

The Children's Issue

**ONE LOVE
HACKNEY**

**A future for
Hackney Youth**



**ADIAHA
ANTIGHA**

**A Community
Celebration**



LITERACY

**Skills for Life:
A success**



The magazine for Hackney's voluntary & community sector

SPARK

Winter 2006



In this issue:

TB in Hackney

Olympics & Culture

Celebrating black & gay success

Youth projects on Holly Street

Team Hackney & Local Area Agreements

Parents Strategy

CAPACITY BUILDING: Results

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HCVS's Objective 2 European Programme

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Dalston

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ADIAHA ANTIGHA MEMORIAL EVENT	4
PREMISES MATTERS	6
HCVS PROJECTS: FIT FOR PURPOSE	9
CELEBRATING BLACK AND GAY LIFE	12
COMMUNITY FOCUS: HOLLY STREET	14
HCVS PROJECTS: YOUTH	18
HEALTH: TUBERCULOSIS	20
REFUGEES & ASYLUM SEEKERS	26
COMMUNITY FOCUS: LITERACY	28
ESF 1.3 PROJECT UPDATE	31
FEATURE: CULTURAL OLYMPIAD	32
COMMUNITY FOCUS: DALSTON	44
POLICY MATTERS: THE WHITE PAPER	45
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE	48
YOUTH	54
COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAMME	61
NEWS FROM THE SECTOR	62
TEAM HACKNEY	68
DOC: JOURNEY TO RESULTS	70
THE FUNDING DIRECTORY	72



SPARK is back! And here to stay...

This is my first issue, so we've packed it full with community news, culture, health, premises and policy issues. A big thank you goes to everyone who contributed and waited... We want to hear from you, so please send in your ideas, comments and news to the email below.

In the last SPARK a year ago, HCVS Director Adiaha Antigha outlined her wishes for Hackney - sadly Adiaha passed away earlier this year. So it only seems right we start with a look at the Adiaha Antigha Memorial, where the achievements of the woman who made it all happen, were celebrated by the community that continue to make it happen...

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Design and layout by HCVS

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 1,600 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 Community Investment 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).

Adiaha Antigha Memorial



Lady Hackney
Adiaha Antigha 1949 - 2006

A diaha Antigha led HCVS for nine years, throughout which she championed equality, fought for a better deal for local people and strengthened the voice of the voluntary and community sector. Sadly, Adiaha passed away suddenly on 28 February this year. Adiaha's death was a huge shock but she leaves a strong legacy in HCVS, that we are all are dedicated to continuing.

To pay tribute to everything Adiaha achieved for Hackney, HCVS organised a memorial evening on Friday, 17 November. It was a huge success: bringing together people from the private, public and voluntary sectors and providing a unique opportunity to commemorate the immense contribution Adiaha made to Hackney. SPARK highlights the triumphs of Adiaha's leadership and the evening dedicated to her memory.

O ver 300 guests joined HCVS and Adiaha's family at Ocean in Hackney to remember a woman who led HCVS with gritty determination to get the best for the community in Hackney.

After a brief networking reception for HCVS members to meet with key people from the public sector and funding bodies, the evening kicked off with African drumming and dance from BEMA's Dakrobi Arts and Ghanaian band, Sofora.

MC Ngozi Headley-Fulani welcomed the crowd and introduced the guest speakers: Sola Oyebade, HCVS Chair and Chrissie Farley, Principal of Hackney Community College, a fellow Team Hackney Board Member who stepped in for Hackney Council's CEO Penny Thompson. Joined by Diane Abbott, MP Hackney North and Stoke Newington and Mrs Obileye, Head of Consular & Welfare from the Nigerian High Commission representing Adiaha's Nigerian roots.

Dinner was blessed by Reverend Ben Enwucho, and what followed was an explosion of music, culture and dance from across the globe, giving HCVS members the chance to showcase their talent, some of whom have developed largely through support from HCVS. Many thanks to International Music & Dance Centre, Ngoma Bishop, Negro Spiritual Choir, MDMD Arts and World Citizen Movement Band who performed on the night. Queen of Lover's Rock Janet Kay topped the bill with renditions of favourites, 'I do love you' and 'Silly Games'.

Throughout the night, people took the stand to speak of Adiaha and what she achieved. Particularly poignant was a speech made by Lisa Antigha, Adiaha's daughter who, while applauding all the progress made by Adiaha on behalf of the community, spoke of her love for her Mum who never took time for herself and whose life was cut far too short.

HCVS thanks everyone who made the Memorial a success.

I would like to say well done for a fantastic event, I know that Adiaha would have been extremely proud. The hall was beautiful and the food and entertainment was great. I was extremely proud that I was the chair of HCVS and this is what HCVS could do for a great person like Adiaha.

Sola Oyebade Chair, HCVS

Adiaha's Achievements at HCVS



1997

Adiaha starts as Director of HCVS, she turns a **£50k deficit into a £300k turnover** in under a year.

1998

Adiaha supports the **development of Hackney Agency for Volunteering**, now Hackney Voluntary Action.

Adiaha is part of the team which secures support to provide emergency (transitional) funding to health and social care projects based in Hackney and Tower Hamlets. Through the Bridges Fundraising Project, over £1m is raised for 38 groups.



2000

Adiaha works with Hackney Community College, HTEN and Focus TEC on the **Opt into Hackney ESF capacity building project**, this launches HCVS's first small grants programme, delivery of NVQ D33/D34 advice, information assessor's training, accreditation and partnership brokerage.

HCVS works with the Community Legal Service to help VCS groups achieve the Quality Mark, the quality standard for legal and advice services.



2001

HCVS establishes the **Hackney Community Empowerment Network** - Adiaha is elected to represent umbrella voluntary organisations.

HCVS secures Community Chest small grants and Community Empowerment funding, through Government Office for London. This important funding stream represents an investment of **£4.5m for the sector, supports 834 community regeneration projects and benefits over 11,000 Hackney people a year.**

Adiaha helps **Disability Hackney become fully independent** - one of many Adiaha gives wings to.

2002

HCVS secures Local Network Fund small grants programme contract - an investment of **£2.8m for the children**



and young peoples' community sector - over 360 local projects have now been supported.

2003

Adiaha wins Hackney Mare De Gras **Community Development Award**. HCVS works with NCVO to lead the **Empowering East London Research Programme** for Hackney, Tower Hamlets & Newham which identifies specific barriers to the development of ethnic minority organisations. Nationally recognised, this shows the VCS generates income of £256m in Hackney. HCVS establishes **Streetwise Capacity Building Programme**, sets up the **Refugee Community Champions Programme** with the Hackney Refugee Forum, develops a Women's Leadership programme and many youth initiatives.

2004

Adiaha masterminds HCVS's move to **Tyssen Street** and establishes a voluntary sector hub.

HCVS hosts **local MP, Diane Abbott's, monthly consultation surgeries** for Hackney residents.

Adiaha secures the **LEAD Learning Network contract** which supports hundreds of frontline training providers. **HCVS secures European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund** matched by Neighbourhood Renewal Funding (NRF) - £1m, to support over 200 local people with their enterprise ideas and starts a community leaders programme.

2005

Adiaha is appointed Team Hackney **Board Champion for Strategic Commissioning** - a process designed to secure the delivery of priority outcomes based on analysis and evidence in an effective and transparent way.

Adiaha is **invited to meet Whitehall Ministers** to discuss the VCS' future. 300 local people and organisations attend the Community Conference 2005.

HCVS now employs 22 staff, has 330 members, and delivers over 18 different programmes for the sector.

Voluntary Sector Hubs for Hackney



The Voluntary Sector Liaison Group (VSLG) has been set up to provide a regular and effective channel of communication between Hackney Council and network/umbrella voluntary organisations that deliver frontline services to community organisations.

As part of its on-going workplan it has established a subgroup to look at developing Voluntary Sector Hubs for the voluntary and community sector in Hackney. These hubs have been proposed by Cllr Nargis Khan and the London Borough of Hackney (LBH) as a way of addressing the urgent premises needs of many, particularly smaller, voluntary and community organisations in the Borough.

A report from Property Services will go to the January Cabinet meeting for discussion and will include progress on the development of the VCS hubs. There is a commitment from LBH to develop two pilot hubs in the first instance with four in total over the next few years. The need for premises has been highlighted repeatedly over the last five years and specifically in Link Up Hackney's research conducted early this year with over 200 VCS groups, the respective premises campaign by Link Up Steering Group members and a number of other premises needs surveys notably by Hackney Refugee Forum and Interlink Foundation.

The premises subgroup includes representatives from: LBH (Property Services and Community Development), HVA, Interlink Foundation, HCVS

and Hackney Play Association,. They have met on a number of occasions to start looking at possible locations for the first two pilot hubs (Salcombe Road and Belfast Road proposed by LB Hackney) and to try to map out what would make an ideal hub for local groups. It is important that these hubs provide networking areas, shared facilities such as photocopying, and meeting room space as well as provide hot desk of office space at a subsidised rate so that groups can get a foot onto the property rental ladder.

SPARK and the Premises Sub Group are keen to know the following:

- Are you currently in need of desk or office space for your organisation? If so, drop us an email with details of what you ideally need to jake@hcvs.org.uk
- Do you know of any other premises in the Borough that could be utilised as a voluntary sector hub?
- Do you know of any examples of voluntary sector hubs in other boroughs that support community organisations with premises needs?
- Have you an idea what facilities should be provided in one the hubs or have you a general comment about premises for the sector you would like to share with premises subgroup?

If you answered yes to any of the above, please email jake@hcvs.org.uk

The Premises Subgroup have visited two examples of voluntary and community sector hubs in Kensington & Chelsea. Here are some more details.

MRCF RESOURCE CENTRE

This hub is a Migrant and Refugee Communities Forum that offers:

1. Hot Desking for Refugee Communities.
2. Support for Refugee Doctors and Dentists
3. Clinical Training for Dentists to practice Dentistry
4. Advocacy support for individuals
5. English Classes
6. Lobbying
7. Kitchen Facilities and various groups use the small hall adjacent.

This property is owned by a property developing Company and MRCF put in £25K and originally had a peppercorn rent. There is a Training Room, Meeting Hall with Kitchen, a Playroom and additional facilities (OHP,TV,Flipchart etc). Some organisations hot desk and each organisation has a filing tray for their post and a filing cabinet where they could store their equipment. The property is overseen by a Management Board who are a group of Trustees from different refugee groups who are resident in the property.

Canalside

This hub is owned by the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea. Hub was built to incorporate office space for the voluntary sector. There are two types of offices full time licences and part time licences. There is one meeting room, interview room and these are taken up separately and paid for separately. Meeting Room & Interview Rooms need to be booked in advance.

The office can be used in the evenings (All by prior booking). The centre has a Manager that is responsible for the Centre 24 hours a day. If someone wants to use the meeting room in the evening, if they are a full time licensee then they can manage the fire system themselves and do not need a caretaker. If it is a new group/outsider or part time licensee then the Manager employs someone to manage this. The rates for long term licence are £18.05 per square foot (business rate) which includes all utilities. Short term rates are also available.

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We have a wealth of top quality training for voluntary and community groups in Hackney. HCVS has been working hard with partner second tier training providers in the borough, to bring a wide selection of these courses together under one community training programme - Fit for Purpose.

Clifford Hinkson, Consultant for the LEAD in Hackney Training Network introduces this new project to SPARK and how it can help your group get fit for purpose.



Clifford Hinkson

The Fit for Purpose community training programme has been specifically designed to meet the needs of the VCS in Hackney.

We have brought together existing courses and some new ones offered by a wide range of second tier training providers from across the borough. Including: HCVS, London East Action for Development (LEAD), Hackney Voluntary Action (HVA), Hackney Training & Employment Network (HTEN) and Hackney Marsh Partnership (HMP) to name but a few.

Our courses are general and suitable for all VCS groups at any stage of development. We hope to extend this programme to include a wider range of more specialist courses in the future.

Our trainers are experienced specialists from the voluntary and community sector. Some of you may already be familiar with our training courses but for those who aren't, our method of training is very practical so you will be very able to apply what you learn directly to your organisation.



**Fit for Purpose -
Is your organisation ready?**

When you enrol on the programme you will be offered a Training Needs Analysis, where you work with one of our experienced capacity building officers to assess which areas your organisation needs to develop. From this, you will create an individual learning plan based on you and your organisation's needs, goals and availability.

We encourage you to develop your learning plan in line with the action plan of your organisation.

We encourage you to develop your learning plan in line with the action plan of your organisation. In turn this will help us define your progression route through the learning programme.

Our courses will run up until March 2007, with over 50 sessions there is plenty to choose from. Take a look over the page at what's coming up and give Popi at HCVS a ring on 020 7923 1962 to find out more.

The Fit for Purpose community training programme is funded as part of HCVS's umbrella services contract with London Councils on behalf of London Borough of Hackney to support local voluntary and community organisations. It is match funded by London East Action for Development LEAD, the Community Empowerment Network, the European Social Fund, European Regional Development Fund and Team Hackney.

Fit for Purpose Course List

Here are the courses offered by Fit for Purpose community training programme up to March 2007. This is subject to change, if you want to attend please book by calling HCVS on 020 7923 1962.

Organisation Essentials

Is your organisation like a swan – all graceful on the surface but paddling like crazy underneath? If so, then this wide range of courses is for you. The areas covered start from choosing the most appropriate organisation structure to meet your organisation's objectives, setting up an efficient administrative system, right through to understanding legal and financial obligations regarding the government, the Charities Commission and/or Companies House.

Ready Steady Go: Overview of starting and running an organisation - 2 day course	09.45 - 13.30	13 Dec 06 / 22 Jan 07	01 / 08 Mar 07
Legal Obligations - The Essentials: Statutory sick pay	10.00 - 13.00	30 Jan 07	
Accredited Introductory certificate in starting your organisation Level 3 - 2 day course	09.45 - 16.30	07 / 08 / 15 Feb 07	
Setting up an efficient administration system	13.30 - 16.30	07 Mar 07	

Strategic Development & Commissioning

Are you too busy keeping one foot in front of the other to look up and see what direction you are going in? Well it's time to think about the bigger picture. This set of courses aims to help organisations think about their long term vision and goals, and the role of effective partnership working and contracting to public bodies in achieving medium to long term objectives.

Think strategically - Strategy for long term growth	09.45 - 16.30	16 Jan 07	27 Mar 07
Partnership working	09.45 - 16.30	28 Mar 06	

Managing your Organisation & Developing Projects

Efficient day to day management of your projects requires good systems to be in place and applied effectively. The courses in this section are designed to provide delegates with a solid grounding in tools, techniques and processes for project development, management and reporting.

Developing and planning projects that make a difference	14.30 - 16.30	13 Dec 06	09 Feb 07
Effective project management	09.45 - 16.30	23 Feb 07	
Outcomes for monitoring and evaluation - 2 day course	09.45 - 16.30	27 Feb 07 / 20 Mar 07	

Fundraising

All groups need money to survive, yet many are overly reliant on very small pots of grant funding. The programmes offered here are based on years of funding experience and designed to cover every aspect of raising and managing funds: from developing a fundraising strategy and plan, identifying sources of funding, including income generating activities, and generally writing better quality applications for grant funding and tenders.

Developing a medium to long term Funding Plan	09.45 - 16.30	23 Jan 07			
How you raise money for Capital Projects	09.45 - 13.00	25 Jan 07	15 Mar 07		
Practical workshops writing Funding Applications *Please call to check which funder	13.45 - 16.30	25 Jan 07	09.45 - 14.00	06 Feb 07	29 Mar 07
Writing better Funding Applications	09.45 - 16.45	31 Jan 07			
Funding simulation: The Assessor's Perspective - Prepare for Grant assessment	09.45 - 16.30	07 Feb 07	14 Mar 07		
Meet the Funders	10.00 - 13.00	13 Feb 07			

Working with Computers

Most organisations now have access to computers and many have their own websites. However, many people do not use the technology available to them in an effective way. The information and communication technology (ICT) courses provided here, offer delegates the chance to start from basics and learn how to use software, such as the Microsoft Office suite, in a practical way to produce documents such as letters, reports, and newsletters.

Non accredited Mail Merge – Using MS Word	10.00 - 16.00	18 Jan 07	
Non accredited Functions and Reports - Using MS Excel	10.00 - 16.00	28 Jan 07	
Non accredited Database Introduction and Reports using MS Access	10.00 - 16.00	15 Feb 07	
Non accredited MS Outlook for Communication	10.00 - 16.00	22 Feb 07	
Accredited Certificate in using ICT Level 3 - 3 day course	10.00 - 16.00	15 / 22 / 29 Mar 07	

Community Engagement

The programme offered here aims to ensure that your organisation is able to respond appropriately to the opportunities available, by helping you to understand relevant aspects of local policy (e.g. Local Area Agreements), how to impact that and how to ensure the people you represent have their say.

How to be a community representative - The Stronger Voice Programme	09.45 - 16.00	16 Jan 07	
Introduction to Local Area Agreements and how the VCS can get involved	09.30 - 16.00	22 Jan 07	13 Mar 07
Influencing skills	09.45 - 16.00	13 Feb 07	
Main streaming and Floor Targets - What does it all mean?	09.45 - 16.00	20 Feb 07	
Master class presentation Community Engagement	09.45 - 16.00	21 Mar 07	

Planning & Development

Having decided where your organisation is going, you need to plan and implement an approach to get it there. The programmes in this section offer training in a wide range of areas to improve the overall infrastructure of your organisation and make it more robust and sustainable.

Key Principles of Marketing	09.45 - 13.30	17 Jan 07	
Quality & Accreditation Overview	09.45 - 16.30	25 Jan 07	
Business Planning & Writing your Business Plan	09.45 - 16.30	24 Jan 07	

Managing & Developing People

An organisation's staff and volunteers are its greatest assets and should be managed and nurtured as such. However, good people management skills need to be developed. The programmes offered here cover a broad range of skills necessary for recruiting, retaining and improving the personal effectiveness of staff, volunteers and managers.

Managing your time and priorities	09.45 - 13.00	11 Jan 07	16 Mar 07
Volunteer Management: Managing volunteers	10.00 - 16.00	18 Jan 07	
Developing and delivering presentations that get you noticed	09.45 - 16.30	30 Jan 07	
Recruitment and retaining staff and volunteers	09.45 - 16.30	14 Dec 06	29 Jan 07
Accredited Introductory Certificate in Team Leading Level 2 - 3 day course	09.45 - 16.30	13 / 14 / 21 Feb 07	
Confident about policies, staff contracts, volunteer agreements & appraisals	09.45 - 16.30	16 Feb 07	
Volunteer Management: Trustees' roles and responsibilities	10.00 - 13.00	22 Feb 07	
Accredited ILM Introductory Certificate in First Line Management Level 3 - 5 day course	09.45 - 16.30	01/ 14/ 15/ 22/ 29 Mar 07	
Volunteer Management: Setting up a volunteer managed programme	10.00 - 16.00	08 Mar 07	
Volunteer Management: Writing a volunteer policy	10.00 - 13.00	22 Mar 07	

Pink would be nothing without black



Social
Entrepreneur
Patrick
Vernon

Patrick Vernon set up the social enterprise Every Generation publishing in 2000 and the 100 Great Black Britons website in 2003. He won the Campaign for Racial Equality's 'Race in the media' award in 2003 and was shortlisted for the New Statesman's "Social Entrepreneur" award in 2005. Patrick is currently a Labour Councillor for Queensbridge ward in Hackney.

This year the 100 Great Black Britons website celebrated Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender [LGBT] History Month by paying tribute to black gay achievers and icons. Ahead of LGBT 2007, Patrick talks to SPARK about the importance of celebrating this success.

Celebrating black gay icons...



Jackie Kay

Poet, playwright and novelist. Her first novel, *Trumpet*, published in 1998, was awarded the Guardian Fiction Prize.



Justin Fashanu, 1961-1998

The first professional footballer to declare his homosexuality, but his career was affected by homophobia in both the Black community and in English football.

What made you decide to link up with LGBT history month?

For the last five years I've done a lot of work on Black history month, and set up a number of websites about black history in general. I do lots of workshops in schools and museums about on black history and heritage. This year I'm working with Lesbian and Gay history month because we wanted to find a way of promoting black Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender [LGBT] people who have made a contribution to British history.

Black History month has been going since 1987, the LGBT history month was inspired by this, and first started in 2005. So on the 100 Great Black Britons website we set up 100 Gay Black Icons to celebrate the contribution of black LGBT people by recognising their achievements, encouraging more gay people from the black community to come forward and tell us about their achievements and to challenge and tackle homophobia in society at large as well as in the black community.

I'm hoping in my small way to influence the community at large, the black community and the media.

How do you think this challenges homophobia?

Homophobia is built on ignorance. For black people and for gay and lesbian people identity is important. If

people can see how gay black people have made a difference and achieved something regionally and nationally then it helps to stop racist and homophobic remarks. To me it's all about education.

I want to look at the whole aspect of black people in Britain and particularly in East London. Black people contribute daily to British life and yet there is still a negative image in the media – which we challenge with positive images and looking at and celebrating diversity, especially in places like Hackney which are SO diverse.

Have you had any feedback about this?

We sent the press release to the national press and the black press, though unfortunately none of black press picked it up – some of them focus on issues like 'black men who hide their sexuality' – taking a tabloid type mentality. I suppose it reflects that people are happy to talk about the scandal side, but not about people who have come out, and to recognise and celebrate their achievements.

The response has been great from black and white people and from the gay community. We've received a lot of feedback and suggestions to do more profiles and biographies and to provide other links and resources. The site has received endorsement

Celebrating black gay icons...



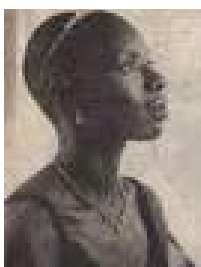
Linda Bellos, Activist

At the heart of grass roots community activism for over 30 years, Linda became leader of Lambeth Council in 1985.



Lord Waheed Ali

Former television producer, entrepreneur and politician Lord Ali became the first openly gay life peer in the House of Lords.



Valerie Mason John

Aka "Queenie" British entertainer and playwright. Author of Talking Black: Lesbians of African and Asian Descent Speak Out.

from a number of gay activists.

Do you think there are particular difficulties for young people?

It's difficult because of our socialisation. Young gay black people live in a macho type culture of bling and MTV putting out a certain lifestyle which young girls and young boys have to lead. In time, Broke Back Mountain and other gay stories becoming part of mainstream will help a black person who's gay have recognition within the wider community and the black community.

How are you intending to continue?

We're adding to the website, working in partnership with a number of organisations to get their input. The idea is to reflect the issues and needs of the black lesbian and gay community. I would love to follow up this work for next year's LGBT history month but I do not have the resources to undertake this. It would be great to have a sponsor so I can develop a campaign for 2007. Any suggestions would be appreciated.

