



**KARL FRISBY**

changes to funding for training and employment support



**HCVS**

COMPACT excellence award winners



**NEWS FROM THE SECTOR**

EWAV works wins best ethical business award

HCVS magazine for Hackney's voluntary and community sector

# SPARK



In this issue:

- Safeguarding
- Hackney Refugee Forum
- Looking for CEN environment reps
- events diary
- free training
- news from the sector

**new opportunities**

community projects supporting people to rebuild their lives

# who's who at HCVS

**Put a face to the name! Here are details for our team here at HCVS.** If you have a question about any of our services, please give us a call on 020 7923 1962, email [info@hcv.org.uk](mailto:info@hcv.org.uk) or drop in to our offices at 84 Springfield House, 5 Tyssen Street London E8 2LY where you can also use our computers for free!

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## Get your CRB at HCVS

If you need your staff, trustee members and volunteers to undergo a CRB check, please contact Nadia at HCVS. 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.

## Autumn 09 Issue



Welcome to SPARK, in this issue we feature five local groups who are doing invaluable work helping people rebuild their lives after finding themselves homeless in Hackney. At this time of year, when it's cold and we spend so much time in our homes with families and friends it's hard to imagine being without one.

Take a look at our article on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people - it will give you a glimpse into our free training available. Gillian

## contacts

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## Advertise in this space

Everyone is welcome to advertise in SPARK - Hackney's voluntary and community sector (VCS) magazine, circulated to over 2,000 local organisations. Just contact Gillian as above. HCVS members get discounts.

## Get your story in SPARK!

We are always looking for stories from the VCS, if you would like to submit an article or discuss ideas for upcoming features get in touch.

To keep up to date with news for Hackney's VCS, join our email



SPARK is produced by Hackney Council for Voluntary Service (HCVS). HCVS is Hackney's leading voluntary and community sector (VCS) support agency and your local Council for Voluntary Service (CVS). We provide hundreds of local VCS 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](mailto:info@hcvs.org.uk) 🌐: [www.hcvs.org.uk](http://www.hcvs.org.uk)

## Discover ACT@ATC

ATC Theatre

**ATC** is a theatre company based at the Tab Centre, they will be running a series of performance skills workshops in early 2010 for local young people aged 14-25. To find out more about ATC and previous ACT@ATC workshops (including their Summer and October Half Term courses) visit [www.atctheatre.com](http://www.atctheatre.com) ♦



Acting up at ATC Theatre

📞 **ATC Theatre** ☎: 020 7033 7360 ✉: [atc@atctheatre.com](mailto:atc@atctheatre.com)

## Network celebrates first year of success

Disability Backup Forum



Disability Backup members celebrate at first year party

**Disability Backup Forum** celebrated its first year of meetings in October. The forum is a local consultation network between local disabled people and Hackney Council.

Since its launch in October 2008, the forum has over 250 disabled members and meets monthly. It covers different topics such as housing, transport and access and invites service managers to come and discuss their services. The group has helped influence the development of the new service first centre that is being built, as well as influencing positive changes in the blue badge system. We have recently launched a language code to promote positive language.

The group meets monthly and has a monthly newsletter; any disabled person of any age is welcome to join. It celebrated its first year of operation by having a party at City Edge, Mare street. The group enjoyed a range of food brought by members and took part in a prize draw.

One member said, 'I like that Disability Backup can influence Council decisions' Another said 'I like the access to information and advice, I've learnt so much since being part of this group.' ♦

📞 **Disability Backup Forum** ☎: 0207 275 0088 ext 209 🌐: [www.dbu.org.uk](http://www.dbu.org.uk)

## Grand Opening

City & Hackney Carers Centre

On 30 September, **City and Hackney Carers Centre** officially opened their new office at Springfield House on Tyssen street. The centre helps support the 18,000 strong invisible and unpaid relatives caring for family members in the community. The new premises is set out on three floors with a network of rooms.

The centre opening was a multi-cultural affair; the warren of rooms were filled with different food, drink, sounds and clothing worn by those representing different cultures. In the South Asian room there were comfortable cushions to sit on and sip black tea and artwork.

One of the carers interviewed had been the sole carer for her 13 year old autistic daughter for ten years and started receiving help from the centre in the last three years. Her daughter was diagnosed at 23 months old and her mother will be using the centre as somewhere her daughter can go to integrate into an active social life after she has spent the daytime at her special school. There are a variety of activities and professionals available at the centre, including physiotherapists and this carer also wishes to use the centre's provision of respite care.

Both MPs for Hackney - Diane Abbott and Meg Hillier - were present at the opening and the entertainment included Bollywood dancing and a magician. Meg Hillier MP stated that "the effort carers put in unsung and unpaid can be very overwhelming and they need support." ♦ Article by Abisola Akinrele, HCVS volunteer.

📞 **Hackney Carers Centre** ☎: 020 7923 8750

## Headways Funny Money Headway East London

**O**n Wednesday 11 November, **Headway East London** brought together comedians Silky, The Silky Pair, Jo Ogden, Nick Kenwright and Duncan Oakley to perform at a comedy night at The Water Poet in aid of the charity.



Comedian Jo Ogden entertains the crowd

Headway East London supports people living with the long-term affects of brain injury, and remains the only organisation running a Headway House in inner London offering a range of key services, therapies and outreach support.

The comedians, all performing for free, raised over £750 through tickets sales which will go towards running the Headway House which is based just off Kingsland Road, E2.

Miriam Lantsbury, Chief Executive of Headway East London 'it was a great night and we hope it will become an annual event. I would like to thank The Water Poet for hosting the event and the acts giving up their time to help make this night possible.' ♦ Headway East London ☎: 020 7749 7798 🌐: www.headwayeastlondon.org

## Sharing stories of success

### Tranfusion Music



Hackney's latest storytellers with their certificates of achievement

**T**ranfusion Music took part in Hackney's Words Unite campaign this year with four weekly Storytelling and Book Reading workshops. Thirty-three parents and carers of children aged between 3 and 8 years old came along to Morningside Children's and Parents Centre, to improve their children's interest in reading and stories.

Film composer Seanine Joyce and actress Tata Dimitratou, showed participants how to improve their storytelling and book reading skills using sound and music, movement and voice, simple puppets and props. It was a HUGE success and parents also made up their own stories and wrote their own story book. If your community group would like to take part in Storytelling and Book Reading workshops get in touch! ♦

## Award winner! EWAV Works



Lola Atkins collects her award

**EWAV**Works won the **Best Ethical Business at The PRECIOUS Awards 2009**, an annual awards ceremony for inspirational and entrepreneurial women of colour.

The award for Lola Atkins was won by EWAV Works as in recognition of the businesses outstanding effort within the industry. For five years since Hackney based-EWAV Works was launched they have continued to be one of the community's powerhouses for the young by providing a range of activities for young people from a variety of backgrounds. They have provided an environment where young people are motivated and encouraged to maximise their potential and take hold of their destinies.

Lola Atkins, Director EWAV Works commented, "We are extremely delighted to have won the PRECIOUS Awards for Best Ethical Business 2009. This award recognises five years of hard work and determination, and perseverance regardless of the challenges and difficulties EWAV Works experienced. ♦ ①



**Ali Aksoy, (left)**  
**HCVS Refugee Health Coordinator and Chair, Hackney Refugee Forum (HRF) talks to SPARK**

## CEN: Intentionally homeless?

**A**t our AGM in November, we invited the **Community Advance Project (CAP)** to launch their research into homelessness amongst refugees. The research was undertaken with **Middlesex University** to raise awareness of the issues for policymakers and was presented on a DVD which aired the hidden voices of people lost in our immigration system who rarely have the chance to tell their stories.

One question poignantly asked 'how can we be expected to find a place in society if we can't find a place to live?' Homelessness for refugee communities may not be about literally living on the streets (an extreme situation faced by some) but more about 'not having a home of their own' - somewhere to raise children, invite friends and build a life. Somewhere which is stable and not temporary.

The research focussed on young refugees aged 16 - 25 who face many issues - they may be split from their parents which has a psychological impact on the lives or if they live with their families, they may feel torn between the dynamics of family life and the pull of having a British life.

it's more about 'not having a home' - somewhere to raise children, invite friends and build a life. Somewhere which is stable and not temporary



**Sharon Owuale from Community Advance Project**

Up for discussion was the position of being 'intentionally homeless' which many refugees and asylum seekers, particularly young people, find themselves in.

Once in our immigration system, people can be dispersed outside London, where they can only apply for housing within their dispersal area. Many people prefer to move back here where they have access to better

services, a more diverse community and family and cultural ties.

Accordingly to the authorities, this means they have made themselves intentionally

homeless and ineligible for support.

This means projects like CAP who support refugees and asylum seekers have to be very creative in finding housing solutions. Building strong partnerships with housing associations and other agencies becomes ever more crucial.

Over 60 people attended our AGM and shared their concerns around the recession, its social and economic affects on the VCS and how refugee groups will survive to serve our communities. The Chair's report and accounts were approved unanimously. ♦



## Swine Flu seminars

**F**orty Turkish and Kurdish women attended a Swine Flu presentation by Ali Aksoy at BOZCADER Cultural Association, topics covered included Swine Flu vaccine myths and how Swine Flu affects the people with chronic illnesses.

Ali also met with 60 older people at Alevi Cultural Centre and answered their questions on vaccination, how it affects on older people and concerns about mutation of the virus.

❶ If you would like a presentation or information on swine flu at your community organisation, please contact Ali as left.

For direct answers to concerns on Swine Flu, call the **Swine**

**CEN:** Achieving good mental health for Hackney's Refugees and Asylum Seekers



**Aliya El Agib, Director - BEMWG left, talks to SPARK on a recent mental health conference.**

Over 100 delegates representing 64 refugee voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations and service providers came to our conference on 4 November to address refugee mental health issues and their particular needs and to understand from refugees' perspectives, the types of intervention that are appropriate and acceptable to them.

Organised as a user – led initiative through strong partnership between VCS networks including Black and Ethnic Minority Working Group (BEMWG), Hackney Refugee Forum, Derman, Shoreditch Spa, the Community Empowerment Network (CEN) and City & Hackney MIND.

Following an address from the Speaker of Hackney and a message from Jules Pipe, Mayor of Hackney, diverse contributions came from



**Sharing stories and solutions to support the mental health of refugee communities**

leading organisations like Refugee Council, Mind and the Joint Commissioning manager from City & Hackney Primary Care Trust, who gave the Commissioner's perspective.

Local input came from Migrant Recourse Centre, Sanctuary and refugee community representatives and the practitioners' point of view was delivered by Clinical Psychologists from BME Access services from East London Foundation NHS Trust.

The active discussion between

service users, refugee community organisations, service providers and policy makers will be available in a report shortly. BEMWG hopes to take the recommendations forward through the CEN to a strategic level, to ensure the recommendations will be listened to and incorporated into policies affecting refugee mental health and at the delivery of mental health services for refugees and asylum seekers.

① **Aliya El Agib, Director - BEMWG**

☎: 0207 923 2229 ✉: post@bemwg.org.uk

**CEN:** Having your say on Hackney's Housing strategy

**Hackney CEN** organised an event bringing together CEN reps and CEN community network leads to discuss Hackney Council's Housing Strategy. The strategy is out to consultation until 8 January 2010.

Hackney Council's Dominic Luscombe, Better Homes Partnership Advisor and James Palmer, Head of Partnership presented the strategy and then everyone split into groups to discuss key issues such as homelessness, the recession and poverty traps - particularly in private rented sector.

**How do I find out more?** The CEN will produce a response to this strategy - available on [www.hcvs.org.uk](http://www.hcvs.org.uk)



**CEN: Partnership discussion on Hackney's approach to housing**  
 Pictured from left to right are Patricia Salt - CEN rep DAAT sub-group, Martin Harris, CEN rep Better Homes, Ergel Hassan and Steve Curtis - CEN reps Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) & Respect

# CEN:

- Influencing Hackney's approach to housing
- Economic development network takes off
- New children, health and youth crime reps
- HEN looking for CEN environment reps



## CEN: BIG and Small Working Together?

Partnership working between small community providers and larger employment and training agencies has to be at the heart of a long term solution to tackling unemployment in Hackney. This was the focus of a lively event by **Hackney's Economic Development Network (EDN)** in November called BIG and small working together?

Over 40 people from small voluntary and community sector (VCS) groups and larger agencies such as Serco Welfare to Work and Hackney Council came together and shared their experiences and the best ways to meet the needs of local people.

Hackney Council recently launched the Ways to Work tender which has £500k for Specialist Employment Support - to unemployed parents (and other priority groups) with a tailored package of training, pre-employment support, jobs brokerage and in-work support. The EDN organised a meeting to develop a partnership bid to deliver on this tender that would look to develop an approach that embraces the values of transparency, delivery and that respects the integrity and value of smaller VCS organisations.

The EDN is a Community Empowerment Network forum that aims to enable VCS organisations to input on training, enterprise, volunteering and employment issues to Team Hackney, where local decisions and policy is made. We are always looking for more VCS organisations who provide training or employment support to join us - just contact Crystal below. ☎ **Crystal Todd** ☎ 020 7923 1962 ✉: crystal@hcvs.org.uk

The Community Empowerment Network (CEN) aims to raise issues from the voluntary and community sector (VCS) at Team Hackney – the key decision making partnership which shapes policy, service delivery and some commissioning in the borough.

☎ Find out about the CEN, becoming a CEN rep or joining a community network, contact **Andrea Enisuoh** ☎: 020 7923 1962 ✉: andrea@hcvs.org.uk



## 📌 CEN in brief: A look back over our work during Autumn 2009



**CEN: New recruits Andrea Enisuoh Project Officer & Crystal Todd - EDN Coordinator**



**CEN: CYPFF recruits new reps and says goodbye to Algin Saydar from Derman, who stood as Chair for two years. Algin is pictured second to bottom right.**



**CEN:** Do you have knowledge of Hackney's environmental issues?



Picture of children taking part in local environmental group, ecoACTIVE's activities on composting in schools

**H**ackney Environment Network (HEN) is looking for people who have local knowledge of environmental issues and the skills to influence key decision makers in the Team Hackney Partnership.

For example, through your community work you may have worked with the Hackney Parks Department or British Waterways and influenced them to change the way they work. Or you might have created a successful new environmental initiative or be an expert in your field of environmental work.

Reps will be supported by the Community Empowerment Network officer team and by the HEN Co-ordinator and steering group, and will be eligible to claim expenses. If you haven't represented the voluntary and community sector (VCS) before, don't be put off from applying this time - you will be supported.

**Closing date:** Apply before Monday, 21 December 2009 to be one of our community representatives on environment issues!

**How do I find out more?**

Amy Erickson from HEN

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Andrea Enisuoh, CEN ☎: 020 7923 1962

✉: andrea@hcv.org.uk 🌐: www.hcv.org.uk

**Information icon** New faces for CEN reps

Over the last few months, four of CEN's community networks have recruited new CEN reps.

**Children & Young People's Providers Forum (CYPPF)**

These reps will sit on the Team Hackney's Children Young People's Stakeholders Forum. One place is reserved for the new chair, once elected.



**Toebe Potash** from Lubavitch



**Willis Atherley-James** from Off Centre - young people's counselling, advice and information service



**Taylan Sahbaz** from DayMer Turkish & Kurdish Community



**David Blagbrough** from



**Jo Carter** from Immediate

**Black & Ethnic Minority Working Group (BEMWG) City & Hackney Health & Social Care Forum (HSCF)**

These two networks each recruited CEN Reps to the Thriving Healthy Partnership Board



**BEMWG**  
**Dr. Nazima Osman**



**HSCF Mary Cannon,**  
**Hackney Marsh**

**Youth Crime Providers Network**



**Nickie Wilson** from Holly Street Partnership, Circle 33

A big welcome to Toebe, Jo, Nickie and Willis – as well as a welcome back to Taylan, David, Nazima and Mary.

**Information icon** **Andrea Enisuoh** ☎: 020 7923 1962 ✉: andrea@hcv.org.uk

Homelessness in Hackney is different to other boroughs, we have a lot of what's known as hidden homeless - that is people sofa surfing or sleeping on friends' floors or living in squats.

SPARK spoke to five voluntary and community sector (VCS) projects which provide an array of support to people who need accommodation in the borough.



Guest at Hackney Winter Night Shelter

## supporting people to rebuild their lives



Frances Akinwunmi, above, Saturday night Volunteer Coordinator - Hackney Winter Night Shelter (HWNS)

**H**WNS provides a hot dinner, bed and breakfast to rough sleepers from 1 January to 31 March. It's run by an ecumenical coalition of 19 churches and operates at a different venue each night of the week. We depend on the help, humor and hard work of around 500 volunteers from across the Borough. The volunteer ethos is vital; volunteers can bring energy and warmth that more professional organisations find difficult to sustain.

We offer our volunteers the opportunity to meet and get to know homeless people, and to work alongside others from the local church and the wider community. In doing so, we believe HWNS helps build community. We encourage our volunteers to develop their skills through the training we offer and gain the confidence to get more involved.

In 2009, HWNS offered hospitality to

165 homeless guests, of whom we were able to assist 73 people into accommodation. While the shelter is open we employ two Support Workers from Thamesreach, and we now employ a Link Worker throughout the year to support guests who have been accommodated and to develop new initiatives.

We have 25 beds available each night; these are pre-booked by telephone. The shelter opens at 8pm, when guests are welcomed and offered a delicious hot meal. None of the church halls we use is big enough to accommodate 25 people overnight, so at around 9.15pm some guests are taken to a supplementary dormitory. Some volunteers stay awake overnight so our guests can sleep safely. Breakfast is served in the morning, and closes at 8am.

I got involved three years ago through Hackney Downs Baptist Church. I love feeling I'm part of the HWNS community serving the community. Some volunteers are from the church, others are Jewish or Muslim or have no religious affiliation. Our guests' needs are varied and complex – many of them need support to get back on their feet, and volunteers often have their preconceptions challenged.

We need volunteer welcomers, cooks, overnighters and cleaners. Please see [www.hwns.org.uk](http://www.hwns.org.uk) >>



Martin Harris, above, Centre Manager - the Greenhouse, Thames Reach and CEN rep - Better Homes Partnership Board

**A**t the Greenhouse, a fully-functioning GP practice that opened in 2008 we integrate healthcare services with housing and welfare advice to help people who are homeless in the borough of Hackney.

The Greenhouse took over from what was then known as Hackney 180 two years ago. During 2008 – 09 the Greenhouse supported 900 people, helping them obtain benefits, appropriate accommodation, alcohol and substance use support and access to primary healthcare. The greenhouse offers brief intervention services and a program of casework management for vulnerable people.

We have also contributed significantly to a reduction in street drinking in Stamford Hill, thanks to our outreach partnership with North East Neighbourhood Wardens Office in Hackney Council's Community Safety team and St Ignatius Church



Oscar Walters learning DIY skills training, St Mungo's



Guests at Hackney Winter Night Shelter

in Stamford Hill. We set up a once weekly outreach satellite service at the church targeting homeless Central and Eastern European (CEE) nationals who were street drinking on Stamford Hill and Upper Clapton. The service enabled 75 CEE nationals to access the Greenhouse for healthcare, obtaining ID, NI numbers and employment support. An additional part of the outreach project included co-ordinating the response to the closure of a local squat.

The Greenhouse operates a weekly housing and welfare advice satellite at Hackney Options and Advice, picking up clients who have been assessed as non-priority need. This service has been successful in enabling people to access appropriate housing and preventing homelessness.

Our relationships really show the VCS and public sector can work effectively together. The Greenhouse's services are built on the ethos of partnership working.

Hackney Reach is a new floating support service in Stoke Newington and the North East neighborhoods for people who are vulnerably housed and struggling to maintain their tenancy. This new Thames Reach service will work closely with the Greenhouse, other floating support providers and statutory groups in the borough. >>



Simon Hughes, above, Area Manager Hackney & Haringey – St Mungo's and CEN rep - Better Homes Partnership Board

**My vision is that 146 Mare Street and the people living there become very much part of the community and that local people feel they can make use of our place. When we took over a couple of years ago, this hostel was awful, very institutional. The first thing we did was put everyone up in a hotel for 18 months, while we gutted the place.**

We've halved the number of people living here but all 60 have clean, large en-suite accommodation, and somewhere people are proud to call their home. When we first opened I was on the front desk, so I could see people's reactions – there was a stream of family members coming round to visit. Our residents wanted to show them where they lived - they wanted to show off to Mum!

When people get here they are often edgy and jumpy because of their past, they've given up on the idea of a normal life. We give them

enough space to let off steam. It's not simply about finding somewhere to live, people we work face many issues which they need support to overcome. Some are sex workers, just out of prison, have experienced violence, trauma or abuse, have a lack of education or may have drug, alcohol or anger management issues.

We work with people's aspirations and provide construction, arts, literacy and numeracy training. We have a recording studio, an internet cafe and rooms for hire; The Learning Trust and refugee groups have held events here. Any money we make goes back into supporting people here. We plan to do Food Handling training to cater for people who have their events here.

Funding comes from Hackney Council's Supporting People programme, I'm pleasantly surprised how progressive the borough is on support for vulnerable adults. We also have a hostel for women only and a project for ex-offenders. Out back is The Greenhouse, a health, benefits and advice centre for homeless and vulnerable adults run by Thames Reach. >>



**Peter Bedford tenants enjoy carnival with their handmade costumes**

**Contacts**

**Finsbury Park Homeless Families Project**, Third Floor, 5 - 7 Wells Terrace, London N4 3JU ☎: 020 7281 5174 ✉: fphfp@hotmail.com

**Greenhouse Walk-in**, 19 Tudor Road Hackney E9 7SN ☎: 0208 510 4490 Walk-in sessions: Mon, Wed & Thu (CEE nationals) 10am – 12.30pm. Tue advice satellite 10am – 3pm at Christopher Addison house.

**Hackney Winter Night Shelter** 🌐: www.hwns.org.uk

**Peter Bedford Housing Association**, Stamford Works, Gillett Street London N16 8JH ☎: 020 7923 9255 🌐: www.peterbedford.org.uk

**St Mungo's**, 146 Mare Street London E8 3SG ☎: 0208 525 7700



**Arinola Oladejo, Team Leader, Peter Bedford Housing Association**

**M**any of the people we work with

**have faced long-term exclusion from society through homelessness, mental health problems, learning difficulties or multiple needs. We are unique as a Housing Association, as we offer people training to help them improve their quality of life, to progress but not necessarily to move out.**

I have been a team leader for four years and seen many people walk through our doors; people with mental health issues, lone parents, as ex-offenders. We provide a supportive environment and encourage people to move towards independent living. We deliver basic skills – literacy and numeracy along with life skills (healthy eating, exercise, budgeting and smoking cessation). We also provide social activities including bingo, walking, arts and crafts, drama, gardening which help develop people's self-confidence.

Our Employment Development Officer has built good links with supportive employers, together with the skills package we offer we also help clients find work experience. This helps them overcome their fear of going into employment.

Within Peter Bedford, we also have a training opportunities, including Trainee Receptionist post as well NVQ's in Business Admin, Retail and Catering.

It is rewarding to see people gain a qualification, employment, and make a positive change in their lives. This gives me great job satisfaction. >>



**Sirjaj Rahman, Finsbury Park Homeless Families Project**

**F**insbury Park Homeless Project centres on issues around homelessness and other social problems faced by

**people in and around Hackney borough.**

Over the last 23 years, we have developed facilities to meet the needs of our users. Currently, we support an average of 50 families and children every day through drop-in activities, advice and outreach sessions. Over 83% of the service users come from minority groups and we strive to offer the best help possible.

The current economic climate has contributed to too many families falling victims of homelessness. Other social problems play a role in this, such as domestic violence, relationship breakdown, debt and crime.

We are actively involved in providing information on issues relating to education, welfare problems, housing, family support, counseling and parental advice.

Furthermore, we help people from different backgrounds find solutions to some the challenging problems of every day life. Presently, we have 18 full-time staff and are always willing to welcome new volunteers in Play-work, Advice, Advocacy, Office Administration Fundraising and Mentoring. Twenty different languages are spoken within our organisation which helps our ability to provide advocacy and interpretation.

We often work with other organisations in Hackney and get referrals from other agencies such as EC1 Connect. We also actively take part in homeless forums and local community colleges. ◆

## Hackney scoops COMPACT Excellence Award



**Excellence award winners:**  
Pictured from left to right are Susan Gooding (LB Hackney), Rebecca Clarkson (Hackney Council for Voluntary Service), Councillor Nargis Khan, Mary Cannon (Community Empowerment Network)

**H**ackney has been awarded a Compact Excellence award in recognition of our refreshed local Compact which has strengthened relationships between the voluntary and community sector (VCS) and the council in Hackney.

HCVS would like to thank everyone from the VCS who took part in our consultation events held last year. Your contribution and ongoing support is invaluable to making the COMPACT really work in Hackney.

**Has your organisation signed up yet?** It's easy, just contact Geoffrey at Hackney Council, details below. Through the COMPACT you can ensure your interests are protected in your relationship with

Hackney council and other statutory agencies.

Due to the Compact sign-up by the VCS and statutory partners, we have been able to ensure that funding and commissioning deadlines meet with the provision set out in the Compact for 'adequate time for applicants to respond.'

In addition, the Compact has been an invaluable resource to both the VCS and local authority in negotiating a contract for services and in dealing with lease issues. HCVS and Compact Officers have worked together on these and groups have benefited from the constructive partnership approach of the Compact.

📍 **To sign up to the COMPACT** 🌐: [www.teamhackney.org/hackneycompact](http://www.teamhackney.org/hackneycompact) or contact

## Results of the HCVS User Survey 2009

"What I like to read are those in depth articles about our communities that only people with this level of involvement with those communities could ever get to say the real truth about situations and their solutions."

Comment on SPARK from our HCVS User Survey

**T**hank you to everyone who took part in our User Survey. In our drive to continually improve the service we offer our users, HCVS conducted a User Survey earlier in 2009.

We asked you to give us your views on your experience of HCVS, our image and reputation, the COMPACT and how HCVS communicates with its users. We also asked you about the Community Empowerment Network (CEN), which is based at HCVS and community networks in the borough.

Overall, you scored all our services positively with advice surgeries, communications and grants coming out on top. We received twice the amount of positive comments as negative comments largely around our friendly, helpful, professional and hardworking staff, grants, training and information.

📍 At HCVS, we welcome your feedback and involvement with our organisation, if you wish to comment on any of our services please email [gillian@hcvs.org.uk](mailto:gillian@hcvs.org.uk) or call 020 7923 1962.

# Safeguarding: What does this mean for your community organisation?



Photography: Effie Fotaki info@effiefotaki.co.uk

## Laburnum Boat Club

**Why should the voluntary and community sector (VCS) get involved?** In Working Together to Safeguard Children produced by the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), it is clear that the responsibility to safeguard children applies to all organisations, their volunteers and paid staff as well as anyone who is regularly in the environment where the service is provided e.g. contractors / caretakers.

**What do VCS organisations need to have in place?** All organisations working with children and young people should display a statement outlining their commitment to safeguarding in their premises, who their named safeguarding officer is. You should also nominate at least one person from your organisation to attend workforce development events, such as ours at HCVS, and feed back to the rest of the staff team on the information learnt.

The DCSF document outlines the following which an organisation needs to have in place to fulfil their commitment to safeguarding children.

- clear priorities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, explicitly stated in policy documents
- a clear commitment by senior management to the importance of safeguarding
- a clear line of accountability within the organisation for

**Kristine Wellington, HCVS Organisation Development Manager, right, updated SPARK on our Investment in Hackney's Children's Workforce 2010 training programme.**



Over 50 people have attended our free training designed to help you, your staff and volunteers understand the common principles that all sectors involved in providing services for children should be working to.

Underpinning all this work is the Government's Every Child Matters agenda, which highlights the following five outcomes for every child as below:

- Being healthy
- Staying safe
- Enjoying and achieving
- Making a positive contribution
- Economic well-being.

**What does safeguarding mean and is it different to child protection?** Essentially, safeguarding is about promoting the welfare of children and young people, whereas child protection is specifically about those at risk of abuse.

## Over to you - your thoughts on our training



"Great to see that the VCS are considered influential in terms of meeting the needs of children and families."

**Kutetana Tunga, Shoreditch Youth Football**

✉: shoreboys@live.co.uk



"The course was really good for the outreach work we do, to understand what we have to have in place. I'd like to do the further course on Level 2 Safeguarding."

**Uler Germain, Hands Inc**

☎: www.handsinc.co.uk



"This was a real eye opener and was delivered well. It was mainly about the laws, helping me understand what happens once you report abuse. I'm looking forward to Part 2."

**Mercy Agoye, Apotek**

✉: mercydale@apotekagency.co.uk

work on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children

- recruitment and human resources management procedures that take account of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people, including arrangements for appropriate checks on new staff and volunteers
- procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against members of staff and volunteers
- arrangements to ensure that all staff undertake appropriate training to equip them to carry out their responsibilities effectively, and keep this up-to-date by refresher training at regular intervals; and that all staff, including temporary staff and volunteers who work with children, are made aware of the establishment's arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and their responsibilities for that
- policies for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children (e.g. pupils/students), including a child protection policy, and procedures that are in accordance with guidance and locally agreed inter-agency procedures
- arrangements to work effectively with other organisations to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, including arrangements for sharing information
- a culture of listening to, and engaging in dialogue with, children – seeking children's views in ways that are appropriate to their age and understanding, and taking account of those views in individual decisions and in the establishment or development of services
- appropriate whistle-blowing procedures, and a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children to be addressed.

**How do I get more information on this?** HCVS will be running several workshops in 2010 on Introduction to Safeguarding (including one evening session), Safer recruitment practices and on using the Common Core to develop your workforce. Information on this training is on the back page or on our website [www.hcvs.org.uk](http://www.hcvs.org.uk) and click on free training on the left. Download the DCSF document from [www.dcsf.gov.uk/](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/) ♦

📍 **Kristine Wellington** 📞: 020 7923 1962 ✉: [kristine@hcvs.org.uk](mailto:kristine@hcvs.org.uk)  
🌐: [www.hcvs.org.uk](http://www.hcvs.org.uk)

Leethen Bartholomew,  
City and Hackney  
Safeguarding Children  
Board (CHSCB), right.



**S**afeguarding children is everybody's business and the Government advises that everyone working with children should do everything they can to keep children safe. Voluntary organisations in Hackney provide an invaluable service to children and as such have a duty to protect them. Even if your organisation provides only services to adults, you will still have to duty to protect children, as the adults you work with may have children. Therefore, it is important that your organisation has proper safeguards in place.

One way to start the process is by ensuring that all staff and volunteers have safeguarding children training. Both HVCS and the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Board (CHSCB) provide introductory training and the latter also provides more advanced and specialist training. All training is free of charge. Thus far the attendance and response by those attending the training highlights that most voluntary groups are committed to protecting children. I encourage all voluntary organisations to ensure that trustees, staff and volunteers attend safeguarding children training.

📍 To attend training by the CHSCB and to join the email list contact Alice Tomlinson on 020 8356 4826. If your organisation requires advice on developing your child protection policy or require in-house training, contact me on 020 8356 6371.



"Very useful course, covered how you help someone who's being abused, the law on child protection. Day-Mer has many projects in schools, we organising further training for our staff doing this work."

**Asli Dermea, Day-Mer**

📞: 020 7275 8440

"Thanks for the course it was informative and keeps us up to date on relevant issues."

**Shimon Potash  
Lubavitch Youth**

📞: 020 8800 0022

"It was very educational and efficient. Especially the questions and answers section which was very useful as they were about the issues we are frequently facing with. Printed materials and the booklets supplied were great.

Thank you so much!"

**Duygu Borazanci  
IMECE Turkish Speaking  
Women's Group**

🌐: [www.imece.org.uk](http://www.imece.org.uk)

# CHOICE IN HACKNEY

## Volunteer Project

Does it sometimes feel like you need superpowers to get through the day?

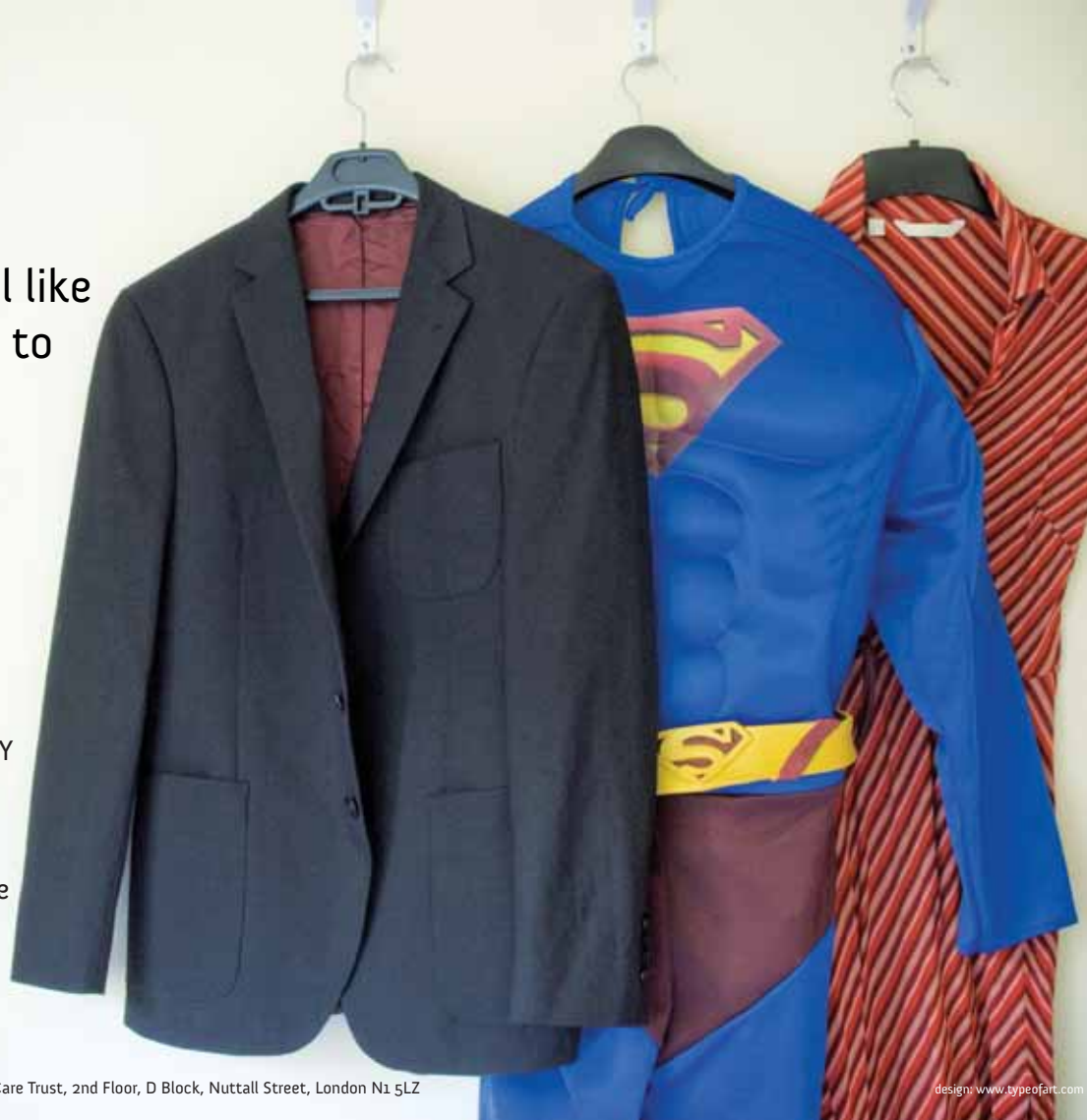
At CHOICE IN HACKNEY we match disabled people with volunteers on a one-to-one basis. Volunteers can offer support with day to day tasks such as shopping, gardening or a trip out.

If you are interested in receiving support from a CHOICE IN HACKNEY volunteer, please contact:  
[info@choiceinhackney.org](mailto:info@choiceinhackney.org)

If you think you might be able to give up a few hours to support a disabled person near you, please contact:  
[volunteering@choiceinhackney.org](mailto:volunteering@choiceinhackney.org)

Call us on **020 7613 3206**

Registered charity no. 1077287, Office: St. Leonard's Primary Care Trust, 2nd Floor, D Block, Nuttall Street, London N1 5LZ



## Volunteering in Hackney



Photography: Effie Fotaki info@effiefotaki.co.uk

**Songololo Feet and Asian Woman Advisory Service screen printing workshop on Oxford House estate**

**'There is a perception that the voluntary and community sector provide services "for free" because volunteers are not paid, this can lead to an unrealistic perception of the sector and volunteering'**

Comment taken from focus group participant

**T**wenty two percent of adults in Hackney are regular volunteers, which is slightly higher than the London average of 20%.

Over the last 18 months, the Council has been working with the voluntary and community sector (VCS), and other partners to understand more about volunteering in Hackney. Partners and residents have shared a range of experiences and have identified the areas that they would like to see developed. We have explored what makes people volunteer and what barriers prevent some people taking up volunteering opportunities. We have also looked at good practice in managing volunteers and at how we can improve the volunteering experience for organisations and individuals.

This information has now been captured in the first borough-wide volunteering strategy and we would like your comments and feedback. Comments can be provided in writing, by e-mail or by attending one of the consultation events in December.

① For a copy of the volunteering strategy and further information on the consultation timetable, please contact Community Partnerships ☎ : 020 8356 4066



HVA Advert

## Voluntary Sector Lettings Policy

**A**s outlined in the Hackney COMPACT; and in demonstrating its commitment to a thriving third sector in Hackney, the council has been conducting a review of its letting arrangements with VCS tenants.

The review has highlighted the need for a VCS lettings policy which will provide :

- a transparent, fair and accountable allocations process for premises; and
- improved standards of management, maintenance and tenant services, funded by rents at levels that cover costs

The Council is consulting with its current VCS tenants, the wider VCS and other partners on the proposals for managing VCS lettings. We will be holding appointment sessions for tenants, an open session for partners and inviting comments in writing or by e-mail.

① Karen West-Paul, Hackney Council ☎ : 020 8356 4454

### Funding for community buildings

#### Communitybuilders

You can get grants and support from Communitybuilders to help you become more sustainable, acquire premises or develop a social business. They offer grants, loans and project support to voluntary and community sector (VCS) groups who provide a range of services to the community including enterprise activities.

① Visit 🌐: [www.communitybuildersfund.org.uk](http://www.communitybuildersfund.org.uk)

#### Capacitybuilders Capital Investment Programme

Grants of up to £30,000 are available to local resource centres to allow them to make small scale improvements to their premises, to improve availability, quality and accessibility of accommodation or shared facilities, for local third sector organisations.

**Closing date:** 24 December 2009. Early applications are more likely to succeed with priority being given to applications received by 14 December 2009.

## Karl Frisby

Institute for Learning (IFL)

**SPARK spoke to Karl Frisby from Institute for Learning (IFL) about changes to funding for training and employment providers and becoming HCVS Chair.**

**The most important thing I am bringing to HCVS in my role as Chair is inside knowledge of the challenges we face.** My introduction to the voluntary and community sector (VCS) was at the homeless charity St Mungo's. I'd been a painter, so became an art therapist, albeit unqualified, before realising most of the people I worked with needed help with English rather than art.

**As is common in the VCS, need dictates, so I qualified as an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) teacher.** I've worked across London bringing ESOL to people who weren't able or ready to come to college, I taught classes in mosques and for sex workers. I came to really understand the needs of the community and recognised how this should drive how adult learning was delivered.

**About four years ago, the Government began the shift of adult learning priorities towards skills for employment—with the launch of Train to Gain.** The Government feels the UK is falling behind the rest of the world in terms of training and rather than being need-led, the market is now guided by skills for employment.

This has since become explicit with the creation of BIS – Business Innovation and

Skills which has replaced the Department of Adult Learning.

I had to close classes and was asked to solely do ESOL for work and I joined Hackney Training and Employment Network (HTEN). My key objective was to get a better deal for VCS training and employment organisations. Through HTEN, we were able to influence Team Hackney's policies on Skills for Life and gained recognition and training for teaching and learning providers in the VCS.

**Now, I'm at Institute for Learning (IFL), the professional body for teachers and trainers in learning and skills.** IFL aims to ensure members get the same deal as school teachers. As in other parts of the VCS, there is a push towards professionalisation for VCS teachers, but only VCS organisations funded by the Learning & Skills Council (LSC) get their IFL fees paid.

Funders have to recognise VCS teachers need the same opportunities as Further Education (FE) teachers so we retain outstanding professionals, rather than lose teachers to FE with its better pay and training opportunities.

**Next year, the LSC will be replaced by creation of two new agencies which will fund adult and further education apart from universities.** And recently, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) announced its new vision where 'three quarters of the population will go to university or get an



advanced technical qualification by the age of 30'. It's called Skills for Growth – The National Skills Strategy and is available at [www.bis.gov.uk/skills-for-growth](http://www.bis.gov.uk/skills-for-growth)

**Among the recommendations includes:**

- Giving every adult a personal skills account, empowering learners to shop around for training with new information on how well different courses and colleges can meet their needs;
- Reduce the number of public bodies by more than 30.

**Just how this will be implemented is uncertain but the plans to reduce the number of quangos looks promising.** This will mean that more funding will be going to the Council, allowing them to decide what happens locally. Which hopefully means there's more money available to VCS organizations – let's ensure we get our share. For example, the school leaving age will raise to 18 by 2015, which means the number of young people not in employment, education or training will rise. As the VCS provides key activities for 16 – 18 year-olds, it's fundamental the VCS puts its case for funding forward. ♦

① **Institute for Learning-** the professional body for teachers and trainers in learning and skills.

☎: 0844 815 3202 🌐: [www.ifl.ac.uk](http://www.ifl.ac.uk)

## Autumn highlights

Please send in your photo and 50 words for the next SPARK to ✉: [gillian@hcv.org.uk](mailto:gillian@hcv.org.uk)



### Boscobel Tenants and Residents Association

were awarded a Grassroots Grant from HCVS so children from the Boscobel estate could brighten up their garden with a mural. Local artist, Billy Styles taught the children along with Steve Harvey who leads the TRA. To celebrate the finished mural, Steve organised a party in October, with drumming, food and refreshments. ☎ **Boscobel Tenants and Residents Association** ☎ : 020 7275 9433



Cygnets Health Care recently invited **Hands Inc** to exhibit artwork in their one day conference entitled Young People and Crime: Role of Mental Health Services. As well as being on-hand to answer questions, Hands Inc set up an interactive exploratory art section where delegates were invited to create a visual response to the conference. Delegates were professionals working with Young People within the Criminal Justice and Mental Health systems. ☎ **Hands Inc** ☎ : 020 3051 8626



First introduced to London in 1895 on grass, even included in the 1908 Olympics! Recently enthusiastically revived **Bike Polo** is played on hard surfaces and London has numerous leagues fielding 3 a-side and will be hosting the European Championships this summer. Our local league can often be seen playing on the small football pitch at the corner of Ufton and Downham Roads at weekends and would be pleased to have new players. Have a go in a "throw in" – mallets and possibly bikes provided. ☎ **Harry, De**

## I Winter Diary

Here's a list of upcoming events, meetings and workshops organised by HCVS and the Community Empowerment Network (CEN). For weekly updates subscribe to HCVS email service, contact Gillian ✉: [gillian@hcv.org.uk](mailto:gillian@hcv.org.uk)

### December 2009

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**Sat, 12 Dec - 12 - 2pm - Vital EET's Celebration & Fundraising Event @ Trinity Centre, Beechwood Road E8 3DY ☎: 0845 840 0056**

**Mon, 14 Dec - 2 - 4pm CEN: Older Peoples' Special Interest Group (SIG) @ The Sharp End, 11 Richmond Road, E8 3HY ✉: [jackie.hsfc@googlemail.com](mailto:jackie.hsfc@googlemail.com)**

**Wed, 16 Dec - 10:30am – 4pm - Care2Work: Options for the over 50s: Working in the VCS @ Crisp Street Idea Store, London, E14 ☎: 020 8983 9716**

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### January 2010

**Thu, 21 Jan, 10 – 1pm - Using the Common Core to develop one children's workforce @ HCVS ☎: 020 7923 1962 ✉: [info@hcv.org.uk](mailto:info@hcv.org.uk)**

**Thu, 21 Jan, 1.15 - 3pm - CEN Children & Young People's Providers Forum (CYPPF) @ HCVS ☎: 020 7923 1962 ✉: [info@hcv.org.uk](mailto:info@hcv.org.uk)**

**25-26 Jan - 9.30pm - 4.30pm - Mental Health First Aid Courses @ Shoreditch Spa 170 Pitfield Street, N1 6JP ☎: 0844 225 2054**

**Wed, 27 Jan, 2 - 5pm - Using the Common Core to develop one children's workforce @ HCVS ☎: 020 7923 1962 ✉: [info@hcv.org.uk](mailto:info@hcv.org.uk)**

**Thu, 28 Jan, 10am – 3.30pm Community Project planning and development @ HCVS ☎: 020 7923 1962 ✉: [info@hcv.org.uk](mailto:info@hcv.org.uk)**

**Thu, 28 Jan, 10am – 3.30pm Community Project planning & development @ HCVS ☎: 020 7923 1962**

### February 2010

**Thu, 28 Jan, 10am – 3.30pm - Finance for non-Financial Managers (one day) @ HCVS ☎: 020 7923 1962 ✉: [info@hcv.org.uk](mailto:info@hcv.org.uk)**

**Thu, 4 Feb - 10am - 3.30pm Finance for non-Financial Managers (one day) @ HCVS ☎: 020 7923 1962 ✉: [info@hcv.org.uk](mailto:info@hcv.org.uk)**

**Wed, 10 Feb - 10am - 3.30pm - Effective Partnership Working @ HCVS ☎: 020 7923 1962 ✉: [info@hcv.org.uk](mailto:info@hcv.org.uk)**

**Thu, 11 Feb, 4.30 – 8pm - Safeguarding @ HCVS ☎: 020 7923 1962 ✉: [info@hcv.org.uk](mailto:info@hcv.org.uk)**

**Wed, 24 Feb, 10am - 1pm - Safer recruitment @ HCVS ☎: 020 7923 1962 ✉: [info@hcv.org.uk](mailto:info@hcv.org.uk)**

**Thu, 25 Feb - 10am - 3.30pm and Thu, 18 Mar, 10 - 3.30pm - Marketing Services - The Community Context (Two day) @ HCVS ☎: 020 7923 1962 ✉: [info@hcv.org.uk](mailto:info@hcv.org.uk)**

**Tue, 23 March, 10am – 3.30pm - Community Project planning and development @ HCVS ☎: 020 7923 1962 ✉: [info@hcv.org.uk](mailto:info@hcv.org.uk)**

### HCVS children & young people's activities directory

**Celebrating success - our directory of voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations working with children and young people is growing.**

We know there are still more VCS groups out there, so if you want to be part of this directory, please complete our survey.

① **For copies of our directory and survey**  
✉: [zelina@hcv.org.uk](mailto:zelina@hcv.org.uk) ☎: 020 7923 1962  
🌐: [www.hcv.org.uk](http://www.hcv.org.uk)