



**AVRIL
MCINTYRE**

local lifeline
for local
jobseekers



CEN

REACH 2010,
new reps and
community
network award
winners



**NEWS FROM
THE SECTOR**

Hackney
Family Backup
celebrate their
annual party

HCVS magazine for Hackney's voluntary and community sector

SPARK

In this issue:

- support to help people into work
- CEN REACH 2010
- third sector commissioning
- new CEN reps
- new compact champions
- new grants

hcvcs changing lives

get your community group involved!

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@hcvs.org.uk or drop in to our office at 84 Springfield House, 5 Tyssen Street London E8 2LY where you can also use our computers for free!

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**Goodbye and
good luck to
Yerima Adamou,
who left in
March 2010.**



Hackney's Community Empowerment Network (CEN)

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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. If you work directly with children and young people and vulnerable adults you must be CRB checked.

If you require CRB check, please contact **Nadia Capogrosso**

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SPARK is produced by Hackney Council for Voluntary Service (HCVS). The views and opinions expressed in SPARK are not necessarily those of 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 🌐: www.hcvs.org.uk

Spring Issue 2010



Welcome to SPARK, in this issue we take a look the REACH event organised by Hackney Community Empowerment Network. Thank you to everyone who came! It was a great success with ideas flying about the room. Let's see how this progresses at Hackney Council.

Have a look at our article on Changing Lives. This is our new photographic project to show the impact of our sector. We'd love to have more of you involved! So please get in touch. Gillian

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Advertise in this space

SPARK - Hackney's voluntary and community sector (VCS) magazine - is circulated to over 3,300 local organisations.

To book advertising, please contact Gillian as above. HCVS members get discounts.

Get your story in SPARK!

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

To keep up to date with news, join our email news service, contact Katy above!

Hands up for stroke survival

The Stroke Project



Hands up for The Stroke Project conference

Nansia Gatopoulou from The Stroke Project talks to SPARK on the success of their Annual Stroke Project conference.

“At the conference at Hackney Wick Community Centre, stroke survivors had the opportunity to get information from 15 rehabilitation and community organisations, discuss their thoughts on personal budgets with a Hackney council officer and enjoy talks on the benefits of holistic therapies in stroke recovery, chair-based yoga and shiatsu.

On show were artistic creations created by the stroke survivors in their support groups. Our volunteers were rewarded for their contribution and a special award was given to Myra who has been volunteering with us for over four years.

Thank you all for a wonderful day and hope to see you soon!” ♦

📞 **The Stroke Project** 📞: 020 7017 2811
🌐: www.tlccare.org.uk

Ten years of Starburst on Evelyn Court

Starburst Creative Play



A young drummer

SPARK heard from Dolores Crump from Starburst Creative Play. Dolores celebrates 10 years of voluntary service in spite of having neurosurgery in 2005 and having since developed macular degeneration, an eye condition in 2009.

“I am a retired nurse of the 60s generation, married and a mother of three daughters. At retirement in 1995, I decided to develop services for young people on Amhurst Road, Evelyn Court E8 as there were none.

That was the start of Starburst Creative Play, first held twice a week. The Book Club soon developed with support from Hackney Library services for those who enjoyed the fun of reading books.

When you hear things about Evelyn Court estate please let it go over your head or take it with a pinch of salt. It is a lovely place to live. For me, the children come first, who are always respectful and interested.

Supporting us all the way have been our landlords, Industrial Dwelling (1885) Society, Hackney Play Association, Salvation Army, Action for Children, Headway East London and HCVS.” ♦

📞 **Starburst Creative Play** 📞: 07956 585 754

Spreading the word on employment rights: Free workers advice programme launched

Hackney Unites



Workers advice debut at Day-Mer

Hackney Unites is a diverse coalition of Hackney-based groups and individuals that have come together to challenge social exclusion and promote social justice.

Members include trade unionists, faith groups, black and minority ethnic (BME) community and migrant support groups as well as peace activists. Organisations or individuals that want to join are welcome too.

A priority is to establish a Workers Advice Project in the borough



Sound and visual energy of Amberliegh drum and dance group

Black housing pioneer turns 21

Shian Housing Association

Shian Housing Association, a beacon in the black and minority ethnic (BME) movement, marked its 21st anniversary in February.

Meaning home in the Ghanaian language, Shian was formed in Hackney to provide homes for ex-offenders returning to the community. They now manage 500 properties in Hackney, Islington and Haringey.

Pioneer of the black housing movement, Tony Soares, painted a picture of self determination at the start of Shian's journey after the riots of the 1980s.

"We decided early on that we would have as our speciality, housing for ex-offenders. Everyone knew that there was this need because nobody would house black ex-offenders but you had to prove it somehow".

Committed to working with the community, Shian began the Makeda Weaver project in 2005. Now, this has five programmes focussed on gang exit strategies, reduction in violent re-offending, support to work and training and schools mentoring. ♦

📍 **Shian Housing Association**

☎: 0208 525 7648

🌐: www.shian.org.uk

to tackle bad employers and employment practice. They aim to share the experience of local employment lawyers and trade union organisers with particularly vulnerable workers.

The first session was in February at Day-Mer community centre. It was simultaneously interpreted so that Turkish and Kurdish speakers could take part.

Hackney Unites want to work with other community groups to spread the word about employment rights,

and ways of asserting these rights. They are also developing a formal employment rights training course. If you could host an advice session, contact as below.

Hackney Unites also organising a Celebrate Hackney! event on 5 June to celebrate all that is great about Hackney and to discuss key concerns. If you are interested in being involved or having a stall please contact them as below. ♦

📍 **Hackney Unites**

✉: info@hackneyunites.org.uk

Alcohol Support

City & Hackney Alcohol Service (CHAS) open their doors on 27 April to introduce their Reduce Drinking Programme to professionals. This is for people who want to cut down their drinking.

There will be the opportunity to find out about drink diaries and auricular acupuncture, which centres on the ear and is used to treat substance misuse.

For people who want to stop drinking, CHAS' Perspectives Treatment Programme may be the answer. Two thirds of people who used the programme were abstinent for at least a month when they left.

One user said: 'As well as drinking heavily at night, I started drinking whilst at work. Colleagues began to notice, and I was suspended. I had a good job, I didn't want to lose it.

A friend suggested rehab but I felt I could not afford it, so my friend then contacted my doctor who subsequently made a referral to CHAS. I went through the community detox with CHAS, a process I found much easier than I feared, but I admit I was very motivated.' ♦

📍 **City & Hackney Alcohol Service Free and confidential advice line**

☎: 020 8525 1313

CEN: Hackney Refugee Forum launches training sessions for the 2012 Olympics

Ali Aksoy, right, HCVS Refugee Health Coordinator and Chair of Hackney Refugee Forum (HRF) updates SPARK.



2012: A packed audience

Hackney Refugee Forum has teamed up with Onsite to raise awareness for local refugee and migrant communities about 2012 Olympics training opportunities.

This Winter saw the launch of this partnership at The Carers Centre, Tyssen Street. Helen Goodsell from Hackney Council's 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Unit and I introduced the first in an ongoing series of information sessions which focus on jobs and training for 2012. Set up especially for Hackney's refugee community.

