The Compact Issue

Spring / Summer 2008

COMPACT
Make an impact for the VCS

GYPSY & TRAVELLER HISTORY MONTH

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE
update on the forum and commissioning

HCVS' magazine for Hackney's voluntary & community sector

SPARK

woodberry down: sharing memories

In this issue:

- adiaha antigha awards
- summer diary
- cen achievements
- partnership working
- hackney refugee forum
- social enterprise
- meet foezul ali
- news from the sector
- funding news

Hackney Solidarity Network

"... a space where community activists and campaigners can tell each other what they are doing, share information, network and socialise ..."

Meets at the MOTH Club, Valette Street, Central Hackney, 7.30pm

Coming up:

June 30th, Hackney Trades Union Council
August 4th, Games Monitor (2012)

To join our e-mail group or for enquiries
e-mail hackneysolidarity@hotmail.co.uk
ALL WELCOME

Do you give your time to help people in the community?

Team Hackney
Putting Hackney First

Whether you work with volunteers or are a volunteer yourself, we want to hear from you.

Team Hackney is funding a research project into the valuable contribution that people make by giving up their own time to help others, so that the Council can work with you to develop a strategy to support volunteering.

During June and July, we will be providing different opportunities for you to give your views about volunteering in Hackney.

Please contact Lola Akindoyin, Community Partnerships, London Borough of Hackney, by the end of July on **020 8356 3630** or at **communitypartnerships@hackney.gov.uk,** giving your name and contact details.

www.teamhackney.org

Hackney

hcvs Supporting Hackney's Communities

SPARK is produced by Hackney Council for Voluntary Service (HCVS). HCVS is Hackney's leading voluntary and community sector support agency and your local CVS. We provide hundreds of local voluntary and community organisations with the key skills, knowledge and resources to respond to the needs of local people, especially those most in need. HCVS's vision is of an equal society where local people are empowered to tackle local problems and the contribution of all communities to civic life is recognised and supported. HCVS
84 Springfield House 5 Tyssen Street London E8 2LY ☎: 020 7923 1962 ✉: info@hcvs.org.uk 🖱: www.hcvs.org.uk

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!Get your CRB with HCVS

"If you need your staff, trustee members and volunteers to undergo a CRB check, please contact the Grants team. It is a legal requirement that individuals working directly with children and young people and vulnerable adults need to be CRB checked. If you are not sure whether you or other individuals within your organisation require CRB check, please contact us."

ⓘ **Nadia Capogrosso**
✉: nadia@hcvs.org.uk ☎: 020 7923 1962

Summer 2008

In response to last year's readership survey and budget restrictions, SPARK is looking a lot more slimline for summer.. compact even! Hackney's Compact, however, is no small issue for our sector so read our feature on how and why you should get involved in the consultation. It's not all policy though, read on for some fantastic stories of what you're all doing out there. Enjoy the sun! **Gillian**

contacts

Produced and designed by - Gillian Trevethan
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☎: 020 7923 1962

Advertise in this space

Everyone is welcome to advertise in SPARK - Hackney's voluntary and community sector (VCS) magazine, circulated to hundreds of local organisations.
To arrange space in SPARK is simple - just contact **Gillian** as above. HCVS members get discounts.

Get your story in SPARK!

We are always loking for stories from the VCS, if you would like to submit an article or discuss ideas for upcoming features please contact us.
To keep up to date with news on Hackney's VCS, join our email news service, contact Gillian above!

A big thank you to everyone who supplied articles and information for this issue.

Children, young people and families

You, Me, Them & Us

Barnardo's CANDL

Barnardo's CANDL, in partnership with the King's Family Centre at Frampton Park, pilotted a programme for young people based on the 'Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities' (SFSC) Programme. Rather than being a parenting programme for teenagers, it picks up on the relationship, rites of passage and community strands of SFSC.

Ten young women aged between 14 and 16 have met each week at CANDL, looking at issues of self-esteem, relationships with their family, friends and community, money, drug and alcohol use and health. The debates have been lively and interesting – no-one can accuse these young women of not having any opinions of their own!

We did a lot of talking about how much power to change things young people actually have, helped by a visit from Councillor Geoff Taylor, (pictured above) who explained how Hackney council 'worked', and what young people could do to influence what went on. The girls did not give him an easy time, asking pertinent questions around the issues of violence and gangs, and they were very impressed with the way he dealt with these. "He has restored my faith in politicians" was one comment, and there was a general feeling that "yes – he was OK!". The girls have enjoyed the sessions, and we hope to be able to run another programme, perhaps for slightly younger children. ■

ⓘ **Margaret Collins, CANDL**
✉: candl@barnardos.org.uk ☎: 020 7729 9701

Making a Difference: Home-Start Hackney

Home-Start Hackney supports all parents living in the Hackney with at least one child under the age of five and who are experiencing difficulties. We increase confidence and well being of families by reassuring parents that it is not unusual to experience difficulties when upbringing up children.

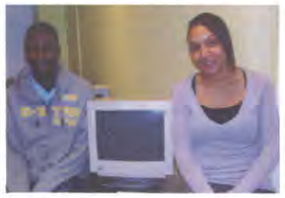
Our volunteers from the local community visit families in their own homes and offer time, support, friendship and practical help, helping to prevent crisis and breakdown in those families. They all have parenting or childcare experience, are Criminal Records Bureau checked and undertake a compulsory, comprehensive eight week training programme.

In June 2007, we were funded by the Local Network Fund for "Trips To Go", we organised successful family outings to increase parent's confidence to encourage them to be more involved in their child's development. Children from disadvantaged backgrounds miss out from the 'traditional family day out' because of cost and lack of knowledge of appropriate places. ■ **ⓘ If you are interested in referring a family or volunteering contact Yasmin Parvez or Durrah Mahmood**
☎: 020 7249 7246 ✉: hshackney@yahoo.co.uk

Wilton Youth hit the air waves

Thanks to a grant from Capital Youth Opportunity Fund, young people at Wilton Youth, a youth club managed by the Wilton Estate Tenants and Residents Association (TRA), will be able to get their voices heard.

