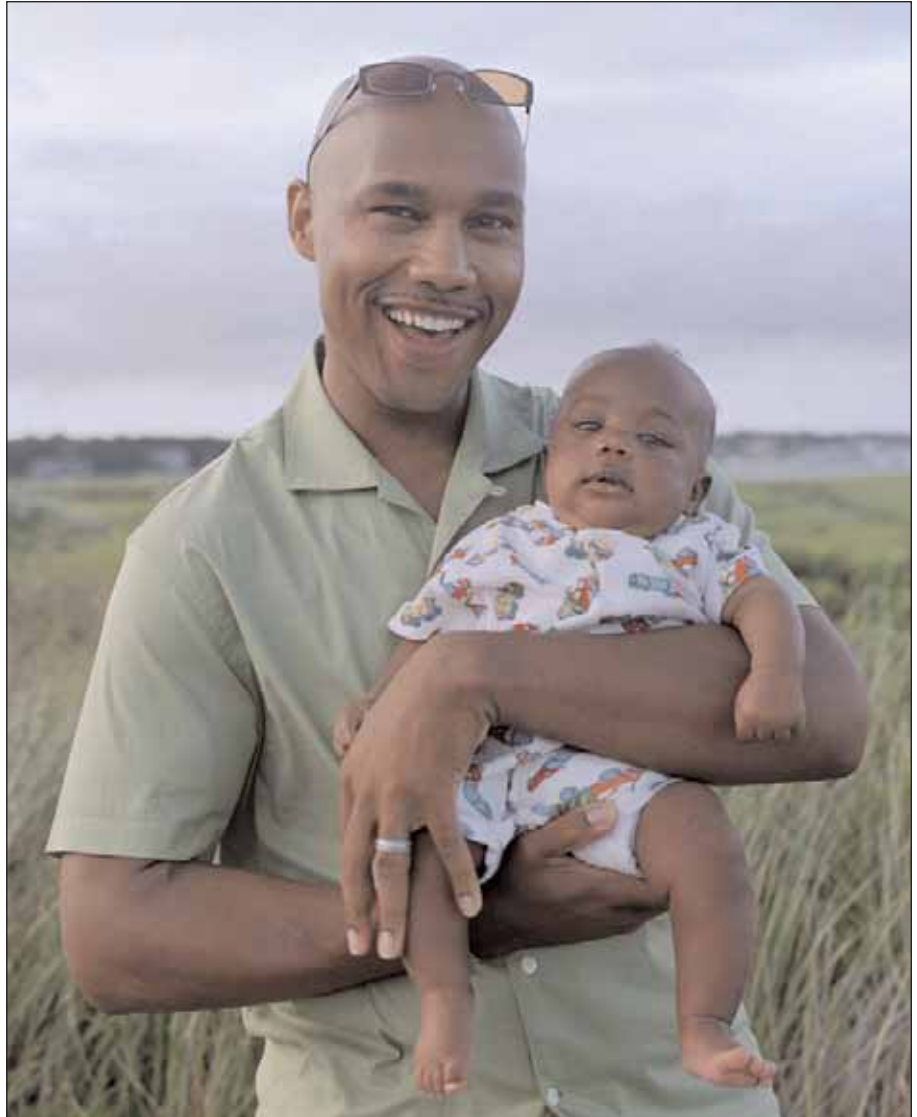
Alice Philips, Director of SKY, describes the Young Fathers Project.

"We are working with Family Rights group who investigated what happens to the fathers of children who go into care, and why they are often not involved in care procedures, even though 25% of the children's files would name the birth father.

"Our role is to engage young fathers, particularly those from BME communities. We recruited and trained 5 young fathers to do peer research. They carried out mystery shopping from social services in the borough - to see how services for young fathers are delivered. And then they went out and interviewed other young fathers to find out the key issues - how does it feel as a young father, what kind of support is needed.

"The point of this is to identify father-friendly social care practitioners so we can, for example, refer a young father to someone in housing, education or training who understands the issues. The model is reflective - every time we refer someone, they re-evaluate the service, so the service is self-improving.

"The kind of things that came out of the focus groups was that young fathers often don't know their rights - for example some were concerned about their name getting to the CSA, some thought they had no rights if they had a different surname from the child. If a child is in trouble, the focus tends to be on the mother and the mother's mother, yet the bottom line



**'The point of the research was to identify father-friendly social care practitioners so we can, for example, refer a young father to someone in housing, education or training who understands the issues'**

to try to stop getting into care.

"We would like to hear from any practitioner who works with young fathers and is interested in being part of the referral network and in helping us improve services".

*More information from Steve Curtis, CityZEN on 020 8986 3882*

*And from Alice Philips, SKY Partnership on 020 7729 6970*

# Private Fostering and you

The British Association for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) believes that there could be anything from 15,000 to 20,000 children who are privately fostered in the UK today. We do know that children who are privately fostered come from a variety of ethnic, social and economic backgrounds. We also know that in the course of your work, you probably come into contact with children and young people in this situation frequently.



- If you able to recognise a private fostering arrangement?
- If you discover a private fostering arrangement do you know what to do?

**If your answer to either of these questions is NO - read on.**

## What is Private Fostering?

Private fostering is when a child or young person under the age of 16 (under 18 if disabled) is cared for, and provided with accommodation for more than 28 days, by an adult who is not a relative, by private arrangement between the parent and carer. Usually a birth parent chooses and arranges private fostering placement.