What do the sessions involve?

The sessions are a result of on-going partnership work between Hackney Refugee Forum, the Hackney 2012 Olympic and Paralympic

The 2012 team can't promise everyone a job. However the free training courses should help Hackney's local refugees and migrant community get on the right track.

Games Unit, and Onsite (the local jobs brokerage). The sessions provide clear, simple and realistic information, letting people know how they can find work and training on the Olympic Park, and elsewhere in Hackney and London.

The 2012 team can't promise everyone a job. However the free training courses should help Hackney's local refugees and migrant community get on the right track.

Ibrahim Avcil, our Forum co-ordinator says: "Refugees are traditionally the hardest to reach communities.

They often make the least use of the services and the opportunities that are available. However, the Olympics is an opportunity for local people to access training programmes that will lead to sustainable employment."

Where and when do these sessions take place?

The information sessions take place on Tuesdays at HCVS, 18 Springfield House, 5 Tyssen Street London E8 2LY. You can book an appointment between 10.30am - 12.30pm and 1.30 - 3.30pm.

To sign up, contact Ibrahim on ✉ : ibrahimavcil@hotmail.com

See page 18, to find out more about the 2012 Games or working with the 2012 Olympic Unit. ♦ KP

📍 Ali Aksoy ☎ : 020 7923 1962 ✉ : ali@hcv.org.uk

CEN: CASE STUDY



Hezge Baydar: Middlesex University design student

'Coming to this session has made me feel more optimistic about what's out there with all the Olympics training. I'm not looking for a construction job, I'm a design student! But I can use the sessions to find out about other ESOL classes in the area and pass on this information about Onsite to my friends who are jobhunting.'

HCVS RAISING AWARENESS OF REFUGEE NEEDS

Here at Hackney Council for Voluntary Service, we are working in partnership with Team Hackney and the Hackney Refugee Forum (HRF) to develop a draft Migrant Strategy for Hackney.

This ongoing work is funded by the Migration Impact Fund and will help to raise awareness and understanding of the needs of refugee communities in Hackney.

Working closely with Islington's Refugee Integration Services (IRIS), HCVS will be looking at a range of issues including: Education, Community Safety and Volunteering.

HRF organized a meeting in March at HCVS for refugee groups to come together for a pre-discussion about key areas of the draft strategy.

HRF Chair, Ali Askoy said 'According to local statistics there are more than 70,000 refugees and migrants living in Hackney. They often face problems with health, housing, employment, education, social cohesion and community safety. The strategy to provide services for these people will favour positive integration and cohesion in Hackney for all our communities'. ♦

CEN: Promoting HIV awareness in Hackney

Hackney African Forum



Celebrating hope: Hackney's International AIDS day

Diana Chituku, right, from the award-winning Hackney African Forum (HaAFO) spoke to SPARK on promoting HIV awareness as part of World AIDS Day in December 2009.



prevention, testing and health advice. Over 150 people, largely from our African community, joined our main event at Alevi Community Centre. They heard speakers from the Primary Care Trust (PCT), local Councillors and community organisations. Personal testimonies were the most enlightening and encouraged people to make use of local health services.

Everyone sang Philly Lutaaya's 'Alone & Frightened', Philly was an African celebrity who died of AIDS in the early eighties. This reminded us how far we have progressed, that being HIV positive is no longer doom and gloom.

Entertainment followed with music, dancing, a fashion show and food, truly reflecting the diversity of Africa.

A mini survey on HIV testing revealed that whilst most people regarded regular HIV testing as very important, about 50% were worried about family and friends finding out. Sixty per cent preferred to go to a non-medical community testing site.

HaAFO is grateful to our members, volunteers and City & Hackney Primary Care Trust for sponsoring this." ♦

📞 **Balthazar Mutuli**
✉: hafricanforum1@yahoo.co.uk

📍 HIV Testing

Hackney community testing sites for HIV, diabetes, blood pressure and cholesterol levels

- St-John-at-Hackney, Lower Clapton Road E5 OPD - Saturdays 12-3pm
- Geffrye Community Centre, Falkirk Street N1 6SD - Wednesdays 3-6pm

African Community Clinics offering health advice and rapid HIV testing

🌐: www.itsbettertoknow.org.uk

Sexual Health Online for North East London:

🌐: www.sho-me.nhs.uk

CEN: Launch of Hackney Francophone Organisations Network

Lombe Mwamba, right, spoke to SPARK about the official launch of Hackney Francophone Organisations Network, which attracted 60 people in February.



"Thanks to a Community Empowerment Network grant, we have been able to take a fresh look at supporting community organisations working with local people from African French-speaking or Francophone communities.

Following a look at the aims and direction of the Network, discussion moved on to hot issues for our communities. Top of the list is educational achievement for our children. We discussed this and how we can improve their aspirations for life in this country." ♦

📞 **Hackney Francophone Organisations Network** ✉: sosfamilies@aol.com



Francophone network launches



CEN: REACH SUCCESS 2010!



CEN award winners Hackney African Forum: From left to right: Apollo Kakaire, Busoga Association UK, Grace Kakaire, Great Nile Trust, Manford Ncube, Busoga Association UK, Diana Chituku, Zenith Women Association, Lombe Mwamba SOS Families, Balthazar Mutuli, Hackney African Forum

📍 CEN REACHING SUCCESS
community network award
winners

For dedication and determination:
Hackney Women's Forum

For engaging local communities:
**Interlink Bridging and Bonding
Network**

For influence and Impact: **Hackney
Refugee Forum**

For supporting volunteers:
Hackney African Forum

Special mention to **City & Hackney
Health & Social Care Forum**

An impressive 150 local Hackney people attended REACH in March at Morley Hall. The Community Empowerment Network (CEN) hosted the event designed to showcase grassroots work and share ideas on how community representatives can influence services in Hackney.

Workshops included fiery debates and practical steps towards tackling the borough's pressing issues: child poverty, Transformation in adult social care, engaging marginalised communities, and employment. The afternoon saw support workshops, 'Becoming a stronger community representative' and 'Marketing your network', offering advice on how to strengthen your voluntary group or network. The debates are still live and interactive on the CEN website, generating ongoing ideas and solutions to the issues.

Guests included an influential mix of public sector representatives and Hackney's growing voluntary and community sector, (VCS). This

mix ensured the event was a huge success; REACH was a 'live' example of the joint working between Hackney's growing local networks and the public sector. As Ida Scoullos from Hackney Link said, 'If you don't work alongside, you don't achieve your goal. Joint working is the key to success.'

Issues raised in the workshops will go on to influence the delivery of key public services. Take for example the Domestic Violence workshop. This honest, and at times moving, session was chaired by Tim Shields, Chief executive of Hackney Council. The presentation from Hackney Women's Forum, outlined aims to work with

"The REACH conference was a great event which helped to strengthen partnership between the public sector and voluntary and community sector."

Ian Lewis, Director of Partnerships
Hackney Council

the council's Equalities Unit, ensuring violence against women and girls is included in the updated Gender Equality Scheme.