Wilton Youth bought music and media equipment so young people could record and sample music, interviews and broadcast. Together with Hackney Youth Parliament, they hope to get the internet, podcast and video cast. Wilton Youth also received free computers from HCVS (pictured above with our two youth workers Shabba and Chloe) for entertainment and to serach for employment, training and further study. They have lots of ideas for the future, including trips, and with representation on the TRA, they aren't forgotton! ■



ⓘ **Sheila Suso-Runge** ✉: s.suso-runge@arts.ac.uk

Double celebration for Hackney's Gypsy Traveller community

London Gypsy and Traveller Unit 10th Anniversary and Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month

Ahead of the first Gypsy Roma Traveller month in June, Gill Brown from London Gypsy and Traveller Unit (LGTU) talks to SPARK about their media project with young Travellers which will be showcased at their 10th anniversary celebrations.

LGTU youth worker filming with Boys Group

Once a week for ten weeks a group of young Travellers from a Hackney youth group scripted and filmed a story about the friendship between a young Traveller and a boy from the settled community. The film course is accredited by the film industry and is showcasing in April at National Film Theatre. The Traveller character is based on a boy who has lived on one of the Hackney council run sites for six years and the youth group is one of five attended by 50 young people, run by the London Gypsy and Traveller Unit (LGTU).

This year sees the tenth anniversary of the Unit, a thriving charity based in Hackney. LGTU grew out of work being done by Save the Children in the 1980s and 90s and is funded independently by both national and local organisations.

The charity works with Gypsies and Travellers living on council sites, in temporary encampments or in housing, particularly in North and East London.

Every week they see around 25 families in their busy Accommodation Advice service. It is perhaps not well known that more Gypsies and Travellers live in houses than in council or private sites and one of the charity's aims is to ensure that those who want to live on sites should have the opportunity to do so. Recently the Government has begun to take a more organised approach to the Gypsy and Traveller issues and the LGTU have contributed significantly to emerging strategies.

"We work with Gypsies and Travellers, rather than for them and our work has developed in response to expressed and perceived need rather from external targets" says Frieda Schicker, Director of the Unit "By offering direct support to the community, we gain trust and understanding, and can use this local experience to influence policy and practice so that their views are heard. Together we can challenge the prejudice that they routinely experience"

> We work with Gypsies and Travellers, rather than for them and our work has developed in response to expressed and perceived need rather from external targets.
>
> **Frieda Schicker, Director of the Unit**

For the last three years community development workers at LGTU have worked alongside Gypsy families in Newham and the Irish Travellers in Hackney, who are council tenants of the sites in the two boroughs. They have been relocated because of the Olympics but it has not been an easy time.

"When we heard about it we didn't know where to start with all the things that were happening " says Margaret Reilly who has lived on the Hackney site for 15 years. "but LGTU has been with us all the way, through all the meetings with the authorities and supported us to put our points over and help us deal with all the stress. Now we are just looking forward to the future"

With literacy, computer training and other courses for Travellers now available at their offices, LGTU are also looking forward. Their next big event is the first national Gypsy and Traveller month on 17 June, when the youth groups will be showcasing their films along with other work. Libraries in Hackney will be taking part too.

ⓘ **Gill Brown, London Gypsy and Traveller Unit (LGTU)** ✉: gbrown@lgtu.org.uk ☎: 020 8533 2002 Find out about Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month 🖱: www.grthm.co.uk

Model of success

Hackney Refugee Forum

Ali Aksoy, (left) Chair of Hackney Refugee Forum (HRF) updates SPARK.

Since joining the **London Refugee Economic Action (LORECA)** advisory panel, I have found that not many other refugee organisations have the support of their CVS or work together as we do in Hackney. At the recent **London Mayor's Refugee Advisory Panel** stakeholder event called Integration and Mayor's role, I spoke about our ongoing work with HCVS, which was highlighted as best practice. The event looked at how the Mayor's Refugee Strategy should be developed to include migrants and asylum seekers as well as refugees. We all look forward to how our new Mayor will take this vital work forward!

We have also been commended by a **London Refugee Voice** report which examined the opportunities for, and the barriers which obstruct the representation of refugees and asylum seekers in London. Our work in partnership with HCVS has meant we have been instrumental in getting refugee needs met in the borough and a number of representatives from our communities are involved at a strategic level through their roles on the Community Empowerment Network and Link UP etc.

This is thanks to support we first received from Adiaha Antigha, former Director of HCVS, who understood the need to support refugee and asylum seekers community groups. She took us under her wings and we have been based in HCVS since and received support to extend our reach and meet our communities' needs as best we can. It was an honour to receive an award for services to new communities in Adiaha's name earlier this year.

With **Refugee Week** fast approaching from **16 – 21 June**, we are busy planning an access to information event on Saturday 28 June in partnership with African, Turkish, Kurdish, Latin American organisations and service providers such as NIA Project and the PCT. Details of other Refugee Week events are on the back page. Ten groups are taking part in the planning meetings and we aim to establish a special "Refugee Health Needs Group" out of this.

At our last Forum meeting in May, James Drummond from HTEN presented information on ESOL provision and employment.

Together with HTEN, HCVS and Hackney Advice Forum we are planing to organise English skills improvement courses to support volunteers, staff and trustees to help them better serve and represent their communities.

To find out about this and our work contact me below and look out for our Annual Report which will be available soon. ■

ⓘ **Ali Aksoy, Hackney Refugee Forum**
☎: 020 7923 1962
✉: ali@hcvs.co.uk
🖱: ww.hackneyrefugeeforum.org.uk

Free Computers for Hackney

HCVS & St Katherine & Shadwell Trust

Photography: Yussef Ali

Councillor Faizullah Khan *(above, left)* **launched a new 'PC project' by Hackney Council for Voluntary Service (HCVS) in partnership with St Katharine & Shadwell Trust in February. Cllr Khan joined HCVS Chief Executive Jake Ferguson (***above second from left***), Jenny Dawes and Yussef Ali from the trust and guests from the voluntary and community sector (VCS).**

Over 200 reconditioned PC's were donated to St Katharine & Shadwell Trust by a local business. HCVS is distributing them to over 90 VCS groups, working with refugee and asylum seekers, the homeless and children in care or young adults who have just left care living in Hackney.

Jake Ferguson said "the response from groups needing this ICT equipment was overwhelming" and that the project further "highlighted the wide need for IT resources and training to help strengthen the voluntary sector in Hackney".