## So what is a relative?

A relative is a grandparent, brother,

sister, uncle or aunt. They could be full or half relation and could be related by marriage, including a step-parent. Members of an extended family such as great aunt, great uncle or parents cousins are not recognised as relatives.

## Did you know that?

If you are aware of a private fostering arrangement, Hackney Social Services department should be notified.

Support and advice can be made available to the child, young person or

carer (as is appropriate).

That notification is simply a phone call to the Duty and Assessment team on 020 8356 5500

Hackney is embarking on a programme of awareness raising and training. If you or your organisation would like to know more about Private Fostering contact: Merle Crosdale on 020 8356 6327 or Iris Amoah on 020 8356 6254 at the Adoption and Fostering Unit, 205 Morning Lane, Hackney E9 6JX

**More information about fostering from:  
[www.adoption.org.uk](http://www.adoption.org.uk)  
[www.fostering.org.uk](http://www.fostering.org.uk)**

# HCVS services

## Community Accounting courses

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

### C.A.S.H - Volunteer expenses

Friday 3rd February  
10.30am to 12:00pm

The do's and don'ts about volunteer expenses and tax.

### C.A.S.H - SORP 2005

Friday 10th February  
10.00am to 12.30pm

Every organisation needs to produce accounts of some description and usually, have them examined or audited. This session aims to help you identify the particular requirements for your organisation. It covers the processes involved in preparing annual accounts, the role of the auditor / independent examiner and the presentation of financial information in line with the Statement of Recommended Practice for registered charities (SORP).

### Finance Policies and Procedures

Thursday 16th February  
10.00am to 12.30pm

The seminar will look at the types of financial policies voluntary / community organisations should have in place. The seminar will also look at financial procedures, which covers the day-to-day operational rules, establishing best practice, control measures and facilitate implementation of policy.

### Preparing budgets & cash flows

Friday 24th February  
10.00am to 3.00pm

Preparing budgets & cash flows. An introduction to the value of good financial planning, using case studies and practical exercises to develop budgeting and forecasting skills. An essential and valuable beginners course for staff, volunteers and committee members alike.

### Finance Record Keeping (including: bank reconciliation, petty cash and cash bookes)

Friday 3rd March  
10am to 3.00pm

**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 cash book 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.

### C.A.S.H - Finance Report

Friday 10th March  
10am to 3.30pm

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 HCVS for a booking form on 0207 923 1962.**

This project is part funded by Link Up Hackney - the network for 2nd tier infrastructure organisations

**LinkUP**  
hackney

**hcvS**  
Supporting  
Hackney's  
Communities

# ChangeUp pilot projects to start soon

Just to remind you, Link Up Hackney is the name of the network of second tier agencies locally who have come together to take forward the Government's ChangeUp agenda. Meeting since 2004, Link Up has held several consultation events to ask local community groups what support they need. As a result of this consultation a number of pilot projects have been commissioned to deliver urgent needed infrastructure support to community groups.



**W**e have a range of small projects which we are just starting to plan and deliver now. These are initially pilot projects which run until June 2006, but we hope that they will continue and be built on in the next stages of ChangeUp. Different agencies are leading on different projects on behalf of the Link Up network.

**Networking and Consultation Project** - We need to know even more about what you want us to do! This project will focus particularly on the needs of smaller groups, as well as faith groups, BME groups, refugee groups and Tenants groups. A telephone survey, questionnaires and focus groups will help us better understand what you want and need. Please participate - it's a long term investment to get ChangeUp right in Hackney.

**ICT Project** - we will be setting up more support to the VCS for repairs and maintenance, as well as ongoing support.

**Website Project** - will do two things - it will set up a ChangeUp website for you to get information on developments and second tier services in a more co-ordinated way. It will also help 3 Hackney agencies develop their own websites. These three agencies will be identified through application to the Link Up Website Project.

**Premises Project** - We know Premises are a massive issue for you. This small project is about lobbying relevant bodies, and trying to create a co-ordinated voluntary sector lobby in Hackney.

**Volunteering Project** - We will be producing a simple guide for use by frontline agencies on volunteering (including the impact of benefits). We will also be finding out more about what support you need to improve your volunteer programmes.

**Community Finance Project** - 12 organisations will receive support on PAYE, and a further 12 on book-keeping. These agencies will be small, and will apply to receive this initially free financial support.

**"We have spent a lot of time talking and planning around ChangeUp in order to make sure we were getting our capacity building offer to frontline agencies right. Now the Steering Group is keen to make sure that the work starts to deliver real results to agencies 'on the ground'"**

Jackie Dorrian, Hackney Play Association

**"The benefits of ChangeUp should be clearer, more comprehensive services, better tuned to your needs now, and in the years to come"**

Sonia Khan, Director, HTEN

**"The 2nd tier agencies in Hackney are working really well together to respond to local needs especially given the small resources available for ChangeUp activities from national government."**

Jake Ferguson, Assistant Director, HCVS

# the Link Up Plan

ChangeUp is all about making sure that the support available to frontline agencies by second tier agencies is better co-ordinated and in line with your needs. In order to do this, we have needed to produce a plan for our work, which we drew up in September 2005. The Plan summarises what we know about the VCS in Hackney, and what you have told us you need.