The inaugural REACHing success awards wrapped up the day. A total of 46 organisations were nominated in each of the four categories. The four winning networks collected their certificates from the Jules Pipe, Mayor of Hackney. Included in the winning four was Baltazar Mutuli of Hackney African Forum, recognised for supporting volunteers. 'We'll now continue to provide our services with renewed enthusiasm.' Mary Cannon, chair of the CEN endorsed the celebration of community cohesion, 'REACH has been great fun and we've learned a lot in a very busy day; the awards ended it all on such an uplifting note.'

Check out the CEN website for workshop slideshows, feedback, presentation notes and photos. A REACH report will be available on the CEN website soon. ♦ KP

📍 CEN 🌐: www.hackneycen.org.uk

Hackney's Community Empowerment Network (CEN) supports over 60 community representatives and networks to represent the views of Hackney, the local strategic partnership, where decisions on policy and spending are made. The CEN is hosted by Hackney Council for Vol

📍 Find out about Hackney's CEN, contact Andrea Enisuoah 📞: 020 7923 1962 ✉️: andrea@hcvs.org.uk 🌐: www.hackneycen.org.uk

CEN: REACH SNAPSHOTS

Below are photographs from our CEN REACH conference. Check out the CEN website for workshop slideshows, presentation notes and photos ☎: www.hackneycen.org.uk



📍 New CEN reps

Eleven new CEN representatives have been recruited to represent the sector as below.

Team Hackney: Sustainable Environment Partnership Board



Pictured above left to right: Anna O'Brien from Hackney Environment Network, Rachel Carless from Arcola Theatre and Russell Miller from Tree Musketeers

Team Hackney: Domestic Violence sub group



Pictured above and below left: Diana Chituku from Zenith Women Association and Feride Baycan from Imece

Hackney Council: Adult Social Care Transformation Board



Pictured left to right: Eileen Bellot and Kerry Jervelund from Hands Inc - Rep share, Prevention and Well Being board

Patricia Salt, City & Hackney Alcohol Service Market Development board
Caroline Nelson, Choice in Hackney and Catherine Love, Hackney Disability Backup - Rep share, Personalisation board

Victor McAllister Hackney Caribbean Elderly Organisation Workforce Development board

Upcoming vacancies: Preventing reoffending, domestic violence and drugs and alcohol reps.

📞 **Andrea Enisuh** ☎: 020 7923 1962 ✉: andrea@hcvs.org.uk

of hundreds of local VCS organisations. Together, they shape local policy and services at Team Voluntary Service (HCVS), the borough's leading VCS support agency.

Commissioning Conversations

In light of fears about cuts to public funding generated by the recession, and the possibility of increasing needs in the community, looking at how Hackney commissions services is very timely. Getting the voices of voluntary and community sector organisations heard to influence Hackney's Third Sector Commissioning Framework is critical.



Left to right: Sheila Ramdular, Hackney Family Backup, Melanie Danan, Interlink, Maria Leatham, Hackney Council, Karen Ingala Smith, the nia project, Rebecca Bruce, Hands Inc, Susan Gooding, Hackney Council

From May, Hackney's Third Sector Commissioning Framework will be out for consultation. SPARK went along to a workshop organised by Hackney Council which saw the start of a conversation across the sectors.

First, what is commissioning?

It's not simply about tenders and bidding for a contract to deliver a service, that's procurement or buying a service.

No, commissioning is about:

- Researching the needs of the users of a service
- Making use of local knowledge to inform how best to design that service
- Making sure that the organisation financed to deliver is going to get the best outcomes for the user.

For our sector, it's about commissioners valuing that community organisations often hold vital local knowledge. Our sector has something unique to offer commissioners, which means they can offer a more effective and flexible response to community need. The

process should be transparent, fair and involve the sector from start to finish.

Who are the commissioners?

At the workshop were commissioners from Hackney Council, City & Hackney Primary Care Trust (PCT) and The Learning Trust. This workshop brought them together with people from the voluntary and community sector (VCS). Pat Samuels from The Office of the Third Sector came along to set out the national picture.

How does Hackney compare nationally?

Hackney is one of the few boroughs where the Council is actively working with the VCS on developing a third sector commissioning framework. Camden, Birmingham and Sheffield are doing good work but there isn't one model to follow.

As well as borrowing the best bits from other places, Hackney is using a best practice guide from The Office of the Third Sector (OTS). This guide is called intelligent commissioning and outlines eight principles of good commissioning. Find this online at www.idea.gov.uk

What's happening now?

The VCS has been involved in some commissioning so far. For example, last year HCVS, on behalf of the CEN, organised a meeting with community organisations working with young people and Hackney Youth Offending team to look at what additional youth crime services should be funded.

Based on discussion of what the VCS thought was needed, two tenders were issued. Those same community organisations were able to bid for the tenders. Out of this, a new Forum for organisations that tackle youth crime was formed. This is now part of the Community Empowerment Network (CEN).

What is the Framework about?

Rather than looking at priorities of what should be commissioned, the focus is to develop a guide to improve what currently happens. So all Hackney commissioners work with the VCS in the same way.

Hackney Council's Interim Assistant Director for Contracts and Commissioning, Stefanie Seff said: 'It was a very productive event, which provided an opportunity to share

government and influence what they're doing. Government money into third sector rose from £3.6bn in 2000/01 to £12bn in 2007/08.

Through the National Programme for Third Sector Commissioning, the OTS is training commissioners so

① What is the Third sector?

Voluntary and community groups, social enterprises, charities, cooperatives and mutuals.

① What is the Office of the Third Sector?

The Office of the Third Sector brings the third sector into the centre of government, to have more influence. It aims to build relationships with national, local and regional



Sonia Khan, Head of Commissioning and Resources at Hackney Council, introduces the discussion on Hackney's third sector commissioning framework

views between commissioners and third sector providers. I am sure it will prove an effective springboard for future discussions around commissioning and contracting in Hackney.'

What were people talking about?

- Protecting smaller organisations. The national definition of a small organisation is one with £150k - £1m income. 70% of organisations in Hackney fall under this
- The OTS recommended that commissioning could be done through a grants programme if appropriate
- Ensure social return on investment (added social value) goes in as a standard in the contract – protects the sector against private organisations
- Legal and Finance teams need to be flexible about contracts with the VCS and recognise that long contracts are hard for small organisations to manage
- Fear of losing ideas by sharing their knowledge at the start or fear that they will lose out at the procurement due to conflict of

they are clear about how to work with third sector and improving the process so it's user-led. This means getting legal and finance teams on board. Breaking down barriers, such as lengthy contracts and extensive monitoring which larger

interest in being involved at the start

- More needs to be done to understand the needs of users and how outcomes relate to work on the ground
- The VCS needs to get better at producing evidence of their impact in a form that commissioners recognise
- We all need to share knowledge to feed in to the discussion on needs. Use existing foras and actively consult with VCS and providers – build up a knowledge base
- Getting a balance between long-term funding of trusted community organisations with track record but also give room for new innovative projects
- Making the process more accessible for the VCS, with a timetable for commissioning, 'a who commissions what guide' and a fair and flexible preferred providers list.

Next steps

The consultation will be out in May. Look out on HCVS Email Information Service ✉ : gillian@hcv.org.uk ♦

private organisations with dedicated commissioning teams can deal with, but which exclude community organisations.