You can get more information on LBGT History Month 2006 from this website:

<http://www.100greatblackbritons.com/archive/>

"It is so important for us to remember our African sisters and brothers who are LGBT and who have gone before us. Lorraine Hansbury, Audre Laude and amongst the many whose names are known, but there are many more who have struggled and contributed and who our white sisters and brothers ignore and marginalise. LGBT History Month is important as a spur to ensure that we record and celebrate the achievements our community of who have made life better for others. Sometimes just being, and just being out is a victory."

Linda Bellos - proud to be out and proud of my African heritage

The soundtrack of the first-wave 1970s gay freedom struggle was black soul music. Later, in the 1980s, the dance music of gay clubs was black disco. The contribution of black culture to queer life is immense.

Pink would be nothing without black."

Peter Tatchell, queer human rights activist since 1969

Celebrating black gay icons...



Cyril Nri

Currently playing Adam Okaro in The Bill, Cyril has been an actor for 23 years and is also a writer, director and filmmaker.



Rotimi Fani Kayode, 1955-1989

Founder member of 'Autograph', the Association of Black Photographers in London.



Skin

Former lead singer of rock group Skunk Anansie currently forging a successful solo career.

Active Youth CityZENship



SPARK spoke to Shanaz Ali from CityZEN, a youth organisation that works with young people in the Holly Street neighbourhood. Shanaz shares the results of the research they conducted there.

What kind of work is CityZEN doing in Holly Street?

In November we were commissioned by Holly Street Partnership to engage and empower hard to reach young people in Holly Street. The reason was that a lot of young people had been arrested for drug abuse. The ring leaders were taken away, but young people who acted as runners were left unemployed, so the Partnership wanted to set up something to deter them from anti-social behaviour, get them into activities and personal development programs.

How did you start?

By engaging young people and adults, telling them what it's about, and preparing a questionnaire to find out the young people's views. But while this was going on we started taking the young people on trips - bowling, go-karting and to cinema and signposting them to

other activities provided by the youth service. This involved about 40 young people. We tried to target those who are more at risk, but we felt it was unfair to exclude those not in trouble.

We also set up mentoring, and personal development workshops in CV writing, sexual health, group conflict, gun crime and drug and alcohol awareness.

How did you go about the questionnaire?

We interviewed 150 young people, and were involved with a core group of 30 – 40 aged 8 to 19 years, predominantly over 13 years old. The results of the questionnaire have been passed on to the Housing Association and the Anti-social behaviour team and to some councillors. When Hazel Blears [Home Office minister] came to visit, some of the young people answered her questions and so we sent her a copy of the questionnaire too.

1997: Old Holly Street



1997: Demolition



1998: New look Holly Street



A look back at Holly Street over the last 10 years:

The demolition and rebuilding of Holly Street Estate was a flagship regeneration scheme, described by the Prime Minister in 1998 as a symbol of how a neighbourhood could rebuild itself. But problems re-emerged and last November, following a long campaign by residents, the Holly Street was the centre of a series of arrests for class A drug dealing and a dispersal order was brought into force to tackle anti-social behaviour.

What has happened as a result of the questionnaire?

We're trying to change the situation where the young people felt they were not being listened to. We've founded a youth committee who have had meetings – they're going to try to have a meeting with the tenants association too. They've set up ground rules, and have said what they want to achieve, and have a chair, secretary and minute taker. The chair of the youth committee has met the Housing Association to talk about how to work together.

Everyone on the youth committee is a hard to reach young person, so it's a struggle getting meetings to happen, but its working.

The youth committee have been given opportunities to take part in a youth work and play work course, where youth committee members will encourage young people from their areas to take part in activities provided by Hackney Play Association and have a role to helping facilitators for example with behaviour.

Holly Street is a pilot – there are six other areas all forming youth committees – then the idea is to chain together the youth committees, and link them to the youth parliament and the tenants associations.

Anything else?

I think it's a great process, we have achieved a lot for the young people working with some of the young people who've been arrested, and they've already been on basic youth work courses and been helped towards getting qualifications. They've come a long way, they could have been in prison – I feel we've helped to steer their way. It's definitely a great project.

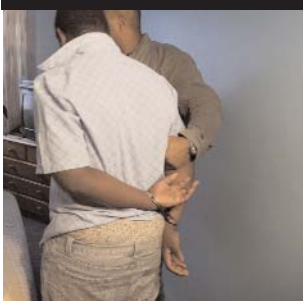
“In the past, the police had simply used their enforcement powers to tackle it [drug dealing]; they tended to move the drug dealers on, so there was displacement. That solved the problem in the short but not the longer term. However, the past 12 months have been different: the police have worked with the local council, involved drug treatment agencies and got youngsters involved in more constructive activities.

The problems on the Holly Street estate have now been removed for the long term”.

Home Office Minister, Hazel Blears, in response to a parliamentary question after her Holly Street visit in March 2006

CityZEN are peer led youth organisation who promote active Citizenship, peer education, research, volunteering and youth councils.
Shanaz Ali, CityZEN
07985 199 717

2005: Arrests



Mar 2006: Hazel Blears visit



Oct 2006: Grief



An inter-agency group - the Holly Street Partnership – was set up to tackle the ongoing issues and initially brought in increased policing and a range of youth activities. In March 2006 MP Hazel Blears visited Holly Street and praised the measures underway. However in October 2006 press interest focused on Holly Street again when a 17 year old was arrested for the murder of a man who reports say had come outside to complain of noise made by a group of young people. But groups like CityZEN, are working with young people to change this situation around.

"Holly Street Estate, Youth Diversionary and Positive Peer Engagement Project" Focus Group Findings

CityZEN interviewed 150 young people in Holly Street, held a focus group and produced a comprehensive report with recommendations. These included investing in youth facilities, insisting on consultations with young people to determine the kind of provision, making the Queensbridge Sports and Community Centre accessible to young people, re-opening the youth club, and setting up non-tokenistic youth forums.

In addition to the questionnaire, the views of young people from the estate were also assessed and recorded through a focus group session. Key to the effective implementation of peer research, the focus group was run by young people for young people. Here we reproduce the focus group findings.

1. What are the three main areas of concern for young people in Holly Street? Why?

The group decided on three areas of concern:

a) Money

A lot of the young people complained that they had very little money, which they claimed was a really big issue. They felt confined in terms of what they could do in their spare time, thus ended up roaming the streets instead of doing something fun or constructive. A few of the young people openly admitted that at times they would resort to stealing in order to meet their needs. The young people commented on the difficulties of growing up with very little to spend, especially in London where according to them "everything is extortionate".

b) Leisure Activities

Focus group members complained that there was very little for people in their teens to access when it came to leisure. Although Evergreen aims to cater for young people from 8 to 16, according to the focus group, the adventure playground has difficulty meeting the needs for young people aged between 13 and 16. It was also established that previously, teens would access the estate based youth club, unfortunately the youth club closed down with no explanation. When probed about what it is the young people were looking for, the answers ranged from:

"a new youth club for the older lot", "something for the girls, because the boys get everything", "a

community centre which holds different activities regularly and has trips out once a week"

Some of the young people wanted something as simple as a sheltered room. They commented that at times they just wanted to sit around in the warmth, and would often "cotch" in the sports centre, however this would lead to regular disputes between the sports centre and the young people as the staff from the centre would ask the young people to leave and go home, whereas the young people felt they had a right to hang around there as it was a "community centre" and they were the community. Moreover the young people highlighted that the centre was going to be closed down at one point, and the young people from the estate had to write letters as a community in order keep it open. As a result the young people feel that they have a right to access the sports centre without having to pay.

c) Diversity

Both young males and females complained that there were not enough young females in the area. Some of the females stated that they felt intimidated by the number of boys in the estate, as they would often hang around in groups of 10 to 12 and would often taunt or chase the girls. Young males said that more female company would make leisure activities offered by the sports centre more appealing as it would be more diverse.

2. Why do you think there is a high percentage of drug abuse amongst young people in this area?

The majority of the group agreed that this issue was linked with the lack of money concern. According to the focus group young people would fall into the trap of selling drugs because they wanted quick money. One young male commented:

“They can’t get a job because they haven’t got a good education and they come from Hackney, which has a terrible reputation. Even if they did get a job, the government will rob them through tax, so it seems better to remain unemployed, sign on and make some quick money by selling drugs”

Others took the approach that drugs are easily accessible and the laws on drugs are not harsh enough. Very few of the young people thought selling drugs was a bad thing, some believed “it’s just a way of life, if your hungry you’ve gotta eat”.

3. Do you think young people living in the area are at risk of anti social behaviour?

There was a general consensus that young people from Holly Street were at risk of anti social behaviour. Again, the group referred back to the leisure and gender issue. Due to the fact that young people from Holly Street have very little to do, they often end up roaming the streets and getting into mischief.

In addition, because there is a substantial amount of boys in the area, means that gangs tend to be quite big, hence when they all get on a bus to go to another area and find something to do, or when they are seen play fighting, members of the public may find this intimidating and could even pass it off as anti social behaviour.

4. Your Housing Association and the ASB team are funding this youth diversionary and peer engagement project, how do you feel about this?

Most of the young people were grateful for the project, they were glad to see that their housing associations cared about their welfare. However, some young people were worried that it was only going to be a short-term scheme.

A few of the young people pointed out that, although they are grateful for the project and have benefitted a lot from it, they get the impression that young people who are at risk of getting into trouble have a lot of money invested in them, whereas the young people who are “good” get nothing.

Others highlighted that this could give young people the perception that “if they are troubled youths, then they will have all the fun”.

5. How can we make sure that young people do have a say when it comes to making decisions about the area?

It was recommended that young people should have a closer relationship with their housing associations. Meetings about the area could be made more youth friendly so that young people would find it appealing. Perhaps there should be a young people’s tenants association, which is run separately from the adult one, but comes together from time to time. Paying young people or even accrediting them to get involved would give young people more of an incentive to take part and provide ideas.

For a copy of the full report, contact Shanaz Ali, CityZEN 07985 199 717.

‘There are a multiplicity of things impacting in our community.

We must approach young people... but do it together.

Rev Rose Hudson-Wilkin, All Saints Vicar at the memorial service for Stevens Nyembo Ya Muteba, October 2006



Hackney - A future for our Youth

The growing problem of gun and gang related violence amongst Hackney's youth affects everyone in the borough. Earlier this year, a new Strategic Priorities unit was set up to work with the voluntary and community sector to work with our young people and give them a better future.

One of the first initiatives, One Love Hackney - A Week of Peace, has already proved a great success, with twice as many young people engaged as expected. SPARK introduces two new faces at HCVS, Gary Francis and Dave Ramdial who are leading the Strategic Priorities Unit and the delivery of Youth Futures - a programme which invests in key frontline community organisations working with youth who are involved in, or at risk of, gang culture.

Commissioned by Team Hackney, the Borough's local strategic partnership, the Strategic Priorities Unit works to engage Hackney's youth particularly young men of African, Caribbean, Turkish and Kurdish origin, amongst whom gun and gang violence is increasing.

HCVS are the chosen delivery agents and the unit is based in HCVS' offices in Dalston.

Strategic Priorities Unit

HCVS, 84 Springfield House, 5 Tyssen Street, London E8 2LY, T: 020 7923 1962

Gary Francis

Director, Strategic Priorities Unit

I have overall responsibility for managing the unit, and its programmes. We oversee Hackney Youth Futures, Peace Week and strategic projects that relate to young people. We also house Hold it Down Productions which is an emerging events and promotions organisation, led and managed by young people.



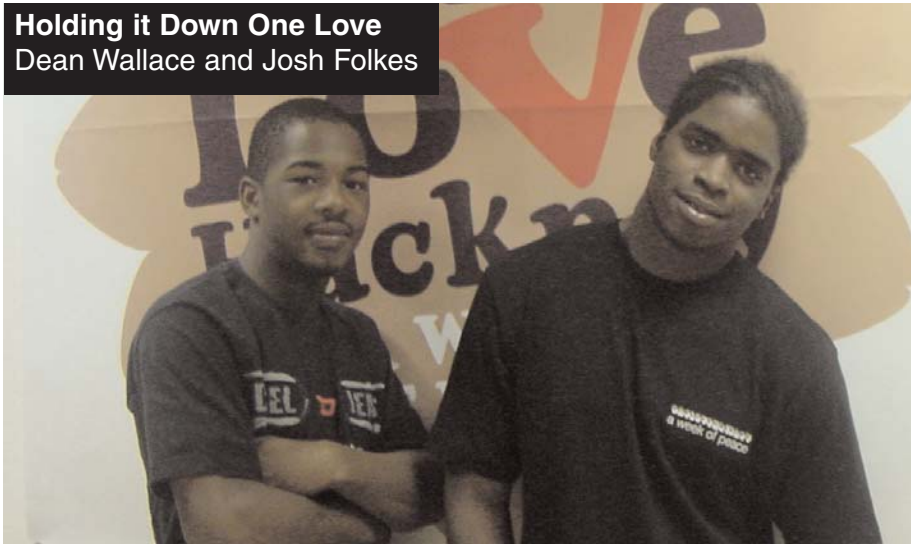
Dave Ramdial

Business Support Manager – Strategic Priorities Unit

I oversee the progress of the projects commissioned through the Youth Futures programme including Peace Week. My role covers financial management, target monitoring and evaluation and day to day issues.



Holding it Down One Love
Dean Wallace and Josh Folkes



SPARK looks back over the success of Peace Week 2006 through the eyes of HCVS' Josh Folkes and new sidekick Dean Wallace who together run Hold it Down Productions, a new youth events management project.

One Love Hackney's week of peace was a combination of three events during 10 - 17 September 2006, to celebrate peace, community cohesion and anti-violence. This year Team Hackney, our funders for the event, decided to place the spotlight on young people from BME communities aged between 14 and 25 years.

One of the key issues of the week was to focus down on some of the really challenging issues facing Hackney, such as tackling the problems communities face when dealing

with black on black crime, which sadly includes serious acts of violence and the drugs on the streets. Peace Week 2006 was huge in many ways. First we got youth from across the borough involved in the event and we had twice as many show up as expected.

The whole purpose of these events was to unite young and old youths and stop them from getting into situations that can land them behind bars or with the loss of life. This is why Hold it Down (HID) productions was created. We put together a series of music based activities where young people can channel their talent into other things such as music and dancing.

Hold it Down Productions

HID is a young people's managed event management company, formed in the light of

the need for young people to be able to respond to the challenge of supporting the fight against gang violence and negativity which is threatening to over take young people.

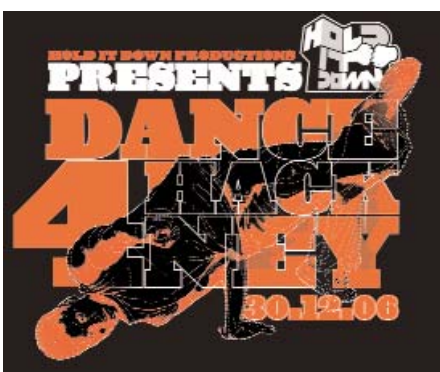
HID employs exclusively young people under the age of 25 and offers fellow young people the opportunity to become involved with our events, that we manage.

What next?

We have two events coming up. On Thursday, 21 December from 6-11pm at Hackney Central, for the best spitters in the Borough to prove they have what it takes to make it to the next stage of their career. First prize is £500, second prize is £250.

Dance for Hackney, is on 30 December 2006. We are looking for young talented dancers or dance groups based in Hackney, to give them the chance to showcase their talent live on stage in front of their peeps and industry professionals and win £600 or £400. There are two groups, one for youth aged between 8 - 17 years, and one for those aged 18 - 25 years. The maximum group size is five.

Call Hold It Down on 07946 730995 or visit www.hackneyyouthshowcase.com and see if you have what it takes to shake or break...



Tackling TB in Hackney

The high and rising levels of Tuberculosis (TB) in Hackney have prompted the Primary Care Trust, PCT, to identify tackling TB as a priority for its Health Inequalities program. They have set ambitious targets to halve the 2003 levels with a range of measures focusing both within the PCT on GP training and specialist hospital services, as well as working in partnership with Hackney Council's Housing and Environmental Health departments and voluntary and community sector groups who work with people most vulnerable to TB.

Here we look at a one project run by Hackney African Forum on TB Awareness Day to set up screening in Ridley Road and run a training course for HAF members and colleagues on TB awareness.

THE MOBILE SCREENING UNIT: TARGETING HIGH RISK GROUPS

The UK's first digital mobile TB screening unit was launched on World TB Day in March 2005 as part of a two year Pan-London project to reduce TB in the capital. The project is currently hosted at the University College London Hospitals (UCLH) on behalf of the NHS Trusts in London.

The screening process is quick, taking about two to three minutes per person and the results are given immediately. The Mobile X-Ray Unit (MXU) targets high-risk groups such as homeless people, asylum seekers or refugees, prisoners, drug users and street-drinkers where rates of TB are often high. Experience elsewhere has shown that measures like this can contribute to halting the spread of TB rapidly. In addition to screening, the programme helps to raise TB awareness amongst the hard-to-reach and most vulnerable high-risk groups and those who work with them.

TB Awareness Day - Hackney African Forum

Interview with Sarah Ingle, Diaspora - A Sudanese Community Organisation and Romain Matondo, Congolese Community Support Group

There is a lot of TB in Hackney and in the African community because of the living conditions, and the level of poverty.

Refugees and asylum seekers are put in bed and breakfast accommodation where there is often a lack of amenities, perhaps damp conditions and over crowding. There are other factors too like poor nutrition and alcohol and hard drug use.

We decided to run the TB Awareness day because many people are not aware of the risks or of the services that are available. And in some communities it is considered in same way as HIV Aids. People don't have the culture to go for screening, so we had a mobile team to reach out to the community. We ran a screening program in Ridley Road Market – it was very popular - children were encouraging their parents and grandparents to come in. We even had to turn people away. We screened 101 in people in the morning alone.

The second part of the TB day was an open meeting to raise people's awareness, to tackle

the stigma, and bring health professionals and community together in open dialogue. People received as much information as they could from professionals. Between 60 to 70 people attended and asked genuine and knowledgeable questions.

We also held a training program - 24 members from different African community backgrounds received the training from the Health Improvement Team of the PCT and the Council's Environmental Health department. This feels like just the beginning.

Our aim is to address health inequalities and the lack of access to health services. We do this in direct work and by bringing health professionals to speak to community and have questions from community answered. We are building a network of service delivery especially for Hackney working closely with the PCT with the aim of bridging the gaps in service provision. We have looked at Teenage Pregnancy, HIV Aids and now TB. The next issue to look at is sickle cell anaemia.

Spark spoke to Diana Chituku, PCT about

working on the mobile screening with Hackney African Forum.

What was the mobile screening?

A TB mobile unit parked in Kingsland High Street at the entrance to Ridley Road Market in Dalston from about 10am to 3pm. A team of volunteers from Hackney African Forum who had undertaken TB awareness training located themselves at strategic points at Ridley Road Market. As people came and walked round the market HAF volunteers approached them and highlighted the increase of TB prevalence in City & Hackney and the need to be screened for TB at the van and that this would only take about three minutes of their time. A lot of people responded positively to this and over 200 people, mainly from BME communities, were screened on the day and on the spot.

What was the open meeting?

Later in the afternoon, people assembled in the hall where staff and TB experts from the PCT and other relevant agencies enlightened the audience on TB incidence. Personal testimonies of people who had been diagnosed with TB and had been successfully cured helped to destigmatise TB and reassure the audience that TB like most illnesses could be cured and eradicated with joint effort from the public and health care professionals. We were entertained by the Rwandese and Busoga dancers as well as with songs and poetry and there were stalls full of health information and cultural artefacts and exotic African dishes and refreshments.

Why is it important to work with Hackney African Forum?

Working with the Forum is one of the most rewarding aspects of my work. They are very active and willing to work in unity and try innovative projects and ideas. For example, the TB Screening event was very successful as a result of the hard work by a team of trained, dedicated and pro-active volunteers who worked diligently at Ridley Road Market by approaching people and highlighted the need for them to get screened for TB. More than 200 people were screened for TB on the day and this demonstrated partnership working between Hackney Council, City & Hackney tPCT and VCS produces better results.

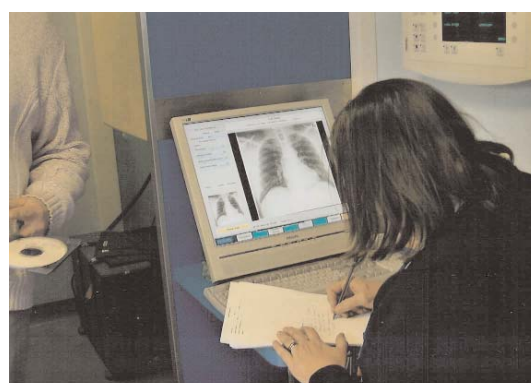
TB – The Action



TB mobile unit in Kingsland High Street



TB screening takes 3 minutes



Over 200 people screened on the spot

For more information:

Diana Chituku, Health Improvement Advisor (Social Inclusion)
HIMP, City & Hackney tPCT
2nd Floor, D Block, St Leonards, Nuttall Street, London N1 5LZ
Tel: 020 7683 4352
Fax: 020 683 4043
Email: diana.chituku@chpct.nhs.uk

TB – The facts

City and Hackney has one of the highest rates of tuberculosis in England, much higher than that for England and London overall. The local rate is above that at which the WHO [World Health Organisation] believes urgent action is required.

TB causes a great deal of suffering in terms of illness, can be fatal and also spreads from person to person. It can be treated and cured, but it is essential to complete a relatively long course of medication. Where the course is not completed problems can develop with drug resistance and this is becoming a problem in Hackney. The high number of cases and drug resistance is why TB has been identified as a priority in City and Hackney PCT's Health Inequalities Programme 2005-2008.

WHAT IS TB?

TB or tuberculosis is a serious but treatable infectious disease. It is a global disease associated with deprivation and poverty. Spread of TB occurs when a person with infectious lung disease coughs out TB bacteria in a fine spray of sputum and mucus. These micro particles are dispersed by air currents and destroyed by sunlight. However they tend to linger in poorly lit/ventilated areas, this increases the risk of the TB bacteria being inhaled by another person. Most people with an intact immune system, who inhale TB bacteria, will not develop the disease; however the infection may persist as latent TB and be reactivated due to changes in their immune system.

The essence of control of TB involves prevention, rapid diagnosis and effective treatment. The standard course of treatment lasts for six months. Patients with infectious lung disease cease to be infectious after two weeks of treatment. Failure to complete treatment is associated with disease reactivation and development of multi-drug resistant TB which can require treatment for 24 months or longer.

TB is a global disease associated with deprivation and poverty.

WHO IS AT RISK?