Being a pilot project there have been a few hiccups and we are awaiting delivery of the remaining PCs, but look forward to running the project again. ■

ⓘ **Gillian Trevethan HCVS**
☎: 020 7923 1962

Anyone for a manicure?

The An Viet Foundation

Our VTCT Embedded Nail Care Training Course has generated a huge amount of attention and may prove to be 'one of the most exciting and original projects in Hackney' (James Drummond, Hten). This is because of its unique nature as it is one of the few courses like this in the UK.

The nail industry is huge within the Vietnamese business sector, especially in Hackney. Yet many work illegally and risk exploitation due to lack of any recognised training or sufficient language skills. Hackney Council is currently investigating the health and safety conditions of local salons as it is believed that many may be breeching the law.

An Viet consider the employment and training courses, such as Nail VTCT, to be crucial to bringing long term change within the Vietnamese community 'one of the most disadvantaged groups to have arrived in Britain'. (MIND 2003)

An Viet are currently running their second accredited VTCT level two class in manicure and pedicure and nail technology since the success of their pilot project in 2006. The aim is to move clients towards employment, through gaining a nationally recognised qualification, as well as training in communication and literacy skills – all within 16 weeks!

This course has embedded ESOL sandwiched in between the practical nails training. Forty-eight people were assessed, 28 people were eligible for the course and 14 people have been selected. The course has also been shortened so that the students will now finish their training in just 14 weeks! ■

ⓘ **The An Viet Foundation**
☎: 0207 275 7780 🖱: www.anvietuk.org
✉: projectmonitor@anvietuk.org

Celebrating 60 Years of Leonard Cheshire

Disability Hackney

Disability Hackney representatives, Ron Newman and Anita Cessay were invited to mark 60 Years of Leonard Cheshire Disability at St Paul's Cathedral in April at a thanksgiving service led by the Dean of St Paul's. Over 2,000 staff, volunteers, service users and supporters were present as well as His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent and a sermon given by The most Reverend and the Right Honourable Dr John Sentamu The Archbishop of York. ■ ⓘ **Disability Hackney** 🖱 www.disabilityhackney.org

New Hackney community activist network

Hackney Solidarity Network

The Hackney Solidarity Network (HSN) was launched as a space where community activists and campaigners can tell each other what they are doing, share skills and information, network and mix socially.

Each meeting includes a short presentation by a community group followed by general conversation about news and campaign updates. So far HSN has welcomed presentations by London Coalition Against Poverty and Gascoyne Estate Tenant and Residents Association. For future meetings, check out the inside page. ■

ⓘ **Carl Taylor, HSN** If you would like to join our email list for information on future meetings and campaigns
✉: hackneysolidarity@hotmail.co.uk

DOC: developing organisations' capacity

issue 9 - Networking and partnership

KRISTINE SAYS:
"The Children's sector is defined by who benefits from your work rather that what sector you belong to"

It is getting harder to attract resources, funds are tight and staff are over stretched. As advisors we think it makes more sense to work collaboratively. Kristine Wellington and Kishore Kanani, HCVS Capacity Building team talk about how you can do this.

Are you spending more of your precious time trying and achieving less? Then perhaps you should consider another approach. Take a serious look at the possible benefits of partnership working. Public bodies have reduced the number of contracts they hold, instead they prefer having a single agent who can manage the bulk delivery of many organisations.

NCVO defines collaborative working as partnership between voluntary or community organisations. An organisation may work with one other partner organisation or may belong to a wider consortium.

Organisations can work together in a spectrum of ways from informal networks to joint delivery of projects, and for a range of purposes. Whether collaboration lasts for a fixed time or is permanent, the organisations involved retain their independence and separate identity. For example, Shared back office facilities such as payroll, small groups developing consortiums to attract funding and specialist training for your sector such as domiciliary care.

Partnership work in practice

HCVS and HTEN are working with The Learning Trust (TLT) to find constructive solutions to some of the Children's sector workforce needs. This joint effort of pooling our expertise has enabled us to maximize our individual strengths.

The maintained children and young people's sector is better resourced and has extended their learning opportunities to the VCS. So, if you are working in the early years field you have access to the Council's development programme. We want to see more partnership working for learning.

Other factors to consider when delivering public services

The size and duration of the contract may be a deciding factor on the model to adopt: whether it is worth establishing a new organisation or deciding on one organisation to take lead responsibility. If organisations are embarking on public service delivery for the first time, they should consider if this is the best way of delivering their primary work, or are they drifting away from their aims?

Joint working agreements

Just as in all relationships we tend to display our better features at first, it is important to have a 'getting to know each other' period. It's also essential to have a partnership agreement or terms of reference depending on the nature of your joint work. Support is available from HCVS on preparing this. If your not convinced of the reasons - partnership working is now so important, that in the third edition of PQASSO this area has been expanded. ⓘ ☞ ww.hcvs.org.uk

Youth on Youth

Dalston Youth Project

Stephanie Thomas (left) updates SPARK on Dalston Youth Project's equality work with young people.

February 2008 saw the grand finale of a triumphant and innovative project by Dalston Youth Project, in response to urgent questions from the community, local and wider government as to what we are going to do about our youths? In partnership with 11 Million, DYP ran a project to train 12 youths from a broad range of backgrounds on how to deliver workshops to other youths focussed on equality and diversity.

Engaging in a versatile mix of drama, team work, theoretical and verbal practice these youths were taken through their paces. The interactive menu proved to be a great choice for empowerment, sending home a message of equality and diversity to these young leaders of tomorrow.

Experienced workshop facilitator Tony coached the group, (pictured above) joined by HCVS' Kristine Wellington who delivered a day's training. It was also supported by Kids which is committed to bridging the gap between social stereotypes of disabled people being fragile and the real courageous individuals that fill a prominent social role.

Youth mentor champion Nathaniel Stevens of DYP who coordinated the project was hopeful about the future success of these workshops. If you would like to find out more please contact Nathaniel below.

ⓘ **Nathaniel Stevens**
☎: 020 8985 4576
✉: natstevens25@hotmail.com

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- Holbeach Primary School, Doggett Rd, Catford SE6 (12-2pm)
- Peckham library, Peckham Hill St, Peckham SE15 (2.30 -4.30pm)
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Make an impact on Hackney's Compact

Why the voluntary and community sector should get involved

Hackney is rewriting the Compact, which is an agreement between the public and voluntary and community sectors about how they will work together in order to benefit local people. Previous consultation on Hackney's Compact proved disappointing for the VCS and all eyes are focussed on a refreshed Compact.