🌐: www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector.aspx

Over to you: On Hackney's Commissioning Framework



Left to right: Nicky Watson and Patricia Clarke, The Learning Trust

"I felt part of the commissioning process. Getting the national and local direction is valuable in its recognition of the Third Sector's contribution."

Nicky Watson, Holly Street Partnership, Circle 33 and CEN rep Safer Young Hackney sub group



Left to right: Ali Aksoy, HCVS and CEN Hackney Refugee Form and Nursel Tas

"I feel it's very beneficial to be able to talk directly to commissioners. It's really good having someone from the OTS here to give the nationwide strategy. I am concerned that I feel they're pushing us to come together – to merge into partnerships. We may lose small organisations providing culturally appropriate services - I think this is the danger."

Nursel Tas, Derman

🌐: www.derman.org.uk



Jon Pushkin

"Overall it was good. It was confusing at times as the guidance wasn't clear. There should be more people from the third sector involved."

Jon Pushkin, The Sharp End

☎: 0207 923 8691



HCVS Changing Lives

Be part of the impact!

You'd find it hard to miss Changing Lives this Spring. Commissioned by Hackney Council for Voluntary Service (HCVS), photojournalist Katherine Green celebrates 12 of Hackney's voluntary and community sector (VCS) groups in our inspiring photographic exhibition.

The exhibition launched in March at Rivington Place, kick-starting the Changing Lives project with drumming, dancing and speeches from Hackney's vibrant VCS and Lord Phillips.

Designed to show the impact of our sector, and we want this project to grow to include photographs of more groups and tour across Hackney.

Nicola Baboneau from The Learning Trust said, 'It was a wonderful to see such a close network of disparate organisations all joined by a fervent commitment to promoting community cohesion.'

Changing Lives is on tour. Over 650 people have seen it at the following venues so far:

- CEN REACH event- Morley Hall,
- Community Safety Engagement Board
- Hackney Wick Olympics Event
- Wilton Estate Tenants Hall
- Free Form, London Fields.

Why should you get involved?

The idea behind Changing Lives came from HCVS Trustee Eileen Bellot, who also runs Hands Inc.

Eileen encourages you to get involved: 'The exhibition has generated a lot of interest from funders, the local authority, and the media. Adding your organisation to the growing list of groups can also help to raise your organisation's profile.'

The 12 groups featured are just a tiny drop in the vast ocean of activity in Hackney. I'd like to see groups take ownership to ensure that we are all reflected.'

Why not host this exhibition at your venue or meeting?

Mayor of Hackney, Jules Pipe said, 'Changing Lives is going to be shown in places where people might not normally see exhibitions like Tenant's Halls. It's a great way for the wider public to see how the sector contributes to Hackney'. Our exhibition is easy to transport and mount, and you'll get free publicity for your work or organization. ♦ KP

📞 **Get involved! Katy Palmer** ☎️: 020 7923 1962 🌐: www.changingliveshackney.org.uk

Clockwise from bottom left - Youth Skills Network, Refugee Workers Cultural Association, Great Nile Trust, Body of Christ, An Viet Foundation, Hackney Migrant Centre, North London Muslim Community Centre, Wilton Tenants and Residents Association, MDMD Arts, Hands Inc, S Pinter Youth Project, Little Troll Productions

Changing Lives
Celebrating Hackney's voluntary and community sector

Photography by Katherine Green: info@katherinegreen.co.uk





Nearly one in two people of working age in Hackney are not in employment, and the borough's employment rate of 53% is 14% lower than that for London as a whole.

SPARK spoke to five voluntary and community sector organisations who are all working in different ways to help Hackney people find the job they want.



Choice in Hackney: New advocates Niyi Ajayi, Luisa Rosario and Taylan Sahbaz

journey to employment



Taylan Sahbaz, Centre Coordinator at Day-Mer Turkish & Kurdish Community Centre

Based in a former library on Howard Road, Day-Mer Turkish and Kurdish Community Centre has promoted the rights of Turkish Kurdish and Turkish

Cypriot people in London for almost 21 years. Services include advice, education services, drugs and alcohol support, youth, sports and women's services and an annual arts festival.

Integration into UK life is high on our agenda and the workplace seems a natural place for this. However, employment options for our community are narrow: traditionally catering, cleaning or clothing and often within a family business. Throw in poor working conditions and pay, the pull of the informal economy, being unqualified, not speaking English and immigration restrictions and opportunities for progression are limited.

In response, employment support has become integral to Day-Mer. Funded by London Councils and Hackney Council, we cover minimum wages, working rights, trade unions, dispute advice and immigration.

Change won't happen without substantial development of people's skills to prepare people for different areas of employment. At the heart of Day-Mer lies our strong education service, supporting families so young people stay in school – only 5% graduate from University. Day-Mer itself is a stepping stone - many people who started with us, now teach in Hackney schools.

"The recession has seen a visible decline in small Turkish Kurdish businesses. Our community needs a stronger presence in employment strategies and a practical role as an employment broker."

An active member of the Association of Community Based Business Advice (ACBBA), we delivered small business advice as part of ACBBA's REFLEX project funded by European Union's Equals programme. We created networking opportunities so the needs of small business owners could be expressed to statutory providers.

Funding ended last April, but the issues continue. The recession has seen a visible decline in small Turkish Kurdish businesses. Our community needs a stronger presence in employment strategies and a practical role as an employment broker. Especially to increase the uptake of 2012 job opportunities by Turkish Kurdish people, surprisingly low given our proximity to the Olympics site.

Funded or not, we will always provide advice on work rights. This led us to join Hackney Unites and host their first workers advice session in February. People from many communities came. Integration took place.

We employ 16 paid workers, up to 50 volunteers and our services benefits 7,000 people annually. >>



nd Haq Ismail



Day-Mer: Business and employment advice



Single Parents Holistic Project: Cookery class

Read on for....

“By developing links with employers, we break down these barriers and get people work placements. Peacocks think our trainees are excellent and want more!”

AJRAF Resource Centre



Haq Ismail, Advocacy and Employment Training Coordinator at Choice in Hackney

Nine million people live with a disability in the

UK, many face enormous barriers to work. Choice in Hackney’s Advocacy Training and Employment Project encourages disabled people to believe in themselves and achieve what they want.

Our aim is to create advocates or advice-givers through training, placements and support into employment.

A 12 week programme limits what we can teach. We start with disability history, so people see where discrimination comes from. From Ancient Greece to Darwin, imperfect people are hidden. Only in the 1970s we see organised resistance by disabled people.

We cover local services, legislation, advocacy, case management, CV writing and mock interviews. Customer care is delivered by Homes for Islington. Hackney Social Services offer a course on protection of vulnerable adults.

It’s challenging to go at different paces to suit everyone, some have years of work experience and others none. But, you create the right setting and give people the choice, it works well.

“We start with disability history, so people see where discrimination comes from. From Ancient Greece to Darwin, imperfect people are hidden. Only in the 1970s we see organised resistance..”

Our placements are at Choice, Adult Physiotherapy at St Leonards, Hackney Carers Centre, Homes for Islington and Royal London Hospital.

Publicity and forging links with Jobcentres are key to finding jobs. We’re currently working with Hoxton Jobcentre.