Section 3 outlines a detailed programme of work for the 2004 - 2006 period which is our 'start up' phase. This involves some practical, hands-on projects which we hope will deliver tangible results to Hackney's VCS (more below).

The final section (Section 4) provides a broad framework of priorities for joint working over the longer term. This will be worked up with more detail over the next few months.

## What are the NEXT STEPS?

If you want to see the full plan, please contact Jake at HCVS at [jake@hcvs.org.uk](mailto:jake@hcvs.org.uk). If you are interested in any of the projects, please contact one of the Link Up Steering Group who are:

- Sonia Khan (HTEN)
- Jackie Dorrian (HPA)
- Jake Ferguson (HCVS)
- Carl Allen (HVA)
- Chris Walsh (Wiseowls)

Link Up Hackney is a network of the following agencies: BEMWG; Bootstrap; Health and Social Care Forum; Church and Neighbourhood Development in London (CANDL); Community Empowerment Network; Council for Older People; Disability Hackney; Interlink Foundation; Race Equality Partnership; HCVS; HVA; HPA; HTEN; Wiseowls. Hackney Council is an associate member.

**HCVS is Hackney's leading voluntary and community sector support agency. We provide hundreds of free one to one advice sessions to help you develop your project ideas or capacity build your organisation.**

**To book an appointment with one of our Development Team please phone HCVS on 020 7923 1962 or email: [info@hcvs.org.uk](mailto:info@hcvs.org.uk)**

# Are you a member of LEAD - Hackney Learning Network?

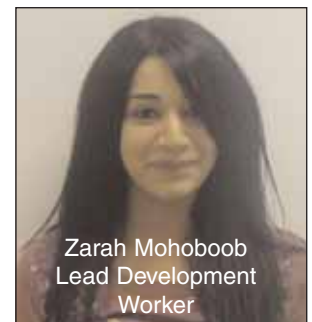
If you provide learning/training opportunities for people living Hackney please read on and sign up before 31st December 2005.

## What does LEAD offer?

- Access to a wider range of funding opportunities
- Membership of a borough network of training providers and potential providers
- The opportunity to develop partnership working within, across and outside, East London boroughs, including other sectors
- Access to appropriate capacity building support

## Community and voluntary sector providers, or potential providers, can access a range of information and support including

- A training needs analysis, followed by a Training Action Plan
- Help and support to achieve the PQASSO standard, Investors in People quality mark, the Matrix quality standard, or ISO 9002
- Advice on accrediting courses and where to go for accreditation
- Information on funding opportunities (normally more than £20,000)
- Knowledge of borough events/activities /issues
- Networking opportunities
- Guidance on partnership working
- Information and assistance in forming or joining partnerships
- Assistance in identifying progression routes for learners
- Representation to Learning and Skills Council London East staff via elected Training Providers Forum representatives
- Information on policy developments affecting training provision and linked fields
- Access to sub-regional, and regional, training events and conferences



Please call or email Zarah (LEAD - Hackney Learning Network Development Officer) to register your organisations details and to receive a membership form.

**Tel: 020 7923 1962 email: [zarah@hcv.org.uk](mailto:zarah@hcv.org.uk)**



# HCVS 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 contract 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.

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

#### 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



# the OLYMPICS

## "Ask not what the Olympics can do for you, ask what you can do for the Olympics"

We asked each of the 5 London Olympic boroughs what they are putting in place so that the Olympics will benefit grass roots sport. The results varied from Newham who have planned a sports academy and recruited Tessa Sanderson as an ambassador, to others who don't seem to have got started. Greenwich, however, are taking a different tack and doing for themselves in a very focussed way.

Lawrie Baker, sports development officer at HVA, said "Greenwich is a great example in that they are not sitting around waiting for money to come from the Olympics. They have reallocated money internally to prioritise sports development - it would be really good to see that here"

Hackney Sports coaches and volunteers agree - we asked them what resources and facilities are missing in Hackney - holding us back from developing elite sports people - and we print here the list they came up with and some of their comments.

We also asked Neil Best, from Hackney's Interim Olympic Team and Renaisi's employee, what benefit he thought the Olympics would bring to grass roots sport in Hackney. He said "We have to engage with the Olympics with an Olympic spirit - that is in a spirit of giving, not thinking about what can we get out of it. We should be uplifted by having the biggest show on earth on our doorstep".

Lawrie Baker responded "We're in a chicken and egg situation - there are people trying to help to develop young people when any possibility of taking part in elite sport is stifled by lack of facilities. It would be good to offer something to the Olympics, but to expect these people to do so when nothing is being done for them is a bit much".



'We have to engage with an Olympic spirit - that is in a spirit of giving, not thinking about what can we get out of it' Neil Best, Hackney Council Olympic Unit

Greenwich have just picked up the real prize for youth sports development - November saw David Beckham fly in from Real Madrid to open his new football academy next to the Dome. Lawrie Baker sighed and said "Beckham trained on Hackney Marshes".

# the OLYMPICS

## What is Hackney doing for the Olympics?...

A spokesperson highlighted the 10 week Future Olympians program, the long awaited development of changing facilities at Hackney Marshes, a great opportunity to inherit a basketball stadium from the Olympics and a pledge - both from the Cabinet, and in the sports strategy - to support and develop community sports clubs.