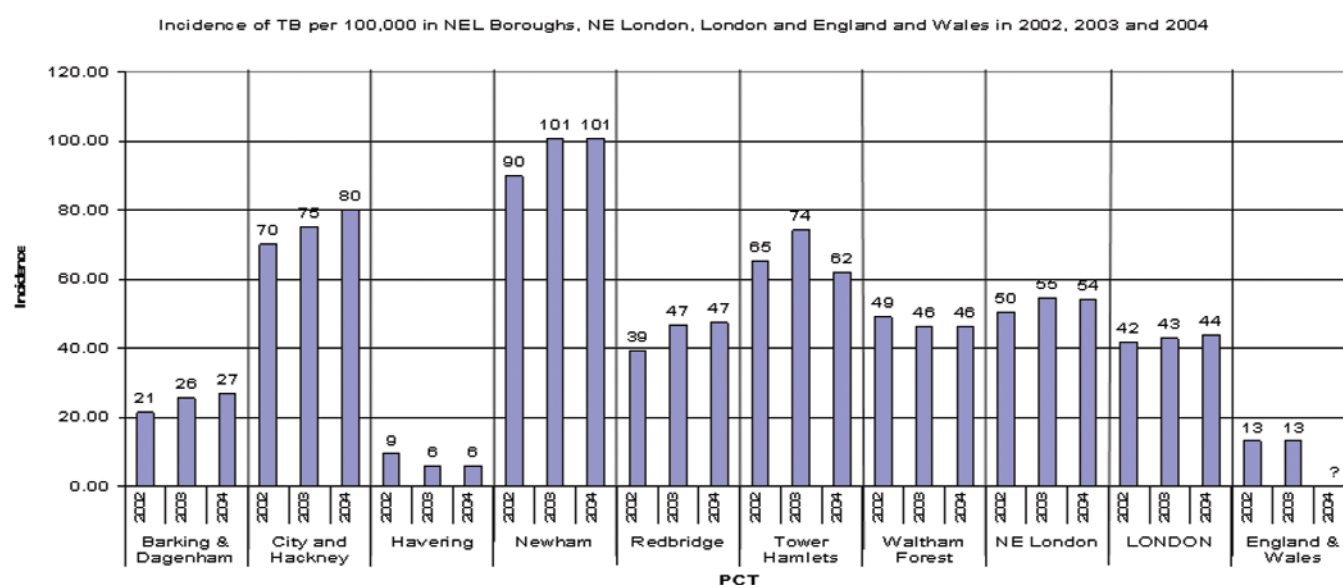
TB is a disease associated with inequalities.

- The incidence of TB follows the average deprivation, income support and unemployment indices across North East London
- Homelessness is associated with increased risk of tuberculosis and Hackney has a high level of homelessness
- There is a well-known and strongly established link between overcrowding and tuberculosis. Overcrowding is most severe amongst BME households and one-parent families
- Black Africans are over-represented amongst TB patients in City and Hackney
- HIV infection weakens a person's immunity to TB
- The socially marginalised, such as injecting drug users, sex workers and people with excessive alcohol consumption, are at higher risk of TB.

TB INCIDENCE AMONGST CITY & HACKNEY RESIDENTS

In 2004, the incidence (rate of new cases) of TB in City and Hackney was almost twice that for London as a whole: 80 per 100,000 compared with 44 per 100,000 in London. City and Hackney has the second highest incidence of TB after Newham (in 2004 Newham had a rate of 101 per 100,000). However, since 2002, the incidence of TB has continued to rise in City and Hackney, unlike Newham where the rate of TB appears to have stabilised and Tower Hamlets where the rate appears to have declined.

TB INCIDENCE IN NORTH EAST LONDON BY PCT



The incidence of TB is relatively high across all wards in Hackney: in 2004, none of the wards had less than 20 cases per 100,000 residents. However, four wards had particularly high rates (more than 100 per 100,000): two in the south of the borough (Hoxton and Haggerston), one in the centre, Chatham, and one in the north, Stoke Newington Central.

In terms of ethnicity, over the three years (2002-2004), approximately a third (36%) of all TB patients from City & Hackney have been Black African. As Black Africans represent 12% of the local population, they are over-represented amongst TB patients. The high number of notifications therefore corresponds to a high incidence: in 2004, the rate of TB amongst Black Africans was 238 per 100,000 compared with an overall rate of 80 per 100,000 for City and Hackney as a whole. The Black African community should be a target for prevention and early identification work given the large number of cases and high incidence of TB within this group.

The incidence of TB is relatively high across all wards in Hackney: in 2004, none of the wards had less than 20 cases per 100,000 residents.

This information comes from Health Equity Audit & Strategy for Tackling TB in City & Hackney 2006-2008 –City and Hackney PCT, July 2006. More details from City & Hackney tPCT on 020 7683 4352.

Who are Hackney African Forum?

<p>Thomas Bubi African Support & Project Centre (ASPC) Room 10, The Wally Foster Community Centre Homerton Road, London E9 5QB T: 020 8986 6966 M: 07939 158 545 F: 020 8986 6966 E: africanspc@yahoo.co.uk</p>	<p>Baltazer Mutuli African Community Development Association (ACDA) Unit W002, Metropolitan Business Centre Enfield Road, London N1 5AZ T: 020 7254 7364 M: 07932 583 541 F: 020 7254 7364 E: acda3@yahoo.co.uk</p>
<p>Hassan Diabate Community of Malian Refugees Unit W13, Metropolitan Business Centre Enfield Road, London N1 5AZ T: 020 7254 0563 M: 07903 411 405 E: hassandiabate2000@yahoo.co.uk</p>	<p>Sam Sangolana, Sade Olushanu Helping Hands Welfare & Development Association 59 Downham Rd, De Bevoir Estate, London, N1 5AH T: 020 7249 9657 M: 07949 247 330 F: 020 7923 7922 E: hhwda@yahoo.co.uk</p>
<p>Romain Matondo Congolese Community Support Group Unit W13, Metropolitan Business Centre Enfield Road, London N1 5AZ T: 07930 548 219 E: advicecongolese@yahoo.co.uk</p>	<p>Roger Masudi, Mao Zakuani Congolese Youth Association (CYA) Unit C, 3 Bradbury Street, London, N16 8JN T: 020 7923 0333 F: 020 7249 6888 E: admin@congoyouthassoc.or.uk</p>
<p>Joseph Tambwe Hackney Association Youth Club Clapton Business Centre, Room 107 D/A Downs Road, London E5 8DS T: 07958 336 964</p>	<p>Iseke Bokoko, Mr Onesis Body Of Christ Charity Clapton Business Centre, Room 107 D/A Downs Road, London E5 8DS T: 020 8986 5880 M: 07963 535 364/ 07949 414 517 F: 020 7241 1085</p>
<p>Grace Kisira, Apoplo Kakaire, Margaret Nakiwungs Busoga Association UK Unit AO15, Metropolitan Business Building Centre Enfield Road, London N1 5AZ T: 020 7923 4147 M: 07903 208 136 F: 020 7923 4179 E: busoga1@btconnect.com</p>	<p>Fred Kamugwiina Organisation for HIV Positive Men (OPAM) Metropolitan Business Centre, Suite 012 Enfield Road, London N1 5AZ T: 020 7923 4744 M: 07971 079 736 E: opam.org@btconnect.com</p>
<p>Hawah Lubega, Betty Nalongo, Joyce Mutagubya Great Nile Trust Unit W004, Metropolitan Business Centre Enfield Road, London N1 5AZ T: 020 7923 4356 F: 020 7923 9760 E: greatniletrust@btconnect.com</p>	<p>Janet Bake Murungi Hackney Women's Project 2nd Floor, Spencer House Hackney Road, London E2 7NA T: 020 7012 1066 M: 07949 213 475 E: hhackneywomen@yahoo.co.uk</p>
<p>Katuta Ndombe Nzambe Malamu Charity Top Floor Clapton Business Centre 107 Downs Road, London E5 8DS T: 020 8986 5255 M: 07957 154 434 F: 020 8986 5244 E: africfrancophoneassocuk@yahoo.co.uk</p>	<p>Dede Katindi Hackney East African Community Association Room 109, Clapton Business Centre 107 - 109 Downs Road, London E5 8DS T: 020 8985 8977 M: 07932 887 050 F: 020 8985 2345 E: heaca2002@yahoo.co.uk</p>
<p>Josephine Yanga Diaspora Unit C2, Bradbury Street, London N16 8JN T: 020 7923 3401 F: 020 7923 3533 E: enquiries@diaspora.org.uk</p>	<p>Agnes Jura Zenith Women Association 15 Marsom House, Provost Street, London, N1 7QY T: 020 7684 0539: M: 07900 505 189: E: zenithwomen@yahoo.co.uk</p>



Hackney Mediation Service celebrates its 10th anniversary

Mediation is a communication process in which an impartial person (the mediator) helps neighbours to resolve their disputes.

Would you like to become a mediator?

We have just begun our recruitment drive for new groups of volunteer mediators who will receive free accredited training between January and April 2007. Hackney Mediation Service is celebrating its 10th year of working alongside the people of Hackney. Our trained volunteer mediators have been empowering people to settle differences in a non-violent way since September 1996.

The new decade signals a new era for the Service; we hope our new volunteers will be part of this.

If you are a Hackney resident or work in the Borough and would like to apply for the training:

- Phone us on 020 8356 4794
- Email us at mediation@hackney.gov.uk
- Write to us at 2nd Floor, 302 Mare Street, London E8 1HA.

Weekend Training dates (2007):

- Group 1: 6-7, 13-14, 27-28 Jan and 03-04 Feb;
 - Group 2: 24-25 Feb, 03-04, 10-11 March and 31 March – 01 April 07
- Closing date 11am on Wednesday 13 Dec 2006



National Coalition
NCBI
 Building Institute

**National Coalition Building Institute
 (NCBI)**
 and
**International Black African Heritage
 Constituency Caucus**



**Working to support the Hackney Community
 Our programmes include:**

Support for the community - family, relationships, career development and community integration.

Work with African Heritage adults and young people.

Conflict resolution; Leadership development

Self esteem and self awareness

For more information and to discuss further:

Call office: 08707 461553 or 07811 374074

Email: ncbilondon@ncbi.org.uk Website: www.ncbi.org.uk

Specialist support for refugee communities

Looking for a job and learning English are top priorities for Hackney's refugee communities, according to research by Hackney Refugee Forum (HRF).

The two issues have been targeted by an initiative by HRF to hold specialised job search training, which focuses on an individual's language needs.

Knowledge of English is vital to getting employment. However, teaching English to refugees is complex due to the multitude of languages spoken by Hackney's refugee communities.

Therefore, HRF has secured small grants from the Community Empowerment Network and Team Hackney, to hold tailor made English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) supported job search skill improvement training. Specifically designed for individuals from different refugee groups, the

tutor trains the learners according to their different grammatical and pronunciation needs.

The first course was organised in Tohum Cultural Centre for Somali, Turkish and Kurdish people. The second one was organised together with African People Support and Project and third held in partnership with Alevi Cultural Centre.

Over 30 people attended the three courses which were held for periods of four and 10 weeks and included getting organised, CV preparation, career advice and interview preparation. HRF contributed to child care and travel expenses of the learners.

The training was so successful, HRF hopes to organise it again.

Please contact Ali or Ibrahim of HRF on 020 7923 1962 if your group is interested.



One in four Hackney Refugee & Asylum Seeker groups work in unsafe conditions

Update on premises needs in Hackney

Hackney Refugee Forum (HRF) conducted a survey of 20 refugee community groups to assess the premises needs of Refugee & Asylum Seeker (RAS) groups.

Unsurprisingly, like most VCS groups, all of the refugee organisations asked, have problems with premises. A massive 25% of those who responded, have no premises and a fifth of those asked share premises with other organisations.

The report found:

- 40% of premises are too small
- 40% face high rents
- 15% face repossession threats

- 25% operate in unhealthy and unsafe premises, particularly after dark, are dangerous for disabled people, have limited opening times and face anti social behaviour around their premises.

Bearing this in mind it's not unexpected that 90% of the organisations said that they are looking for new premises. Particularly, in these top five locations in Hackney: Dalston, Stoke Newington, Clissold, De Beauvoir and Hackney Central.

Almost all organisations asked, said they would share premises with other RAS organisations.

According to the HRF survey, refugee organisations that have premises problems are mainly those serving African and Turkish and Kurdish people in Hackney. All of whom are willing to share large premises.

Support & advice for refugees



Dalston: Loneliness and confusion of a new culture

Almaz is not this lady's real name. She feels unable to identify herself as many of her family are still in Ethiopia. Almaz runs a help and advice service for refugees – she does not advertise the service but it is well known in parts of the East African community.

Why did you start this work?

A lot of refugees don't know where to go, they are confused by the new culture and language. We go with them to the doctors or the lawyers as there won't be an interpreter and we generally help them.

Is this because of your own experience?

I haven't got any problems in this country – I was just shocked with the different culture, though I never felt the loneliness because I could speak the language and I have family and friends here.

What was it that shocked you about the culture here?

In Ethiopia there is more social life – you speak with your neighbours. Here everyone closes their door and leads their own life. In Ethiopia if you cannot afford to leave your child with childcare, you can leave them with your neighbours or with an older person who doesn't have children. Society will help you look after your children. For me here neighbours don't greet each other. And the loneliness – if you haven't got family or friends you can suffer mental illness and depression.

Why is there more need for your help now?

Our country's situation is complicated now – and we find that the real refugees don't get refugee status, and some of the ones who do get it, don't really need it. Women especially are suffering in detention centres. There are a lot of things you hear. When they want to deport you, they get beaten up by the escorts. Women who have been raped in Ethiopia and escaped from

detention centre there and then end up in a detention centre here.

How are you able to help detainees?

By visiting and talking to them, and talking to lawyers, anti-deportation people, medical foundation and MPs (who in most cases really help). Most of the case if they are lucky get a fresh appeal.

Do you think people are generally aware of what happens to refugees?

Most people only follow the media, they don't know why these people are here. People think they come for income support and economic reasons, not because their life is threatened. Many are doctors, artists, PhD holders and professional people – if they had the chance to live in their own country, they would. I'm not saying there are no bogus refugees, there might be, but you can't include everyone in the same cup. Most of the refugees who are around us, we are helping because they are in great need.

Many are doctors, artists, PhD holders and professional people – if they had the chance to live in their own country, they would.

For example there is one who is a singer, a disabled girl from Ethiopia. She has been three times in the detention centre and seven times they tried to deport her. She was beaten up and was dragged along the floor by escorts. She is now staying in the UK with our help and her artwork has even been on display in an exhibition. The Home Office think she is not genuine, but I know she was in prison in Ethiopia because of her tribe and her artworks and her singing. She sang about the general politics. We have the proof, but the Home Office don't believe it.

In 1997, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) published a report showing that out of 13 industrialised countries the UK ranked third in poor literacy and numeracy – only Poland and the Republic of Ireland had lower scores.

It found that in the UK 23% of the adult population were classed as having ‘low’ literacy skills – the figure was the same for ‘poor’ numeracy skills – while the figures for Germany, Holland and Sweden were around 10%.

As a result the UK government set up the Skills for Life programme – here we look at how that programme is being carried out in Hackney and the results of research into levels of literacy and numeracy in the Borough.

HTEN is a membership network for existing providers of any kind of training, SPARK interviewed James Drummond the Skills for Life Programme Manager about the programme and how it is being managed in Hackney.



James Drummond
HTEN, Skills for Life Programme Manager

What is the ‘Skills for Life’ programme?

It’s the national strategy for improving language, literacy and

numeracy skills amongst adults. We know from research, particularly in the 90s, that Britain is lagging far behind comparable countries. The strategy has been running since 2001 so it’s early days yet to gauge the impact.

What is the Hackney situation?

Locally in Hackney, there is a high refugee and migrant population who have English as a second language and who are often excluded from the labour market and public services because of protracted language needs. Also there are high reservoirs of language, literacy and numeracy needs in the indigenous population. There is a real correlation between deprivation, social exclusion and a lack in these skills, though nobody is suggesting that language literacy and numeracy are the only reasons.

How is it happening?

Hackney Council recognised that a lot of work needed to be done to tackle low skills in language, literacy and numeracy and that the delivery amongst the voluntary sector (mostly funded by The Learning Trust) and Shoreditch College was fragmented. There wasn’t a borough wide,

strategic approach.

There was also a recognition that certain aspects of ‘Skills for Life’ are particularly difficult for grass roots organisations. For example, the programme calls for qualified and trained teachers, and the achievement of qualifications - whereas the community sector tends towards informal training. There’s a huge scope for developing provision which can really move people on – which is difficult if your skills are not recognised in some kind of accreditation. For example, if you’re not a native English speaker and want to train to be plumber at Shoreditch college you will need an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) certificate which an informal course would probably not provide.

Qualifications are also important because of citizenship which requires a certain accredited level of ESOL.

Therefore Skills for Life programme was set up in 2004 in Hackney with the specific aims of developing an overall strategy, tackling the fragmented provision and supporting the voluntary and community sector providers. The Skills for Life Support Programme is funded by Team Hackney through the NRF programme. HTEN leads in partnership with Learning Trust Adult Learning Services (specifically the Community Development team).

What are the main areas of the Programme?

There are four parts:

1. Co-ordination – HTEN lead a Skills for Life

Skills for life

tackling low literacy and numeracy in Hackney



Strategy Group for the Borough and we're also setting up a providers forum so all organisations in Hackney delivering language, literacy and numeracy training can be involved.

2. Supporting groups – providing advice, and help on things like setting up provision in ESOL, literacy and numeracy. The aim is to help organisations deliver effectively within the Common Inspection Framework (CIF). Last year we worked with 40 – 50 organisations.

3. Vocational training & employability - we work with vocational training providers in terms of embedding language, literacy and numeracy into vocational training provision. For example we developed and funded a Leisure Assistants course with GLL [who hold the contract for running Hackney's Leisure Centres]. They were holding six week training courses for people to become pool side assistants. We said to them that they shouldn't screen anyone out because of low language, literacy or numeracy skills, and we will work with both them and you to make the course accessible. We targeted recruitment around Clapton and Wick and then had two tutors in the classes, the leisure tutor and the language literacy and numeracy tutor. Sixteen students started the course, three dropped out, and 13 are working in GLL's leisure centres. We had some very positive feedback from the students.

A regeneration agenda which doesn't tackle low skills in language, literacy or numeracy is itself going to exclude people and be limited as a result.

4. Outreach into communities – this is to try to identify new groups and to reach potential new learners and think about if/what training is appropriate. For example in January 2006 we held a Learning, Employment and Skills open day in the busy Broadway Market in South Hackney, and we'll be holding more community learning events over the coming year.

Anything else?

We try to shift the way in which people and organisations work so that it is more coherent and effective so people with low skills can have an equal opportunity in terms of employment, community participation. A regeneration agenda which doesn't tackle low skills in language, literacy or numeracy is itself going to exclude people and be limited as a result.

This is a practice led programme which tries to bridge gap between Adult Education practitioners and regeneration practitioners i.e. community and grass roots.

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A Snapshot of Hackney Skill Levels

Extract from the report ‘Skills for Life in Hackney: Meeting Unmet Need’.

“Skills for life in Hackney: Meeting Unmet Need” is a piece of research which looked at how low skills in ESOL, literacy and numeracy impacts upon economic and social inclusion in the Borough. We also sought to outline the role of Hackney’s adult education providers and community groups in tackling this, and how they now need to shift in order to operate more strategically in a changing funding and policy context.

James Drummond, if you can get a copy of the report by contacting HTEN on 020 7254 1644.

The most up-to-date estimation of the extent of ESOL, literacy and numeracy skills deprivation comes from the 2002 DfES Skills for Life Survey, a national survey based on samples taken at ward level.

These statistics need to be treated with caution. Nevertheless, this evidence suggests that approximately half of all adults in Hackney have a lower level of literacy than that expected of a school leaver, and would struggle to gain a pass in GCSE English Language or the Level 2 National Literacy Test. Up to 90% of Hackney adults would be unable to gain a pass in GCSE Maths or the Level 2 National Numeracy Test. This is especially worrying given the strong correlation of poor numeracy skills and economic activity levels...

Regarding ESOL, neither the London Borough of Hackney nor the Learning and Skills Council collates statistics on the first-language background of first-generation migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers. The Borough’s ethnic monitoring cannot give a clear picture of this, since ‘Turkish’ could include those ethnically Turkish but born in the UK, and ‘Other African’ could include Somalis, Angolans and Congolese who may or may not have been born here.

Nevertheless, the 2002 DfES Skills for Life survey estimates that:

- 34% of Hackney households speak English as a Second Language
- 14% of Hackney residents with English as a Second Language have Entry Level skills (ie, unable to enter mainstream education, training and employment).

What does ‘low’ and ‘poor’ literacy and numeracy mean?

- One in sixteen adults, if shown the poster in Figure A, cannot say where the concert is held.
- One in three adults in this country cannot calculate the area of a room that is 21 by 14 feet, even with the aid of a calculator.
- One in four adults cannot calculate the change they should get out of £2 when they buy the goods displayed in Figure B.

Figure A

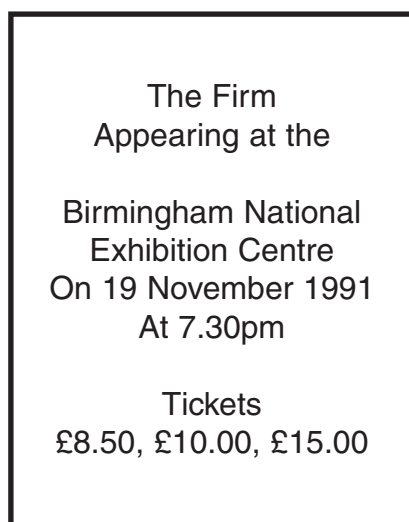


Figure B



Example from ‘A Fresh Start’ by Sir Claus Moser, 1998. The Moser Report provided the evidence base for the Skills for Life Strategy and was prompted by the OECD survey.



European update

ESF 1.3 Neighbourhood Facilitators project



Marie Walker, Co-ordinator of the Neighbourhood Facilitator Programme ESF 1.3 updates SPARK, and introduces Fatima Dupres Griffiths, a potential new community consultant for Hackney.

Launched in August 2005, the Neighbourhood Facilitator Programme ESF 1.3 reaches out to community groups who require specialist skills to enable their development.

It focuses on the capacity building of community workers so they can become consultants proficient in their area of expertise, such as media, finance etc.

The Neighbourhood Facilitator Programme ESF 1.3 is funded by the European Union, Community Enterprise Network, and Team Hackney,

Below is a case study of Ms Fatima Dupres Griffiths, One of the project’s beneficiaries and a great example of the work a number of the community workers are undertaking to become consultants and support community groups in Hackney that have limited resources to access professional consultancy expertise.

Fatima is a long-term citizen of Hackney, who enrolled on the programme in October 2005. Fatima expressed her passion in working as a consultant to help grass roots organisations communicate and promote the good work they are doing for their community through the Arts.



Fatima’s background is in Media Presenting/Research and film directing. She started her career as a TV Presenter/Researcher in St Lucia, moving onto radio, presenting current affairs and daily breakfast shows in London.

Fatima dedicates her time for free to support vulnerable people in the community delivering

poetry workshops, radio presenting, Creole and English Literature. She also teaches basic video skills to people living with learning difficulties; this involves Vox pops – (conducting interviews with local people to obtain their views), their work was presented on the breakfast show for Sound Radio - Hackney.