City Parochial Foundation funded us for two years until May 2011, as well as small grants from Homes for Islington and South Hackney Parochial. I’m looking for funding to work with young disabled people. There is an obvious service gap as Connexions and other similar organisations have their own specific remit when assisting young people.

We’d like more disabled people to come forward for the next two courses. People who manage to come absolutely love it. They are thankful to find a space that’s safe, where they can share views. We are not going to change the world but if we can ignite a spark within someone then we’ve been successful.

We employ seven paid workers, up to thirty two volunteers and our services benefit 280 people annually. >>

“With 10 million people without internet access in UK, Mansford College allows the community to drop in and use internet otherwise they would be excluded from digital world.”

Mansford College

“In 2001, we chose to be role models. Five working lone parents, wanting to inspire others to improve their lives”

Single Parents Holistic Project



**AJRAF:
Job
search
support**



**Neima Macfoy, Managing Director
AJRAF Resource Centre**

A burning passion to help deprived and disadvantaged people (especially refugees/ asylum seekers) led me to found AJRAF in 2000. I'm from Sierra Leone and was Head of Adult and Community Learning in

Hackney. As is common in African communities, having knowledge of how the UK works meant people from my community came to me for advice.

AJRAF meant I could do this properly and give people a 'home from home' for advice and training. People lack skills, confidence and language. Sometimes, it's not that people can't speak English but if they have a strong accent they are misunderstood.

By developing links with employers, we break down these barriers and get people work placements. We work with employers and Peacocks, the clothing shop, think our trainees are excellent and want more! We'd like to work with Hackney Council to get office skills placements for our trainees or set up a virtual office which simulates an office.

We are open to everyone and it's our friendly environment they like. We are an NVQ accredited centre, offering many courses including Customer Service, IT, Advice and Guidance, Management and Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (PTLLS). Loss of Train to Gain funding means we are offer limited funded NVQs.

The barrier to taking this forward is funding. We missed out on Hackney grants and couldn't make the feedback workshops. We've asked for written feedback and are looking to apply to the Lottery's Reaching Communities programme to continue.

Our Team Hackney Community Grant from HCVS funds us until August to give people employment and IT skills training accredited by NCFE. We introduced a non-accredited healthcare assistant course after people asked for it. Already four have found work.

We employ five paid workers, have three volunteers and our services benefits over a 1000 people annually. >>

HCVS Changing Lives



Youth Skills Network pictured opposite help young people find media work. Find out more - see page 12 or visit www.changingliveshackney.org.uk

Charity Orafu, Director and Katherine Okiyo, Trustee Single Parents Holistic Project

In 2001, we chose to be role models. Five working lone parents, wanting to inspire others to improve their lives, get off benefits and become good role models for their children.

When we started we didn't know about funding. We each contributed £1,000 to run sewing training. Our first grant was from Awards for All. We found about monitoring the day they came to visit!

Our eyes opened when we found out about Hackney Council for Voluntary Service (HCVS). We found out where to start and how best to support the people we wanted to help. Because of the stigma against single parents, trying to gather them and their children was difficult.

The Government says lone parents should work, but they need skills. We hold training for our members in PRE-NVQ in care, sewing and sugarcraft. One of our young Mums started our sugarcraft and cake decoration training, she brought her Mother who also joined. Now they have admission to do bakery at Southbank.

Employers ask for experience, so we found people placements at two residential homes. But they're in Ealing Broadway and our parents live in Hackney. We'd like to work with local residential homes but it's very difficult.

Now the Government wants people to have at least NVQ Level 2 in Health & Social Care but it's hard to get funding for this. Working Links approached us to help. We invited them here. Our office was packed with many young people and lone parents who wanted help. Then we were told they can't afford it and our members went away disappointed.

We push forward and then get pushed back by the system. Lack of funding means we can't support. We are not giving up. We're improving our fundraising skills through HCVS and aim to continue to seek funding for the NVQ.

We have six volunteers and 46 members. >>

📍 Contacts

AJRAF Resource Centre
Kate Greenaway Building
Fellows Court, Weymouth Terrace
London E2 8LR
☎: 020 7739 4730
🌐: www.ar-centre.org.uk

Choice in Hackney
St Leonards Primary Care Trust
2nd Floor D Block Nuttall Street
London N1 5LZ
☎: 020 7613 3206
🌐: www.choiceinhackney.org

Day-Mer Turkish & Kurdish
Community Centre
Former Library Howard Road
London N16 8PR
☎: 020 7275 8440
🌐: www.daymer.org

CEN: Do you help people find jobs or training?

Why not join the Economic Development Network and find out about opportunities for funding and partnership working in Hackney.

☎: 020 7923 8180

✉: crystal@hcv.org.uk



W. James Kilama Oceng, Mansford College



Mansford College

aims to bring training to the hard to reach, unemployed and socially excluded members of community. Being based at Queensbridge Sports & Community Centre makes it ideal.

We offer information, advice and guidance on employment and training opportunities. With 10 million people without internet access in UK, Mansford College allows people to drop in and use the internet otherwise they would be excluded from digital world.

We consult extensively with stakeholders before deciding on our programmes.

Since our inception in September 2007, we have delivered several funded training and employment programmes, amongst which are Team Hackney, Grassroots Grant from Hackney Council for Voluntary Service, Award for All, The Learning Trust, Hackney Works Programme by Renaisi and LDA/ESF Community Grants. We deliver training in ICT from basic to advanced level, Computer Maintenance at Level 1 and 2, Level 2 Door Supervision, Level 2 CCTV Operation, and Level 2 Certificate in Housing. Mansford College is one of 10 London

providers of Chartered Institute of Housing Level 2 courses. Since 2008 we have trained over 350 people.

We would like to expand so that we can offer various training to hard to reach members of the community. However funding limits our capacity to expand, to invest in equipment, and employ more people so that we can focus more on management. Furthermore having two rooms limits what we can offer.

Our scope is broadening and we would like to offer bespoke IT training. Our funded courses are accredited but what if someone wants to do a professional exam? Should we charge that person? We did like to become a Microsoft Certified Centre, offering people high level IT courses but few organisations will fund this.

We employ seven paid workers, three volunteers and 230 people completed our training in 2009. ◆

Want to advertise your vacancy or find out about local jobs?

Sign up to HCVS Email Information Service and receive our weekly jobs e-newsletter.

☎: info@hcv.org.uk

HCVS: Look out! Hackney has appointed 24 Compact Champions

HCVS Director of Programmes, Rebecca Clarkson, right, on Hackney's Compact Champions, who are all set to ensure their organisations follow the Compact guidelines on issues such as funding, volunteering and premises.



The Compact is a written agreement between the public sector and voluntary and community organisations and sets the principles for how they should work together. The overall aim of the Hackney Compact is to ensure more effective partnership working between public agencies and third sector organisations in Hackney in order to benefit local people.

Among the new recruits are Champions from organisations such as Hackney Council, The Learning Trust, Hackney Community College, the Police and the Job Centre. Of course, the VCS is well represented too amongst the cohort and our sterling Champions are:

- **Bisi Ojuri**, Volunteer Centre Hackney
- **Mary Cannon**, Hackney Community Empowerment Network
- **Jake Ferguson**, Hackney Council for Voluntary Service (HCVS).