Here is the Council response:

Hackney's Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Partnerships, Cllr Guy Nicholson, said: 'There is no doubt the Games are inspiring people to take up, stay in and strive for success in sport. Why not try an Olympic Sport in Hackney? Our Future Olympian programme offers all

the borough's young people the chance to try an Olympic sport as we aim to develop local talent.'

As well as developing skills, enhancing local sports facilities to improve the current offer is ingrained in the Olympic plans. Locally, this includes developing new and improved facilities at Hackney Marshes in partnership



with clubs, the LDA and Football Association. Nationally, 60% of any surplus made from the games will go into developing grassroots sports.

Hackney is also aiming to establish a basket ball centre ...based on one of three arenas that would be in the borough for the Games.

Hackney Physically Active is the borough's sport physical activity strategy. It includes actions to support local clubs to access funding from national bodies and to have the right policies and practices in place such as child protection and first aid.

Hackney Physically Active also links directly the five Olympic Boroughs Sport Development Framework.

Cllr Nicholson said: 'The numbers of people needed to volunteer and work at the Games means community clubs will need support to both recruit and retain members in a climate of increasing interest, activity and rising expectations. Supporting and developing community clubs is a key plank of the Sports Development Strategy.'

## What are the neighbours up to?.....

### Newham

'We've appointed Tessa Sanderson as sports ambassador - the idea is that she will be going round schools and community groups and inspire young people and nurture talent so we can encourage children to aim to compete in the games.

We're also developing a Sports Academy and we're going to bring in some more schemes aimed at inspiring children and young people to get involved

The Council has set up a division in

Stratford to maximise benefit of games by working on benefit of legacy for people of Newham.

Our vision is that the Olympics should be remembered not just as a festival but as something leaving a long lasting legacy for people of Newham'

### Tower Hamlets

'The 5 Olympic boroughs have agreed a sports development framework which includes a number of projects to widen sport in the community. One project that has already been launched

by Tower Hamlets is the Bfit card. This offers free sport up to a value of £25 in the council's leisure centres to anyone aged under 16 in the borough.

Victoria Park will be used as a training venue for athletics and archery - the facilities used by the community may be improved as a result. Also, Mile End Park Leisure Centre will be used as a training venue for athletics - the facilities used by the community may be improved as a result.

Due to the Olympics the green space along the river Lea will be improved and will increase. It will become less

# the OLYMPICS

fragmented, more accessible, of better quality, and increase in size by two-thirds. This will mean greater opportunities for physical activity such as cycling, walking and running.

Tower Hamlets and the other Olympic boroughs are working to ensure that the legacy venues will be available for use by the community at a reasonable cost.

## Waltham Forest

A number of planning strategies will need to be agreed between the five host boroughs and the LDA. These strategies will include arrangements for community access to facilities built for the Olympic Games. Waltham Forest Council is keen to see local people benefit from these developments on their doorstep and will be discussing local issues with the LDA.

## Greenwich

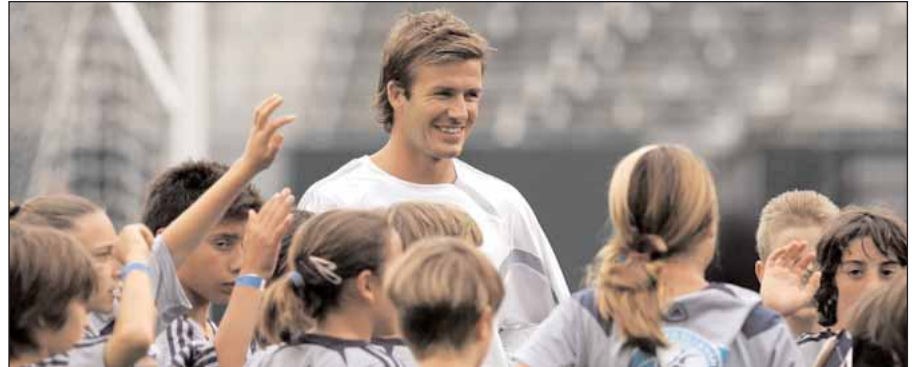
We don't particularly see the Olympics bringing in extra funding - we've just got to use the opportunity and fact that the Olympics are coming to reinforce what we're going anyway to get people into physical activity.

### *Sporting Club Greenwich*

SCG is the umbrella organisation which links all local amateur sports clubs. The first thing we did was to set up a database of all the sports clubs in Greenwich and then we carried out a facilities audit.

SCG board is made up of Greenwich Leisure, Charlton Athletic, Anschutz

**'We recognise that the bulk of sport in the borough is carried out by the voluntary and community sector'** Greenwich Council



(owners of the Dome), the leader of Council (who chairs the board), Matt Delaney (London region head of Sport England) and the chairs of all the sport development groups. Organising the meeting is very complicated - but once those people get together, stuff starts happening.

If you are a swimming club you'd be invited to the swimming development group, which the council would facilitate to start off. The group would then appoint a chair and take on board all ideas. The chair then attends the SCG board and feeds back ideas. Some sports don't fit well - so we have to include them in the nearest fit.

We recognise that the bulk of sport in the borough is carried out by the voluntary and community sector. There are hundreds of sports clubs - all paying for venues, fighting for new members and trying to get new funding in. It needed something to bring it all together. We've found that clubs don't speak to each other and that there has been great benefit from communication across different

sports.