The Compact Working Group brings together people from the Community Empowerment Network, Hackney Council for Voluntary Service (HCVS), Link UP, Hackney council, Metropolitan Police, the Learning Trust and City and Hackney Primary Care Trust.

What's in the Compact?
Commitments between the VCS and statutory agencies relating to funding, premises, volunteering, campaigning and policy development. While the draft text is a considerable improvement on the current COMPACT, there are several areas that need your comment:

- the role of the COMPACT in regeneration and premises
- the emphasis on volunteering and employment rather than as a recreational activity
- the focus on training and qualifications for volunteers
- the use (or abuse) of volunteers in place of paid staff
- whether the COMPACT can support the VCS' independence
- how full cost recovery will work
- most importantly will the COMPACT support successful partnership work between the VCS and statutroy bodies?

Voices of the VCS: Will yours be one of them?
L - R: Olexandra Stepaniuk, Dr Bekele Gessesse, Ali Aksoy and Oby Ofomata

How you can get involved
On behalf of the CEN, HCVS has organised three events to help you take part in the Compact consultation.

Tue, 3 June: 1.30 – 3.30pm at HCVS E8 2LY

Wed, 4 June: 10.15 – 12.15 at Hoxton Hall N1 6SH

Mon, 16 June: 10.45 – 12.45 at West Reservoir Centre

ⓘ Gillian Trevethan, HCVS
: www.hcvs.org.uk/en/pages /compact08.aspx
☎: 020 7923 1962
✉: gillian@hcvs.org.uk

Although the Compact is not a legally binding document, it is expected that once agreed by the Working Group, it should be respected. All of Hackney's statutory agencies will be expected to sign up to the COMPACT at the most senior level, and ensure their working practices reflect its principles. Conversely it is expected that Hackney's VCS will also follow the principles of the COMPACT in their dealings with local government particularly if you receive funding from them.

Therefore, it's vital that you give your views to help iron out any issues and develop a Compact that works for the sector.

SPARK spoke to Paul Barasi, Local Compact Voice Officer at The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) to find out more about why the VCS should get involved.

Local Compact Voice is a network which represents and gives advice and information to people in local VCS groups working on their local COMPACT.

There is excellent innovation taking place, it's very rare to have everything in place but local compacts are still making more progress than they were.

- **Merton** is very impressive, it's the only place where the VCS said they would only sign up if the Compact delivered and wasn't just another piece of paper. Luckily public sector colleagues agreed.

- **Croydon** is very strong on how they involve VCS organisations as partners – it's very well designed. What impressed me was when there were cuts to the VCS, it was natural for the Council to speak with them from the beginning not just tell them last minute. This is exactly what the Compact is about.

- **Haringey** is brilliant at getting support for the Compact and getting on with implementation. But they have resources: £30k - £40k.

If the Compact isn't used at times of crisis it's no good, it's when things get really tough that the Compact often fails. It's simple really, if you think that you shouldn't be doing something or it's going against the Compact, then you shouldn't do it.

When it works it's marvellous, in Lambeth, the Council deliberately ran down the lido. The community campaigned against its closure and it was re-opened as partnership venture between private, public and VCS agencies.

> Hackney has a talented VCS and their contribution needs to be recognised properly. Unless the Compact is plugging into the community, what could be achieved, won't be.

Hackney context
All partners have to face that working in Hackney is not the easiest place in the country and you'll find that problems elsewhere will be magnified here. Hackney has a talented VCS and their contribution needs to be recognised properly.

Unless the Compact is plugging into the community, what could be achieved, won't be. But Compacts don't run on thin air, they need cash and this needs to be recognised.

A fit Compact gets results
The Compact must fit in with other strategies like the Local Area Agreement and Community Call for Action, it's not a peripheral thing it's about a very big agenda. Boroughs which know the value of having a Compact and where it's being used by public and VCS colleagues, get results and have the best impact. Hackney council and Team Hackney need to prove themselves: they can do a good job on the implementing the Compact, the question is, will they?

Changing attittudes to the Compact
People in public sector are now saying the same things as the VCS, there is a common agenda and shared perspective – which is really interesting. Lots of councils are recognising the value of linking up with the VCS even though there is no Government guidance. A few years ago this would not have happened. ■

ⓘ Paul Barasi ✉: paul.barasi@ncvo-vol.org.uk

View from Haringey

Local delivery of government programmes through partnerships involving the VCS and public bodies is becoming increasingly common. This means that everybody is spending more time working in partnership, and that VCS organisations are increasingly reliant on winning contracts that do not affect their ability to remain independent and deliver user-centred services.

The Compact is the most powerful tool that the sector has in ensuring that it can confidently enter into successful and mutually beneficial partnerships with public bodies, with partners working together to consider how they can better serve Haringey's diverse communities.

Since it's successful launch in June 2006, Haringey's Compact has been moving forward into implementation with the key focus always remaining on making our Compact known, understood, used and, above all, useful:

- 100+ organisations, from across the sectors, signed up and are using Haringey's Compact
- A multi-sector Compact implementation group steering the process
- Changes to Haringey council's Grant Aid Standards in line with Compact commitments
- Ongoing engagement in borough-wide strategic forums, and with national and local Compact networks
- A range of user-friendly Compact guides, including an award winning Compact film
- A volunteering code of practice to be launched during volunteers week 2008 following consultation with cross sector stakeholders
- A Compact which is fully resourced and delivered in partnership. Whether we are negotiating resources, securing engagement or progressing implementation, we maintain a partnership approach between HAVCO and Haringey council. Delivering in partnership helps to break down the 'them and us' barriers and practically demonstrates what local Compact's are all about.

ⓘ Rachel Nussey ✉: 0208 880 4087 ·
Stephanie Rowland ✉: 0208 489 6931.

CEN achievements

While future funding for the Community Empowerment Network (CEN) is being discussed by Team Hackney, SPARK took a look the CEN's achievements in 2007 / 08.

The CEN is a group of people from Hackney's voluntary and community sector (VCS) who act as representatives across Team Hackney, our local strategic partnership, to influence how local government and its partners provide better services for Hackney people. They have worked hard to influence the refresh of the Local Area Agreement and the Hackney Story of Place – which sets out what the key agencies in the Team Hackney will target its spending on for the next three years.