Compact Champions have had their first training session on how to promote the Compact principles in their organisations. Hackney is one of only two local areas to host champions training, as was noted by the national Compact Voice! A further training session for the next cohort of Champions will be held on 17 May 2010. Anyone interested in becoming a Champion should contact the Compact Officer (details below).

Also - add your organisation to the growing number who have signed up to the Compact! Although not a legal agreement, being signed up does give your organisation some clout when negotiating funding, contracting and commissioning arrangements. It also helps reinforce that as a sector, we are signed up to Compact principles of independence, partnership and equality. ◆

① Download a Pledge form at ☎: www.teamhackney.org/compact-homepage.htm

Geoffrey Lutaaya ☎: 020 8356 7601

✉: geoffrey.lutaaya@hackney.gov.uk

Mansford College
Queensbridge Sports & Community Centre
30 Holly Street London E8 3XW
☎: 020 7275 8643
☎: www.mansford.org

Single Parents Holistic Project
Unit 3.2 Bayford Business Centre
Bayford Street London
☎: 020 8985 7161
☎: www.singleparentsproject.org



2012 funding support for Hackney Sparrows Wheel Chair basketball team

The 2012 Games is coming to Hackney

Involving the voluntary and community sector

This is the first in a series of articles from Helen Goodsell, right, from Hackney Council's 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Unit. We hope that these regular articles in SPARK will help keep voluntary and community sector (VCS) groups informed and involved with projects and news relating to the 2012 Games.



Hackney is one of five host boroughs for the Games and around 30 percent of the Games zone is in our borough. Hackney is right at the heart of the biggest regeneration project in London.

The Council's 2012 Unit works across all the areas that will be affected by the Games – from jobs, training and urban redevelopment to culture, sports activities and young people. A significant part of our work is to ensure the legacy of the Olympics is sustainable and relevant to residents.

In order for Hackney's most marginalised communities to benefit, it's important

that we work with VCS groups. We have developed an effective partnership with the Hackney Refugee Forum where we set up information sessions about jobs and training opportunities for the refugee and migrant community. These sessions are delivered by Onsite Hackney Recruitment Centre who help people to get work on the Olympic Park as well as other locations.

The 2012 Unit helped to secure funding through a partnership bid for a local disability sports club called the Hackney Sparrows wheelchair basketball club.

A wide range of VCS groups have been involved with local 2012 related events such as the Olympic and Paralympic handover events and the Hackney One Carnival.

A lot of valuable work is already happening; however there is space to develop more innovative projects.

How can I find out more?

To explore ways that your organisation can get involved in 2012, please get in touch with Helen in the 2012 Unit.

✉: helen.goodsell@hackney.gov.uk

☎ : 0208 356 3975

What can the 2012 Unit offer to VCS groups?

Although we are unable to offer any financial resources, we can work with groups in other ways:

- Supporting external funding bids as a key partner
- Exploring 2012 project ideas to help engage the community
- Linking groups up to appropriate 2012 organisations and programmes
- Providing relevant information about the Games
- Visiting groups to talk about different areas relating to the Games

Free Bus Tours of the Olympic Park

Do you want to see where the action will be during the 2012 Games? The Olympic Delivery Authority runs free bus tours of the Olympic Park. To book your place on a tour call; 0300 2012 001

HCVS: The National Lottery's Britain Has Balls Tour comes to HCVS



Lottery stars: Pictured clockwise from left to right are John Nardo Bailey - MDMD Arts, Amaan Butt - Hold it Down, Kristine Wellington - HCVS, Dean Wallace - Hold it Down, Junior - The Crib, Janette Collins - The Crib, Gillian Trevethan - HCVS, Phil - The Crib, Jake Ferguson - HCVS, Daniel Smallwood - SkyWay, Dave Ramdial - Hold it Down and Emma - MDMD Arts

The National Lottery's Britain Has Balls Tour came to Hackney Council for Voluntary Service (HCVS) in February to celebrate the work it's funded.

HCVS has received two grants from Big Lottery Fund. One funded much of our free training for the sector which has benefitted over

100 community organisations. By offering free workshops on NVQs in IT, management and project management, finance and marketing.

More recently we received a grant from Big Lottery Fund for our Inspiring Young Hackney project. This supports the work of four community organisations – SkyWay, MDMD Arts & Sports, The Crib and

Hold it Down. The programme aims to improve employment and training opportunities for local young people.

📞 **Gary Francis** ☎ : 020 7923 1962

✉: gary@hcv.org.uk

Gary also coordinates the [CEN](#): Youth Crime Providers Network and is a [CEN](#) rep on Safer Young Hackney Sub Group.

I Celebrate our achievement for Hackney

The Crib

Part of our Inspiring Young Hackney programme, The Crib is a youth organization working across Hackney in Homerton, Stoke Newington, De-Bauvoir and London Fields. Activities include helping young people set up social enterprises around fashion design and catering and mentoring young people to aspire for more.

Below Mary Weah, a member of The Crib since 1999, talks to SPARK about recent successes. As a result of attending The Crib, Mary now stars in the production of Thriller that is on tour in Germany.

"In February, young people aged 13 to 16 year-olds from Morningside estate took part in our Trading Places workshop. It focuses on Stop and Search; here young people and police officers act out scenarios based on real-life situations that they are confronted with every day. Topics include body language, ethnicity, labelling, aggression and victimization.

Through these workshops, young people have said they see the police in a different light, they realise how hard it is for the police to do their jobs and not feel aggressive and negative, and gained a better understanding of Stop and Search. The police officers said that the workshop gives the children an insight into our roles.



The Crib open Hope restaurant on Lauriston Road

Funded by Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP), we hope that through Trading Places, young people and the police can have a better understanding of each other.

The Crib has run workshops since 2001. We've designed one for Pupil Referral Units and piloted it at Islington-based Project 16 for teachers and young people which went really well.

Earlier in January, 13 boroughs took part in our Boroughs United talent show. Hackney's Ebonnesece won the under 13s award. Boroughs United was thought up by Crib young people in 2000. We feel this is our way forward for breaking down barriers and bringing London's youth and youth services together.

Our show has launched many of the capital's young people into stardom, including Diversity who won Britain's Got Talent.

📞 **The Crib** ✉: the.crib@hotmail.co.uk

HCVS CASE STUDY:
Toulope Lapite



Toulope Lapite, left, works for DIFN – Development Impact for Nigeria, as the Diaspora Volunteering Programme

Officer.

Toulope has been using HCVS as a hot desk space since November 2009 on a part time basis. The use of office space and time has helped to get DIFN'S basic administrative infrastructure off the ground. Two people work for DIFN four days a week. Their time and resources are precious and the HCVS hot desk facility significantly benefits what they do. Toulope enjoys working in an office based environment with none of the distractions of home, and the comfort of working at the centre of Hackney's voluntary and community sector.