We're just trying to make things happen. The aim of SCG is to provide good access to funding. We want to get more people involved in community sport and activity - and so improve the quality of life for people in Greenwich.

### *Sports Search Initiative*

This is a scheme aimed at getting children and young people into physical activity that they will enjoy. It's aimed at school children - they take a physical test and an attitudinal survey, the software then applies a logarithm and comes up with some ideas of which sports are best suited to. We then give the young person a letter of introduction to one of the local clubs - and link them up with a buddy of the same age who is already taking part in that sport at that club - so they have someone to go along with. If they're not sporty, then the invitation will be to engage in physical activity of some other kind - like dance or work in green spaces.

# the OLYMPICS

## The Olympic Wish list

*Spark* asked some of the sports coaches and sports development officers in Hackney what facilities and resources they thought were lacking - and this is what they came up with:

- Facilities audit
- Britannia Leisure Centre redeveloped
- Diving pit (in Haggerston Pool)
- Swimming development officer
- Swimming development program
- Aquatic sports strategy
- Facilities strategy
- More spaces for adaptive sports - like Boccia
- More special needs courts - one available at each leisure centre
- Equipment for adaptive sports - like table top cricket and polybat
- Court markings for adaptive sports - eg never seen a Boccia court ready to go in Hackney
- Free swimming for the elderly
- 4 o/c swimming slot for swimming club
- Football stadium on Hackney marshes
- Changing rooms, showers and toilets in parks
- New changing rooms at the marshes
- Pricing policy that allows local people to use local facilities
- Subsidised sport
- Haggerston Pool re-opened
- Support for voluntary sector - like sports coaches, sports development workers
- Infrastructure for voluntary sector - like use of computers etc for newsletters
- 3 or 4 court dedicated basket ball facility
- More access to grass pitches for cricket - like Millfields and Springfield
- Affordable access to cricket pitches
- More communication with us
- Access to more schools' facilities
- More decent indoor cricket facilities
- Athletics track/stadium
- Lea valley accessible for training ice skaters (can't get ice time)
- Indoor sports arena - indoor track, high jump, long jump throws - track and field events
- Athletics club
- More multi use games areas (MUGA's) in schools and on estates.
- Subsidised out of school hours community use of school facilities
- An adequately staffed and resourced LBH Sports Development Team
- Sports Hall or Leisure Centre in NE of Borough (Upper Clapton / Stamford Hill)
- More facilities for community groups
- Family friendly pricing - when you have three kids doing x amount of things it mounts up big time, one of two pound at a time I am quite happy with, but when you have to book x amount of courses at 40-50 a term for three children and ALL at the beginning of term it's a complete nightmare. Even taking them all swimming (which is a rare event these days unfortunately) is 12-15 a trip.
- Better (longer) notice about timing/cost etc of childrens sports programs in parks and leisure centres in holidays
- Access to sports development and training programs for those with childcare responsibilities (so affordable and not always in evenings)
- Prioritising support for voluntary and community groups and volunteers who deliver so much sport Hackney
- Lots and lots of non-capital money for training and development and wages to promote grass roots cycling in Hackney
- More trampolining facilities
- More gymnastics facilities
- Someone to get pricing policies sorted out - they're a stumbling block
- Programme of training coaches in range of sports
- More coaches and sports development workers are a necessity to kick-start what needs to happen in this borough
- Bike Centre
- Eastway Cycle centre to stay where it is and not move to Enfield - where local kids will not be able to access it.
- Indoor tennis centre
- Booking system for tennis courts that works
- Floodlit tennis courts
- Different kids of tennis court to train on
- More promotion of what sports opportunities are out there for special needs sport - or sports in general
- More mixed sports for all ages such as Korfbal
- 'Future Champions' Programme
- Centre of coaching-excellence to provide coaching programmes to help teachers and coaches attain national coaching qualifications in all sports, first aid and professional development programmes
- Academy for skills for officials, referees and time-keepers for all sports to support widened fixture programme for schools and clubs
- Fixture-list and trophy system for all ages and abilities, B and C grade leagues for all sports
- Ability, activity and attainment tracking for all children from nursery with school club links advisers at all levels

# the OLYMPICS

## The Beckham Academy for kids

Football superstar David Beckham launched his Greenwich sports academy built in association with Anschutz Group who own the Millennium Dome.

The academy has two full-size indoor pitches for boys and girls of all ages to sharpen their skills. David Beckham flew in from Madrid to open the school and said: "My ambition is for kids to come down and have fun here, but if we manage to create a



few superstars then that would be amazing". Greenwich council leader Chris Roberts said: "I'm very excited about the

whole thing. It's a fantastic sports facility that could be used by so many children."