By hosting events, liaising with local community networks and leaders, and campaigning and advocating for change, often in partnership with the public sector, the CEN has achieved much.

Looking ahead, the CEN aims to continue to input into Team Hackney policy, develop VCS networks and hold more events to inform and enable more VCS organisations to input into policy.

CEN's wins for the VCS

- Developed a CEN Story of Place for Hackney which changed the partnership's approach around measuring mental health, regeneration and gentrification and better understanding of communities such as the Charedi community, and ensured a high profile for volunteering in Hackney
- Secured £100k for the VCS to deliver their own childhood obesity interventions
- Increased the number of VCS organisations delivering public services by campaigning for better commissioning processes and held training for the VCS – commissioning of the VCS to deliver youth services has been hugely successful with an increase in the amount of funding to nearly £1.5 m
- Supported the new COMPACT - see page xx
- Oversaw the delivery of Team Hackney Community Grants - £750,000 funding for the VCS. Administered by HCVS, the grant process was described by Team Hackney's auditors as "highly effective and efficient".

ⓘ **Liz Hughes, Temporary CEN Coordinator**
☎: 020 7923 8184 ✉: liz@hcvs.org.uk ■

Inform, Influence & Represent

Children and Young People's Providers Forum

Photography: info@effiefotaki.com

Why join the Children and Young People's Providers Forum (CYPPF)? Well, for a start it brings together the diverse range of voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations providing services to children and young people. More importantly, it keeps you in the loop with statutory colleagues and aware of the array of social policy issues.

The children's sector environment
It is vital for VCS organisations to understand the environment we work in. The Every Child Matters (ECM) and Youth Matters stragegy requires more VCS participation in decision about local services.

The CYPPF will help you to get to grips with the wider strategic issues and provide a platform to both raise your concerns and discuss strategies.

There are six appointed children and young people's (CYP) representatives that can raise your issues at the CYP partnership board level. Visit the HCVS website for more details of your reps.

At our March meeting we focussed on the role of VCS in the provision of extended schools activities. When we met in May, CYPPF members shared their views on which priorities should be included in the CYP Plan 2008 - 20011.

Time is limited for service providers to take part in social policy developments, Make use of your lunch hour. Spend just 90 minutes every other month connecting with your CYP representatives and CYP colleagues and make sense of your environment.

ⓘ **Part of our future plans to to role out an inflencing policy programme, so you understand how the CYP policy environment works. If you are interested, please contact** ☎: 020 7923 1962 ✉: kristine@hcvs.org.uk ■

The Adiaha Antigha Community Achievement Awards

The eight winners of the first Adiaha Antigha Community Achievement Awards were announced to huge rounds of applause at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Celebration event in March at the Community centre for Refugees from Vietnam, Cambodia & Laos. Adiaha was the former Director of HCVS who died in 2006 and these awards recognise those people in the voluntary and community sector who have made an outstanding achievement to the local community.

Six people and organisations were awarded a certificate and gift in the form of an Aloe Vera plant known for its healing properties and chosen to represent growth for the VCS. Two people received cerificates for special recognition of their services. Congratulations and thanks to everyone who was involved in our AGM and Adiaha Antigha Community Achievement Awards!

Our members also voted in a new Management Committee and we launched our Strategic Review which shows our plan for HCVS for the next three years.
ⓘ **To find out more visit www.hcvs.org.uk/en/pages/agm08.aspx**

Janette Collins
The Crib
For contribution to children and young people's wellbeing

The An Viet Foundation
Zoe Howe pictured
For services for older people

Hackney Refugee Forum
Juan Rincon pictured
For services for new communities

Alevi Cultural Centre
Meryem Ozturk pictured
For services to faith communities

African Community School
Kome Owuasu pictured
For contribution to raising equality

Hackney Advice Forum
Andy Benson pictured
For influencing local policy or practice

Melanie Danan
The Interlink Foundation
Special recognition for influencing local policy or practice

Janice Wynter's team
Woodberry Down Age Concern Hackney
Special recognition for services for older people

Roots of Woodberry Down

Woodberry Down estates were mainly built between 1937 - 39 and 1946 - 53. It was pioneering at its time and the first residents moved in 1948. With over 2000 homes it was the largest social housing estate in Europe and remains the largest in Hackney to this day. Since then drugs, prostitution and other crime became a major problem. Recently there has been a major clean up and this is less visible.

The planned regeneration of Woodberry Down is estimated to take between 15-20 years and cost £1 billion in current money. One of the largest in London outside the Olympics, the development will work to a masterplan, which outlines key principles ranging from building layout right through to energy production and public spaces. The more unique features of the project are that it is mainly self funding, meaning that a proportion of the development will be sold at profit to fund social housing and other public amenities. Perceptions of the regeneration vary widely and SPARK has heard many opinions. For many, the lack of community space is a concern as the population of Woodberry Down estate will double.

The Serpentine Gallery are collecting the memoirs of older people from Woodberry Down Elders Group. Many people remember a prestige estate and can't understand how it fell into such disrepair.

Woodberry memories

Like many of Hackney's estates, Woodberry Down is undergoing a massive regeneration programme which will take 15 to 20 years – the second largest in London. SPARK spoke to the estate's voluntary and community groups about their work in the area.

Phil Sprott and Janice Wynter from Woodberry Down Elders project – Age Concern

We set up the Woodberry Down Elders Club with Kaluba Chitumbo of Council for Older People and our dedicated volunteer – Jeffrey (above left). Three years ago, there was no provision for older people in the regeneration plans. Now the regeneration team don't make a move without us. Getting our day centre (due in June) has given our members more confidence that their voices are being heard.

Isolation is a problem for older people, they are often scared to go out especially after 2pm. We offer a coffee morning so they can socialise and we invite speakers to provide information to alleviate their problems. We also run trips to go shopping, to the theatre or the seaside.

Immediate Theatre consulted with our members about their thoughts on young people, they paired up and talked to each other. From this, young people produced a play and the elders came to the premiere – it was fantastic and brought about mutual understanding.

We would like funding to run five days a week and reach more older people on the estate. Relocation presents problems as it's harder to find support networks when you're older.