For Fatima to achieve her goals we referred to her individual development plan and worked towards developing skills in Project Management, Train the Trainer and Consultancy.

BBC Training

Although Fatima is competent in the Arts, She needed to update her skills in Radio, Film and Video. We were extremely excited when we were able to secure her a place on an intensive training programme with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in Core Network Radio Skills.

On her return from the BBC training, Fatima said;

On developing new skills:

“I recapped old skills, securing interviews for a radio features package.”

The workload

“I worked under immense pressure and deadlines,”



Overcoming her fears

“I overcame techno-phobia, to grasp the editing skills required, I drew on my skills of perseverance and creativity.

Fatima ended by saying

“It was an excellent course.”



Running out of SPACE

What will the Olympics bring to Hackney? A new tube, new sports facilities, increased investment and opportunities - and the greatest show on earth? Or rising property prices forcing out grass roots organisations, a diversion of resources and attention away from local issues, and planning decisions taken well beyond local control?

Hackney contributed two major elements to the Olympic bid - its enormous cultural diversity and its international reputation as a home for artists. In this issue we look at the 'Cultural Olympiad' on which Hackney Council takes the lead in the five Host Olympic Boroughs.

Beginning with Space Studios, SPARK spoke to a range of cultural organisations in Hackney to ask them about themselves and how they see the coming Olympics affecting them. Then we took some of their concerns and put them to the Council and the DCMS (Department of Culture Media and Sport) to see what is being done to make sure the rhetoric in the bid becomes a reality.

Standing for Studio Provision, Artistic, Cultural, Educational, **SPACE** is the original studio organisation providing affordable workspace for more than 600 artists in 16 sites across London. Anna Harding, Chief Executive, **SPACE Studios** talks about finding studio space in Hackney.

How was **SPACE** set up?

SPACE was founded in 1968 by a group of artists. Our first building was in St Katherine's Dock, the second was Martello Street, Hackney in 1971. Artists came to Hackney because factory spaces were becoming idle and the owners were looking for a new use as industries were shutting down. In the 70s and early 80s finding industrial premises and converting them to studios was relatively easy and landlords welcomed us to look after their properties. Our biggest activity is the provision of affordable

studio space.

Why is **SPACE** needed?

Artists and designers need space to produce their work which can be hard to find and very expensive in London. **SPACE** is a non-profit charity which enables artists to rent space which is not from a profit-making landlord. We provide facilities for media, designers, print makers, furniture makers and makers of all kinds – and this broad area of creative industry contributes enormously to generating international awareness of Hackney and East London as a dynamic destination. Having artists here draws people from across the world.

We have a really dynamic context in Hackney which feeds the creativity of artists who are renowned the world over. Having studio facilities here contributes to events like London's Freeze Art Fair and the London art market, one of the most dynamic in the world. This contributes to the

vibrancy of the borough by bringing international attention and support services such as transport, public relations, marketing, communications and design companies.

Artists want to stay and be part of East London – it's an inspiring place because it's cutting edge, always in flux, it's always been an experiment, a place for new ideas, new people arrive, cultures meet, we have to struggle, life is a fight to survive, this in a funny way inspires creativity.

Why is it difficult to get support?

To argue why resources should go to culture rather than affordable housing for asylum seekers and others with very considerable needs is a challenge which is hard for funders like LDA, GLA, Olympic agencies, ODPM to grasp. Despite the popular image of artists like Van Gogh or Picasso selling work for huge sums, on average living artists only earn £6,000 a year. Cultural sector businesses are in Hackney because there was affordable space – if that goes, they will find it hard to stay in Hackney.

Our workspace for artists and designers in the Borough helps support the Council's economic objectives. We provide and retain jobs in the borough. We contribute to neighbourhood renewal and address worklessness among our young people by offering training programmes,

We provide and retain jobs in the Borough. We contribute to neighbourhood renewal and address worklessness among our young people...

particular in creative uses of media technologies, providing relevant high level skills.

Our training programmes also help talented young people who may not have to contacts and networks to find routes into work in the creative sector. We can only sustain this education and training activity by having artists present in the borough. Generating a rental income through studios also supports our education activities. We would like to see local authorities creating planning supplements specifying cultural use, so that when a developer comes to Hackney they not only specify that they need to build affordable homes, but sometimes also that they need to

build affordable studio space with us as development partners.

Are there particular issues in Hackney?

In the past SPACE has found it easier working in Tower Hamlets – for example someone from the council will come to talk to us when they are writing a large funding bid and include ideas to build a large and successful funding bid for the borough, from which we all benefit. I sense things are getting a lot better with Hackney and am very optimistic about working in partnership

SPACE is an internationally recognised model of studio provision. The Olympics should be the opportunity to showcase what we do to the rest of the world...

on some new projects. But it's still frustrating in Hackney when the grants that appear to be available are just tiny funds for holiday projects announced at really short notice – organisations can't deliver effective and truly beneficial services that way, we could be doing far more for Hackney if we were brought in earlier in the planning stage on new initiatives where our strategic thinking and expertise can help make a contribution.

How would you like it to be?

We have a lot of experience – we're a major business in Hackney, with 10 studio buildings in the Borough, and we provide workspace for over 600 artists. We have the expertise to deliver on that scale. We regularly commission international calibre artists and work with organisations like the Learning and Skills Council, and on policy with GLA and LDA. We're involved with some really innovative projects: for example UK Sound TV, which is a youth led music broadcasting channel in Bow. We would love to do something similar in Hackney. We would love to set up more projects giving young people relevant employment skills to work on the Olympics, we just need the opportunity.

What is the Olympian Artist idea?

We would like to see the Olympic authorities commission a series of artists in the run up to the Olympics. Each would contribute to its success

...continued from page 33

through their own practice, it might be designing billboards made with local people, work with community groups or a performance artist or building a large sculpture. The principle is that the Olympian artist has the ability to see things and galvanise people and engage them in a different way and to work across cultures.

What is the situation with studio space now?

It's becoming increasingly difficult to find suitable buildings as they are now attractive to residential developers and because of general regeneration. At one site we are threatened with a demand for a 100% rent increase, this is rather extreme but it shows you that it is difficult to negotiate our stay in Hackney. The Olympics is a factor both because of businesses being re-housed from the Olympic zone and because developers come here excited about the possibilities of making money.

At Richmond House in Richmond Road (the Flowers East Building) we have had a floor of studios since 1983. We want to stay there at a price artists can afford. The developers will say they are offering equivalent studio space, but in fact they are proposing to charge a minimum of three times the price as part of a new build, before adding hefty service charges and rates. Also the space they propose isn't designed to suit artists' needs whereas the building we have already is beautiful and serves our needs.

Anything else?

We have a long term commitment to Hackney and to making it a better place for everyone here, but the creative sector needs real support from the council or it will disappear. The threat is that Hackney becomes another Macdonald's zone with the same expensive chains that you see in every town centre pricing out local shops. Camden was once a buzzing creative place but it became too expensive and the creative people moved out. Now it has tatty tourist shops and drugs.

SPACE is an internationally recognised model of studio provision. People come from all over the world to see how we work. The Olympics should be the opportunity to showcase what we do to the rest of the world, not as a threat.

Richmond House Planning Application says

"Redevelopment of site behind retained Richmond Road frontage involving demolition of remaining buildings and erection of part 4, part 5, part 6 storey (plus basement) building to provide 3033 sqm of B1 (Business Use) floor space and 70 residential units comprising 29 x 1 bedroom flats, 18 x 2 bedroom flats, 15 x 3 bedroom flats, 5 x 4 bedroom flats and 3 x 4 bedroom houses and including roof terrace at 4th floor level and 43 car parking spaces accessed from Florfield Road".

The Planning Application put forward by Freeholder was turned down and freeholder has now appealed. A public enquiry took place on 17 October and a decision will be made in mid December.



For more information contact:

Space Studios,

129-131 Mare Street, Hackney, London, E8 3RH

Tel: 0208 525 4330

Space Gallery is free and you can book meeting spaces.

Current exhibitions: 09 Nov 06 – 20 Jan 07

Loraine Leeson Art For Change: Retrospective looking at 30 years of working in regeneration in East London

Courses: Channel 5.2 employment training: www.spacestudios.org.uk



Poet for Hackney
Ngoma Bishop

BEMA, the Black and Ethnic Minority Arts Network, is the biggest arts network in Hackney – and one of the biggest in the UK. It has 60 members organisations, 30 of whom are active. SPARK spoke to Ngoma Bishop, Chair of BEMA – about the Olympics cultural strategy.

Do you see opportunities for BEMA as part of the Cultural Strand of the Olympics?

I see this as another part of the general issue. Despite the fact that most of resources Hackney gets are on basis of it being one of the most diverse boroughs, consultation is at a minimum and selective, and the myriad of culturally diverse entities have no role in any strategy and are not generally recipients of the funds. For example, plans are configured because of the existence of groups like BEMA members, and then they are not included.

We don't have a clear idea of how the Olympics is going to activate the whole arts and cultural element in Hackney. I should know what's in the strategy, as Chair of such a big network it's atrocious that they can form a strategy without elements of the network. The African Caribbean community forms 30 – 35% of the Borough, and ethnic minorities 70% – so any document purporting to have the backing of the community should involve us, or it's not valid.

There is also a general problem in engaging with arts organisations from the BME community; firstly because the council have decided that as part of Team Hackney [Local Strategic Partnership] they don't need to have a separate forum for arts and culture because it is involved in everything.

...most of resources Hackney gets are on basis of it being one of the most diverse boroughs, consultation is at a minimum and selective, and the myriad of culturally diverse entities have no role in any strategy...

Secondly, membership of Team Hackney is determined by being seen to be a significant player, such as a Director or Chair of an organisation controlling a significant budget and number of personnel. The consequence is that there are no BEMA members on higher echelons of Team Hackney and the cultural debate is scattered.

How do you think the Olympics will affect available workspace?

If we had anything we would be worried about losing it – the main item on the agenda for BEMA at present is access to spaces. Very, very few black arts organisations have access to their own property, of those that do, many are facing the threat of having their premises repossessed or of otherwise losing them.

If you accept that there is a proliferation of artists in Hackney, which is the argument Hackney uses to acquire money – then you have to have a significant amount of affordable space. I'm not sure how this workspace is going to materialise and since artists are often low waged, how will they afford workspace that does materialise? I don't know one BEMA arts organisation that is well funded.

What do you think of the “Community Ownership” of the Olympics?

I'm not sure how that's to be achieved - I'm of the view that that's a nice phrase and rhetoric – given that there is no consultation with anyone that I know.

Do you see opportunities for Hackney from the Olympics?

The arguments that were put forward as to why Hackney should hold the Olympics are all valid – it will bring financial resources into the area and be good for morale locally and in the country. It is an opportunity to showcase all that is best in the borough – but has to be all – not some of what some people think is best in the Borough. It's an opportunity to develop partnerships and networks that have longevity – there is no point in the Olympics spending £50 billion and then everything disappearing again.

For more information contact:

Ngoma Bishop, BEMA

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Spark spoke to Nicole Crockett, Director of the Building Exploratory on how they want to be involved in the Cultural strategy and ensure the whole community benefits.

There is the idea of an “Olympic Exploratory” which CABE came up with and took to LOCOG as a tool for exploring the development of the Olympic site both locally and beyond. We are assuming that we will be involved; a thing like this is an approach, a way to engage communities which can't be set up and run in the way you would employ a designer for exhibition.

It would be good way of providing information about the Olympic site, especially as one of the big questions now is how to present it in a way people will understand. And there is also a huge amount of work to be done with existing businesses and communities in their attitude it.

As a local agency looking at development we're concerned with the legacy, and that as any people as possible are engaged and that it is well documented for future generations.

We can't afford to come up with a specific programme for it unless it is funded. We see our likely options as integrating this work into our existing programs involved with engaging people – we could also look for private sector funding, though that is difficult to find. We're also hopeful about the Olympic Exploratory.

We take the lead on the Heritage Cluster in Hackney, and through that conversation feed into the Council's cultural development plans. We are being sent the message that there is no money coming from the Olympics. We're waiting to see, but there aren't things in place. There is £45m earmarked for culture, but that's mostly for the opening and closing ceremonies and the festival between.

It's not clear that there is money through other sources either, though everyone is looking to the Olympics. For example the Arts Council strategy for children and young people is focussing on engaging with the Olympics, and next year's charitable trusts priorities fit in with the social policy for the Olympics – but this is all the same old money rebranded.

For more information contact:

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Email: mail@buildingexploratory.org.uk
W: www.buildingexploratory.org.uk



...we're concerned with the legacy, and that as any people as possible are engaged and that it is well documented for future generations.



Ella Gibbs and Amy Plant from Demo Plot for Pilot Publishing highlight the need the importance of community arts projects in the Olympics strategy for culture.

Major Villiers bought the site of a rubbish tip on Marsh Lane 100 years ago, and put down

soil and turned it into allotments. Now the allotment holders are being moved on to make way for a footbath in the Olympic park.

Pilot Publishing have taken on a plot to work as an art project to highlight the loss of the allotments.

We take on projects to do with regeneration where a site is in flux. We are interested in helping save the allotments and were offered a free overgrown plot, so we have set up an art project in support of the campaign and are producing a bulletin once a month. We want this to be a fully functioning, stress free and edible part of the threatened allotments – and for people to feel they can come here, especially artists, and very practically take part.

For ourselves we can learn a lot – not just how to

Hackney Wick Market
By Mimi Mollica



...there is no place on earth where the rent goes up like that unless there is some drastic and deep change happening in the area.

grow vegetables, but about sustainable living. It feels like a step forward in our work - we're making this a residency for a year.

If you are involved in doing something in a place you can sympathise more with how people feel. Now we have this we will do everything to keep it and we'll want to carry on growing and working on land. There is a strong community aspect here and a very diverse range of people. Certain groups come every Sunday to work here, and for some people its an important source of social life and recreation.

The point of the Demo Plot is to ask how things like this can be incorporated into developments – so it isn't the allotment versus the Olympics. Why can't the Olympic site incorporate the allotments? Why does planning have to always bulldoze everything and start again - especially when they talk at the same time about sustainability?

For more information:
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Mimi Mollica
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Mimi Mollica, a reportage photographer working from a studio in Hackney Wick and facing escalating rents.

How long have you been in Hackney? What made you want to be based here?

I've been here for six years. I came here out of necessity, not choice, because the rent was low and I needed a space big enough to live and breathe. Here I have enough space to organise my work properly and to pay a reasonable rent. And my agency and clients are in Shoreditch so they are one bus ride away.

How has it benefited you as an artist being based in Hackney?

It's inspirational in terms of being in a place where you still feel the quiet, it's new and refreshing, but not beautiful in the traditional sense of the word. There are no houses in front, no big and confusing crowds – it's a place you can have an out-of-London way of living in the centre of London.

What kind of space do you rent and how much does it cost?

My studio is a private rent. For the first four years, I paid £900 a month for a shared space. In 2004 this went up to £1,000 a month and in 2005 up again to £1,200 - just because of the Olympics.

Why do you attribute the rent rise to the Olympics?

Because (such an increase) never happened before, there's no other reason for it to go up. There is no place on earth where the rent goes up like that unless there is some drastic and deep change happening in the area. Before the Olympics was mentioned in the media there was no question of a large rent rise.

What do you see for the future of your workspace in Hackney?

I (suppose) that they will sell off the buildings like this where artists live because the landlord can gain revenue by selling land to a developer. Then the developer will make tiny soul-less flats for the middle classes who will move in and make a new layer of Hackney residents. The alternative is that there will be a very big rise in rents for studios. Either way I will have to move out.

Do you see any benefits or opportunities for your work from the Olympics coming to this area?

Not really, not directly. The only opportunity could be from my reportage photos documenting the area – if someone was making a book or an exhibition then I might have been in the right place at the right time and my work will gain value. Apart from that I can't see any advantage.

In 2006, Ellingfort Collective Partnership achieved a landmark decision in being given the right to buy their live/work units from Hackney Council which had been redeveloped with European funding. This followed repeated attempts over five years by the Council to sell the site to developers over the heads of the creative businesses leasing the units. Jo Joelson from Ellingfort Collective Partnership (ECP) tells of the struggle to hang on to community arts space.

ECP say “On acquiring the freehold interest, ECP will manage the site and enforce the directives put in place by [Europe] to ensure that the studios continue to be occupied by artists and creatives, the purpose for which they were initially built.

“The organisation [can now] start to act upon some of its collective artistic aims and focus on future development such as the cross fertilisation of ideas and projects which can reach out and input back into the community”.

When and why were the Ellingfort Road studios set up?

The 10 studios and live/work units in Ellingfort Road were completed in 1999 and the artists moved in in 2000. The place was built with European funding and there is a covenant in place until 2018 protecting the place for creatives. The gatekeeper of covenant is GOL [Government Office for London]. We set up Ellingfort Collective Partnership together to help us fight for the site.

Why have you had to fight to stay here?

Ever since we moved in, because

of their debt, the Council have been trying to sell off this site at auction. Last September 2005 was the eighth auction. It happens about twice a year all guns blazing. Every time we managed to get the properties withdrawn from auction at the last minute – usually because the Council has failed to include the details of the protective covenant in the details of the sale.

If the properties had been sold at auction to someone who was going to change the use, there would be a claw back of the European funds – the Council would have had to pay back the grant. Finally GOL wrote a letter to the Council saying that they agreed that the site be sold to ECP for price that we offered prior to last auction. We had bettered the best offer; eventually the Council had to say ok.

How have you managed to fight for so long?

We estimate that we’ve spent £30,000 over six years on this case - between all of us. For me it has been like a part time job, though it’s eased off now because we have a solicitor.

We’re each paying nearly £200,000 per unit. When we first started we put in bid of £1.2m for whole site [10 units]. We’ve had to work hard to get mortgages and deposits together.

What has made you so determined?

We’ve seen it all happen once already in Shoreditch, that’s why we’re not going to let it happen again. We [London Fieldworks, Jo’s business] moved here from Hoxton Square, at the back of Pitfield Street where we had a shared space – moving here has allowed us to be much more focused on our practice and



given us the space to develop and to be able to invite people in to work with us.

We’ve had support from everywhere, the Arts Council, Philip Dodd the former director of the ICA, Ken Livingstone - and Meg Hillier the MP has been writing letters for us.

Why was it so important to be together?

We are all professional artists regularly funded by bodies like the Arts Council and Channel 4, and showing at major exhibitions and galleries around the world. For example, Gustaf, who is now 80, has just had two major retrospectives.

We all work as a support network with one another. There is a lot of cross collaboration like one group will write the story board for another group’s film pitch, or make a website. The different skills in the collective are often used.

And if we can offer one another work we do - for instance Della Tilsley runs the East London Design Show – usually in Shoreditch - which tries to support emerging designers in the Borough.

There's a degree of people working in the Borough and giving something back. The pressures have served to consolidate what we have got and make it work and help us win the fight. It's rare to have an intergenerational community of artists who can feed one another different things.

How do you feel about the decision?

Over the moon, I suppose, and a great sense of relief after all the struggle. But we are all just calmly getting on with our lives because there have been so many disruptions and false hopes that we haven't wanted to get our hopes up, but we feel closer than ever and hope that Hackney Council at last does right thing in recognising the strength of such communities and what they can bring to the Borough in the long term, not the short term.

Who are ECP - Ellingfort Creative Partnerships LTD?

London Fieldworks Ltd:

Co-founded in 2000 by **Jo Joelson**, lecturer at London South Bank University Science Department, with collaborator **Bruce Gilchrist**. Working at the art-science interface they initiate innovative interdisciplinary art projects. They are currently working with The Science Museum, London. www.londonfieldworks.com

Newline Contracts:

A production company, producing moving image and multimedia projects, co-founded by **Sian Hamlett**, independent film maker and Director of Hamlett Films and **Jocelyn Deborne**, a multimedia technologist and designer. Recent work includes 'Black and Ethnic Adoption in the UK' for NCH, 'Art and the Mind' for Arts Council England, 'The Mirror Mask' directed by Dave Mc Kean, Hourglass Studios LTD.

Committee of 100:

An anti-war protest group founded by artist **Gustav Metzger** with **Bertrand Russell**. Metzger convened the legendary Destruction in Art Symposium, 1969, proposed the first Art Strike in 1974 and founded the Auto-Destructive Art Movement. He curated EAST International 2005 and recently had retrospectives at the Generali Foundation, Austria, May 2005 and Stockholm in May 2006.

Shroom Studio Ltd:

Incorporated in 2001 as a design and media collective with commercial interests in television, film and advertising. They have created numerous projects for Channel 4, BBC, Discovery as well as smaller arts organisations. They have collaborated with other members of the ECP community

creating films and web based projects for ELDS and Straight No Chaser Magazine. Shroom recently showcased their work at One Dot Zero, (film and video festival) ICA, London.

East London Design Show (ELDS):

Established in 1994 by glassmaker **Della Tinsley** and Photographer **Gideon Cleary**, it's now a major annual event that profiles the best of Britain's product, interior and fashion designers. Emerging and established designers apply and are handpicked for the quality of their products - the last show featured over 100 exhibitors. The show moved around the East End, but in 2004 ELDS returned to The Shoreditch Town Hall, where it was born over a decade ago.

www.eastlondondesignshow.co.uk

Cat Picton-Phillipps and Kristian Buus:

Both continue their individual art practice whilst providing an invaluable and affordable digital print service to many local photographers based in east London. They provide free digital facilities within a non-commercial space and a creative hub for local photographers to develop their ideas together.

www.martellopress.com/

Straight No Chaser:

More than a magazine, Straight No Chaser is the hub of a productive, musically literate international community. Their roots are in the improvisational, freedom loving ethics of jazz and embraces the music of the African diaspora. While aligning to the new-forms generated by youth, the mission of the magazine is to illuminate the genuine depth of the culture. In 2008 they will celebrate 20 years of independent publishing.

www.straightnochaser.co.uk

Despite many reminders and promises, the Hackney Council took three months to respond, and when they did, they had grouped the questions together into themes and written generally about the topics. There is some good information, some rather vague information and some questions which were ignored.

What is the Council's cultural budget?

The Council's cultural budget for 2006/07 is £245,000. In both 2005/06 and 2004/05 the cultural budget was £525,000.

The reduction in 2006/07 reflects the reallocation of Neighbourhood Renewal Funding to focus on priorities areas: Guns and Gangs, Infant Mortality and Worklessness. Projects within these priorities involve Hackney's cultural sector; for example, the One Love Hackney festival in September (formerly Peace Week) supported many arts initiatives include the major festival in Shoreditch Park (held on 17 September) designed in consultation with the community.

What is the Cultural Olympiad and what is Hackney Council's involvement?

The Cultural Olympiad is a national festival that will start after the close of the Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2008. The Cultural Olympiad is the responsibility of and coordinated by the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (LOCOG). Such a project does give the Arts an unprecedented opportunity to showcase East London's diverse cultural offer to London, the UK and beyond.