## What Hackney Sports Coaches are saying...

We need an indoor tennis centre - if children in Hackney are to play anything above club standard this is essential. We've got 8 children at this level at the moment and we're having to take them to Welwyn Garden City. We should have 100 at this level and beyond. **Jan Coombs (Clissold Park Tennis Club)**

Basketball is the highest rated sport in the borough - that is we have the teams that play to highest standard - both mens and juniors. We've won 25 national championships and our

players have gone all over the world. Next year we'll have our first MBA player. But we're playing out of schools and local sports centres. **Tony Garbelotto (Hackney White Heat)**

The Olympics is going to be on our doorstep. The track and field events are going to be the highlight of the Olympics - they are what people watch most, and are most inspired by. Yet we've got to go outside the borough to train our own athletes in these events. We are the only Olympic borough without a track. I've

got 1 sprinter who has the potential to go very, very far, who could be an Olympian. Each week I spend on average 6 - 8 hours training with her and 4 hours travelling. **Des Ryner (Fitness Coach)**

Hackney children have proven they, unlike the children in most boroughs in the country, can achieve victories even without swimming pools. Just imagine what we could do if we had pools and those pools were managed so that they gave greater access to schools and clubs. **Greg IK McNeill (Clissold Swimming Club)**

# 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](http://www.cibfunding.org.uk) or email Andrew@the-cib.demon.co.uk. The Charities Information Bureau is registered charity (no. 1059077).

**\*New \* Big Lottery Fund Community Building (item supplied by The CIB [www.cibfunding.org.uk](http://www.cibfunding.org.uk))** Village halls and other local venues will benefit from the new Community Buildings programme announced by the Big Lottery Fund. The programme will be open for business by summer 2006.

The Big Lottery Fund will make £50 million available over three years through the Community Buildings programme to projects across England. More details about the scheme, including information about those who can apply and how will be released in 2006.

Community buildings act as a focal point for the community and are key to promoting community cohesion. There is an established need for more and better community-owned venues that complement state-owned facilities, such as libraries and extended schools. Creating or improving community buildings such as village halls will enable local people to make better use of facilities and encourage more activities to take place within them. Although money for capital projects is currently available through existing funding streams, the Community Buildings programme will focus solely on this aspect of civil renewal.

Village halls and other community venues support a diverse range of activities. When they are well run and maintained, more local people are encouraged to become involved in those activities.

Once a community building has been improved, beneficiaries could include groups and projects who need space for public meetings, parent and toddler groups, fitness, recreation, arts, basic skills training, social events and more. Whilst this programme will inevitably focus on the capital aspects of community buildings, it will be the activities that take place within each building that are crucial and fundamental to its success.

The Big Lottery Fund are working with key partners to develop the programme and are in early discussions, but they expect that the programme will focus on ensuring that there is good community engagement in developing

and refurbishing these buildings. In addition, they want to ensure good community use and encourage best practice in terms of management of the buildings. Historically, both the Millennium Commission and the Community Fund provided a significant level of funding for community buildings; the Millennium Commission contributed £50 million in the form of a dedicated programme, while the Community Fund has awarded over £138 million to community buildings since 1995. Full details of the Big Lottery Fund programmes and grant awards are available on the website: [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk)

**\*New \* Big Lottery Fund - Reminder (item supplied by The CIB [www.cibfunding.org.uk](http://www.cibfunding.org.uk))**

Details of their new programmes are in publication "England and UK Programmes 2006-2009". A copy of the leaflet can be downloaded from their Website: [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/programmes/updates/index.htm](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/programmes/updates/index.htm)

There are a couple of programmes that will be launched in December and January.

The timescale for launching their new programmes is as follows:\*

Demand Led December 2005

Environmental January 06

Young Peoples Fund By June 06

VCS Infrastructure Full programme by June 06

Children's Play Early 06

People's Millions First Round June 2005. Now closed until Spring 2006

Well-being By March 06

Community Learning By June 06

Advice services By June 06

International By March 06

Tsunami By March 06

Research By March 06

\*Dates are subject to

change.

Currently Open Programmes are: Awards for All (UK Wide); Do it 4 Real (England); Fair Share Trust (Uk Wide); Living Landmarks (UK Wide); Young People's Fund (England); Young People's Fund (Wales). Big Advice Line Tel: 0845 4 10 20 30 Full details are on Website: [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk)

**\*New \* DAPHNE II - new round to be launched very late in 2005 (item supplied by The CIB [www.cibfunding.org.uk](http://www.cibfunding.org.uk))**

The next call for proposals for Daphne II EU programme to combat violence against children, young people and women will be published on the Europa website at the end of 2005. The documents related to the calls, as well as the guidelines, are available from the website below. In this same menu, you will find new information - the list of projects selected in 2004, new guidelines (including on how to design a good Daphne project), a Daphne toolkit (a website with everything you always wanted to know about Daphne, its results and impacts), a helpdesk Email: [daphne@transtec.be](mailto:daphne@transtec.be) with a new FAQ file.

The Daphne II programme runs from 2004 until 2008 with a budget of EUR 50 million. It aims at supporting organisations that develop measures and actions to prevent or to combat all types of violence against children, young people and women and to protect the victims and groups at-risk.

Website:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice\\_home/funding/daphne/funding\\_daphne\\_en.htm#](http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/funding/daphne/funding_daphne_en.htm#)

**Big Lottery Living Landmarks (item supplied by The CIB [www.cibfunding.org.uk](http://www.cibfunding.org.uk) )**

Big Lottery Fund Living Landmarks, is an exciting UK wide programme that will see communities working together to improve their quality of life and their environment through funding major capital projects. The Big lottery Fund want Living Landmarks to capture the imagination of communities, and inspire them to transform, revitalise and regenerate the places where they live. They want everyone to get involved in developing their own living landmarks and help to make them a success. There are two parts to Living Landmarks. The first will see them award a small number of grants of

between £10 million and £25 million, and for the second, they will award a single grant of between £25 million and £50 million. The second stream is being run in partnership with the People's Millions programme and ITV, where the public will vote on which project will get the grant in 2007. You can apply to Living Landmarks if you are: a statutory authority; a charity formed as a trust; a charitable or not for profit company; a public or private limited company; an individual with a commitment to form an appropriately constituted and regulated organisation.