We started with eight people who didn't know each other and now we have 30 regulars and can't get a word in edgewise! They are a wonderful group, extremely close, like a family. For example, we have a couple who found love at 91 and a member who offered his scooter for free to another member with severe mobility problems. >>

neighbourhood focus: woodberry down

Grace: Afterschool Maths Club

Girl racers with Kids in Action

Oby Ofomata, left, from Grace Women's Organisation

After completing an MSc in IT, I found women were afraid of computers so I set up estate based IT training for women with Islington & Frampton Park Homeless Project and Hackney Community College. We started Grace Women's Organisation in 2000, we had a £58,000 budget per year for four years, and premises in Well Street to provide activities for local women and girls but we lost all this when our funding was cut. We have put down the deposit for a new premises but we have to fundraise for the rent.

We run estate based projects across Hackney and started on Woodberry Down estate in 2004, providing family learning and parenting skills courses. We set up an afterschool club for eight – 12 year olds and a family learning workshop, with ESOL, as we found women more inclined to learn while their children were busy at our club.

Since October, we have been empowering women on the estate to be responsible in the community and set up their own women's group. I was so surprised as they were very open about the issues they face, including domestic violence, dealing with teenagers and drinking and general health awareness.

I would like to see a Family Learning Centre on the estate, calling it a children's centre makes men shy and we need to involve fathers. The Learning Trust and Hackney Council need to put more money into the estate. There's nothing to encourage African and Caribbean boys to do well at school. Hackney Play Association run social skills training but there's nothing for education. Hackney Council needs to send people into the community to find out people's needs and ask: What do you want and what do you want Hackney to do for you? Then go back to the table and say this is what the community wants, how are we going to supply it?

Kids N' Action holiday play scheme

Kids N' Action, among many other activities, runs holiday play-schemes during the holidays for disadvantaged children with special educational needs and disabilities aged three - 12 years. They come from large, low income families and live in overcrowded accommodation, with no play space.

Our children benefit tremendously from our programmes, as they cannot attend mainstream activities due to cultural and religious issues. They have the opportunity to develop their talents, abilities, realise their potential and achieve success in areas they would otherwise not get. Activities include clay modelling, photography, wax making, lino printing, clock making, patisserie, canoeing, kayaking, abseiling, swimming, fruit picking and animal petting amongst many exciting skills which you can see at www.kidsnaction.co.uk

We are constantly seeking even higher standards and are not afraid to experiment with new ideas, whilst being firmly rooted in our own time-hallowed traditions. As we are in the centre of the Regeneration scheme, and knowing that 4000 new homes are being built on Woodberry Down, we see ourselves having to expand our services for the community.

We are working on a new scheme called CROWDS -Community Regeneration & Occupation, change Woodberry Downs' Situation. Over the next five years, we will involve residents from across the community to engage and volunteer in setting up this 4000sqm Community & Function Hall. The Jewish community are very supportive of this project as there is a great demand for a local large venue for weddings and community organisations functions, events, performances and training seminars. By being part of a cluster of community facilities, we will create an area that will enhance access locally to opportunities for all, to share in increased economic, social and educational activities. One of the greatest spin-offs of this facility is to >>

IMDC: Festival extravaganza!

Photography: info@effiefotaki.com

create a regenerated neighbourhood that will be central to the provision of many activities, and a no-go and dangerous area becomes an attractive place.

Mehmet Karakus and Sermin Aksoy (left) from International Music and Dance (IMDC)

We teach Turkish folkdance, drama and music to young people aged 6 – 20 from Turkish speaking communities living on the Woodberry Down estate. I'm a qualified folkdance teacher and ran Kufad community centre in Istanbul. In Turkey, folkdance is important but young people who grew up here have no experience of it.

There's not a lot for young people to do on the estate. At first, they'd fight and couldn't concentrate, they didn't know how to channel their energy or express themselves. Now our classes start with relaxation, based on talking and counselling which has improved their behaviour.

The mothers got involved while their kids attended our classes. Many Turkish speaking women don't speak English, don't know how to apply for jobs or realise their talents. I helped them start a folkdance group and Sermin Aksoy, Hackney Refugee Forum (HRF), ran two job search skills courses for Turkish speaking mothers living on the estate. Women who were illiterate in their mother tongue and who were educated came along. There were different levels of success but everyone was committed.

At the end of the course, the women started different training to improve their careers such as enrolling on an access to teaching course, opening small businesses, starting work as a teaching assistant or training to be a carer. Everyone found it very beneficial and they said that it boosted their self-confidence.

Our real obstacles are premises and funding. We get a reduced rate at the Robin Redmond Centre but we are in trouble with our theatre workshops. At first I used my own money and funded our first three day folkdance festival in 2004. I didn't understand how to fill in the forms so kept getting rejected.

After working with HRF, HCVS and Black & Ethnic Minority Arts Network (BEMA) we received funding from Local Network Fund and Awards for All. Together with Tohum Cultural Centre, we have Team Hackney funding for a supplementary school. Sermin is working on funding for our dance classes but we need more. I started up guitar lessons last October but it's coming out of my own pocket and contributions from students.

I believe that music and dance is the best way to have good relationships with others. Every year we organise a dance competition bringing together 300 people. This year we are working with BEMA and next year we want to go international. ■

ⓘ More information:

Grace Women's Organisation c/o Robin Redmond Resource centre N4 2RD ☎: 0208 533 7477 ✉:gracewomen@hotmail.co.uk

Kids N' Action Woodberry Down Centre N4 2SH ☎: 0208 809 7737 ext. 219 ✉: kidsnaction@bclschool.co.uk

International Dance and Music Centre 49 Rowley Gardens Woodberry Down estate N4 1HH ☎: 0208 800 7380 ✉: kufad87@yahoo.co.uk

Woodberry Down Elders project c/o 22 Dalston Lane, E8 3AZ ☎: 0207 241 5909 ✉: janicewynter@ageconcern.org.uk

the funding directory

For funding information subscribe to:
Grants Online
🖱: www.grantsonline.org.uk

fit4funding
🖱: www.fit4funding.org.uk
✉: Andrew.Pring@fit4funding.org.uk

HCVS help with funding

- You can book an appointment with our Development Team for an individual advice session.
- You can book time to use FUNDER FINDER a computer programme that searches over 4,500 funders which make grants to VCS groups.
- You can sign up for HCVS' free email newsletter and get funding news as it happens...