DIFN works to alleviate poverty and hunger through community projects in Lagos and Adamawa State. "I see a lot of things that need doing when I visit Nigeria" Toulope says. "I thought why not try to do something? Instead of just moaning together we should take action." Toulope's role is to send sixteen Diaspora Volunteers to Nigeria a year. "I use the hot desking facility to arrange visas, flights, itineraries and events. I'm also keen to inform the wider voluntary community about local and national issues; Fair Trade, and initiatives like Operation Black Vote. It makes people open to new things and strengthens connections with other local organisations." ♦

① **Tolu Lapite, DIFN**

✉: admin@difn.org.uk

Interested in renting desk space at HCVS? Contact Paul Conway ☎: 020 7923 8368 or ✉: paul@hcvs.org.uk



CAP: Community Health Day

Introducing Community Advance Project

Suj Ahmed talks to SPARK About, Community Advance Project (CAP), which works at grassroots level to tackle the issues that affect Hackney's communities.

CAP is both a second tier and frontline organisation. Our work is wide ranging, serving a variety of our users. Main focus is on using new media and established methods of community development to progress complex social issues for our communities.

Some of our projects have included drama and video workshops for young people, health activities for older people, refugee homelessness project, training workshops, as well as one to one support for community

organisations. We have produced DVDs on youth offending, refugee homelessness. Currently we are producing DVDs on health inequalities and youth substance misuse awareness.

One of the most enjoyable events we have done was the Community Health Day for older people in partnership with Chat's Lunch Club. We provided a range of free complementary therapies, exercise & yoga classes, health tests, health information as well as a delicious healthy Caribbean lunch to over 80 people who attended. We are hoping to do another one soon. ♦ By Suj Ahmed

① **Community Advance Project**

✉: Community_advance@yahoo.co.uk

🌐: www.caplondon.org.uk

Inspire! the Education Business Partnership for Hackney encourages business people to devote some time to helping local schoolchildren with their reading and maths. Pictured is director, David Blagbrough with his 'buddy' Antonio Burcus, one of three children he is supporting with numeracy at Tyssen Community School. ♦

① **Inspire!**

🌐: www.inspire-ebp.org.uk



HCVS CASE STUDY: Believe to Achieve grants



Innercity Films: School of Horror

SPARK spoke to Donna Travis to find out how 'Believe to Achieve Grants' benefitted her organisation Innercity Films, and their recent film project 'School of Horror'. HCVS managed the Believe to Achieve programme on behalf of The Learning Trust and Team Hackney.

The film, made for and by year 6 pupils, was funded by a Believe to Achieve Grant, designed to fund organisations that support the process from Primary to Secondary School.

Based in Homeleigh School, the ten minute 'School of Horror' film follows a new girl in a secondary school as she encounters Zombies, Prisoners and Gangs, finally to realise secondary school is not always as scary as you think.

During the four month project; 20 year six students undertook various film roles; creating characters, designing make up, and finally shooting 'School of Horror' over a two week period, editing in their lunch breaks and after school. As part of their preparation for secondary school, Year six students from ten other Cluster A schools

"Our Believe to Achieve grant funded a project that not only empowered 10 year olds but allowed us to grow into a more focussed organisation."

have seen the film, prompting insightful discussions in these classes.

Donna Travis who led the project said 'Inner City Films have experimented in the past eight years, making films with prisoners and the homeless. Our Believe to Achieve grant funded a project that not only empowered 10 year olds but allowed us to grow into a more focussed organisation. Since 'School of Horror', we want to concentrate our efforts on projects which encourage the creative output of year 6 children. Ten and eleven year olds are generally less selfconscious. These students had been in the same class as a close unit all year, they all knew each other so well. There was something special about their working in a team in their final year together.' ♦ KP

① **Innercity Films**

🌐: www.innercityfilms.co.uk

HCVS Grants Update



Elizabeth Adebola, left, HCVS Grants Manager talks to SPARK about the launch of Team Hackney Community Grants.

Hackney's voluntary and community groups have the chance to apply for one of three grants:

- **Small grants:** £1,000 to £5,000
- **Medium grants:** £6,000 to £15,000
- **Large grants:** £16,000 to £30,000.

This could include anything from reducing child poverty and providing activities for young people at risk of crime, to helping older people to live independently, tackling fuel poverty or helping people into work or training.

Last year, Team Hackney Community Grants awarded 90 grants to local groups to run projects such as the An Viet Foundation's Over 50s Healthy Living Project, and the arts and sports youth club run by MDMD on the Nightingale Estate.

This year, the Team Hackney application is online meaning less time and effort for applicants. This helps to save cost of printing, postage and photocopying which also helps the environment.

Last year 32% of applications received were ineligible, therefore we have made the eligibility check the first part of the application process to help make the process more clear and transparent.

You also have another chance to apply for up to £5k from our East End & City Grassroots Grants programme.

This is for voluntary or community sector groups with an average annual income of £30,000 or less over the last three years or since the beginning of the group (if less than three years), volunteer-led, be active in the community since March 2009 and have a governing document. ♦

Closing date for both funds: 12noon, Friday, 28 May 2010

① **Elizabeth Adebola and Nadia Capogrosso** 📞 : 020 7923 1962

Both applications are available online at 🌐: www.hcvs.org.uk

Avril McIntyre

LifeLine



Spark **spoke to Avril MacIntyre about the journey to employment and being Chief Executive Officer of LifeLine.**

LifeLine now

LifeLine have a job shop in Mare Street and several more across London. Altogether our job shops have found over 1,000 jobs for people across East London. But people often need to upgrade their skills before they find work, so we offer lots of training, including employability skills OCR level 1, CV Preparation. Work related ESOL classes are available in our local centres. We support lone parents too.

LifeLine then

LifeLine began ten years ago primarily working with marginalized women in Barking and Dagenham. We had a start up loan of £20,000 and developed volunteer led ESOL programmes and after schools clubs. Around 2005, statutory funders like the LDA and LSC were seeking to further engage the Third Sector and we developed skills in bid writing. During that year, our annual turnover increased x 10 and it was a rapid time of growth and expansion.

We wouldn't recommend that level of growth to anyone, it was very difficult to manage! Now we have 140 staff and a turnover of £4.8 million in 2009/2010. I'd

like to think part of our success is because we get involved with policy makers. We try to bring solutions as well as challenge and want to see public sector money rightfully getting to local communities.

Challenging Government

We try to tune into to current national issues. For example, central government regulations that require lone parents with children over 12 to go back to work. We are finding ways of supporting the parents and also challenging the people who make such policies to think through all the issues some of these parents can face.

LifeLine and Hackney

LifeLine got a solid base in Hackney four years ago; it's quite a unique place to work. There's a feeling in Hackney that change is very doable. We've seen a particular willingness to work in partnership and help those in need. Take the LifeLine building for example, we now share it with Family Mosaic, Circa 22, Nulon Fusion, A4E and Working Links and we're looking to develop a strong partnership at the Centre.

Partnerships

We work with the Personal Best Programme, a scheme for people to build skills and think about who they are through the 2012 Olympics.

"We're also part of the **CEN's Economic Development Network** which enables us to develop connections with other local providers. All these partnerships address issues for some of the most isolated and vulnerable people in Hackney."

We are developing links with the Francophone Association, working in partnership to enable their members to gain employment.

We're also part of the Community Empowerment Network (CEN)'s Economic Development Network which enables us to develop connections with other local providers. All these partnerships address issues for some of the most isolated and vulnerable people in Hackney.