Discussions with LOCOG are centred around a Cultural Festival for East London. The five Host Boroughs are developing a draft outline of what such a Festival could look and feel like and how it could link to our respective Borough strengths. Once this draft framework is in place it will form the basis upon which an extensive consultation can take place with practitioners as we collectively form the very substance of a Cultural Olympiad and its legacy.

The five Host Boroughs are working with a broad range of partners to enable the sector to participate

in the 2012 and legacy outcomes. The structures to support the sector are being scoped out to ensure that the resources needed for the delivery of such outcomes are clearly identified. It is expect that this work will be completed by the end of the year. With such support in place and working alongside the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games and the sector we can collectively develop, initiate and deliver a portfolio of cultural projects for the Olympiad and beyond.

Will there be any additional funding available for arts and cultural organisations in Hackney?

Securing sustainable benefits for culture and the Arts will include a dialogue with other organisations and bodies that, until now, have not always been part of the conversation with the cultural and Arts sectors to ensure that the case for the Arts is articulated, bringing forward the evidence that recognises and supports the contribution and potential for positive change that the Arts can bring about in our community is the sectors challenge and is linked to the social and economic objectives and outcomes that in Hackney are being led by the Borough's Strategic Partnership, Team Hackney.

What plans are there for working with VCS arts groups on the Cultural Olympiad?

A number of five Host Borough led cultural workshops have brought forward the setting up of a group of cultural practitioners to help shape the Cultural objectives for East London. The 'Cultural Practitioners Forum' involves practitioners from many Arts and Cultural organisations in developing ways in which London's Cultural Olympiad could be harnessed to support the sector's development before 2012 and beyond. Clearly, the emerging draft framework will be one of the keys in identifying this.

The Forum has held three meetings with Cultural organisations from across the five Boroughs, the Arts Council England and LOCOG. It is intended that the Forum will continue to develop over the coming four years, increasing its membership and act as the place through which East London delivers its contribution to the Olympiad and the legacy. Work has started to develop a communications plan to ensure that the Forum is

...an unprecedented opportunity to showcase East London's diverse cultural offer to London, the UK and beyond.



known and accessible to practitioners across Hackney and the five Host Borough's to ensure that membership increases.

The plans state the intention to “strengthen the management capacity and financial and operation capacity and capability of existing cultural bodies...so that theatres, music venues and projects, museums, libraries, film and media projects etc are fit to excel in 2012”. How is the council going about this?

In Hackney the Council already supports eight creative networks: BEMA; Visual Arts; Film; Music; Theatre; Heritage; Carnival; and Literature in addition two new networks for New Media and Youth Arts are being developed to support young people in Hackney involved in all forms of cultural and artistic activities.

The Council currently commissions £90k of business support and advice for the creative sector. This is delivered by both BEMA and the Creative Industries Development Agency (CIDA). These initiatives recognise that the majority of Hackney's cultural organisations are small to medium sized enterprises, often relying on VCS umbrella organisations to provide them with their day to day business needs and, importantly, provide a tailored business and advice service for Arts organisations delivered by people experienced working with and within the sector.

How will the Council meet the aim to “Ensure through planning agreements and... other initiatives that locally affordable workspace is retained, and that the Olympic investment increases, long-term, local supply

The plans say there will be a “Community Enterprise Fund to help develop cultural and related social enterprises to provide local employment opportunities and ensure community ownership” being set up 2006/7 and beyond. Has this been set up?

Question not answered.

Is there any intention to map the number of arts and cultural groups in Hackney? If not, how does the Council intend to monitor the level provision of affordable workspace and size of the artistic community?

Question not answered.

There is a commitment in the plans to “encourage companies, cultural institutions and cultural producers to relocate and/or set up long term facilities in the five Olympic boroughs”. What is being done to make sure that new groups do not supplant existing organisations?

Question not answered.

How does the Council balance its aim to “increase substantially” the amount of affordable workspace against its aim to charge commercial rents?

Question not answered.

At a brainstorming meeting with Meg Hillier on 3, October 2005, Cllr Nicholson said “unfortunately there will not be much money for culture as part of the Olympics development” – is this true?

Question not answered.

substantially”?

Hackney's approach is that affordability is key to the sector's continued development and wherever possible, developing relationships with workspace providers to bring forward affordable workspace alongside developments across the Borough. Additional support is through the Borough's planning policies aimed at retaining existing employment space and promoting suitable premises in new developments, are being implemented as part of the Planning process.

Through Planning gain and section 106 agreements the Council is supporting a number of organisations to provide workspace specifically for the creative and cultural sectors. These include: Hackney Co-operative Development; The Circus Space; SPACE; Premises Music Education Programme; Free Form Arts; and the Institute of International Visual Arts.

How will the Council ensure that “local supply of affordable workspace be substantially increased” given that many artists and cultural groups in Hackney use privately rented space and are being forced out by rent rises?

The Council is currently working with the VCS on a Compact for the Borough that includes looking at a code of practice for lettings in Council owned properties. This includes looking at issues of affordability and setting up a ‘hub’ where VCS organisations (including cultural ones) could co-locate.

This work is progressing and with partners in the sector, options will be brought forward next year.

Hackney’s lead member for Regeneration and the 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games, Cllr Guy Nicholson, said:

“Alongside the great sporting Olympiad it is the Cultural Olympiad that holds the real potential to reach out and carry the Olympic ideal into our neighbourhoods and communities.

The opportunities for the Cultural and Arts sectors are significant and hold the potential to motivate the individual and increase not only an awareness of the Arts but also levels of participation. It is through the Arts that an understanding of the Olympic ideals of tolerance and understanding can be articulated and passed on. The Council must ensure that the networks and relationships between all of our organisations working within the Cultural sector are formed and strengthened, that relationships are practical and effective, able to develop the capacity of the sector and prepare the Arts in Hackney for the 2008 start of London’s Cultural Olympiad.

“With our partners across the five Host Olympic Boroughs, we are putting in place the structures that can facilitate and support the Arts in Hackney and East London to bring about an Olympic Cultural Festival across Hackney and East London; a Festival that we should all ensure not only expresses the ideals of tolerance and understanding over the four years to 2012 itself but will leave the Arts in Hackney with a lasting legacy beyond 2012.”



The Arts Business

Hackney arts and cultural funding from major sources

	2004 / 5	2005 / 6	2006 / 7
ACE	£3,153,093	£5,261,937	So far £3,757,273. Likely to be £4,000,000 for full year
ALG	£70,000	£94,259	£95,000
NRF	£666,000	£660,000	£535,000
Total	£3,889,093	£6,016,196	Likely to be £4,630,000

• **ACE (Arts Council England)** is the national development agency for the arts in England, distributing public money from Government and the National Lottery. A large proportion of the ACE funding is to Regular Funded Organisations (£3,175,923 in Hackney in 2006/7), the balance being for one-off-grants. All grants go directly to arts organisations.

• **The ALG (Association of London Government)** manage Hackney Council’s Voluntary Sector Grants programme which is worth £2.3 million a year. Targets are social and environmental, but a proportion of the grant each year goes to arts and cultural organisations who meet these aims.

• **The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF)** is a government grant to the 88 most deprived local authorities, intended to help improve services, narrowing the gap between deprived areas and the rest of England. A proportion of the NRF grant is allocated to arts and culture by the local strategic partnership (Team Hackney). Hackney received a total NRF grant of £20,128,000 in 2005/6, £18,116,000 in 2006/7 and will receive £16,103,000 in 2007/8.

How is the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund spent?

Hackney Council provided us for figures for 2006/7 for a range of arts and cultural activities supported by the fund which is administered by Team Hackney.

Business advice and support	
Creative Industries Development Agency	£50,000
BEMA (Black and Ethnic Minority Arts Network)	£40,000
Creative networks (cluster groups):	
Support nine networks (Carnival, Youth Arts, BEMA, Visual Arts, Heritage, Film, Theatre, Music, and Literature)	£50,000
Specific Cultural and Carnival events	
Open House	£5,000
Hackney Youth carnival	£16,000
Mare de Gras	£16,000
Cultural events in parks	£10,000
Black History Month	£35,000
Cultural Commissioning Fund	
Funding allocated to 17 organisations, 8 of which were BME led	£150,000
Promotional activities	
Discover Hackney and Discover Young Hackney – four promotional campaigns per year	£60,000
TOTAL (this is a large proportion of the total NRF budget for arts and culture which is £535,000)	£432,000



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To check availability, please contact Jennifer on 020 7923 1962 or email: jennifer@hcv.org.uk

Gillett Square explodes into life...

Friday, 10 November saw the launch of Gillett Square in Dalston, the first area to be completed in the Mayor of London's 100 Public Spaces initiative, 'Making Space for Londoners.

Hundreds of Hackney's residents turned out for the cultural extravaganza, with African drummers, Turkish belly dancing and Brazilian capoeira. Topped off by an amazing performance by Andy Sheppard's 200 saxophone massive.

Hosted by local poet, Adisa the Verbaliser, the event was opened by Mayor of London Ken Livingstone who was joined by Hackney Mayor Jules Pipe.

The Gillett Square development created a much needed open, public space from an existing car park in Dalston. The square will be a new centre for trade, provide a new venue for arts, festivals, music and other outdoor events, as well as being home to cultural organisations of the Dalston Culture House, including Vortex Jazz Club.

Organiser Adam Hart of Hackney Co-operative Development (HCD) said, "The local third sector has played a leading role in the creation of Gillett Square and this leadership will continue be vital for its sustainable future. It is now a tremendous community asset that many us can help to make work for local economic benefit, in partnership with the public and private sector. It can create new markets, help our local culture and community flourish and trigger the emergence of a Dalston Arts Hub.'

People with ideas and proposals for use of this space can contact HCD on 020 7254 4829.

Once again, Hackney showed the rest of London and the UK this is the best place to throw a party!



Local Government White Paper 2006 - Strong and prosperous communities

In October 2006, the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) published **Strong and prosperous communities - Local Government White Paper 2006 (the white paper)**. The latest step in the government's agenda for the modernisation of local government. Proposals include strengthening local communities, improving partnership working, transforming local services and expanding opportunities for local people to influence local decision-making.

SPARK gives you an overview of the paper and its impact on the voluntary and community sector (CVS).

Partnership working

The white paper sees a strong relationship between local government and the VCS as vital. The VCS is expected to be involved in the local strategic partnership (LSP), the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS), the Local Development Framework (LDF).

In Hackney, our LSP is Team Hackney and the main method of partnership working across the sectors within a locality. The DCLG are working with national VCS umbrella bodies to establish a standard for local VCS representation. The strategic vision for a locality is laid out in the SCS which is the responsibility of the local authority but with buy-in from all partners. As with the Local Area Agreement (LAA) which will deliver this plan, by what is judged the best way by all partners in the LSP.

Neighbourhood Working

There is a clear focus on empowering local people in shaping policies, services and places. Local charters are seen as the way to do this, through dialogue between the community, the local authority and its service providers. They will be agreed and set out the obligations of all partners involved.

Community Engagement

The white paper proposes to simplify local arrangements for involving local people by streamlining plans for involving communities in the creation of SCSs, LAAs and LDFs. It also introduces the 'Community Call for Action' (CCfA), to strengthen the ability of local councillors to speak up for their communities and demand an answer when things go wrong. Plans for reforming the Best Value regime introduced, with a key proposal to ensure that local authorities inform, consult, evolve and devolve to local citizens and communities where appropriate.

Funding

The importance of a good funding mix for local VCS, and the crucial role that grants can play in local areas is explicit. Services designed around the needs of the citizen and the community, not around the processes and structures of individual agencies, and the need for collaboration with all partners to change services is emphasised.

Performance

A new performance framework is introduced to provide a better balance between local and national priorities. Making performance information relevant and available to local people and organisations is key.

What does this mean for the VCS?

This paper sees the VCS as a valued and crucial partner, our role in partnerships will be strengthened. Neighbourhood-level decision making will be stronger. The new streamlined community consultation mechanisms will significantly reduce of the current consultation burden on local VCS groups.

Grants have been explicitly recognised as an important part of VCS funding. The importance of consulting with the VCS, as well as appropriately funding the sector is considered.

Article taken from NCVO's white paper briefing see: www.ncvo-vol.org.uk

Services should be designed around the needs of the citizen and the community, not around the processes and structures of individual agencies, and emphasizes the need for collaboration with all partners to transform services.

New player for Hackney

Hackney Play Association (HPA) has set up more than 30 years ago – as well as running play schemes themselves, HPA also operate as a networking and training organisation for all play organisations in Hackney. They are taking a key role in writing Hackney’s new play strategy.



Their new director, Christian Brown, tells SPARK about his vision for Hackney Play Association, championing men working in the play sector and how he finds working in the voluntary sector – after many years with the Council.

How did you get into play work?

I started as a volunteer play worker aged 15 at Amhurst Primary School (which was my old school) now known as Brook Community Primary School. Then I was a play worker for nine years for Hackney Council, a senior play worker, as well as becoming a qualified chef, teaching assistant and a range of other things. I became an area Play Co-ordinator for Hackney and then Acting Head of the Play Service. Following the merging of the Early Years and Play Service, I was an Early Years and Play Development Manager with lead role in the Quality, Early Years and Childcare Provision.

Throughout all this I was a management committee member for Hackney Play Association because I consider myself the biggest kid in Hackney, I love play.

What is Hackney Play Association?

Hackney Play Association or HPA is a play development agency created in 1972 which provides an invaluable source of information and training opportunities for voluntary and community sector providers. We offer training courses for play and childcare staff and a rolling program of staff development courses - including child protection, health and safety, first aid, challenging behaviour and much more.

HPA makes a lasting and positive contribution to its local community through the development of opportunities for play. We have a competent and professional team who are always seeking, supporting and advocating opportunities for our community.

We have set up an inclusive play project which provides children with additional needs, places throughout the summer holiday period. This is

also an area we are keen to expand, to support children and their parents who do not access play due to attitude, prejudice and barriers which prevent them from feeling fully included. And we manage the E5 club which is an after school club for up to 30 children situated in the heart of the busy Nye Bevan estate.

HPA is a key strategic partner for many working, sub and partnership groups and is a key partner which works with the Learning Trust Early Years and Play Service, LBH Children’s fund PAN London, London Play and Play England.

Who funds Hackney Play Association?

We have Hackney Council and ALG grant funds along with a host of different funders found by our innovative team - we provide PAYP programs and work with the Big Lottery Fund.

Hackney has been awarded more than £860,000 over three years to deliver a robust Play strategy. HPA will be a key partner in this process working with the Learning Trust and

council teams including Early Years and Play, Parks, Social Services, Leisure, SEN [Special Educational Needs] and Housing.

I am sure most organisations will relate to the difficulties within a funding process and as a new boy in the voluntary and community sector, I am astounded as to the levels of outcomes, evaluations, monitoring and bureaucracy organisations have to go through to access funding. I think things could be made slightly easier both in access and delivery.

What is the difference between working in the statutory and voluntary sectors?

The statutory sector is a bit more bureaucratic. I feel they waste a lot of money, in creating

it’s proven that through access to positive play opportunities we do grow up to become more successful and balanced adults

unnecessary posts and in not committing funding in an appropriate fashion and giving it to those organisations that can go out and deliver the service.

The voluntary and community sector has more of a community feel with a sense that the works carried out has more of an impact. I feel more of a sense of ownership and value to the work we do. We are in a period of change and through what we call Positive Partnership Practices we hope that the attitudes and history between Local Authorities and voluntary and community groups will improve.

Is your heart in the voluntary sector?

YES. There is a lot of good will, dedication and hard work which happens in the statutory sector but I feel it needs to respect, recognise and possibly appreciate the work the voluntary sector does for our community. At times in my prior roles I felt things were done only to meet targets and as a paper exercise as opposed to really getting your teeth stuck in and meeting the needs of our children and young people.

What is your vision for HPA?

Firstly, to be able to deliver a robust training regime and to become a major stakeholder, voice and representative for play in Hackney, London and nationally.

Secondly, to continue to build the history of this fantastic organisation, I'd also like to support additional service areas in meeting the needs, requirements and aspirations of our 16 plus young people.

Also we'd like to expand our

remit to look at how to support children in other areas, SEN, residential play, faith and culture groups, travellers, children with psychological needs.

To enable all of the above HPA would like to see more investment in upskilling, appreciating, valuing and support for the voluntary and community sector workforce.



Positive Play

Playday, Victoria Park July 2006

What would you like to see for HPA members?

Firstly, true monetary recognition for groups and organisations who do such a fantastic job in providing play opportunities for children and young people.

Secondly more support for Play providers, as research has proven that through access to positive play opportunities we do grow up to become more successful and balanced adults.

And thirdly, more cohesive working with schools in providing positive play experiences for children and not just homework clubs!

HPA members receive real value for their current £1 subscriptions and receive quarterly newsletters and membership of the play workers network forum where providers and groups are welcome to come and raise concerns and queries.

Anything else?

I'd like to be a champion of play and childcare, particularly a champion of MEN working in the sector - I'm due to do research on this with London Play.

My over arching aim is to see a balance within play to realise the potential of having a positive male role models to help change the perceptions of youngsters, break down the barriers, change the stereotypical impressions and provide a balance to support single parents.

There are also the issues of how women perceive men working with children, the credibility of the profession as a place for men to work and the pay and inequalities of the play workforce which need to be addressed and recognised.

More information:

Christian Brown

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E: director@hackneyplay.org

HPA are partners with HCVS
on the Fit for Purpose Community
Training Programme.

Training information: Rowan Carnihan

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E: admin@hackneyplay.org



What is the Extended Schools Programme?

The government's dual target of joining up services to children and placing schools at the centre of communities is to be attempted through the creation of Children's Centres and the Extended Schools programme.

Children's Centres will replace Sure Start in providing services across education, social care and health for 0 – 5 year olds. But while Sure Start existed only in targeted areas, Children's Centres will be everywhere and for everyone. In Hackney they started opening in September 2006 and by next February there will be 14 across the Borough, rolling out to the full 19 by 2008.

The expansion of this multi-agency model into a school setting is the job of the Extended Schools program. Schools are to be open from 8am – 6pm and encouraged to open their doors to the local community as well as providing quicker and easier referrals for children needing social care and health services. Head teachers are to have "community leadership" included in their training.

What will the Extended Schools program offer?

The extended services to be offered are in five core areas, and Ofsted will measure schools on their achievement in these. They are:

1. Quality Child Care from 8am – 6pm. By 2008, 50% of primary schools should be providing affordable childcare, and by 2010 it should be available at all schools for all parents and carers. This will not necessarily take place on the school site.

2. Parenting and Family Support. This could be life long learning – from taster courses to accredited learning, or could be information and links to family support services. Schools are seen as somewhere that parents and carers frequent and are familiar with, and can therefore be a place they can be reached for other services and learning opportunities.

3. Community Access – some schools already have ICT suites, dance and drama space and a range of other facilities which they are being encouraged to open up more to the local community.

4. A varied menu of activities for children and young people with and emphasis on study support.

5. Swift and easy referral to Health and Social care. Building on the Sure Start model, health and social care professionals are integrated in the new Children's Trust with the aim that children needing additional services like speech therapy, mental health services or would be easily

referred in the school setting.

How will this be achieved?

The Learning Trust said “We are encouraging schools to develop services within clusters of schools. For example, two or three schools working together can be more effective in providing an after school club. The children can be escorted from other schools. This should promote joining up between schools – where traditionally had been competing, now collaborating”.

“There’s no additional program funding. Each school will receive no additional money alone, but if they work collaboratively there is a £4,000 grant per school held by a steering group of local head teachers. This should allow for the equivalent of half a day per week work on networking. The idea is to do bit of pump priming to move existing programs to more focussed outcomes”.

What will be the role of the Voluntary and Community Sector?

From the rhetoric, it is intended to involve the voluntary and community sector far more in schools programs and in being able to use school facilities and premises. The ‘how’ is unclear – and a lot seems to depend on the individual school and their ability to raise money and network and make good partnerships. The Learning Trust suggested that voluntary and community groups should approach schools – preferably in partnerships - to find out what programmes they are looking to provide, but should apply for funds “from places like the lottery or government funded initiatives such as the Home Office Community Safety or Drug Action programs”.

They went on to say “Schools are very traditional – some are stronger than others at being entrepreneurial. Local voluntary sector providers are the very market place schools want to work with. Many teachers are carrying a very demanding curriculum, and outside projects bring in a new outlook and energy”.

Thanks to the Learning Trust for their help with this article.

The Children’s Trust

A new body, the Children’s Trust, will be formed in each local authority by merging the traditional children’s social service and education departments of the council.

This Trust will take responsibility for the new children’s centres and the extended schools program – and have the task of the overall care, and of joining up the services, to every child and young person living in the borough even they go to school in a different borough.

In Hackney’s case this is more complicated as the education department has already been separated to become an independent organisation - The Learning Trust. Asked how these were to merge a Learning Trust spokesperson said “In some areas it will be even more complicated where education departments have become privatised to companies who have to pay shareholders. The Learning Trust is a not-for-profit, one off company and so it doesn’t have shareholders and the constraints of a privatised company – but still the council and Learning Trust will have to find a unique solution”.

The new Children’s Trust will have a director who is part of the local authority and a cabinet member with overall responsibility.

Also I would want to look at the quality of activity – is it a clapped out table tennis table and not much supervision or a really nice cricket school?



Partnership Learning

The School Governor's view

To make the Extended Schools program work there are two key issues which have not been resolved – the financial resources and the human resources.

There will inevitably be more work for head teachers, senior staff and voluntary governors – these are real issues. We've no clear idea as governing bodies what to do and what our responsibilities are. For example, Extended Schools means developing the school as a community centre – so therefore we will be required to bring in more security, and manage visitors to the school. Someone has to manage this whole program to make it work. This relates directly to us as governors.

I'm also concerned that on one hand head teachers are being urged to achieve a work/life balance on the other hand there are these big government initiatives. The government is mixing its priorities.

And I think the Learning Trust are being glib about the voluntary sector finding additional resources. There will be tens of thousands of schools applying

for these funds. I suppose the issue is how to get governors and head teachers to sit down with the voluntary and community sector and start addressing this knowing that neither has got much money on the table. I've visited the pilot Extended Schools programs in Brighton and Hove, but as pilot projects they had additional funding.

It's a big challenge for schools - and for the voluntary sector. Both social services and health have got into partnerships with the voluntary sector - but not education – we're learning as we go along. I have seen good things happen – for instance a very creative arts partnership which was match funded and the school had a very good benefit, but we need additional resources to make this happen.

Frankly as a governor, until the issues of additional work and funding are resolved, I can't see it working; there seems to be a lot of spin and not much thinking it through.

Andrew Bridgewater has been a governor of schools in Hackney since 1987. He is a member of Hackney School Governors Association and Vice Chair of Governors of Stormont House Special School.

The Union view

It is essentially a question of money. Some schools, like Millfields, are brilliant at fundraising and as a result have got a very good program. But since there is not automatically money, the quality of programs varies enormously.

In principle the idea is fine. A school is a community property, and it's mad that it should only be used each day from until 3.30pm. However we would want to look very carefully firstly at how the teachers are used – we don't want to see them press-ganged into after schools activities, as their workload is already astronomical. Also I would want to look at the quality of activity – is it a clapped out table tennis table and not much supervision or a really nice cricket school?