To obtain an application pack and guidance notes please call 0845 0 10 11 12. Alternatively you can download these from their website. Closing date for stage-one applications is Friday 6 January 2006. Big Advice Line 0845 4 10 20 30 Website:

[www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/programmes/living/index.htm](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/programmes/living/index.htm)

**\*New \* Comic Relief -UK programme (item supplied by The CIB [www.cibfunding.org.uk](http://www.cibfunding.org.uk))**

Over the next four years Comic Relief are going to be working a bit differently. They want to further focus their energies and the money they have, so they can make an even greater difference to the lives of particular groups of people they think really need their support. This means having fewer grants programmes, and it also means they're going to put their weight behind these by joining forces with others to really tackle the root causes of the problem so they can help bring about lasting change. Of course, they'll continue to fund lots of brilliant projects all over the UK and are really looking forward to working with a wide range of organisations in the years ahead - some new, as well as some that they already know - but all of whom will share their passion for supporting people whose lives are really tough, and helping them to find better times. Red Nose Day programmes 2005-08 - This is their biggest grants fund. It awards some of the money raised from Red Nose Day. During 2005-08 they are concentrating their funding on 6 programme areas: Young people; Older People; Mental Health; Refugees & Asylum Seekers; Domestic Violence; Disadvantaged Communities

They can give grants for running costs and capital costs, depending on the programme you are applying to. There is no maximum grant size and the amount you ask for should be the amount you need. They are likely to make some large grants, and a range of smaller grants of between £15,000 and £30,000 each year. They also have a fast-track application process for small grants up to



£5000. If you want to apply for more than £100,000 in total, please phone them before you apply. They usually make grants for between one and three years. In some circumstances, and where they are supporting projects that aim to bring about lasting change, they may consider longer-term funding of up to five years. Please talk to them before you apply for five years funding. Timetable for main grants over £5000 - There will be four grant-making cycles for 2005-2006.

Cycle Application deadline for grants over £5000: Cycle 2 13 January 2006; Cycle 3 5 May 2006; Cycle 4 8 September 2006 You should have a decision within five months of each application deadline. There is no need to rush your application. They will make sure they have funding available for every cycle. They will announce the deadlines for funding cycles in 2007-2008 towards the end of 2006. Remember, you can apply for a small grant at any time. They are likely to close all these grant programmes in 2008 and will give plenty of notice about the exact dates on their website.

Sport Relief grants - In the UK, Sport Relief aims to support projects that use sport and exercise to strengthen communities and provide opportunities for people who are excluded or disadvantaged. Over the next two years, up to £4million of Sport Relief money is being distributed through Community Foundations focusing on community groups that are using sport to: increase access to sport and exercise for people who face social exclusion and isolation; help people who are experiencing difficulties in their lives to regain their confidence and self esteem; and encourage people to take part in sporting activities that bring communities together.

Please use the map on the website to find out which Community Foundation is funding in your area. Comic Relief UK, 5th Floor, 89 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TP Tel: 020 7820 5555 Fax: 020 7820 5500 Minicom: 020 720 5579 Email: general enquiries: red@comicrelief.org.uk Website: www.comicrelief.com

### **Adult Learners' Week Awards 2006 (item supplied by The CIB [www.cibfunding.org.uk](http://www.cibfunding.org.uk) )**

Plans for next year's Adult Learners' Week 20 to 26 May 2006 are already underway. With the launch booked for 22 May at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre at Westminster and plans for Cultural Diversity Day growing they are looking forward to another action-packed week

full of great new learning opportunities for adult learners. Entry to the 2006 Adult Learners' Week Awards is now open and NIACE welcome you to begin nominating for the awards. Nomination forms are available to download from their website. If you would like a hard copy, please email your request Email: [alw@niace.org.uk](mailto:alw@niace.org.uk) Tel: 0116 2044 200 and ask for the Campaigns Team. The closing date for entries is 13th January 2006. Champion your learners, and celebrate the value of learning with an Adult Learners' Week Award. Do you know someone who has a remarkable story to tell or who has overcome particular challenges and barriers to his or her learning? If you do, then help celebrate the creativity, imagination and energy that adults bring to their learning. They have an array of awards for individuals and groups, those who learn as a family as well as projects that are remarkable for their innovation or impact. Five schemes or projects will each win £1,500. Up to 70 adults around the country will each win £200. Nine adults will each win £250 special awards from the European Social Fund. Five adults will receive £250 special awards for outstanding learning at or for work. Six groups of learners will each win £500. Two families will each receive £500. All award winners will also receive a framed certificate of achievement and be invited to one of two national awards ceremonies in London during Adult Learners' Week, 20-26 May 2006.

Contact: NIACE, Renaissance House, 20 Princess Road West, Leicester LE1 6TP Tel: 0116 204 4200/1 Email: [enquiries@niace.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@niace.org.uk) In Wales NIACE Dysgu Cymru, 3rd Floor, 35 Cathedral Road, Cardiff CF11 9HB Tel: 0292 0370900 Email: [enquiries@niacedc.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@niacedc.org.uk) Website: [www.niace.org.uk/alw/2006/](http://www.niace.org.uk/alw/2006/)

### **\*New \* Tesco support for local communities (item supplied by The CIB [www.cibfunding.org.uk](http://www.cibfunding.org.uk))**

Each year they aim to contribute 1% of their pre-tax profits to good causes. Tesco Charity of the Year Each year, we select a national charity with a strong community network to become our Charity of the Year. This becomes the main focus for staff fund raising and receives a 20% 'top up' from the Tesco Charity Trust. Tesco Charity Trust The Tesco Charity Trust makes cash grants totalling £878,556 to local and national charities throughout the UK. Tesco Charity Trust Community Award Scheme awards gives grants totalling £400,000 to local projects in local communities where they have stores. They benefit local organisations whose core work supports children's

education and welfare, children and adults with disabilities, and elderly people. Awards are one-off donations and range between £1,500 to £5,000. Applications are considered in two rounds: Organisations supporting children's welfare and children's educational projects, including special needs schools; \* Organisations supporting elderly people and people with disabilities. The scope of activities supporting children, elderly and disabled people is very wide but consult the guidelines on their website for exclusions. The first step in applying for funding is to write to the Tesco Charity Trust with brief details of your project. This will ensure that your request is recorded on the current year's database and included in the distribution of application forms. You can write to the Tesco Charity Trust at any time. The closing dates for writing to the Trust will depend on the round for which you are applying: Children's welfare and education (including special needs schools) 31 January each year; Elderly and disabilities 30 June each year. Letters received after the closing date will be held on file for the next year's round. Tesco Charity Trust, Tesco House, Delamare Road, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire EN8 9SL Tel: 01992 646768 Fax: 01992 646794 Website: [www.tescocorporate.com/images/Charity\\_trust\\_guidelines.pdf](http://www.tescocorporate.com/images/Charity_trust_guidelines.pdf)

## From February 2006

### One for community cinemas

**\*New \* UK Film Council Small Capital Fund for Cinemas (item supplied by The CIB [www.cibfunding.org.uk](http://www.cibfunding.org.uk))**

In principle, the fund is aimed at smaller cinemas that are planning to embark upon capital projects, aimed principally at longer term sustainability, local provision and diversity of their offer. The guidelines have been drawn quite broadly and are able to encompass many types of projects that require capital expenditure, including equipment and structural alterations. The fund is open to existing as well as new cinemas. However, specifically excluded is revenue funding and overhead subsidy. Cinemas have until February 2006 to apply and so there is plenty of time for interested applicants to put their plans together. The maximum award is £100,000. The Fund overall is worth £800,000 and is planned as a one call process. Closing date is 13 February 2006. If you have any queries once you've read through the documents on their website, please don't hesitate to contact either Kath

Knight, Steve Perrin or Alex Stolz. Their contact details are as follows: Kath Knight, Distribution & Exhibition Fund Administrator, Email: [kath.knight@ukfilmcouncil.org.uk](mailto:kath.knight@ukfilmcouncil.org.uk) Tel: 020 7861 7530 Fax: 020 7861 7542; Steve Perrin, Deputy Head of Distribution & Exhibition Email: [steve.perrin@ukfilmcouncil.org.uk](mailto:steve.perrin@ukfilmcouncil.org.uk) Tel: 020 7861 7532 Fax: 020 7861 7542; Alex Stolz, Distribution & Exhibition Executive Email: [alex.stolz@ukfilmcouncil.org.uk](mailto:alex.stolz@ukfilmcouncil.org.uk) Tel: 020 7861 7531 Fax: 020 7861 7542 Full details are in the guidelines and application form downloadable from Website: [www.ukfilmcouncil.org.uk/funding/distributionandexhibition](http://www.ukfilmcouncil.org.uk/funding/distributionandexhibition)

### Webb Memorial Trust (item supplied by The CIB [www.cibfunding.org.uk](http://www.cibfunding.org.uk))

The Trust seeks to evaluate all applications for funding, by assessing whether they support the Webb's aspirations in the areas of higher education (particularly economic and social sciences), the furthering of democracy and human rights, and their enthusiasm for development in Eastern Europe. A large number of projects have been wholly or partly financed by the Webb Trust including international conferences and 'think tanks' to increase the understanding of individuals and groups resident in Eastern Europe of democracy and how its institutions and political parties function and behave, as well as the development of social and economic policies within the UK. Grants range from £500 to £10,000. Normally the Trust allocates around £70,000 each year. The multitude of organisations benefiting from Webb Memorial Trust funds over the last 10 years range from the Institute of Contemporary British History to the Westminster Foundation for Democracy and Unison. Applications for grants in the Trust's financial year, which begins on 1st August, must be submitted by 31st January in the previous financial year (i.e. in the same calendar year). Any organisation wishing to obtain funding should download the application form from their website and send the completed form to the Secretary of the Trust, Michael Parker, at Mount Royal, Allendale Road, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 2NJ Further information can be obtained from the Website: [www.webbmemorialtrust.org.uk](http://www.webbmemorialtrust.org.uk)

# BEMA, Open for Business - 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



**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 from across the wide range of the Creative Industries Sector and artistic talents**

## become a member of BEMA

#### 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 not Partner Groups and Organisations working with BEMA

Organisations supplying services to BEMA

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