ⓘ Gillian Trevethan
☎: 020 7923 1962
✉: gillian@hcvs.org.uk ■

Changing Lives
Changing Lives is a grant awarding project from Crisis, the national homeless charity. It provides financial awards of up to £2,500 to people who have been homeless to help them move towards a work-based vocational goal. The award could be used to pay for a course, for materials to use at work or for start up equipment to set up a business. Next application round: 11 July
🖱: www.crisis.org.uk /page.builder/changinglivesawards.html

Mediabox
Mediabox has launched the Mid and Big Mediabox grants to youth-led media projects that express young people's ideas and views in a creative way, using their preferred media platform: Closing date for Stage 1 applications: 19 August. 🖱: www.media-box.co.uk

Emma Humphreys Memorial Prize
Commemorative awards made annually to women and groups who have done exceptional work to combat violence against women and children. Entries are due by 30 June.
🖱: www.emmahumphreys.org

Awards for Bridging Cultures
This year sees the launch of the Awards for Bridging Cultures. The ABCs will celebrate local schemes and projects (run by grass roots, community and voluntary organisations) that build bridges between communities. Deadline for 2008 applications is 1 October.
🖱: www.bridgingcultures.org.uk

Children & young people's services Commissioning

The next children and young people's commissioning round is coming up later this month. HCVS, on behalf of the CEN, has organised the following information events to help you through the maze of bid writing and help you win money for your project.

Supplementary schools Meet the Commissioner 18 June, 5 - 7pm: @ HCVS, 84 Springfield House, 5 Tyssen St, E8

Children and Young Peoples Commissioning 14 July, 1.30pm: @ HCVS as above

You must book for these events.
ⓘ To book, contact HCVS
☎: 020 7923 1962

Grassroots Grants

HCVS is working as part of a East London & City Partnership on a bid to deliver grassroots funding for the smallest community groups in Hackney, City, Newham and Tower Hamlets.
Community groups with a turnover of less than £20,000 a year may soon be able to access up to £5,000 for their community projects as part of a government scheme called Grassroots Grants.
If successful, Grassroots Grants will provide much-needed access to small grants for local community groups.
The partnership is between St Katherine & Shadwell Trust and four local CVS' in East London – the East End & City Grassroots Grants partnership (HCVS, NVSC, City.COMM and Community Organisations Forum) – has been established to deliver this programme.

Training for east London advisors in enterprise

Do you advise organisations who want to generate income through becoming social enterprises?

Then, NCVO's 'Getting Ready for Enterprise' course to train the trainers may be for you.

Thu, 19 June: 9.30 – 5pm at Newham Voluntary Sector Consortium, Burford Business Centre, 11 Burford Road, Stratford E15 2ST

ⓘ Gillian Trevethan
☎: 020 7923 1962
✉: gillian@hcvs.org.uk ■

Creating future community leaders

Introducing Foezul Ali, newly appointed Trustee at HCVS and Chairman of Nida Trust. Nida Trust recently ran two projects encouraging young Muslims to be community leaders.

What does Nida Trust do?
Nida Trust came out of Aziziye supplementary school for Turkish kids started in 2005. We realised this wasn't enough, so we formed an independent trust: Nida Trust. Our vision is to bring the community together through education, we tackle underachievement by Muslim pupils from all ethnicities.

Education drives all our work. We encourage young people to be independent, run their own community projects and be involved in community leadership (Youth Ahead) – to bring communities together. We run media workshops, a football academy and national projects including Professional Development for teachers at independent Muslim schools.

Tell us about Youth Ahead
We found many young Muslims lack knowledge of community issues - elders focus on cultural and religious aspects, rather than community issues relevant to young people.

Funded by Team Hackney, our three month leadership course - Youth Ahead – gave young people aged 14 – 25 the skills for community work. Young people planned everything: they talked about the challenges they're facing, the skills they need and how to work together. We changed a few things round to make it sound posh! At the end,

Driving education forward
Foezul Ali

everyone presented their project plans in front of a panel, like Dragon's Den. Our trustees raised money to offer the two winners six months funding, during which time we will mentor them. If it works, we'll help them secure more funding.

Who else was involved?
Hackney Mediation Service ran interpersonal skills courses. HCVS ran finance and project planning training. Councillor Faizullah Khan and Meg Hillier MP were also involved.

And the National Youth Leadership Conference?
The idea came from our Youth Ahead attendees, who wanted to explore the challenges that young Muslims face, particularly with identity: being Muslim and British. Held in April, young people organised it all including the workshops and they will be publishing a report shortly. It's amazing how independent people become, once you give them the skills.

What are the issues?
Our enthusiastic team want to do so much but are limited by funding. Our projects aren't traditional but do have an impact. A lot of kids involved in gangs and drugs aren't aware of the impact it has on their lives. When you talk to them, it clicks, for Muslim kids, there's no way for them to talk openly.

The Muslim community is not homogenous, for example young Bangladeshis will not engage with Turkish young people. There's a hidden racism due to lack of understanding and knowledge about each other's communities. Hackney council need to understand the needs of Muslim communities.

On being a HCVS trustee
It's a new challenge: I'm looking forward to having a better understanding of the voluntary and community sector (VCS) and I think HCVS will provide that. It's a good vehicle to promote the VCS agenda at strategic and grassroots levels, bringing out the value it plays in people's lives.

Future plans?
Following our media workshops, we will launch a DVD about gangs soon, funded by Hackney Youth Service.

Our new programmes open in September include KEEN student mentoring programme, Get involved to show parents how to get involved in school and Meet your leader, engaging young Muslims in local politics.

Finally, we'd like to run two more annual Youth Ahead projects. ■

ⓘ More information:

Foezul Ali, Nida Trust
: www.nidatrust.org.uk
☎: 020 8536 1800

Spring into Action

Here's a quick look back to see what Hackney's voluntary and community sector got up to over the first few months of 2008.

❶ Joel dancing to the music of Potty Patrick at **Hackney Family Backup's** consultation event.
ⓘ **Catherine Love**
: www.hfbu.org.uk

❷ MP Diane Abbott and Mischa Borris (Hackney Green party councillor) turned up to help **Bring Your Own Bag-N16** with their plastic bag amnesty in Stoke Newington in May to swap their plastic shopping bags for re-usable cloth ones (provided by Hackney Council). ⓘ **Marion McAlpine**
: www.byob-n16.org.uk

❸ **During Fairtrade Fortnight,** Muslim, Jewish and Christian communities signed a joint faith statement. Pictured - L-R are Rev Shaun Sanders, Abdul Mulla, Cllr Faizullah Khan, Speaker of Hackney, Ian Rathbone, Fairtrade Group Co-ordinator, Rev Ian Harper, Rabbi Abram Pinter.

ⓘ **Ian Rathbone**
✉: ian.rathbone@tiscali.co.uk

❹ **Friendly Playgroup** held their final show and after party for their successful after-school club for 8-12 year olds on Hindle House Estate, 'Dancing in the Street & Design Cool Clothes & Express Yourself'.
ⓘ **Frances Newman**
☎: 020 7359 2019

❺ **Kristine Wellington**, Children, Young people and Families Advisor at HCVS was awarded a certificate for excellent partnership work by The Interlink Foundation at their AGM earlier this year. As an Outcomes Champion, Kristine has been working with Orthodox Jewish VCS groups to develop their skills in monitoring and evaluation.
ⓘ **Kristine Wellington**
☎: 020 7923 1962

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❻ **Clapton Rangers**, funded by Team Hackney Community Grants won the London Sunday Junior Cup final, beating Eastwood 2-1 at Cockfosters in April. The squad is made up of 40 young men aged 18-25 from the Clapton Park and Kingsmead estates, and trains weekly on Hackney marshes. The idea for a football team came from founders Mark Whyte, now club secretary, and Decarlo Franklin, now manager, back in 2005. The club reformed for the 2006-7 season, after a 20 year absence from Sunday football. They are currently top of the Hackney and Leyton League First Division, and promotion to the Premier League is looking highly likely. ⓘ **Mark Whyte**
✉: markymark@chat-bout.com

❼ More than 150 churchgoers and local residents marched along 'peace mile' on Palm Sunday (16 March) to declare **Clapton as a place of peace**. Supported by the Borough Deans group, Hackney's church leaders group, the marchers were saying that they believe the local streets should be free from violence and fear.

ⓘ **Ian Rathbone**
✉: ian.rathbone@tiscali.co.uk

ⓘ **Please send in your photos of your events and 50 words for the next SPARK.**
☎: 020 7923 1962
✉: gillian@hcvs.org.uk ■

⑦

Summer Diary

Here's a list of upcoming events, meetings and workshops. For more information subscribe to HCVS email news service, contact Gillian Trevethan ✉: gillian@hcvs.org.uk

June

June: Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month 🖱: www.grthm.co.uk

Every Saturday in June: Games Day @ Gillett Square, N16 🖱: www.gillettsquare.org.uk

16 – 21 June: Refugee Week 🖱: www.refugeeweek.org.uk

16, June, 10.30 - 12.45: Compact consultation @ West Reservoir Centre, Green Lanes N4 2HA ☎: 020 7923 1962 ✉: gillian@hcvs.org.uk

17 June, 6pm – 10pm; Gypsy Roma Traveller History month celebration @ The Round Chapel, Lower Clapton Road, E5 Marianne Arake ✉: marake@lgtu.org.uk

18 June, 5 - 7pm: Supplementary schools Meet the Commissioner event @ HCVS, 84 Spring field House, 5 Tyssen St, E8 ☎: 020 7923 1962

19 June, 09.30 – 17.00: Getting Ready for Enterprise @ Newham Voluntary Sector Consortium, Burford Business Centre E15 2ST ☎: 020 7923 1962 ✉: kristine@hcvs.org.uk

19 June, 2pm: Hackney Advice Forum meeting @ RWCA, Unit C1, 3-19 Victorian Grove, N16 ☎: Andy Benson 0208 800 7509

25 June, 10 - 1.30pm: Quality Support: Performance Management @ HCVS as above ☎: 020 7249 7669 ✉: quality@hten.org

27 June, 1- 5pm: Refugee Arts Project (RAP) Forum Theatre Workshop @ Hackney Community College, Falkirk Street N1 ✉: Ferhat Cinar refugeearts@hotmail.com

28 June, 2 - 6pm: Hackney Refugee Forum Access to information event: Domestic Violence @ Alevi Cultural Centre, 89 Ridley Road E8 2NH ☎: 020 7923 1962 ✉: ali@hcvs.org.uk

25 June: 12 - 2pm Launch of women only group set up for survivors of domestic abuse Free Light lunch. Group to be run twice weekly weds & fri @ disclosed venue in Hoxton. **Lorna** ☎: 07904 755 279

July

2 July, 9am – 4.30pm: Tendering for Contracts @ HCVS as before ☎: 020 7923 1962 ✉: training@hcvs.org.uk

14 July, 1.30pm: Children and Young Peoples Commissioning @ HCVS as before ☎: 020 7923 1962 ✉: kristine@hcvs.org.uk

15 July, 10 - 1.30pm: HTEN Quality Support: introductory workshop @ HCVS as above ☎: 020 7249 7669 ✉: quality@hten.org

HACKNEY MIGRANT CENTRE
FREE practical help and social support to asylum seekers, refugees recent migrants
Drop in every Wednesday, 12.30 – 3.30pm
St Mary's New Church Rooms
Spensley Walk, off Stoke Newington Church Street N16 9ES
☎: 07504 332 706 ✉: hmcentre@googlemail.com

igro launches Rice and Peas Festival

The motivation: igro launches The Rice and Peas Community Festival and the TRUce Campaign. The festival will be organised by young people for young people with the hopes of bringing different groups of young people, who reside in different estates, postcodes or wards, together in a safe, welcoming and empowering environment.

The emphasis: The ethos and message behind The Rice and Peas Community Festival is truce, self love, community and individual cohesion and community empowerment

When: During the summer holidays

Where: At an estate near you

For more info: Watch this space or contact igro on youth@igro.org.uk, 07939 396465

SPARK is produced by HCVS and funded by London Borough of Hackney. HCVS, 4 Springfield House 5 Tyssen Street London E8 2LY ☎: 020 7923 1962 ✉: gillian@hcvs.org.uk 🖱: www.hcvs.org.uk