Mark Lushington, Hackney NUT Press Officer

We would like to hear about the experience of any voluntary and community organisations working with the extended schools initiative.

**Please contact Gillian Trevethan, HCVS
Tel: 020 7923 1962
Email: gillian@hcv.org.uk**

**For more information about the Extended Schools Initiative and how to get involved, please contact :
Nick Holt, Extended Schools Co-ordinator, Learning and Standards, The Learning Trust
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Local families wanted to influence Hackney's Parents Strategy

- Fathers tend to feel in the spotlight at parent and toddler groups; they want more networking and forums
- Parents living with HIV and Aids are concerned about parenting their children and the stress of telling their children
- Couples can get into conflict over UK parenting practice. For some cultures, it is knowing how to play with their children, while for others the whole concept of raising children from tots to teenagers can drive a wedge between couples
- The power of "child help lines" and the repercussions of smacking which are standard forms of discipline "back home", pose a real threat to maintaining discipline for some households when child rearing
- Deep issues such as the high levels of domestic violence still require much attention
- The Jewish community feel there is a lack of understanding about their parenting culture.

Haggerston parents took part in Peace Week 2006, to show the importance of bringing parents from diverse households together for greater community cohesion.

Parents across Hackney have truly benefited from the Race Equality Unit's Strengthening Families and Strengthening Communities programme organised by Sure Start in selected Hackney areas. Such initiatives tend to bypass local organisations that are often considered too small to implement national programmes. Yet we know it reached parents with multiple levels of social and economic disadvantage.

We want to encourage smaller organisations working with families to get involved in the Hackney Parents Strategy. There is a growing directory of active organisation, why not add yourself to it?

For more information and advice about raising funds for parent causes contact Popi or Kristine at HCVS on 020 7923 1962 or kristine@hcv.org.uk

Kristine Wellington, HCVS Capacity Building Consultant talks to SPARK about the vital work done by voluntary and community groups to address Hackney's parenting issues.

Over the last two years, HCVS has been working on the parenting agenda. We have found that faith based community organisations and those representing specific cultural groups such as Turkish, Asian, African and Caribbean communities are active in strengthening families. Some through home-based support to parents and others by co-ordinating local family events - many working unfunded and independent of national initiatives.

But, this discreet, yet vital work being addressed by community organisations is not marketed and often escapes the attention of policy makers who are responsible for mainstream services.

We know on the surface, issues such as education and attainment, health and being safe are of concern for Hackney parents. When we scratch a little deeper we find there are key issues for particular communities.

Some of these are:

Every Parent Matters Annual Conference
The Every Parent Matters Seminar will take place on
Tuesday, 23 January 2007

There are a range of key issues which Hackney parents and organisations working with parent want to see addressed. We want you to take up the invite from London Borough of Hackney and share your views about the Parent's strategy.

What more could Hackney be doing to support local parents?

What type of provision do you and your Parents want?

Has your organisation been able to make a difference to parents most in need?

What approaches works well in disadvantaged communities?

We have a growing directory of active organisations and we would like more to join us.

For further information:

Contact kristine@hcv.org.uk or telephone 0207 923 1962

Living with Loss:

Bereavement course for women living/working in East End of London

Losing some one we love is often one of the most intense experiences we have in life. It is an experience that can shake our foundations and yet at the same time open us more to the mystery of life. It is also a time when those who have been bereaved can feel isolated in their grief.

Living with Loss is a ten-week course led by an experienced bereavement counsellor, gently guiding participants through the grieving process. Within a supportive environment we will explore and share our experience of the different phases of grieving: accepting the loss, being with our grief, noting how it has changed us and learning to live with the loss of some-one we loved.

Led by Erica Light, a qualified bereavement counsellor, the group is open to any woman who has been bereaved for longer than six months. We have places for 12 women.

Dates: Monday afternoons, from the 22 January to 26 March (10 weeks)
Venue: London Buddhist Centre, 51 Roman Rd, Bethnal Green, London E2 0HU.
Time: 2.30pm to 5.00pm
Cost: Free (this course is funded by Awardsforall)
Bookings: Please telephone the London Buddhist Centre on 020 8981 1225



Amina A Voice for Hackney

Amina Camara is a member of the Hackney Youth Parliament and was elected from Hackney to the UK Youth Parliament.

How long have you been a member of the Hackney Youth Parliament?

I first got involved in December 2005, and became an elected member of the UK Youth Parliament in February 2006.

And you were elected from Hackney to the UK Youth Parliament – how did the elections work?

The UK Youth Parliament is quite new in the country and this was the first time that elections were held in Hackney. All four candidates presented manifestos and to do it fairly, they were just known as A, B, C and D. So people voted on what the manifesto said, not on personalities or how they look. I got the most votes, so I won.

Did many people vote?

There were four different voting days in four different areas of Hackney.

How did you write your manifesto?

My main aim in writing it was to be realistic and not promise what wouldn't happen.

What are the highlights of your manifesto?

To create a Hackney as a place we are proud to come from.

Why do you want to represent Hackney at the UK Youth Parliament?

I want to be in a position where I felt able to change and influence things. When I heard about the Youth Parliament, I saw a chance to make a difference and thought yeah, I'll take that chance.

What changes can you make in Hackney?

Since we started in February, we have set up a scheme to reduce crime in Hackney. We are planning an event to let people know that we are

I saw a chance for me to make a difference and thought yeah, I'll take that chance.

there to help them. The aims will be to put views of young people so that they can be heard. And let young people know that we're here, we're listening, we can put your views up and get things changed.

What has the Hackney Youth Parliament done so far?

We held an Inclusion Event in February at the Hackney Empire, aimed at people not participating in the Youth Parliament, to put the message to them. We advertised it with flyers and by word of mouth, asking people to ask people to come that weren't normally interested.

Who are you planning to work with?

We meet with councillors and staff in the Children and Young People's service. We also plan to meet senior police officers.

I also go to London regional meetings with the deputy member to the UK Youth Parliament to represent the views of young people in Hackney. We share information about what is going on in our borough, the issues are the same everywhere. We made a video about reducing gun and knife crime.

What do you like about being part of the Youth Parliaments?

I like to feel that I am helping to bring about a difference, but it is too soon to see what the difference is.

How would you like to see the Youth Parliaments develop?

I would love to know that I could approach any young person in the street and know that they have heard of the Youth Parliaments and know about its work and the changes they have made.

What would you like to say to any young people reading this interview?

We are here and open. If there's anything that you need to say, feel free to join, it's open to everyone.

For more information contact:
hyp@hackney.gov.uk



Yorub Hassan looks at voting in the UK and measures taken to combat

apathy among youth and BME communities.

Who can vote?

The right to vote and have a say in the running of government is central to democracy. However, there are guidelines as to exactly who possesses this right.

As a general rule, you must be over 18 and a British or other Commonwealth citizen, although non naturalized citizens who have 'indefinite leave to remain' status can vote. British citizens living abroad can vote, and EU citizens can vote in local elections but not in parliamentary elections.

Recent changes have empowered homeless people and others without permanent addresses to vote by means of 'local connection'. This also applies to mental hospital patients provided they are of sound judgment, are not convicted offenders and are not detained under the Mental Health Act (1983). Whilst prisoners on remand have the right to vote, convicted prisoners, people involved in election fraud and asylum seekers cannot vote.

Members of the House of Lords

can only vote in local elections. The Queen is not legally barred from voting but it would be unconstitutional.

Voting Initiatives

The growth of political apathy has been highlighted in the UK especially in light of the poor 2001 General Election turnout, the lowest since 1918. This is centred on apathy of young people aged 18-24 and the large proportion of BME groups, who it is claimed are turning their back on voting and the political process.

Whilst academics debate at length about voter behaviour, initiatives have taken shape to encourage the active political participation of such groups and thus create a healthy democratic environment.

'Operation Black Vote' was set up

...with the rise of multicultural Britain, voters and voting behaviour has become diversified.

in 1996 as a joint venture between Charter 88 and the 1990 Trust. Their mission statement is clear, 'to urge black people to vote' and 'to enable the black community to claim its place in British society'. This works twofold: the short-term goal of getting BME people to the polls, simultaneously enhances the role played by BME groups in British society in the long term.

To tackle young voter apathy, the electoral commission sent texts to mobile phones with a reminder to vote in the last local elections and advertisements with the caption 'we want your autograph' were placed in bus stops and other public places. What is striking is that both seem to speak the language of youth - essential to get young voters to the polls.

Who votes?

Voting patterns were traditionally drawn along class interests, however with the rise of multicultural Britain, voters and voting behaviour has become diversified. There is an acknowledged problem with BME groups, particularly those living in poorer communities who are either not registered on the electoral register or who don't vote.

Of those who do vote, voting patterns from the 1997 and 2001 elections can be broken down as follows:

Labour commands support from both the Asian and Caribbean and African communities at the expense of the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats, with 90% of the African and Caribbean vote and 80% of the Asian vote.

With age and gender, voting turnout is highest amongst the over 60s and lowest amongst the 18-34s, with no remarkable differences between the sexes.

Voting turnout in Great Britain: by age and gender

	1970		1983		1997		2001	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
18 - 24	67	66	74	73	56	64	60	46
25 - 34	74	77	76	79	67	70	59	56
35 - 44	81	84	87	88	77	78	66	74
45 - 54	86	85	88	90	83	86	76	81
55 - 59	88	86	89	93	90	87	79	82
60 - 64	79	84	82	90	87	88	80	80
65 plus	93	84	86	82	87	85	87	87

Source: Appendix, Part 13: Parliamentary elections British Election Study, National Centre for Social Research; University of Essex.



Youth Services run by young people works - Ofsted

In June 2006 Ofsted published their review of Hackney's services for children and young people. While the children's services report was in general favourable, the report on the youth service was dismal with two of the four categories receiving the lowest grade "A service that does not deliver minimum requirements for users".

Two voluntary sector organisations were singled out by Ofsted for praise – both run with support from Hackney Council. Spark interviewed the two youth projects, the Crib and Youth of Haggerston, and asked the council for a response to the poor Ofsted report.

Jannette Collins

Project Manager, the Crib

When was the Crib set up?

The Crib has been running since 1999, and was set up following a consultation in the Arden Estate neighbourhood initiated by the Tenants Association who were concerned at a rise in anti-social behaviour in the area. People realised that we needed facilities for young people, particularly hard to reach young people – and a youth intervention program.

Where is the Crib?

It was originally called Hoxton Community Safety Programme,

we were based in the Pitfield Building in Pitfield Street, which was given to us, in kind by Hackney Youth Service. We were funded by a regeneration scheme and Pinnacle Housing Association.

"Drama techniques were used to very good effect at The Crib to enable young people and police officers to explore the increase in youth crime and to consider a range of positive solutions to this disturbing issue".

Ofsted report, June 2006

The building was then sold by Shoreditch Trust and we were homeless for a year. We operated out of my own house. Then Hackney Youth Service took up our plight and with Hackney Housing found the De Beauvoir Estate site where we are now.

Through the success of the project, Hackney Youth Service have now funded us to set up in other neighbourhoods like Homerton and Stoke Newington.

What is your philosophy?

We set up projects facilitated by adults but initiated and run by young people.

What projects do you run?

1. **Study Group** - funded by Connexions, where we have two outreach youth workers who go to the homes of young people who have slipped through the net, so are not in education, training or employment. They often can't read or write and have no confidence to go back into education. We go to their homes and work with them on basic skills – English language and maths. We work with the Learning Trust, Connexions and the family and we're working with 15 young people so far this year.

2. **Homework Group** – this is set up for young people to come to the centre in De Beauvoir where we have an experienced teacher from Stoke Newington Arts and Media school who comes once a week and supports the young people with their homework to help to keep them engaged with education. We've just taken on two other tutors to work in the new areas we cover.

3. **Dance workshops** run by young people for young people. Set up through the Crib Youth Forum. We have a youth forum in each neighbourhood – and we're trying to get them to link up – to combat the postcode divides – that's our youth cohesion program. The Youth Forum also initiated the 'Boroughs United' London wide youth talent show.

4. **Magazine workshop** – funded by PAYP, where 15 young people work on a

magazine which comes out once a year – and tackles issues facing young people like teenage pregnancy, hoodies and postcode war. It's run by young men and women – we print 1,000 copies.

5. Then we also have a **Teen Parents group** – on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 1pm – aimed at bringing young parents together. We offer information and guidance, and are setting up a drop off club – somewhere the young parents can leave their children while they go to sort out their social security etc.

we find effective partnership makes your work stand up stronger.

6. We run a **Hackney wide summer programme** where we take referrals from social services and other statutory services. It's a good partnership – we find effective partnership makes your work stand up stronger.

You just received an excellent review by Ofsted?

Yes – we run a tight ship, but it was good because it made us look at our structures, and while most of it was hunky dory it helped to shine some light on some areas we could improve.

What did Ofsted praise in your project?

They particularly liked the Trading Workshop – where the police and young people work together to look at 'Stop and Search' and 'Stop and Seek' – they were impressed with something that was building

relationships between the police and young people.

I think they also liked the fact that the all the workshops were run by young people, and that in our clientele we reach out to a wide variety of young people and involve those who are hard to reach. We work directly with NEET (Not in Education, Employment Training) groups. And that we involved the families in our work with young people.

They were shocked that we had only been operating for six months in De Beauvoir and yet we had all our policies and procedures in place. And they also thought the place was very welcoming – all the decoration was done by the young people.

Anything else?

What I find is that a lot of people are scared to venture out and go the extra yard with these young people – to believe in them no matter what background they come from.

More information from:

The Crib
1-16 Benyon Court
Balmes Road, De Beauvoir
London N1 5TJ
T: 020 7254 4731

“Partnership work with a number of small voluntary and community groups has enhanced the curriculum for a minority of young people and targeted programs using drama, filming, and creative arts are effective”.

Ofsted report, June 2006



Ergel Hassan

Youth of Haggerston (YOH)

How was Youth of Haggerston set up?

It started with a few local people who saw young people not doing anything and so said let's do something with them. Canalside Housing Association were the first to jump in and say they would support the project – which led to the summer program in 2003. After that Robin Hawkes from Canalside said it was a shame to stop so they continued to support us to work and raise funds - and then London and Quadrant Housing Association and Hackney Council came in to help support us.

How did you get involved?

I was there right from the beginning – before the project even began - I was playing football and someone said why don't you teach people to play football? I was 16 then.

What is your role now?

Technically I am the Program Manager, which means I'm doing more paperwork than direct work. I am paid part time depending on the projects that we take on. I do my studying in the morning, though I have noticed that the young people we work with are getting up earlier. In 2003, we couldn't get anyone out until 2pm, now they're waiting for us at 10am. We have a team of four staff now, we are all in our early 20s.

What projects do you run?

1. We do detached work with young people out on the street. There's no structure to this other

than creating a network of young people who meet. This way, we engage with young people – they won't be part of sessions for about six months at least – until they gain the trust to join in activities. We work on three levels: the first level is detached work, the second level is working with young people in a more structured environment and the third level is helping them into employment or training.

2. We run ad hoc sessions on the street, targeting areas where there are issues – this is a focussed version of the detached work.

3. There are sports projects – we set up sessions and young people come up with initiatives which are facilitated by YOH – can be competitions or training for example.

4. We run drug and alcohol misuse sessions offered to all schools in Hackney and local area.

5. We have a media group where young people create magazines and short films that get distributed for free.

...the solutions are here with us. We're all young and local and we're finding solutions for young and local people.

What did Ofsted praise about your projects?

We haven't had feedback other than that us and the Crib are at the top of the table. I think they liked the way we were letting young people run sessions - empowering them while we were supervising – and the way the staff and young people talked to each

other with respect and trust. They also liked the way YOH are working with young people who are were not particularly easy to work with rather than going for the young people that are easy to target.

Anything else?

If a young person reads this, I'd like them to know that we're nothing special, we're local people and we've taken this project to this extent. We want people to look at this and think they can do this too, whether it's a youth project or something else.

We keep bringing in external people to solve the problems of Hackney – whereas the solutions are here with us. We're all young and local and we're finding solutions for young and local people.

Crucial to our success has been the support of Canalside who were there in the beginning when we were nothing.

Spark asked Hackney Council

1. What is being done to tackle the areas of concern highlighted by the Ofsted inspection?
2. Will this include an increase in the budget for the youth service?
3. What is the council's overall response to the Ofsted inspection?
4. Is there anything to be learned from the favourable inspection reports received by the Crib and Youth of Haggerston?

A spokesperson for Hackney Council replied:

“We are committed to ensuring young people in Hackney get the first rate youth service they deserve. Following the Ofsted inspection we devised and started implementing the Youth Service Improvement plan, strengthening our strategic direction. We are confident the measures we have undertaken, and those we have planned, will help Hackney’s Youth provision to continue to improve.”

Next Steps...

In November 2006, Hackney Children & Young People’s Services submitted a Joint Area Review Action Plan in response to the recent inspection of children’s services.

Now, a Youth Service Improvement Group (YSIG) has been established and a Youth Service Improvement Plan (YSIP) which addresses the identified weaknesses and developments needed in youth service provision. The youth service has also been identified as a priority in the Children and Young People’s partnership board of Team Hackney.

The YSIG is working with high performing authorities to develop a good practice standard, they have also restructured the service and recruited more trained staff. Two new youth clubs have opened and four VCS [Voluntary & Community Sector] clubs are underway.

The council recognises the benefits of youth services which empower young people to run their own groups, while being facilitated by adults. Ofsted appeared to like the way Youth of Haggerston and The Crib let young people run sessions.

The new plans appear to make young people’s involvement central. A toolkit that does just this is in

place across the service and with Hackney Youth Parliament, YSIG has established four Neighbourhood Youth forums and consulting with youth on the YSIP. Communication has been improved and more money has been allocated in the 2007 / 2008 budget, with £300,000 used to commission new services from the CVS. Feedback from evaluation shows 50% of young people were involved in the evaluation process.

Policies have been implemented that safeguard young people and manage a more efficient service. The range and quality of activities has grown based on best practice youth service models.

Quality of provision has been improved by:

- a core training programme for youth teams
- a Youth Service Curriculum Framework
- a new quality assurance system
- more activities for girls, which has already attracted 10% more participation from young women.

A Youth Opportunity Fund has been launched - it’s a special fund for young people, run by young people, to support projects and activities for young people in Hackney and give them the opportunity to learn how to be grant makers. See page 77 for more information.

continued from page 58

More information on Youth of Haggerston (YOH) from:

Ergel Hassan, Youth of Haggerston, 222 Haggerston Road, London E8 4HT

Tel: 020 7254 7073 or 07950 910 987 Email: ergel_is@hotmail.com

Extract from Ofsted's "Hackney Youth Service Report" published June 2006

Main findings

Effectiveness and value for money

This is a service with good potential. Young people's achievements are adequate, as is the quality of youth work practice.

However, it has been poorly funded and ineffective leadership and managerial oversight have progressively led to deterioration in support structures and a loss of strategic direction. As it stands, the service is, therefore, judged inadequate and providing unsatisfactory value for money.

The lack of robust systems, a weak curriculum and poor quality assurance mechanisms have further impeded development. Too many staff are

unqualified and very little training has been in place to support professional development.

The picture is changing however, and inspectors acknowledge that there are recent improvements. Senior managers are now aware of the service's shortcomings, hence the recent attention to its overall performance and the appointment of a new Head of Service.

Funding has been further increased for 2006/07 and a clearer sense of strategic direction is evident. It is, however, too early to identify sustained positive impact on delivery and outcomes for young people.

Strengths

- ♦ The range of opportunities for young people to gain local accreditation is good overall.
- ♦ There are a growing number of opportunities for young people to gain practical and creative skills through specialist provision.
- ♦ Consistently very good and productive relationships between young people and workers.

Areas for development

- ♦ The range of youth work provision is insufficient to meet the needs of young people aged 13 to 19 years.
- ♦ Opportunities for girls and young women are limited.
- ♦ Quality assurance and management information systems are inadequate.
- ♦ Curriculum leadership, management and development are weak.
- ♦ Staff training and development is insufficient to meet the training and professional development needs of the work force.

Key aspect inspection grades

Key Aspect		Grade
1	Standards of young people's achievement	2
	Quality of youth work practice	2
2	Quality of curriculum and resources	1
3	Strategic and operational leadership and management	1

The table above shows overall grades about provision. Inspectors make judgements based on the following scale:

Grade 4: A service that delivers well above minimum requirements for users.

Grade 3: A service that consistently delivers above minimum requirements for users.

Grade 2: A service that delivers only minimum requirements for users.

Grade 1: A service that does not deliver minimum requirements for users.



Community Investment Programme

Awards for Hackney Community Projects 2006 - 2007



Marta Kolinska

My role as a new Grants Officer is to support the Senior Grants Officer Elizabeth Adebola and Grants Officer Nadia Capogrosso, helping with the recently launched Community Investment

Programme, the Local Network Fund and general administration of the department.

The Community Investment Programme is funded by Hackney's local strategic partnership, Team Hackney, it aims to help voluntary and community (VCS) groups build on reducing inequality and poverty in the borough. Over £450,000 of funding is available.

VCS groups in Hackney can apply for up to £5,000 from four funding streams.

- 1. Improving reach** for "need to reach" communities to develop local projects.
- 2. Community mapping** for gathering local knowledge about Hackney's diverse communities.
- 3. Developing learning in your community** for training local people in neighbourhood renewal

4. Partnership Fund for projects delivered together with a public sector agency.

For the first time, you can expect to have an answer about your application within eight weeks. Successful applicants will then have the funds paid directly into their bank accounts.

Les Moore, Chair of Hackney's Community Empowerment Network (CEN) said: "These grants

support local regeneration, helping local people develop good ideas and have an influence on how local public services are delivered for them".

The second round of funding is now open. You have until 25 January 2007 to apply for a lump sum of up to £5,000. There will be a workshop held on 10 January which gives advice on writing a successful application.

Application packs for the small grants programme are available from the Grants Team at Hackney Council for Voluntary Service (HCVS) on 020 7923 1962 who are administering the programme on behalf of CEN and Team Hackney.

For more information, application forms and to book a place at the workshop call Elizabeth Adebola, HCVS on 020 7923 8186 or email elizabeth@hcv.org.uk



We love Hackney

London Fields Lido has always been a sign of its times. Originally opened at the height of the lido building program in the 1930s, closed with abolition of the GLC in the 1980s, it spent the 90s being squatted, and has now been redeveloped just as there is a renaissance of interest in lidos and in time to be an Olympic training pool.

In the 1930s, Herbert Morrison, leader of the London County Council, set out on an ambitious plan to build 10 outdoor pools across London, making it “a city of lidos” and promised that no one would have to travel more than a mile and a half to find one.

Historian Janet Smith describes them as “emblems of municipal modernity and of faith in a brighter, more enlightened future, in much the same way as public libraries had become a generation or two earlier”. Seven lidos were built, including London Fields and its twin, Brockwell Lido, before the program was curtailed by the Second World War.

In 1986, the abolition of the Greater London Council (GLC) meant responsibility for the lidos fell to local authorities, but no extra funds were allocated for their maintenance, and many, including London Fields, closed when the first big repair bill came in. London has lost 57 lidos, and there are just 11 left.

Attempts to demolish London Fields lido after its

closure were thwarted when local people stood in front of the bulldozers. The lido remained derelict for many years, and at times squatters held small festivals and parties in the empty pool, with bands playing at the deep end. The long campaign to re-open the lido gathered pace in 1997 when local people organised a mass clean up of the totally overgrown site, clearing lorry loads of bushes and weeds from the pool and surrounding buildings.

emblems of municipal modernity and of faith in a brighter, more enlightened future

The lido has been redeveloped by Hackney Council using £2.5 million of their own funds. It is London’s first ever heated Olympic sized outdoor pool, with the water heated to an appealing 25°C. The

lido is proving a popular facility with 250 people taking up the offer of a free swim on the first day, and extended opening hours being introduced in the first week.

Andy Hoines, co-editor of www.lidos.org.uk reports “Mostly, this is a very impressive facility. Retaining most of the original brick and pitched tile roof LCC buildings (partially rebuilt following wartime damage), has kept some period feel. The cycle parking is secure and convenient, the entrance lobby is bright and airy and the entrance doors are more than high enough for my 6 foot 6 inch frame. The reception area sells swimming equipment, as well as entry tickets, which is most useful when you forget some vital bit of gear, such as the cossie! There are marked lanes,

helpful to encourage the fitness and sporting swimmers that, in my opinion, are so vital to long term viability for open air pools.

There are also lockers inside the pool compound, a thoughtful touch in an inner city location. Most importantly, the 50m level deck pool with light blue tiles, is most impressive and the water was bright and clean. The centre also has such mod cons as heated changing rooms, hot showers and disabled access of course”.

The lido is open until 17 December and re-opens in the spring. It is planned to fit a removable roof during 2007 so that the lido can open all year.

Hackney's mayor, Jules Pipe, took the opportunity of the lido's re-opening to counter Channel 4 dubbing Hackney “the worst place in Britain”. The mayor said: “I know that the local community and London Fields User Group have kept the dream alive of re-opening for years and now we are in a position to pay back those years of commitment with a facility of which Hackney can be really proud.”

For more information including opening times, see www.gll.org.uk (website of pool operators GLL) or call the lido on 020 7254 9038.

Non Member
Adult £3.00 - Junior £1.80
Leisure Card
Adult £2.10 - Junior £1.25
Concessionary Adult £1.55

London Fields User Group is a forum for all issues relating to London Fields. More information from the Chair, Mike Martin, on 0775 2833 487 or email info@londonfieldsusergroup.org.uk



Meet Hackney Hindu Council

For more information:

Mr Singh

Hackney Hindu Council

498 Kingsland Road,

London, E8 4AE

T: 0207 254 3647

Spark interviewed Mr Singh, Director of the Hackney Hindi Council to find out about what they do and the issues they face.

How long has the Hindu Council been in Hackney?

We've been here for 28 years, I have been vice chair for 23 years. The centre is run by volunteers.

How many Hindu people are there in Hackney?

About 600 to 700.

What happens here?

We have four main activities:

1. Firstly **advice work** – we offer advice on benefits, debt management, welfare rights and general legal problems to people from Hindu and other communities.
2. Through our **Befriending Program** we provide disabled and elderly of our's and from other societies, some pleasure through good company, taking care of their feelings, boosting their moral strength and if necessary providing a shoulder to cry on.
3. We hold a **luncheon club** –

mostly on Saturdays and Wednesdays – for the elderly.

4. We **teach children** of all societies who need help with school work.

How many volunteers at the centre?

We have 11 volunteers here. We celebrate most of the cultural festivals with meals, music and dance.

How do you keep going?

We are always let down by Hackney Council, we are always struggling with funding; sometimes we get peanuts.

How would you like it to be?

We'd like to develop the site and have a full time employee on a proper footing, five or six days a week. We'd like to see 50 to 60 people a week coming here. We need funding to give us these options, and we need some publicity as we have a low profile. **Are you in touch with other Hindu organisations?**

We have no formal links, but we know each other.

Anything else?

Anyone who needs our services is welcome here.

Community Champions for Hackney

The Community Champions fund was set up to fund people's project ideas which will make a difference in the community. The fund is run by the DfES (Department for Education and Skills) and grants are usually about £2000. SPARK spoke to two Hackney's Community Champions, Douglas Williams and Kayam Choudhury about their projects.

Douglas Williams

What is your Community Champions Project?

Find Your Voice in Hackney is about finding your signature as an individual. Everyone is unique – we focus on personal development.

What happens at a Find Your Voice in Hackney event?

We have speakers who talk about their specialist subject – like health. Then people are encouraged to participate. It's a relaxed, laid back supportive environment. We encourage individuals and groups to come along to promote themselves and their business as long as its in the ethos of personal development – where everyone will benefit from it.

How has Community Champions helped you?

From a financial point of view has helped to secure the venues and paid for the promotion of the events. Now we've had three events...

What's your vision?

We want to do the Royal Albert Hall! We're looking to build on the success of this year's events...



Douglas Williams helps Hackney find a voice

For more information contact:
Douglas Williams 07960 239 493 or
findyourvoice@hotmail.co.uk



MP Meg Hillier with the winners

Interview with Kayum Choudhury

What is your Community Champions project?

Sportsability - the name has come out of the idea that it doesn't matter what ability you have, you can still play sport. We encourage young people to play a range of sports, at whatever level, aiming especially at young people who would not be included in normal PE lessons.

What kind of activities do you run?

Sportsability is a service provider for schools and community groups, setting up fun days, demonstrations and running after-school clubs and coaching. I work particularly with special needs units to get an integrated package. We work along side the youth games, the mini games and the panathlon program.

How has Community Champions helped you?

It has allowed me to put the service out there to the community, and demonstrate my ability as a trainer and a coach and give the opportunity to young people who wouldn't otherwise take part in sport. The community champions funding paid for Boccia coaching sessions in local schools and a tournament at Space.

What's your vision?

I'd like to run the competition again and link it in with the 2012 games – even at a grass roots level – perhaps by networking through the clubs.

contacts over the page...



Looking Forward Creatively

Elroy Bailey, from MDMD Arts & Sports talks to SPARK about appearing on MTV and the latest developments to the creative arts and sports tuition programme for children and youth on Nightingale Estate, Hackney.

MDMD Arts & Sports came one step closer to going global with a recent appearance on MTV. One of our dance tutors, Rashida was on MTV and invited them back to record our young dance students at an MDMD dance workshop. Everyone was very excited and gave the cameras the latest moves - Hackney style.

Our dance programme is extending with the arrival of two new tutors, Rachel Alleyne and Folarin Brown to join Rashida, Francesca and Sharone. Now, our dance students can achieve accreditation and a wider dance knowledge. Together with Hold it Down productions we are hosting Dance for Hackney competition on December 30 2006. See page 19 for more details.

We continue to develop the range and quality of our tuition to Nightingale's youth, by extending our dance and music technology workshops.

Thanks to support from Home Office Connecting Communities, The Children's Fund, Code -7 and HCVS, we can update our Midi Technology Centre with new studio work stations and a purpose built recording studio designed to industry speculation standard. This new equipment will enhance the skills of our future young producers, and combined with the industry experience of our music tutors, will give them a winning combination to get success in the competitive music business.

Watch this space for more news...

For more information on MDMDArts&Sports call Elroy Bailey 020 8533 7268 or 07880 635294.

MDMDArts&Sports memberships is £10 a year.

MDMD have free Midi Technology classes, book now places are limited.

continued from page 64...

Kayum Choudhury has been awarded the Champion's Champion award for his project by Community Champions.

Kayum Choudhury Tel: 07947 246 707

More information on the Community Champions fund from:

The Community Champions website: www.dfes.gov.uk/communitychampions/

Pepper Harow, Community Champions Programme Coordinator

Tel: 0207 713 9306

Email: Pepper.harow@thescarmantrust.org

Sofora, so good



Blazing through Britain
Adadine Diallo

After blazing into Britain with a mix of dance, drumming and fire-eating, Sofora Cultural Troupe are set to return to Gambia. Sofora came to London at the invitation of Ngozi Headley-Fulani & Aaron (Highly) Tanice of Dakrobi Arts and the two organisations travelled the UK with their breathtaking performances.

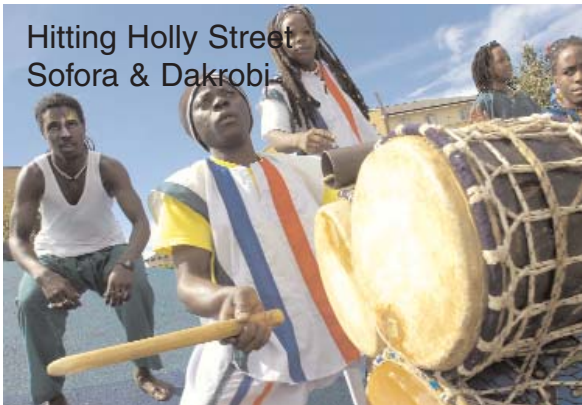
Sofora's Abadine Diallo, fire artist and master dancer and master drummers Gabriel Sambou and Sillah Bojang shared their cultural knowledge, art expertise and time with over 50 organisations, schools, churches and government agencies across the UK.

They have performed with their hosts Dakrobi Arts, at a variety of venues including HMP Pentonville Prison, London and the Black Child Conference, Liverpool Museum, Hackney Museum and the Gillett Square launch in Dalston, to guests such as Diane Abbott MP and Mayor Ken Livingston.

Gambia has very strong links with Britain, the country was colonised by the British and their influence is still evident in Gambia. Sofora hope to return to the UK next year to take part in events planned for the Bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade in 2007.

This is very poignant as a lot of UK diasporan Africans learned about slavery from the film Roots by Alex Hayley. Gambia was the home of Kunta Kinte made famous by Roots the series.

For more information: Ngozi Headley-Fulani at dancemastergozi@aol.com



Hitting Holly Street
Sofora & Dakrobi

**RAISE AND ENJOY YOUR CREATIVITY,
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GIFFORD BARRY (JUNIOR MIX)
- GUITAR**
ALAN WEEKS (JOSSE STONE/
JANET KAYE)
- KEYBOARDS**
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and Streets
MDMD

active
communities

DESIGN BY AMG PROMOTIONS 07981 759 036

Let Mehmet be the Last One

Refugee Workers Cultural Association (RWCA) are working hard to combat the rate of increase of deaths from car accidents amongst Hackney's youth. Following the tragic death of 19 year old Mehmet Karadag, who was killed last month in a traffic accident.

Mehmet's death has impacted across the community and has drawn attention to the numbers of young drivers killed by speeding.

Over 50 young people attended a recent RWCA meeting held under the banner of "Let Mehmet be the last one", to understand what leads to such accidents, how the government can prevent them and to try and stop them happening again. Although the cause of the accident is unknown, it is thought to have been due to excessive speed because he was involved in a 'death race' related to gang culture.

During the meeting, young people openly aired their views and many began to question themselves and their situation. It was agreed by all that by becoming aware of their situation, youth could create a more positive effect and try to combat the negative impact of joining gangs amongst their peers.

Here are just a few of the comments raised at the RWCA meeting:

It's very sad for our young friends such as Mehmet Karadag to lose their lives. The police and the Government are responsible for this as well. There are park areas where the death game is played, which we didn't take seriously before this accident but we heard about it a lot afterwards. The police say they locked up these park areas where the death races takes place. The problem would not be solved by locking up the park areas - roads and motorways don't have locks and because the roads don't have locks, youth like Mehmet die. There is a need for a solution from the base. **Hazal Demir: The roads don't have locks.**

Families do not always show the required attention to their children as they are busy working. There is a need for educated children who are brought up, shown support and attention by families which are not affected by other cultures. The family plays as big duty as the children do. In short, the role of the family and education is important. **Ayfer Karali: Attention of family important**

I think the type of young people the system is trying to create are not youth who read, question and think but ones who go to night clubs and play computer games all the time. In this country, we always feel like we are refugees. Even in the smallest arguments, the reaction we often get is 'this is not your country'. And this makes us feel that we are refugees. These type of reasons can lead our friends that are the same age as us towards harmful events. I was affected by this accident because I only met Mehmet one week before the accident took place.

Narin Baykas: We see ourselves as refugees.

In this country, there are a lot of people joining gangs. Gangs take youths under their influence. Gangs give children what the families of the children could not give them. We need to be there for our friends who are in this situation. Car races are controlled by certain people. If we do not support and help these friends then the gangs will claim them. **Ekim Yoca: We need to take care of our friends.**

For more information: Refugee Workers Cultural Association (RWCA) Ibrahim Avcil on 020 7923 1962.

There are park areas where the death game is played, which we didn't take seriously before this accident but we heard a lot about afterwards. There is a need for a solution from the base.

Introducing Team Hackney...



SPARK caught up with Louise Hart, the new Community Empowerment Network Co-Ordinator. Louise is responsible for developing the effectiveness of the Community Empowerment Network to share, collect and advocate for the views of Hackney's Voluntary and Community sector with Team Hackney. Here, Louise introduces TeamHackney and the issues that should be at the top of all our agendas. For more information on CEN contact louise@hcvs.org.uk

Moving from a myriad of partnerships to a team approach, Team Hackney is the new name for our local strategic partnership (LSP). Essentially, the theme remains the same: a partnership which brings the public, private, community and voluntary sectors together, all dedicated to improving the quality of life for everyone in the borough. So, apart from a new logo what does this change mean?

Previously called the Hackney Strategic Partnership, the LSP changed its name to Team Hackney in February 2006, This change was said 'to reflect the need to be part of the same team for a better Hackney, to bring local people and organisations together to bring about lasting change.'

Team Hackney continues to be based on a number of partnerships focussed on five key areas, with a central Team Hackney board, which manages the work of five other 'themed' partnership boards.

Team Hackney Partnership Boards:

- **Children and Young People**

It's about closing the gap between Hackney, London and the UK, as well as within Hackney to ensure that our communities remain diverse and cohesive, and that everyone takes full advantage of the prosperous wider London economy

The Hackney Five

Reducing poverty is central to making Hackney a better place to live. To make this happen, Team Hackney identified five priority areas of improvement which are linked to poverty:

- **Educational underachievement**

Particularly Caribbean heritage, Turkish and Kurdish children, who are statistically underperforming at all key stages, and young people not in education, employment or training.

- **Worklessness**

Young people aged 18 - 24, over 2,000 under 25 year olds are claiming Job Seekers Allowance.

- **Economic Development**

- **Thriving, Healthy Communities**

- **Better Homes**

- **A Safer, Cleaner Place to Live**

Mind the Gap, Hackney's community strategy was produced by Team Hackney,. This laid out the vision to reduce inequality and poverty in Hackney and set the tone for the Local Area Agreement.

'Putting Hackney first' is the mantra adopted by Team Hackney and explicit on their new logo. In putting Hackney first, local people and the VCS must take an active role in the partnership to ensure equality, that the Borough is improved for everyone.

There are various ways this can happen, HCVS and Hackney Community Empowerment Network (HCEN) are already working hard at Team Hackney to ensure residents and the sector have a voice and is included in decision making, but there is still more to do. This has to start with an awareness of the key issues and initiatives launched so far.



- **Violent crime and criminal gang culture**

There are two key areas:

- violent crime, its relationship to gang culture and impact on young Black, Turkish and Kurdish men.
- domestic violence - 27% of all reported violent incidents in Hackney.

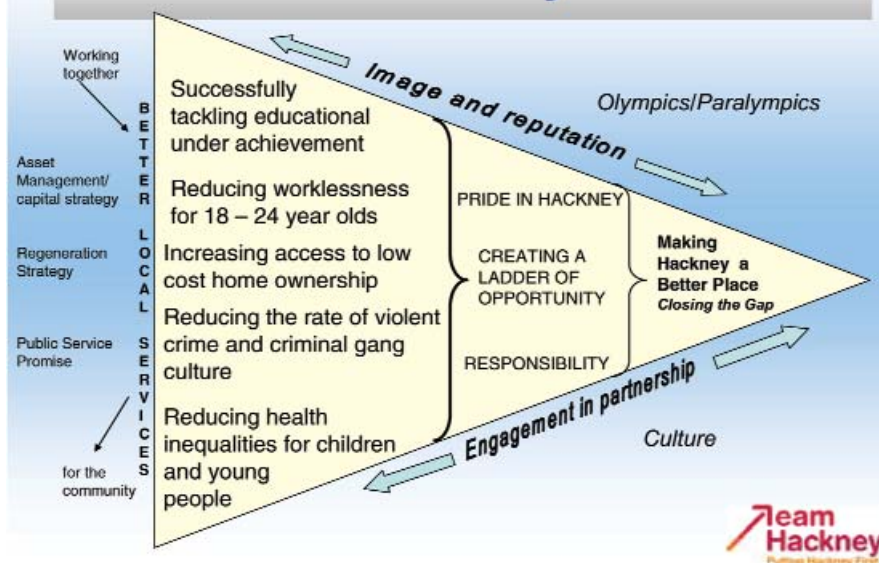
- **Health inequalities for children and young people**

We have a high incidence of infant mortality, childhood obesity and teenage pregnancy.

- **Access to low cost home ownership**

80% of Hackney residents cannot afford to buy in the Borough.

The Hackney LAA



Our first Local Area Agreement (LAA)

Become familiar with this triangle, it represents the borough's strategy as outlined in our LAA.

LAAs aim to improve co-ordination between local authorities and other local partners to improve better services for local people. To 'empower and encourage representatives of the voluntary, community and business sectors to be involved.'

Three Guiding Principles

These guide work on the five priorities:

- **Engagement in partnership:**

Citizenship, respect and community leadership. Feeling able to influence decision making and feel a valued part of the community, promoting community leadership especially amongst the groups affected by the five priority outcomes.

- **Image and reputation:**

Promoting pride in Hackney as a borough of aspirations, with young people able to benefit and feel part of this renewed pride.

- **Better, more joined up,**

local services: Providing local services that are based on an understanding of and are responsive to local needs. Acknowledging that that the youth and diversity that makes Hackney a strong borough also means that well informed and bespoke approaches that recognise the specific needs of all our communities are more effective than a one size fits all approach.

Five ways Hackney's VCS has helped develop the LAA

1. The CEN Chair, HCVS and Hackney Voluntary Action (HVA) are VCS members of the Team Hackney Board, determining strategic priorities and the LAA.
2. The sector is part of Team Hackney's themed partnerships and LAA task groups, together with public sector partners, and has contributed to individual strands of the LAA. For a copy of the LAA contact Louise.
3. Consultation events were arranged by 12 key VCS networks e.g. the Better Homes Network, Environment Forum, Hackney Refugee Forum, for their members, to raise awareness of the LAA and its importance to the sector. We identified contributions the sector could make in partnership with other agencies to achieve the LAA. Also highlighted were resource and capacity requirements needed to deliver this.
4. VCS reps took part in a conference held on 31 July 2006 to discuss the priorities for the LAA. HCVS facilitated one of the workshops. Common themes emerged, including the need for cross-sector partnerships to achieve Hackney's five local priorities.
5. VCS members with specialist knowledge and expertise developed the four blocks using the Priority Action Team (PAT) model. VCS representatives engaged in specific discussions on the five priorities.

Next moves...

In Hackney, VCS groups are ideally placed to provide 'well informed and bespoke approaches' to delivering local services to tackle the five priority areas of the LAA. But, investment is needed, initiatives like the Community Investment Programme are a start and show that Team Hackney will invest in local projects. As a sector, we need to continue to grow to be fit for purpose and develop stronger, more structured and professional organisations but not at the cost of losing our street level connections, which inevitably are what makes our expertise so unique.



developing organisations' capacity

issue 4 - Journey to results



KISHORE SAYS: 'Without results, no one knows where you are'

Results, making a difference – the most exciting and rewarding part of your organisation's development. Where, if everything has gone to plan, you finally get to see everything you have achieved through the hard work invested in your organisation.

In this edition we have a look at Results, an important area of organisational development outlined by PQASSO, the practical quality assurance system for small organisations.

Achieving planned results is what all organisations strive for - it's the motivating force behind all the planning, development and management of your organisation. When your organisation achieves its planned results, you should learn from this experience, and assess the situation. Results may show improvements over time and compare well with similar organisations, providing value for money for users and other stakeholders. However, results may not be positive and this can be disappointing, but by continuing to implement the PQASSO standards you can work out where you went wrong and do better next time.

Benefits of the PQASSO standard for your organisation

Book a **free one to one advice and guidance session at HCVS on 020 7923 1962** and we can help you apply the quality standard to your voluntary organisation and achieve your defined aims and objectives, as well as identify your strengths and weaknesses.

Applying the PQASSO results standard will help you:

1. Assess how well you measure your achievements
2. Decide whether you are doing the right thing and doing this the right way
3. Build on the learning taken from your results.

Essential definitions

Planned results include:

- A statement about what is to be achieved in relation to your mission, aims and objectives
- Targets for the type and quality of activities
- Targets for the satisfaction of users and other stake holders
- Targets for staff development and satisfaction
- Securing the money and resources you need to enable you to continue what you do.

Learning from this experience means:

- Improving plans based on what actually happened
- Identify what led to particular achievements
- Using feedback from users and other stakeholders to develop future plans
- Identifying trends and themes
- Communicating your achievements to people within and outside the organisation.



developing organisations' capacity

issue 4 - Journey to results

In assessing your organisation's results, you must be aware of your organisation's soft and hard outcomes. Many organisations fail to record 'all their results', often focussing on results which are more obvious and easy to measure while ignoring more qualitative but equally important results, often known as soft outcomes.

Definitions of soft and hard outcomes:

Soft Outcomes

Outcomes that are less easy to observe or measure, or which involve some form of change inside people, such as a change in attitude or a change in the way they see themselves.

Although not the easiest to measure, soft outcomes are an important part of an organisation or project's achievements. Often they are the most appropriate change to focus on, or even what you aim to change, i.e. if you want to change public attitudes toward people with mental health difficulties.

It is possible to measure soft outcomes, we do so in a more qualitative way by asking people to judge for themselves what is changing inside them as they use our services.

Hard Outcomes

Outcomes that are clear and easy to measure, or which involve an external change in people's behavior or circumstances.

Hard outcomes are not better than soft outcomes, simply different. They are more quantifiable, we can report them more easily using numbers.

For example, the number of users of our reading classes become literate.

Hard outcomes can often take a long time to achieve, especially when working with people who have many problems in their lives. For example, it may take years for each user of a homelessness project to obtain and keep their own housing.



Essential definitions

Unplanned results include:

- increased enthusiasm for the session or event
- improvement in punctuality and continued attendance
- increased contribution to debate and discussion
- number of smiling appreciative faces after or during your event or training session

Learning from this experience means:

- Strategies on increasing enthusiasm via role play, increasing humour in sessions
- Requesting particular pieces of work that have started during the sessions that they are keen to continue and 'show off' during session
- Beginning with extremely basic and accessible topics that everyone can relate to and asking everyone's opinion

the funding directory

the information in this directory is produced by the **fit4funding** – The Charities Information Bureau. To subscribe directly please go to www.fit4funding.org.uk or email Andrew.Pring@fit4funding.org.uk **fit4funding** – The Charities Information Bureau is a registered charity, no: 1059077

New Big Lottery Fund – Community Buildings -England (supplied by fit4funding)

Designed to give communities the chance to improve their quality of life by funding **buildings that are economically, socially and environmentally sustainable**. It will pay for creating and improving facilities that offer a wide range of services and activities to a broad range of local people.

They want to fund buildings that will promote community interaction and self-help. They hope that these buildings will continue to serve communities in years to come while minimising their negative effects on the environment. It is mainly a capital-funding programme to cover the cost of building your project, not running it. Successful applicants will show that their building will be accessible to as many as possible and that the local community will be strongly involved in using and managing it.

Big Lottery have highlighted some pitfalls that potential applicants should be aware of: The project outcomes section of the application form has confused some applicants. State what the outcomes of your project are, not the outcomes of the programme, and describe the difference that your project will make. This programme will fund multi use buildings, it will not fund applications for single use buildings.

Deadline: 5pm 30 April 2007 for Stage 1 applications, it's a two-stage application process, at stage 1 they consider the need and outcomes for your project and how you will run your building. Only projects successful at stage 1 can to apply to stage 2.

Grants available: £50,001 to £500,000

Total available: £50m to be committed before 30 June 2008

Open to: VCS organisations, parish councils or a church-based faith organisations.

New Big Lottery Fund - Family Learning (supplied by fit4funding)

Big Lottery Fund has launched Family Learning, a programme that helps **parents to understand more about how their children learn and encourages adults and children to learn as a family**.

By “family” they mean at least one parent or adult carer and at least one child under 16. They will only fund projects up to five years, that involve adults and children learning together and deliver all three of the following changes: family members participate in and enjoy educational activity more; family members have more skills and knowledge (these may include confidence and effective communication); parents and carers are better able to interact positively with their children and support them in learning.

They want to support families who face barriers to learning or who are not confident helping their children to learn. They are particularly interested projects where learning is not based on getting a qualification and those that will help families who have not been involved in learning together before. They are looking for imaginative projects that meet local needs and remove the practical barriers to learning, by providing travel costs, additional support for disabled participants, or childcare.

Deadline: 29 August 2008.

Grants available: £10,001 to £500,000

Open to: Registered charities; VCS groups; statutory bodies, including schools and children's centres; charitable or not-for-profit companies; a social enterprises; private sector organisations.

Statutory bodies and private sector organisations applying must involve a VCS partner in planning and running the project.

New Big Lottery Fund - Research programme (supplied by fit4funding)

The Big Lottery Fund will provide up to £25m in the UK over 2007-2009 to fund **social and medical research grants** in the UK. To influence local and national policy and practice by funding the Third Sector to produce and disseminate evidence based knowledge. In the longer term the programme, through producing sound evidence, will aim to help develop better services and interventions for beneficiaries.

The programme will be demand-led and fund medical and social research on issues identified, and considered important, by the VCS; and support the use and dissemination of this research activity. Beneficiaries and users should be involved, in setting the agenda, conducting, managing and disseminating the research.

Only VCS organisations will be eligible to apply and they will be encouraged to link up with universities and the wider research community, but universities themselves will be ineligible to apply for funding. Support will be available to the Third Sector to help make the first step into the world of research and lead an application.

The delivery of the programme is to be outsourced. The winning contractor will be in place by November 2006 and the programme will be open for applications by Spring 2007.

New Reaching Communities - ongoing programme

In December 2005, Reaching Communities was launched, an exciting new England wide programme that provides funding to help **improve local communities** and the lives of people most in need.

They want to fund projects that respond to needs identified by communities, and actively involve them. Projects that help those most in need including those people or groups who are hard to reach, those projects they think best meet their communities' needs.

They want to bring about the following changes as a result of funding: people having better chances in life, better access to training and development to improve their life skills; strong will give support

to those projects they think best meet their communities' needs.

They want to bring about the following changes as a result of funding: people having better chances in life, better access to training and development to improve their life skills; strong communities, with more active citizens, working together to tackle their problems; improved rural and urban environments, which communities are better able to access and enjoy, healthier and more active people and communities.

Open to: registered charities; VCS groups; statutory bodies, (including schools); charitable or not-for-profit companies; social enterprise – a business that is chiefly run for social objectives, whose profits are reinvested in the business rather than going to shareholders and owners.

Three-year programme with £100m available in 2006-07, with future budgets being set annually.

Grants available: £10,001 to £500,000, including a maximum of £50,000 for capital grants. Maximum overall project size of £750,000 and £200,000 for the total capital element within a project. They will fund projects for up to five years.

Deadline: Reaching Communities a popular and competitive programme. Demand is very high. Over £1bn applied for so far.

New Big Lottery Fund Strategic Plan (supplied by fit4funding)

The Big Lottery Fund's first three-year Strategic Plan sets out who they are as a new organisation, where they are now, where they want to be in 2009 and how they aim to reach their desired destination.

Contact Details: Big Advice Line Tel: 0845 4 10 20 30 Big Lottery Fund, 1 Plough Place, London EC4A 1DE Tel. 020 7211 1800 Fax. 020 7211 1750 Website: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

(New) Age Concern Grants (supplied by fit4funding)

Three types of grants available to VCS groups:

1. Bright Ideas Grant Programme - One-off grants of up to £2,000 for new or expanding local projects providing services for the direct benefit of

older people. Examples: new activities at day centres and lunch clubs, home repair and maintenance services, respite for carers, health and fitness programmes and visiting schemes.

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

2. Barclays Programme - Any club for older people may apply for a one-off grant of up to £150 for new equipment or activities, i.e. tea urns, crockery, games and bingo equipment and craft materials.

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

3. Opportunities for volunteering scheme - New projects which involve volunteers in providing services of benefit to older people in the fields of health and social care. Examples include: employing a volunteer organiser, to develop services for ethnic minority groups, or to fund activities such as Home from Hospital or befriending schemes. **Maximum grant is £20,000 per annum and not funded for more than three years.**

Applications must be received by the end of July for funding in the following financial year.

Contact details: The Grants Unit, Age Concern England, Astral House, 1268 London Road, London SW16 4ER Tel. 020 8765 7738 Fax. 020 8679 9154

W: www.ageconcern.org.uk

New Heritage Lottery Fund Grant Programmes (supplied by fit4funding)

Awards for All (A4A). Projects involving people in their local community, bringing them together to take part in a wide range of activities. Examples include **art, sport, heritage and community activities, as well as projects that promote education, the environment and health in the local community.**

Grants are made to small community groups, parish/town councils, schools and health bodies. Schools projects must be extra-curricular.

Grants available: £300 - £10,000 in England.

Contact details: Awards for All

T: 0845 600 2040 W: www.awardsforall.org.uk

Heritage Grants (£50,000 and more)

Projects that conserve and enhance our diverse heritage or encourage more people to be involved in their heritage or both. And ensure that everyone can learn about, have access to and enjoy their heritage.

Examples: Nature conservation, historic buildings, museum and archive collections, spoken history records, cultural traditions, and objects and sites relating to the UK's industrial, transport and maritime history. **No deadlines.**

Project Planning Grants of up to £50,000 are available to help in the early stages of planning a Heritage Grant project.

Your Heritage (£5,000 - £50,000)

Projects should conserve and enhance our diverse heritage or encourage communities to identify, look after and celebrate their heritage or both. Everyone should be involved to learn about, have access to, and enjoy their heritage.

Examples: Caring for the natural landscape, conserving historic buildings, places and objects, involving people in exploring local cultures, traditions, languages and ways of life. **No deadlines.**

Repair Grants for Places of Worship in England 2005 to 2007

Supports urgent repair projects at listed places of worship in England. The 2007 application form will be available early 2007.

Contact details: English Heritage, Customer Services Department on T: 0870 333 1181 or E: customers@english-heritage.org.uk

Deadlines: Grade I/II* - 30 June 2007 and for Grade II - 30 September 2007.

The Townscape Heritage Initiative (£250,000 - £2m)

For schemes led by partnerships of local, regional and national interests that aim to regenerate the historic environment in towns and cities with areas of social and economic needs.

Applications are assessed in two stages: The deadlines for 2007 will be available from

www.hlf.org.uk in January 2007.

Parks for People (£250,000 - £5m)

For projects involving urban or rural green spaces designed for informal recreation and enjoyment, parks, gardens, squares, walks and promenades. Usually owned and managed by a local authority or other not-for-profit organisations that own public parks. You will need to show that your community values the park as part of their heritage; the park meets local social, economic and environmental needs; and the park actively involves local people.

Grant decisions will be made using a two-stage application process. Stage 1 is competitive with two closing dates each year – 31 March and 30 September.

Landscape Partnerships (£250,000 - £2m)

Supports schemes led by partnerships of local, regional and national interests to conserve landscape areas of distinct local character in the UK.

Landscape Partnerships are assessed competitively twice a year in two stages. The closing date for Stage 1 applications are 1 April and 1 October.

Young Roots (£5,000 to £25,000)

To involve **13-20 year-olds** (up to 25 for those with special needs) in finding out about their **heritage**, developing skills, building confidence and promoting community involvement. Projects stem directly from young peoples' interests and ideas, harnessing their creativity and energy and helping them work with others in their local community. **No deadlines.**

Contact details: Heritage Lottery Fund

T: 020 7591 6042 F: 020 7591 6271

E: enquire@hlf.org.uk W: www.hlf.org.uk

New City Parochial Foundation – New Funding Guidelines 2007-11 (supplied by fit4funding)

An independent charitable foundation which aims to enable and empower the poor of London to **tackle poverty** and its root causes, to reach those most in need. They aim to develop supportive relationships with the VCS groups they fund and encourage the sharing of learning and skills. They

support activities which government agencies will not or are unlikely to fund and want to respond to new issues as they arise and find creative ways of tackling deep-rooted problems relating to poverty.

Their open programme has four priority areas.

1. To improve employment opportunities for disadvantaged people;

2. To promote the inclusion of recent arrivals to the UK;

3. To promote social justice;

4. To strengthen the VCS

They will also fund exceptional work to tackle poverty which falls outside their open programme. Organisations will need to demonstrate clearly how their work is genuinely exceptional and you are advised to speak to one of their officers if you wish to apply under this heading. Generally they will only make a handful of grants under this category each year.

Grants: No minimum or maximum grant, over £4m available annually, the grant is likely to be about £45,000 in total. A significant number of grants will be smaller, (£5,000 to £30,000) while a few will be larger (over £70,000).

Contact details: City Parochial Foundation, 6 Middle Street, London EC1A 7PH

Tel: 020 7606 6145 Fax: 020 7600 1866

E: info@cityparochial.org.uk

W: www.cityparochial.org.uk

(New) Trust for London New Funding Guidelines 2007-11 (supplied by fit4funding)

An independent charitable trust to support small, new and emerging VCS organisations established to improve the lives of people and communities in London. They believe that local people are often in the best position to identify the problems that affect their lives and the possible solutions to those problems.

Most grants are made through their open programme but they also occasionally fund special initiatives. They aim to develop supportive relationships with the VCS organisations they fund and to provide a 'funding-plus' approach. This

includes providing advice, guidance, and where appropriate, consultancy support and training to help organisations grow and develop.

They recommend that you check carefully which fund is more appropriate to your organisation as you can only apply to one.

They are unable to fund all small, new and emerging organisations that apply to them. They will fund areas of work with one (or more) of the following aims:

- 1. To challenge discrimination faced by disabled people;**
- 2. To promote the inclusion and integration of recently established communities;**
- 3. To strengthen mother-tongue and supplementary schools to provide creative educational opportunities;**
- 4. To address new and emerging needs.**

You will need to demonstrate you meet all the criteria in their guidelines. Please read these funding guidelines in full and visit their website before submitting your proposal. They update it on a regular basis, outlining any changes made to these funding guidelines. It has a full list of their recent grants.

Grants available: Up to £15,000 usually £8,000 over one, two or three years. They expect to make 50 grants each year of approximately £650,000 in total.

A smaller number of grants go to **organisations that want to increase their staffing levels in order to make a step change in their development.** Examples: making a contribution towards the costs of a full-time post, project or core costs, including rent, volunteers' expenses and/or running costs. They do not fund large-scale capital projects but can make small grants for capital items i.e. the purchase of equipment.

They want funds to reach people who need them most, especially those who are **excluded and are particularly disadvantaged and discriminated against.** Their work benefits all communities in London, and targets particular groups, such as: BME communities, asylum seekers, refugees and migrants, young people, lesbians and gay men,

disabled people (including those with mental health issues) and isolated white communities.

Applications from these groups and others who are addressing new and emerging needs in London are welcomed, and from **women's organisations.**

They also fund special initiatives where they want to make a strategic impact. Their aims are:

- 1. To challenge discrimination faced by disabled people;**
- 2. To promote the inclusion and integration of recently established communities;**
- 3. To strengthen mother-tongue and supplementary schools to provide creative educational opportunities;**
- 4. To address new and emerging needs**

Contact Details: Trust for London, 6 Middle Street, London EC1A 7PH

W: www.trustforlondon.org.uk

**(New) It's Your Community
(supplied by fit4funding)**

A new award scheme to provide funding for projects to improve **local environments** in the UK.

Examples: The hire of tools or equipment, and to purchase plants, paint, signs, materials etc. All environmental projects such as: turning derelict land into an amenity park or wildlife area, tree planting, creating a wildlife pond, renovating neglected river and canal footpaths, providing water butts and recycling facilities in village halls.

Open to: Local amenity groups; Parish and village councils; Schools; Youth clubs; Heritage groups ; Environmental and conservation groups; Individuals - who can show that their project will benefit the local environment.

Application forms from all O2's 350 shops or by email as below.

Contact details: Libby Symon, The Conservation Foundation, 1, Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR

Tel: 0207 591 3111

E: libbysymon@conservationfoundation.co.uk

W: www.conservationfoundation.co.uk

(New) The Baring Foundation - Arts Programme 2007 (supplied by fit4funding)

Funding for UK arts organisations working with **refugees and asylum seekers**. Only the second year this fund has been open to application; previously by invitation only.

Open to: Constituted, not for profit arts organisations based in the UK and working principally in the UK; Applicants must have had annual income, in 2005/06, of at least £50,000; Arts organisations already working with refugees, asylum seekers, migrants or their host communities on issues affecting refugees and asylum seekers.

Grants for three years, subject to annual review, and paid annually. The size of the grant depends on the annual expenditure of the organisation in 2005/6. Organisations spending £250,000 or more in 2005/6, may apply for a maximum grant of £25,000 per year for three years (a total of £75,000). Organisations spending between £150,000 and £250,000 in 2005/6 may apply for a grant equivalent to 10% of that expenditure. Organisations spending between £50,000 and £150,000 may apply for £45,000 (£15,000 per year).

Deadline: 11 December 2006 but please send in your application earlier. It is unlikely that more than six grants will be made. Competition for funding will be tough. Read their full guidelines carefully to ensure that your organisation is eligible to apply and that your request for funding meets the criteria. Applicants will hear by 9 March 2007 if they have been shortlisted. Interviews for shortlisted proposals 12 March-27 April 2007. Applicants that have been interviewed will be notified of the result by 15 June 2007.

Contact details:The Baring Foundation, 60 London Wall, London EC2M 5TQ

T: 020 7767 1348

W: www.baringfoundation.org.uk

Biffaward (supplied by fit4funding)

To widen its doors to community groups and to help allocate its funds more effectively, Biffaward has teamed up with a variety of partners including the Countryside Agency, the East of England Development Agency and all Rural Community

Councils. The partnership will enable individual communities to take action **to improve villages, towns and cities** and receive help in applying for Biffaward funding to do it.

Letters of support will be mandatory and the public access requirements will be increased to a minimum of 104 days. **The following type of projects will no longer be supported: Works to school grounds; Works to car parks; Improvements to offices or services; One-off events; Allotment related projects.**

The fund offers three levels of support:

Small Grants Scheme: to enable small groups to quickly access lower levels of funding to improve the quality of life in their community. Projects with the primary aim of improving an amenity located within 10 miles of a Biffa operation and have the end benefit of fostering vibrant communities by improving the environmental, economic or social circumstances of a community. These may include: Wildlife and habitat conservation and creation (e.g. pond construction, wildflower planting or woodland management); Improving opportunities for informal education and lifelong learning (e.g. purchasing equipment for a community led internet cafe or a community facility); Access to sport, culture or recreation (e.g. purchase of play equipment or sport equipment, village green improvements).

Open to: Any not-for-profit community led organisation with its own bank account.

Grants available: £250 - £5,000 the total cost of your project must be no more than £10,000. Biffaward operates a rolling programme of grant giving. Applications can be submitted at any time and will be considered at the most appropriate eight weekly panel meeting. Minimum two to three month period before notification of application outcome.

Main Grants Scheme: £5,001 - £50,000 for Amenity projects that provide and improve community facilities to act as mechanisms for recreation, sporting achievement, lifelong learning and community involvement. In addition it supports projects that increase or maintain Biodiversity.

More funding news...

Hackney Youth Opportunity Fund

Are you aged 13-19?

Do you have an idea for activities?

If yes, you can apply for a grant of up to £10k.
For information & an application form please contact:
020 8356 7404
YOF@hackney.gov.uk
www.thehype.info

Hackney HYP Hackney Youth Parliament

New Fund for Young People's Projects

Hackney's Youth Opportunity Fund launched in November. This is a special fund for young people, run by young people, to support projects and activities for young people in Hackney and give them the opportunity to learn how to be grant makers.

Up to £10,000 will be available to support young people's project activities, although most projects granted will be up to £2,500. Deadlines will be monthly, with young people trained as grant makers to decide on applications.

Projects must genuinely come from young people's ideas, be submitted from a group of young people, and directly benefit young people living in Hackney. The fund especially targets hard to reach young people, e.g. care leavers, travellers & young offenders. To involve them in identifying positive activities and things to do; and to support their role as decision makers, grant givers and project leaders.

Contact details: Hackney Youth Service on: 020 8356 7404 / YOF@hackney.gov.uk or log onto the new young people's web site: www.thehype.info

Improving Reach

Capacitybuilders has announced details of a new funding programme, Improving Reach which aims to improve the reach of infrastructure for a range of marginalised groups.

This a pilot programme which will run until March 2008. They hope to extend the scope of the programme and build on its success in future years following an evaluation of the pilot.

The aim of the Improving Reach programme is to improve access to capacity building and support for a range of frontline groups / organisations that may not have been reached in previous ChangeUp programmes.

In particular the programme is aimed at:

- Black and minority ethnic groups
- Refugee and migrant groups
- Faith groups
- Isolated rural groups.

Improving Reach is open to all eligible organisations and is not restricted to existing ChangeUp consortia in recognition of the barriers to participation which may have limited some organisations active involvement in ChangeUp to date.

For further information and full details on the programme please visit:
www.capacitybuilders.org.uk/fund

Community Sports Fund

Hackney Council is ploughing £220,000 into its Youth Sports Development Fund (YSDF), from their £300,000 windfall from Nike in an out of court settlement over the unauthorised use of the Council's logo. Community groups can apply for bursaries for financially disadvantaged talented athletes, training grants for volunteer sports coaches, and to develop the voluntary disability sport sectors in Hackney.

The fund will be administered by Hackney Council. They are approaching representatives from the Council, The Learning Trust, the Primary Care Trust, Hackney Sports Forum, Disability Hackney and the Council's leisure partner Greenwich Leisure Limited to form an awards panel. Other projects are being considered for the remaining £80,000 of the Nike cash. **Contact details: email parkssports@hackney.gov.uk or call 020 8356 8429.**

Working with children and young people?

The Local Network Fund funds projects working with children and young people up to the age of 19 or 25 with learning disabilities, which provide local solutions to the problems of child poverty.

Between £250 - £7,000 is available for projects that meet one of these five outcomes:

Being healthy: activities that promote a healthy lifestyle for children and young people, e.g. sports sessions, healthy eating classes, peer support projects on drug misuse.

Staying safe: activities that contribute to children and young people being protected from harm and neglect and help them grow up able to look after themselves, e.g. anti-bullying projects, after school clubs.

Enjoying & achieving: activities that help children and young people maximise their potential and develop skills for adulthood e.g. theatre arts groups, music and dance classes.

Making a positive contribution: projects that encourage children and young people to use their skills to enhance their own lives and the community e.g. conservation schemes, recycling programmes.

Economic wellbeing: activities which help children and young people overcome income barriers and achieve their full potential e.g. preparation for work and training, financial literacy.

For information: Nadia Caprogrosso, HCVS on 020 7923 1962

For Application Packs: National Application Line 0845 113 0161

Funding Resources:

HCVS Information Service

Sign up for this free email service from HCVS and receive up to the minute information on funding, training and other relevant issues to Hackney's VCS. To join call Gillian Trevethan on 020 7923 1962 or gillian@hcv.org.uk

FUNDERFINDER

You can book time to view FUNDER FINDER at HCVS, please call Jennifer Rowe on 020 7923 1962 or email: jennifer@hcv.org.uk.

This computer programme assists groups to identify suitable charitable trusts they can apply to. With access to information about the criteria of over 4,500 funders, about which there is published information and which make grants to charities and VCS groups. Your search profile will be matched to funders, and it produces a list of funders which can be saved, exported and printed out. GIN gives details of where to find further information about each funder found, but doesn't provide addresses

or policy guidelines - you get this information from the library reference material we have at HCVS.

E Gateway to London Funders

A new online resource for London's voluntary and community sector. London Funders aims to increase the well-being of Londoners by strengthening the funding and effectiveness of London's VCS.

Check out: www.londonfunders.org.uk/elf

Profunding - SPECIAL OFFER

As well as information of current funding, Profunding provide analysis and interpretation of the political, social and economic agenda as it affects the VCS. Learn from others in similar situations, get dedicated research to meet your interests, receive assistance as you develop your fundraising strategy. CIB newsletter subscribers can get a discount. Look at www.fundinginformation.org to see if you require this and email andrew.pring@fit4funding.org.uk for further details.



Strengthening Hackney's communities
to bring local people together
to find shared solutions to local issues

Photography by Effie Fotaki

Community Investment Programme

Awards for Hackney community projects 2006 - 2007

You can apply for up to **£5,000** from each of the following **four** grants:

- ◆ **Improving reach**
for “need to reach” communities to develop local projects
- ◆ **Community mapping**
gathering local knowledge about Hackney’s diverse communities
- ◆ **Developing learning in your community**
training local people in neighbourhood renewal
- ◆ **Partnership Fund**
projects delivered together with a public sector agency

For an application pack contact Elizabeth Adebola at HCVS on
020 7923 1962 or email: elizabeth@hcvs.org.uk