Avril's background

I was a social worker for several years and have always been keen on working in partnerships and giving people opportunities. It's easy to get disconnected from the root of what LifeLine does nowadays when I'm working in the office, so I try and go downstairs to our drop in job shop and chat to the local people who use our services.

My work at LifeLine is to make sure people who don't have opportunities get opportunities. That's what I've always wanted to do; it's as simple as that. ♦ KP

📞 **LifeLine** ☎: 020 8533 0888
🌐: www.lifelineprojects.co.uk

Avril is also the interim **CEN** representative on Economic Development Partnership Board. More about the CEN is on page 8.

In brief

Please send in your photo and 50 words for the next SPARK to Gillian Trevethan ✉: gillian@hcvs.org.uk

During half term, **Hackney Family Backup** hosted their annual party for over 100 people.

Children enjoyed a fun-filled day of music, circus skills, face painting, arts and crafts and soft play from Albion Kids Show. While parents and carers were given the opportunity to relax.

Parents said how they really appreciate our service; that their children are always welcome at our events no matter how challenging their behaviour. And that their children make friends easier here than in most other settings. Parents themselves form friendships and build their own support networks at our events. ♦

📍 **Hackney Family Backup** ☎ : 020 7275 0088 🌐: www.hfbu.org.uk



Cool! Brilliant! Great!

These are the ways adult learners in Hackney are describing young people on Free Form's Hackney Youth Print Project.

A group of sixteen young Hackney residents between the ages 16 -25 completed the 'Volunteer Print Design Assistant Training' course. The group are now in full swing passing on their skills to adult learners on the Hothouse Inspirations programme. They are delighted to hear their elders' comments on their hard work. ♦

📍 **Free Form** ☎ : 020 7241 7482

🌐: www.freeform.org.uk

Corrections:

In the Summer issue of SPARK, we mistakenly labelled a photo of Keith Johnson, above left, from Rock Solid Development as Willis Atherley-Jones from Off Centre, bottom.

Sorry to everyone concerned. The correct pictures and the people in them are opposite.



Keith Johnson, left



Willis Atherley-Jones

Here's Keith Johnson from **Rock Solid Development**, a member of Hackney's Youth Crime Providers network and creator of motivational programmes such as Know Yourself.

"We deliver innovative music, media, history and mentor programmes in schools and youth projects in East, North and South London.

As I was born and bred in Hackney to a single mother - my mother became a young widow before I was born - it has been a focus to affect change in my community. I understand many of the challenges facing the very people I am trying to reach. Know Yourself is our pilot programme which teaches self-discovery with the intent of raising self esteem. Through success stories that span thousands of years right up to the present day, we evidence the missing links and inspire even those young people who feel the most lost." ♦

📍 **Rock Solid Development** ✉: keithj4rocksolid@yahoo.co.uk

I Spring 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 Katy Palmer ✉: info@hcv.org.uk

May 2010

Tue, 11 May, 10am - 1pm HCVS: Supporting volunteers through supervision @ ELATT, 260 - 264 Kingsland Road, London, E8 4DG ☎: 020 7923 1962 ✉: info@hcv.org.uk

Tue, 11 May, 1.30 - 4.30pm HCVS: Annual Cost Centred Budgets @ ELATT, 260 - 264 Kingsland Road, London, E8 4DG Contact HCVS as above

Thu, 13 May, 2 - 4pm HCVS: Support workshop on 2012 themed volunteering brokerage scheme @ HCVS, 84 Springfield House, 5 Tyssen Street London E8 2LY ✉: info@hcv.org.uk ☎: 020 7923 1962

Fri, 14 May, 10 - 11.30am CEN: Drug & Alcohol Network @ To be confirmed ✉: hscf@hcv.org.uk ☎: 0207 923 8361

Thu, 20 May, 10am - 1pm CEN: African Women's Network ✉: janetbake@hotmail.com ☎: 07949 213 475

Thu, 20 May, 10am - 1pm HCVS: Financial Reporting @ HCVS as above

Fri, 21 May, 10am - 1pm CEN: Hackney Refugee Forum Funding Fair @ HCVS as above

Monthly, 4th Tuesdays, 6 - 8pm CEN: African and Caribbean Writers Group @ CLR James Library (Dalston Lane) E8 ☎: 07943 106 554

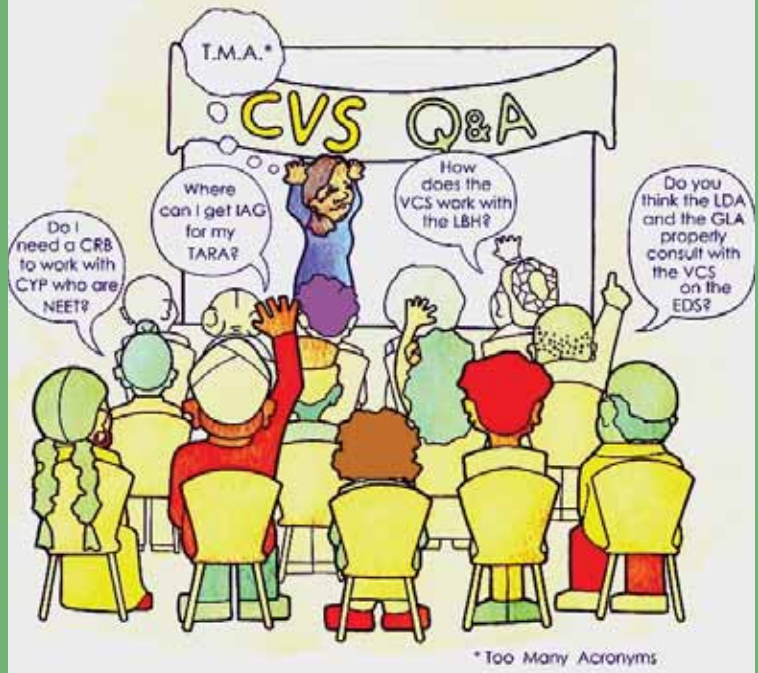
June 2010

Sat, 5 June, 10.30 to 4.30pm CEN: Celebrate Hackney community conference @ Stoke Newington School, Clissold Road N16 9EX ☎: celebratehackney.eventbrite.com ☎: 07539 201 488

Wed, 9 June, 10am - 1pm CEN: Children and Young People's Providers Forum (CYPPF) Tackling Child Poverty Focus Group @ HCVS, as above

Thu, 10 June, 1.30 - 4pm CEN: CYPPF Tackling Child Poverty Focus Group @ HCVS as above

Tue, 29 June, 1.30 - 4pm CEN: CYPPF Feedback session on Tackling Child Poverty to public sector colleagues, including Cllr Rita Krishna @ HCVS as above



Nicky Green: www.nickygreen.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.

If you want to be part of this directory, please complete our survey.

☎ **For copies of our directory and survey**
✉: zelina@hcv.org.uk ☎: 020 7923 1962
☎: www.hcv.org.uk

Where is HCVS?

We are at 84 Springfield House, 5 Tyssen Street London E8 2LY

The map on the right shows where we are in Dalston.



HCVS is funded by:

