

The Play Issue

Summer 2010



**PAT MACANT-SIONNAIGH**

championing access to play



**CEN**

negotiating funding cuts, networks working together



**NEWS FROM THE SECTOR**

Peter Bedford Housing Association goes to Carnival!

HCVS magazine for Hackney's voluntary and community sector

# SPARK

## In this issue:

- CEN negotiating funding cuts
- HCVS building a VCS strategy for Hackney
- CEN working lunches
- HCVS Hackney grants support
- CEN ESOL research
- HCVS developing Hackney's migrant strategy

Plus news from your local community group



## hackney play time

community groups making the case for investment



## hcvsv: meet our team

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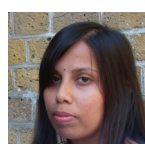
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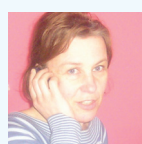
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**STOP PRESS!** In May, HCVS received the Quality Award from NAVCA. This award recognises the quality of our services to you and the impact this has had. Do you share our belief in the importance of quality? Why not sign up as a member of HCVS? From £10 a year, there are lots of benefits - contact Paul Conway on 020 7923 1962 or email paul@hcv.org.uk



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@hcv.org.uk 🌐: www.hcv.org.uk

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## Summer Issue 2010



Welcome to SPARK, this issue is packed with stories from our local voluntary and community sector and the support available to you from HCVS and the Community Empowerment Network (CEN). We've all been hit by funding cuts and will face more. Making sure this has the least impact on people who need support the most is at the core of our work. If you aren't already, come to our AGM on 7 September, join a CEN network and sign the Compact -this will help you make your case. 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 us 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 on katy@hcv.org.uk



## I Closer to nature in Dalston

Bootstap: Dalston Roof Park



### Green viewpoint

**T**raining and enterprise organisation Bootstrap launched their 'interim' Dalston Roof Park this summer.

Project coordinator, Sam Aldenton said, "By opening a green space to the whole community of Dalston, we hope to encourage people to rethink their relationship with their surroundings and find new ways of nurturing nature, building tighter community cohesion in the rapidly developing area of Hackney."

So far Bootstrap have piloted various creative learning programmes, with local schools and Hackney-based community groups Agroforep and Hands Inc.

Now open to the public, Bootstrap are keen the Roof Park is used by more local VCS groups - if you need a venue get in touch! ♦ KP

① **Bootstrap**, Print House, Ashwin Street E8 ☎ : 020 7275 0825

**H**ackney City Farm are looking for local people to help plant a fruit forest in Haggerson Park.

They held an open day in July where local residents chose what they would like planted and found out how to get involved in planting the site.

Without the help of local people and groups, it is unlikely that the project can go ahead. So if you want to pitch in – workdays are available every Friday and Saturday of August. The site is along the park's eastern boundary with Goldsmiths Row, north of the BMX track. ♦

① **Hackney City Farm**

☎ : 020 7729 6381

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## I Whole person approach to wellbeing

Shoreditch Spa



### Cook n' eat session at the Spa

**S**horeditch Spa has developed a range of services over the years, but they all share a common ethos of empowering people to make different choices about their health and wellbeing through practical experience, fresh perspectives, skills, knowledge and motivational support to take steps towards healthy living.

The Spa works with people where a sense of self-determination and belonging is as important as regular exercise and good food.

Services are delivered through four programme areas, complementary therapies, healthy eating, peace of mind and health goals. ♦

① **Shoreditch Spa** 170 Pitfield Street, N1 6JP

☎ : 0844 225 2054

## CEN: Community action against cuts

Hackney Unites

**F**ollowing their successful Celebrate Hackney conference in June, Hackney Unites, are conducting a community census. A coalition for social justice, they want to hear people's concerns about the plans to cut public services.

What are your concerns for your community? Could you spare 45 minutes to take part in their Community Census?

They also run free advice sessions for people who are having problems with their employers. The next date is Saturday, 11 September,



### Celebrate Hackney stallholders

from 2 – 4pm at Wilton Estate Community Hall, Greenwood Road E8 1BE.

To stay up to date with Hackney Unites activities, join their mailing list - details below. ♦

① **Hackney Unites** ✉: HackneyUnites@btinternet.com





Successful Food Safety and Catering student, Tony Lai - 18-years-old

## Celebrating a year of hard work

Community Centre for Refugees from Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia (VLC)

The Community Centre for Refugees from Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia (VLC Centre) celebrated the success of their Community Health work programme in July. Over 35 students gained qualifications in Food Safety in Catering, Social and Health Care and First Aid.

Among the guests were Ian Lewis, Director of Team Hackney, who gave a warm speech and chief executive of HCVS, Jake Ferguson. Jake congratulated everyone, saying ‘This is one of the most exciting projects because it’s actually about people’s development and preparing them for the job market.’ Many students have already found work in local restaurants such as Song Que in Hoxton.

Eighteen-year-old Tony Lai (pictured)

received his Level 2 Award in Food Safety and Catering. Tony has volunteered at the Centre since he was a child and took the award six months ago whilst studying for three A- Levels, so he could broaden his career choices before looking for summer work.

Course co-ordinator, Walter Mugisha, said ‘There was a real mix of men and women old and young at the centre, each with different domestic personal needs. But today’s event has shown the commitment of all these age groups to improving their health and employment prospects.’

The VLC Centre hopes funding will continue to empower the community with skills next year. ♦ KP

① **VLC Centre** ☎: 0207 739 3650

## BEMWG launch Cultural Competency Toolkit

Black & Ethnic Minority Working Group (BEMWG)

Diane Abbott MP joined BEMWG for the launch of their Cultural Competency toolkit in April. Funded by Awards for All, 15 different community organisations worked on this toolkit designed to, “improve the accessibility and quality of health and social care services for Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and

Refugee (BAMER) communities”, said Aliya El Agib, BEMWG Director.

BEMWG have also launched their new electronic newsletter. For a copy of this and the toolkit, please contact Haci Ozdemir, Development Worker below. ♦

① **BEMWG** ☎: 020 7923 2229

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## Introducing Mobile Repair Service

Mobile Repair Service provides a wide range of practical help around the home to disabled and to older people living in Hackney at low-cost or free of charge. For example, a blind person can have their washing machine plumbed in by a plumber they can trust – all staff are employed directly and have undertaken CRB checks - for a labour charge of £5 per half hour.

As well as plumbing, the service, which has 25 years experience, can help with gas appliances, heating, electrics and appliances as well as carpentry and home maintenance.

Mobile Repair Service supports national policy to help vulnerable people retain their independence as long as possible. Director, Alistair Wallace, said that, ‘Older and disabled people often have least access to technology even though they need it most.’

The service also provides a safety check for any older person and fits the remedial equipment identified free of charge as part of their Stop Falls project. This practical project also provides classes and home tuition to help older people exercise to improve strength and balance aiming to prevent accidents before they happen and ease pressure on the health service. ♦

EB

① **Mobile Repair Service**  
☎: 0845 4500 410

## CEN: Health priorities for Hackney's refugees

Hackney Refugee Forum

**A**li Aksoy is Hackney Council for Voluntary Service (HCVS) Refugee Health Coordinator and Chair of Hackney Refugee Forum (HRF). Here Ali updates SPARK on work to improve life in Hackney for our refugee and migrant communities.

**Mental health, access to health services and domestic violence are the major health problems affecting migrant and refugee communities.**

This came out of an evaluation of the health needs of our communities conducted in the Spring. We wanted to identify issues which need to be considered to improve the health of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants and to invest in improving health provision to meet these needs.

Our research made these recommendations for local health authorities to provide:

- clear information
- evidence based planning
- advice on entitlements to health services
- better publicity in different languages
- trained health staff who know which health services refugee and asylum seekers are entitled to.

**Nine people completed our Accountancy course in July.** We are planning a new one for the Autumn. If you are interested, contact me below.

**Broadening our reach through advocacy and representation.** Hackney Local Involvement Network or LINK is a network where local people can influence how healthcare is delivered. I now sit on their Steering Committee, so will be working with them on our communities' needs.

**Hackney Funding Programme closes on 22 September.** With HCVS, we are holding application support workshops for refugee and migrant-led community groups. The next is in early September. Contact me if you are interested.

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Sevim (far left) and Cevahir (centre) are HRF Community Champions and part of HRF member Refugee Workers Cultural Association (RWCA), which works with Hackney's Turkish and Kurdish communities. This is from HCVS Changing Lives photo-exhibition celebrating the sector.

Photography: [info@katherinegreen.co.uk](mailto:info@katherinegreen.co.uk) - visit [www.hcvs.org.uk](http://www.hcvs.org.uk) to get involved

## HCVS: Your help is needed to develop a Migrant Strategy for Hackney

### Great news – funding for Hackney's Migrant Strategy has been found!

At Hackney Refugee Forum, we've been campaigning for a strategy for the last four years. It's vital that community groups working with refugees, migrants and asylum seekers have the chance to share their experiences and voice the needs of our communities.

I am delighted to say that the work of developing a Migrant Strategy for Hackney can continue.

Hackney has always been home to migrants: people born outside the UK (including refugees). Their energy and skills have helped to build Hackney and its communities, and are vital for its future.

But to make the most of its potential, we need our agencies and services to work together constructively and creatively with migration: the council, health, education and employment services,

police, employers and the VCS.

The Hackney Migrant Strategy will show how they can do this, for the benefit of us all.

We are working on this with HCVS. HCVS have commissioned MigrationWork CIC, [www.migrationwork.org](http://www.migrationwork.org), in partnership with Praxis Community Projects [www.praxis.org.uk](http://www.praxis.org.uk), to write the Strategy. They will present it to Team Hackney, the local strategic partnership, in early 2011.

But the team will develop the Strategy in consultation with migrants themselves. And they are keen to hear from the wider VCS. Look out for news on HRF and HCVS news services. For HCVS, contact [gillian@hcvs.org.uk](mailto:gillian@hcvs.org.uk) or contact me below for HRF. ♦

### How can you be involved in Hackney's Migrant Strategy?

- Invite us to one of your meetings to discuss what should go into the Strategy
- Suggest migrants in your organisation who might be able to attend a focus group
- Respond to our on-line questionnaire



① Ali Aksoy

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SUMMER 2010



## CEN: Launch of research on local ESOL needs

Educators Forum ESOL Network



HCVS Chief executive, Jake Ferguson at launch of ESOL research

**R**esearch into how local Turkish and Kurdish people learn English through English for Speakers of Other Language (ESOL) courses highlights large numbers of people who not only don't progress beyond a basic level, but a growing number who aren't aware that ESOL support is there.

Coordinated by Sermin Aksoy for Educators Forum, the research explores the ESOL experiences and needs amongst Turkish/

Kurdish speaking people in Hackney.

Funded by Hackney's Community Empowerment Network, the research was launched and hosted at Hackney Community College in June. HRF's Ali Aksoy chaired the panel, with Dr Tozun Issa - London Metropolitan University and Ian Ashman - Principal of Hackney Community College. ♦

📞: 020 3302 8386

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

### Key points of the research:

- Teaching affects participation - training needs to be addressed by some ESOL centres
- Social and economic dimensions play a significant role in educational success. For example, childcare or paid work - local and central agencies should join up to solve this
- Link between achieving a higher level of ESOL and finding stable employment and integrating into British society. A higher level of education in Turkey helps this.

## CEN: Safer Young Hackney - tackling youth crime together

**O**ur Safer Young Hackney network is growing – we have over 50 members, a new Chair and a packed programme of events and training. If you deliver services to young people with a youth crime focus, this is one network you can't afford not to join!

HCVS Youth Programmes Manager Gary Francis, who coordinates this network talks to SPARK about its growth since it launched last year.

"Safer Young Hackney was born out of a series of commissioning events funded by Team Hackney in the summer 2009. We looked at the best way to develop and fund new projects within the voluntary and community youth crime sector. The network is hosted and serviced by HCVS and is an integral part of the Community Empowerment Network (CEN).

Since then, we elected our first Chair - Nickie Wilson - Partnership Development Manager at Holly Street

...the best way to develop and fund new projects within the voluntary and community youth crime sector...

Safer Young Hackney

Partnership and have an agreed clear programme of work for the year - including issue-based events as well as training. This will last until March 2011 and will be reviewed towards Christmas.

I am keen our membership grows and is inclusive of all who are delivering services to young people with a youth crime focus. You can also stay up to date with our news and sign up for our bi-monthly newsletter launching next month. To join, email me as below.

Safer Young Hackney is going from strength to strength and now is the time to join. I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting on 16 September, 10 - 1pm at HCVS." ♦

Produced by HCVS - 020 7923 1962



**Getting your views on building Hackney-based safeguarding training to protect our young people, staff and volunteers**

📞: Gary Francis

✉: [gary@hcv.org.uk](mailto:gary@hcv.org.uk)

Gary and Nickie are CEN reps on Safer Young Hackney Sub Group.



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## Vision for Hackney

**W**hich voluntary and community sector (VCS) services are most important to Hackney people? In the current financial climate, the way Hackney's VCS operates will have to adapt. To insure the best approach for local people, HCVS is working with the VCS, Hackney Council and Team Hackney to develop a ten-year VCS strategy. A draft will go out to consultation in the Autumn, so everyone can have their say.

The strategy is being developed by an external organisation, NAVCA (National Association for Voluntary and Community Action), with the intention of providing an unbiased perspective on Hackney's VCS. Research began in January with a complete review of existing VCS data, but emphasis is being given to the views of Hackney's inhabitants.

HCVS and NAVCA held a Visioning Event on 24 May to discuss the findings in more detail. Over forty people attended, including senior representatives of public bodies, the voluntary sector and the CEN.

"The event was enormously useful," says Karl Frisby, HCVS Chair, who attended. "I feel proud that we've made a stand on what we feel are local priorities."

HCVS Trustee Eileen Bellot who also runs Hands Inc, a community health



and wellbeing organisation said, "The visioning event brought together a good cross section of people from the voluntary, community and public sectors. By all accounts, there were a lot of sounds from the public sector that they want to embrace what we do in order to work at building effective partnerships. I found it useful to meet and put a few faces to names of some of the more senior staff within the public sector."

Some of the issues discussed at the event included:

### Funding

The sector's future financial stability is the most challenging area for the strategy. The full extent of the national spending cuts won't be known until the Government announces the results of its spending review on October 20, but until then the sector must prepare for significant changes.

Ian Lewis, Director of Partnerships at Hackney Council, echoed these sentiments. "We are entering a new and more challenging era where the role of the VCS will increasingly fall under the spotlight, both locally and nationally," he said. "At the same time, fewer funds will be available. This means the VCS and the public sector will need to plan and work together even more effectively to provide better services to the people who need them most."

### Partnership working

The VCS has proven success in partnership working with public services and businesses, thanks to initiatives such as the Hackney Compact. But duplication of services within the VCS needs to reduce to maintain future efficiency.

"It doesn't mean a group has to go out of business, but it might mean you have to focus on the things

## At a glance: Hackney's VCS Strategy

Hackney's vision is of:

"A responsive, effective, inclusive and aspirational voluntary and community sector that works in partnership with people and organisations across the borough to improve the quality of life of local people."

To achieve this vision will require:

- Sustainable funding that gives the stability to plan and the freedom to deliver new and innovative services that meet the needs of everyone in Hackney

- A positive approach to exploring new ways of working and developing the sector
- High quality evidence of need and impact to ensure that services are meeting the needs of Hackney



## the big issue: hackney's vcs strategy



**Demonstrating impact:** Body of Christ, as part of HCVS Changing Lives exhibition, part-funded by Team Hackney. Photography above and picture of Eileen: [info@katherinegreen.co.uk](mailto:info@katherinegreen.co.uk)

you're good at and away from things other organisations do better." says Neil Cleeveley, Director of Policy and Communications at NAVCA, who is in charge of the project.

### Demonstrating impact

Many organisations find impact measurement a burden, but with tightening public finances, demonstrating value will rise in importance.

"It's a good time to push funders and decision-makers to rethink the kind of benefit analysis they make and actually look at the social return on investment," says Karl.

The overall response to the event was positive. "Nothing forces local authorities to work with the VCS or build a strategy with us," said Karl. "I see this as a genuine attempt to capture what we're doing well."

"I think there's a real willingness to try to tackle the difficulties and to put the people of Hackney first," said Neil.

"The strategy is a real opportunity for the sector to set out its concerns as we enter into very difficult times.

It's also an opportunity to work in partnership to turn government rhetoric about Big Society into something that is meaningful to the thousands of people that work or currently volunteer in the sector.

At HCVS, we will be thinking about what we need to do to support local organisations and how we can make the most of opportunities for the sector to play an even bigger role in society."

Jake Ferguson, HCVS

### Next steps: Have your say

You will have a chance to share your view on the strategy at a panel session at Your Future, Our Focus - Hackney Futures Fair on 7 September. Book your place today with HCVS on 020 7923 1962.

"There are going to be some difficult decisions so it's important people express a clear view on the priorities," says Neil. "We're trying to create a space for people to tell us whether we've got it right and how to deal with these matters."

From October, the first draft of the strategy will be available on the HCVS website along with an online survey. HCVS are also organising four consultation sessions for targeted groups. The consultation will be open for a minimum of 12 weeks. The results will help NAVCA develop an Action Plan for publication in March 2011. ♦ Written by Gabriella Józwiak

① **HCVS** ✉ : [gillian@hcv.org.uk](mailto:gillian@hcv.org.uk)

- Strong sector leadership
- Premises and accommodation that provide organisations with the facilities they need to provide quality services and develop closer partnership working

- An inclusive and flexible approach to partnership that builds on successes and brings in new partners
- Celebration of the achievements of the sector

### Over to you: Hackney's VCS Strategy



Eileen Bellot,  
Hands Inc

"Our sector is massive and diverse in scale – from large national housing associations and international charities to small groups with an annual turnover of £10k or less.

Going forward, the strategy will need to look out for smaller groups and support them through the economic recession. It also has the opportunity to benchmark cooperative ways of working between the CVS, public and private sector."

Chaya Spitz, The Interlink Foundation

"We in Hackney can be really proud of the strong partnership culture that has been built between the public sector and the VCS. The 3rd sector strategy is our opportunity to build on this and get the best possible collaboration over the next decade. The more VCS groups that participate in the consultation, the better the strategy will reflect the sector's needs and aspirations."



Aliya El Agib,  
BEMWG

The strategy will strengthen the role of the sector as strategic partner in shaping Hackney's future and will increase opportunities for more involvement in designing and delivering services as well as build the capacity of the sector.

The challenges will be to an inclusive framework to include small BME organisations as it is identified that 70% of the identified organisations are very small and a disproportionate number are BME.

Maintaining grants will be another challenge, particularly supporting good projects to become mainstreamed through commissioning.

**W**ith the development of a local strategy to tackle child poverty and potential cuts to services, demonstrating the importance of high quality, affordable play for Hackney families is crucial.

SPARK spoke to five voluntary and community sector organisations who work hard in a variety of ways to ensure every Hackney child has the right to playtime.

**Beeraahaar Sweet Combination: Taking the road for themselves**



Beeraahaar Sweet Combination was the first female SOCA group in Hackney. SOCA stands for Sounds of Caribbean and Africa. The group is a full costumed carnival masquerade band and have been working hard for 17 years.

SPARK spoke to Johanah Sheikh, pictured above, who has been in carnivals since 1968. Johanah says 'A lot of members and their children are part of the group and, and we try and cultivate a

high degree of self respect and motivation in all. We have a lot to be proud of here. We pioneered the Hackney carnival and have secured funding from the Arts Council.

We've been successful in three funding bids, Global Spirit, Afrocaribbean Jump Up and Birds of a Feather will flock together. I think it's partly due to the nature of our projects which strive for a unification of people from all over the world.

Our Team Hackney funding is for projects that will celebrate that unification when the Olympic Games, 2012 descend on us. We use international flags in our masquerade, because the Caribbean is seriously ethnically diverse from Chinese to Arrawak,

# Play time in H

As with all VCS organisations at this time, we are concerned with possible cut-backs in funding and are currently building up a pro-active volunteer support group to actively fundraise for us.

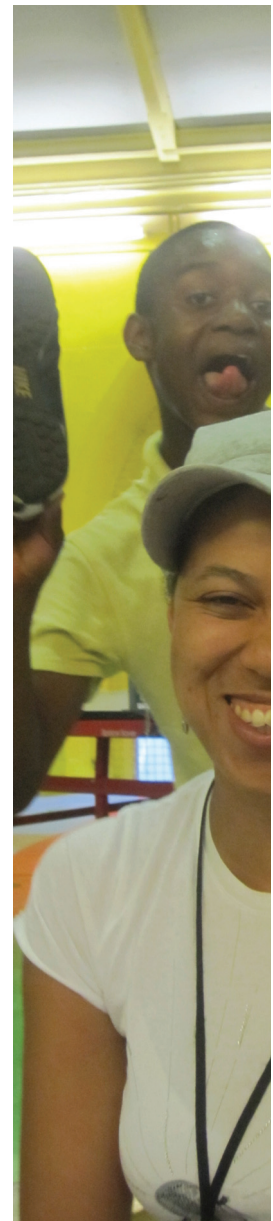
Nick Davies, The Huddleston Centre

Portuguese to African and European people. We show how traditional Caribbean carnival has become part of our British heritage.

The main problem with any carnival group is securing a carnival building. We've used about 12 buildings over the past 17 years; it's not easy but always worth it for the essence of freedom and jubilation, when you take the road for yourself.

Thank you to Ackee, the Jack Petchey Foundation and Claudia Jones Organisation for their continued support.'

You can see Beeraahaar Sweet Combination at the Notting Hill Carnival and Kingston Surrey Carnival during the summer season 2010. >>



Cassa

Read on for....

"One of our successes in combating the lack of access to sports activities for disabled children was our 2009 Community cycling award for £4,918, to fund weekly cycling sessions and use of specialist pool bikes."

Step by Step

"We spent an entire su and thought there mus we now specialise in us dynamic, interactive to consultation."



# Hackney



Cassandra Delisser: The Huddleston Centre



Nick Davies: The Huddleston Centre

**The Huddleston Centre: A place for disabled children to go and have fun**

The Huddleston Centre in Hackney has existed now for over 30 years. It was started by a group of parents who wanted somewhere where their disabled children could go, meet with friends and have fun. The Charities mission is to support disabled young people and their families living in Hackney, not only through providing youth clubs and holiday activities but also through informal support and education.

Cassandra Delisser, pictured left, is a youth project manager and has been at the centre for twelve years. She says ‘The centre is important because it really brings out the confidence of the children, you can see their development. It gives them opportunities they might not



Beeraahaar: At Spitalfields

“The main problem with any carnival group is securing a carnival building. We’ve used about 12 buildings over the past 17 years; it’s not easy but always worth it for the essence of freedom and jubilation, when you take the road for yourself.”

**Johanah Sheikh,  
Beeraahaar Sweet  
Combination**

normally get because of funding and access requirements. Lots of our children and young adults have been coming here every day say, from when they are six to 25 years of age. We don’t have the funding to keep them after 25 so one of the hardest things is letting them leave, especially when they don’t always have an immediate place to go.’

Nick Davies, pictured below left, says, ‘For the future we hope to rediversify funding for our current services plus start some new services for older young people as this is an area where provision is currently lacking. As with all VCS organisations at this time, we are concerned with possible cut-backs in funding and are currently building up a pro-active volunteer support group to actively fundraise for us.

>>

re summer playing Monopoly  
must be more in this...  
in using board games as a  
ve tool for social education and

Universal Board Games

“One of the most positive steps Hackney has taken is to build the new playgrounds in housing estates so that children could play out close to home. Now that the fund has been cut Nicola is keen that the new facilities are looked after ”

Hackney Play Association

## feature: play time in Hackney



Step by Step:  
Cycling awards

**The Huddleston Centre:** Thumi (pictured right) is twelve years old and comes to the centre every day including a Saturday. She says, "I like it because my friends Ellie and Thomas are here. We play on the computer and listen to music."



### Step by Step: On your bike, get set, go!

Chippy Flohr works as director for Step by Step, an organisation which supports three - 19 year olds with special needs from the Orthodox Jewish Community in Hackney.

With nine children of her own, Chippy has been working in the play sector for nineteen years and says 'I think I'll be here for a while.

Our range of activities at Step by Step includes biking, sailing, kayaking, swimming, horseriding, ice-skating, football, Sunday Club and Holiday playschemes. All children are supported with a one to one volunteer for all sports activities, and we operate with two groups aged two to 13 years-old, and 13 plus.

Most of our children are medium to high level need disabled, which includes Down's Syndrome, autism and the visually impaired. Many children with disabilities are denied the chance to exercise as the mainstream sports activities are not catered towards their individual needs; this lack of

access to physical activities is also a problem for some within the Orthodox Jewish Community due to religious requirements.

One of our successes in combating the lack of access to sports activities for disabled children was our 2009 Community cycling award for £4,918, to fund weekly cycling sessions and use of specialist pool bikes.

We worry about funding like everyone else, especially the Hackney council short breaks funding, but I know that often the council are unsure too and as with all public sector spending cuts, the whole country isn't sure.

Recently during our Summer Playscheme our theme was Transport where each day featured a different vehicles of transport. On aeroplane day we took the children to city airport, another day was parachutes, and we even had fire engines on fire engine day. We had all the children playing with hoses in helmets, it was fantastic.' >>

### Universal Board Games: Playing Together



Vicky and Mem, pictured above, set up Universal Board Games in 2000. They were play workers in Islington and decided to set up a project bringing young people and families together playing games. Vicky says, 'We spent an entire summer playing Monopoly and thought there must be more in this. A decade later, we now specialise in using board games as a dynamic, interactive tool for social education and consultation.

As well as taking the games to big outdoor events like Parks for Life and Total Play Days in Gillett Square, we go to schools where they can design their own games. We teamed up with ecoACTIVE and Groundwork last November, working with primary schools to produce a game about transition to secondary school

#### ① Contacts

##### Beeraahaar Sweet Combination

☎: 020 7275 9084

🌐: [www.piczo.com/mangochow](http://www.piczo.com/mangochow)

##### Hackney Play Association

The Tab Centre, Off Hackney Road London E2 7NT

☎: 020 7729 4664

🌐: [www.hackneyplay.org](http://www.hackneyplay.org)

##### Step by Step

Children Centre at Tyssen, Oldhill Street, London N16 6QA

☎: 020 8806 4130



**Hackney Play Association: Making the case for play**



**CEN: ONE IN SEVEN CHILDREN LIVE IN POVERTY IN HACKNEY!**

**How can play services help children from disadvantaged families?**

The Children & Young People's Providers Forum want to hear your experiences of fighting poverty in Hackney.

☎: 020 7923 1962

✉: kristine@hcv.org.uk



called Challenge Tree. Every week we visited the schools, played games and made changes to the game design. The challenge is trying to include all the children's ideas because there's certainly no shortage of them.

By playing and testing the mock up games the team naturally select the best ideas and end up with a really fun informative game. The game we finished with was a big tree with lots of challenges along the way so it starts with finding out about your secondary school place and ends up with going to the year 7 Christmas party as settled secondary school kids.

Mem says 'we have lots of ideas for future projects for example designing a game about the rights of children in Care. Our next challenge is to recruit a secretary and treasurer so that we have a board of trustees and can secure more funding for projects like this. At the moment, UBG is a partnership with social aims and objectives.'

One day UBG would like to set up a Community games centre where young and old fathers and sons and the whole community can meet and play together. >>

**The Huddleston Centre**  
30 Howard Road London E5 8DJ  
☎: 020 8985 9089

**Universal Board Games**  
✉ : brainplaygames@yahoo.com



**Hackney Play Association: Working together for Quality in Play**

Hackney Play Association is a network of play associations and play networks. They are working hard to demonstrate the importance of high quality play opportunities for children.

Hackney Play Association is an infrastructure organisation, seemingly small but with an inclusive play project working in the field, they offer capacity building and training, including short courses on playwork funded by The Learning Trust. Hackney Play's core funding comes from LB Hackney.

Director Nicola Butler explains, 'we have the same concerns as the rest of the voluntary sector about the impact of cuts on local communities.'

VCS play organisations are likely to feel the effects of a 50% cut to the Play Pathfinder budget nationwide in 2010-11. Originally, Hackney was awarded £2.7

million, over two years, by the Department of Schools, Children and Families (DCSF) to implement the Play Pathfinder scheme.

Hackney has used the funding to develop 29 new play areas and to completely refurbish its four voluntary sector adventure playgrounds with state of the art facilities for children and young people. The new playgrounds are designed for inclusive play and to enable children to experience a wide range of new activities and adventures.

One of the most positive steps Hackney has taken is to build the new playgrounds in housing estates so that children could play out close to home. Now that the fund has been cut, Nicola is keen that the new facilities are looked after and maintained. 'We need to ensure that the pathfinder investment is looked after and that children and young people can continue to enjoy and benefit for years to come, especially those from disadvantaged communities.'

In Hackney alone, 41% of children are in families on out of work benefits. Hackney Play Association is now, as Nicola puts it, 'trying to get some level of sustainability with less government support.' ♦



## CEN: Negotiating funding cuts

Following the creation of the Coalition Government in May, and the £6 billion of in-year public sector cuts announced in June, Hackney Council asked the local strategic partnership, Team Hackney, to agree local savings from the Area Based Grant worth a total of £2.5 million this year. With representation on PIE (Team Hackney's Performance Intelligence and Equalities group), the CEN has been involved in helping to ensure that the voluntary and community sector is not disproportionately affected. Next year's Government cuts will be announced at the Comprehensive Spending Review on 20 October.



SPARK attended a meeting organised by the CEN to discuss the cuts, and look at what the government's concept of the Big Society might mean for Hackney. Of immediate concern to the CEN was the impact that cuts this year would have on the many VCS projects which are funded through the ABG, and ultimately on the diverse communities served by these projects.

The impact on all sectors has been relatively equal and Team Hackney has respected the value of the sector by not just cutting VCS projects wholesale. The majority of VCS projects funded through the Positive Activities for Young People Programme (PAYP) have been maintained however the Team Hackney Community Grants programme was cut by £250k. The impact has been less than in other Boroughs, COMPACT principles have been stuck to and the sector has seen a reduction of about 10% in funding available to it through the ABG.

Jake Ferguson, HCVS chief executive explains: 'The Council will have to reduce their spending by around £20-25m each year for the next four

**"It's important that we are still partners in the process even if we occasionally worry about not being equal."**

Mary Cannon, chair of the CEN years and it's very likely that Team Hackney will have much less money available to fund the range of VCS organisations and programmes it currently invests in. This year's cuts have not disproportionately affected the VCS so it's important that this is maintained in decisions made about spending next year. We need to continue to be in dialogue with the Council and partners to ensure the sector doesn't lose out. We also need to ensure the impact of any cuts doesn't disproportionately affect particular communities in Hackney. Team Hackney has given the go ahead for a longer term VCS strategy (see page 8) which should mean a discussion of positive ways of dealing with the funding crisis in partnership'.

Speaking about the start of these conversations, CEN chair Mary Cannon, acknowledged "It's important that we are still partners

in the process even if we occasionally worry about not being equal."

Director of Partnership at Hackney Council Ian Lewis said, "Now more than ever strong partnership is crucial if we are going to continue to improve outcomes for local people and the VCS will continue to have a very significant role as we plan for the future.

Yes there will be tough discussions and decisions but I feel the strength and the maturity of the partnership will stand us in good stead as we move forward".

### Next steps:

The recommendations from this meeting will be written up into papers showing how Hackney's VCS can contribute to future Local Area Agreement targets and the Big Society and Total Place agendas.

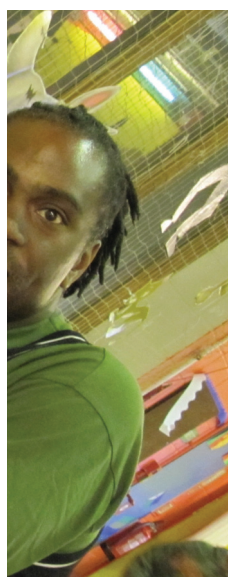
### How you can get involved

Why not join a network and raise the issue that way? Find out more about the cuts, share information and resources and come together to tackle problems.

See page 16 for details of the Working Lunch looking at how the VCS can find solutions to unemployment in disadvantaged families. ♦ KP

**Hackney's Community Empowerment Network (CEN)** supports over 60 community representatives and networks to represent the views of those where decisions on policy and spending are made. The CEN is hosted by Hackney Council for Voluntary Service (HCVS), the borough's leading





**The Huddleston Centre concerned about cutbacks to funding - see page 11**

### Don't forget the Compact!

The Compact is a set of guidelines for how the statutory, voluntary and community sectors work together.

Although it's not a legal document, it can protect your organisation against cuts to services.

You just need to get one of your Trustees to sign - it doesn't take long. By signing up you'll be taking a step towards protecting your organisation against cuts.

① Download a Pledge form at [www.teamhackney.org](http://www.teamhackney.org) or contact **Geoffrey Lutaaya**  
☎: 020 8356 7601  
✉: [geoffrey.lutaaya@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:geoffrey.lutaaya@hackney.gov.uk)

① **Liz Hughes, CEN Coordinator**

✉: [liz@hcv.org.uk](mailto:liz@hcv.org.uk)

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

**Your views: How are funding cuts affecting your organisation?**

**Ergel Hassan, CEN rep Anti Social Behaviour & Respect sub group**



"My youth organisation Yo! has been asked to consider different scenarios for cuts from 10 to 20% . It's been suggested we send workers out alone to cut costs, but you can't send youth workers out on to the street on their own, it's illegal. So this is a blunt cut, which makes things really difficult."

**Gail Chester, Friends of Hackney's nurseries**

"We are outraged that under cover of the elections The Learning Trust tried imposing huge cuts in the budgets of many nurseries. They have since backed down on some of the cuts of up to £50,000, nurseries that are dependent on other funding are suffering massive cutbacks, and they are still not being accountable or transparent."

**Khanh Le, Vietnamese domestic violence project**



"Since this is a very young, but vital project I do have a slight concern about the development and sustainability. However, with the support around me, especially from HCVS, I feel positive about the project's future."

## CEN: Funding Cuts in Hackney and The Big Society

The Big Society is a new Government programme, encouraging community engagement and social renewal. It helps communities to come together to solve problems. Here's are the main points.

1. Redistribute power to local neighbourhoods
2. Transparency
3. Accountability
4. Community Organisers
5. Public Service Reform
6. Funding
7. Start up funding for new community groups

① For a copy of the Big Society [www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk) and put Big Society in the Search field

### Your views: The Big Society

**Cathy Murphy, Hackney Advice Forum:**

"In terms of impact, we have been squeezing what we do into 'output' measurements rather than capturing the 'soft outcomes' that can be the most important & reflect what we think Big Society is all about."



**Bisi Ojuri, Director Volunteer Centre Hackney and Deputy CEN chair:** I'm concerned that people think volunteers will spring up out of nowhere. The opportunities to get people into work need to be more flexible."

**Councillor Jonathan McShane:**

"I think everyone would agree that communities coming together and the voluntary sector playing a big role are things we should aspire to. My concern about the 'Big Society' is that it is being pushed by people who see the state as, at best, a necessary evil and who often have very limited experience of the scale or complexity of the challenges that exist in a place like Hackney."



hundreds of hundreds of local VCS organisations. Together, they shape local policy and services at Team Hackney, the local strategic partnership, leading VCS support agency. ① Liz Hughes or Andrea Enisuo ☎: 020 7923 1962 ✉: [liz@hcv.org.uk](mailto:liz@hcv.org.uk) 🌐: [www.hackneycen.org.uk](http://www.hackneycen.org.uk)

## cen: community networks

**CEN:** Fighting poverty and getting a better deal for local people is at the heart of all our work and Social Exclusion. Below is how three of our CEN community networks are working to



Is Worklessness making Hackney sick or is sickness making Hackney work less?



Hackney City Farm Photography: info@effiefotaki.co.uk

### EDN: SHAPING SOLUTIONS TOGETHER

**C**ome to one of Hackney's Economic Development Network (EDN) working lunches and make your case for future funding!

Each working lunch is a collaboration with other CEN community networks to discuss solutions to unemployment from these different perspectives:

- Worklessness and Health
- Worklessness and Education
- Worklessness and Child Poverty
- Worklessness, Young People and Enterprise.

EDN Coordinator Crystal Todd invites you to "show that as a sector, we are ready and able to answer the challenges of cuts and the Big Society. Join us for lunch, bring your ideas, your expertise and be part of shaping local effective solutions to unemployment."

The first lunch in June with City & Hackney Health & Social Care Forum (HSCF) looked at worklessness and men's health.

The idea is to get people who work in different parts of the sector to share

**"Join us for lunch, bring your ideas, your expertise and be part of shaping local effective solutions to unemployment."**

what they know and together come up with fresh approaches to getting people into work. Last year, the EDN's Big & Small working together? conference kick-started the potential of joining up the range of VCS, public sector and private services which help someone on their journey to employment.

The result will be a working paper or proposal which captures everyone's contributions. Crystal said, 'Ultimately, we want to clearly show how our sector is best placed to deliver services, and based on this recommend to Hackney

Council where savings could be made, and what needs to be funded to meet local people's needs.'

Once agreed, these proposals will be submitted by the EDN to Team Hackney's Economic Development Partnership Board where spending decisions are discussed. See back page for future lunch dates. ♦



① **Crystal Todd, EDN Coordinator**

☎: 020 7923 8180

✉: crystal@hcv.org.uk

### CYPFF: CHILD POVERTY

**W**hat are your ideas on tackling child poverty in Hackney? Children and Young People's Providers Forum (CYPFF) Coordinator, Kristine Wellington explains why it's important the sector gets involved in how we fight child poverty in Hackney.

**"Poverty is not simply the lack of money, it's the idea of being vulnerable, disadvantaged by lack of opportunities, and denial of rights - such as access to education, health, culture, housing, employment, information and political participation."**

**2010 is a crucial year, it's the European Year against Poverty and Social Exclusion.** This is the deadline set by the Lisbon Strategy of 2000 for the European Union to have made a decisive impact in eradicating poverty in Europe.

**Hackney Council is developing a strategy or plan of how we can reduce child poverty.** Our CYPFF representatives want to be armed with the tools used by the VCS to create genuine solutions to poverty.

**Do you work with disadvantaged families on improving education or employment opportunities?**

**How does your organisation provide solutions to benefit local people?**



our work. 2010 is a crucial year, as it's the European Year against Poverty  
ing together and with other partners to do this.



#### POVERTY FACTS 2010

- o Europe - more than 20 million people live in poverty
- o London - 4 in 10 children live in poverty or 650,000 - 12% above the national average
- o Hackney - 7 in 10 children live in poverty.

## /ERTY - WHAT IS IT?

#### Tell us what your communities need and how your organisation helps.

Please complete our child poverty profile with your experiences. Or why not come to one of meetings and tell the policymakers at Hackney Council your views directly. You can download the profile from our website at [www.hcvs.org.uk](http://www.hcvs.org.uk) or contact me below.

#### Think about the following:

- o Have you found an approach to tackling poverty that could be mainstreamed?
- o Which areas do you feel most strongly should be funded?
- o Should money be focussed on educational attainment?
- o Should there be resources so children can have an annual family holiday?
- o Do we need a fund to support parents in Hackney?

The next CYPF meeting is on 5 October - see the back page." ♦



① **Kristine Wellington, CYPF Coordinator**

☎: 020 7923 1962

✉: [kristine@hcvs.org.uk](mailto:kristine@hcvs.org.uk)

es  
t  
Tell us at our next working lunch on  
**Wednesday, 29 September 12 – 2pm**  
at HCVS Children and Young People's  
Providers Forum (CYPF).  
Book your place ☎: 020 7923 1962

## HSCF: WORKING TOGETHER - WORKING SMARTER

**C**ity & Hackney Health & Social Care Forum (HSCF) Coordinator, Jackie Brett talked to SPARK on the success of their joint campaign on Men's Health Week, as well as how you can get involved on national and local health campaigns in the future.

In June for Men's Health Week, we offered to publicise the activities of our Forum members. We secured a table at Mare Street Job Centre for our members to promote their services directly to job centre clients. Three of our member organisations took part. Health trainers from Shoreditch Spa found it helped them reach the people they wanted to.

The result of this is a meeting with Job Centre Partnership managers to look at developing the scope of VCS organisations working out of, or more closely with, local job centres. If you would like to be involved in this please contact me.

With the help of HCVS Communications team we printed a leaflet advertising 10 different events from six agencies, including Family Mosaic. Health trainers from Shoreditch Spa, Hoxton Health and Age Concern Hackney gave them out across Hackney and at stalls at Ridley Road, outside Tesco's in Mare Street and Clapton Library.

Age Concern Hackney health trainer Louise, said 'everybody thought the leaflet promoting the events was really good. The facts on the back really helped engage people. Also people recognised the faces of the men on the leaflet which made it feel personal to Hackney and they enjoyed the local feel.'

## MEN OF HACKNEY!

Get active, Get fit, For free



**Hackney Men's Health Week**  
14 - 20 June 2010

#### Men's Health week joint campaign success

Links between ill health and unemployment are well known, and men's unemployment and ill health are both high in Hackney. Along with the Economic Development Network we also organised a working lunch for professionals in the worklessness and health fields. We looked at the question 'Is worklessness making Hackney Sick or is sickness making Hackney work less? This lunch is the start of a dialogue where we can explore solutions together.

If you would be interested in working together locally on other national campaigns such as UK Older People's Day on 1 October, or if you want to to lead a 'local national campaign' and share outreach and publicity - with partners, to make the most impact, please contact me. ♦

① **Jackie Brett, HSCF Coordinator**



☎: 020 7923 8361

✉: [hscf@hcvs.org.uk](mailto:hscf@hcvs.org.uk)

## Hackney One Carnival brings streets to life

By 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Unit, Hackney Council

**H**ackney One Carnival brought the streets to life on Sunday 8 August, with residents and visitors lining the streets to watch the procession and enjoying the festival in Hackney Downs Park.

Spectacular costumes, energetic dance and uplifting music created a party atmosphere at the third annual carnival, put on by Hackney Council's 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Unit with local carnival groups.

Hackney One Carnival is part of the Cultural Olympiad, celebrating arts and culture alongside sports in the run up to the 2012 Games.

Communities not traditionally involved in carnival took part such as Peter Bedford Housing Association, Sebright Primary School and the International Youth Centre. This was alongside 14 traditional carnival groups.

### The World In Hackney

This project was run by Hackney's 2012 Unit and local communities. Local groups took part such as the African Cultural Development group, Frampton Park Youth Club and the 2012 Youth Ambassadors.

This involved free dance workshops led by 'Big Dance' choreographer Jeanefer Jean-Charles. Each group performed on stage in stunning costumes inspired by the flags and countries represented in Hackney. The costumes were produced by Kinetika for their performance at the FIFA Club Football World Cup last year in Abu Dhabi.

Silke Pillinger, 2012 Culture Officer says: "It was truly amazing to see so many Hackney residents and community groups come together to celebrate Hackney's unique diversity."



**To find out more:** Get in touch with Silke Pillinger – 2012 Culture Officer in Hackney's 2012 Unit.

☎ : 020 8356 3478

✉ : silke.pillinger@hackney.gov.uk

Silke is very keen to hear from local groups to explore ideas that link culture and the 2012 Games.

## Carnival time!

Peter Bedford Housing Association



Fun at Hackney One Carnival in August

**A**neela Majid from **Peter Bedford Housing Association** talks to SPARK about returning to take part in Hackney Carnival for a second time.

"This year we were back with the theme of Indian Summer! Costumes were made in our Soft Furnishing workshops by our clients, some of whom have high support needs. Our tutor is an ex-client of ours who worked her way through our training schemes and is now a permanent employee.

18 - SPARK

Our costumes looked terrific, full - like large multicoloured bells, and hats with painted polystyrene fruits representing Ridley Road market.

We work with people who have long histories of social exclusion due to chronic homelessness, mental ill health conditions, learning difficulties, substance misuse, ex-offending backgrounds and people with multiple diagnoses." ♦

① **Peter Bedford Housing Association** ☎: 020 7923 9255

## How did you get to Hackney?

Hackney Routes



**Tracing your family's history**

**H**ackney Routes are looking for local people to share their family history, experiences, and photographs on a new blog site called Hackney Routes.

They organised workshops to discover their family history and its links with the movement of people around the world, who call Hackney their home.

Get online today and share your journey. All contributions are welcomed. ♦

① **Hackney Routes** ☎: 0845 260 5565





Team Hackney Community Grant funded Off Centre at the launch of their project called The Right Track at Dalston Eastern Curve in July

## HCVS: Summer funding awards



**Nadia Capogrosso, HCVS Grants Officer talks to SPARK about**

**projects funded through our two grants programmes: Team Hackney Community Grants and East End & City Grassroots Grants.**

"Despite a £250,000 cut to Team Hackney Community Grants, the remaining £542,765 was awarded to 34 VCS organisations to deliver projects which address key priorities for Hackney. This money came from Team Hackney, the local strategic partnership.

Off Centre received a large grant for the "REACH" project, to promote healthy models of intimate relationships to counter-balance the impact of domestic violence for young

people aged 13 to 16.

Deputy Director of Off Centre, Willis Atherley-James said: "Thank you for the demonstrable hard work you have put in to the documentation and the diligence shown in assisting Off Centre in reaching more young people in a preventative manner. We look forward to working with you."

East End & City Grassroots Grants is from the Office of Third Sector. Sixteen organisations received grants of up to £5,000. We are currently processing applications from the final Grassroots deadline. All funded organisations will be listed on [www.hcvs.org.uk](http://www.hcvs.org.uk) shortly ♦

① **Elizabeth Adebola and Nadia Capogrosso**

☎ : 020 7923 1962

### **Team Hackney Community Grants projects funded include:**

- **Rise Community Organisation:** to tackle domestic violence in African and Vietnamese communities
- **AGROFOREP** – to help Ethiopian, Eritrean and Somali communities find work
- **Happy Kids:** for a reading club for boys from the Orthodox Jewish community

### **Hoxton Health: for older people's exercise classes** **East End & City Grassroots Grants projects funded include:**

- **Colville Estate Tenants and Residents Association** - for a community gardening project
- **Shoreditch Youth Football Club** – for a weekly sports and education club.

## HCVS Inspiring Young Hackney SkyWay



Peer Lee Falvin who ran a 10K for SkyWay

**S**kyWay's Natalie Roast spoke to SPARK about their peer project. "SkyWay has always recognised the enterprising potential of young people in Hackney. This funding has allowed us to turn that potential into a reality.

Our peer project aims to work with 40 young people aged between 16 and 25 years, to encourage and motivate them to achieve a sports qualification and get employment to run at least three sports sessions to gain work experience.

So far, we've proved highly successful, between October 2009 and March 2010 we recruited 15 peers. Of these, all gained work experience and have been paid to run three or more sessions.

Plus:

- One gained employment as a youth worker
- One gained employment as a project worker
- Six run weekly sports sessions in the local community
- Six completed the Football Association's (FA) refereeing course.

We are recruiting 20 new peers to start in September. The FA level 1 in coaching will be part of this programme.

If you are interested in taking part please contact Marlon below." ♦ ① **SkyWay** ☎ : 020 7729 6970 ✉ : [marlon@skyway.uk.com](mailto:marlon@skyway.uk.com)

**HCVS is funded by the Big Lottery Fund to manage the Inspiring Young Hackney project. This supports the work of local community organisations – SkyWay, MDMD Arts & Sports, The Crib and Hold it Down to improve employment and training opportunities for young people.**



## developing organisations' capacity

Issue 14: Active learning

Action Learners  
sharing  
knowledge:  
Left to right:  
Kishore Kanani,  
HCVS, Christine  
Johnson, Mika  
Hoffman and  
Janet Murungi



**H**CVS Organisation Development  
Advisor Kishore Kanani, left, on our  
new way of supporting you to develop  
your community organisation.

Action Learning Sets are small group sessions, we discuss issues and everyone feeds in with their suggestions. You learn from each other. So far, they have worked really well - people have swapped numbers to continue this support outside of these sessions.

Action Learner, Janet Murungi (above right) from Rise Community Action said, "The Action

Learning Sets facilitated at HCVS by Kishore have been very helpful to me because I have found it an innovative way of learning. We get to learn from each other and share ideas in group. Since I've come to this group, my knowledge of how to approach larger funding applications has increased. I shall use tools gained to help me to complete my Hackney Grants application and any future fundraising work. I highly recommend it to community organisations." ♦

① **To book, contact HCVS reception** ☎ : 020 7923 1962

### About Hackney Funding Programme

- £2.49m for the voluntary and community sector

Three funding streams:

- Small Grants - up to £7k
- Holiday Playschemes - up to £10k
- Main Grants - up to £50k

**Closing date:** 5pm, Wed, 22 September 2010

① **To get an application pack, contact**

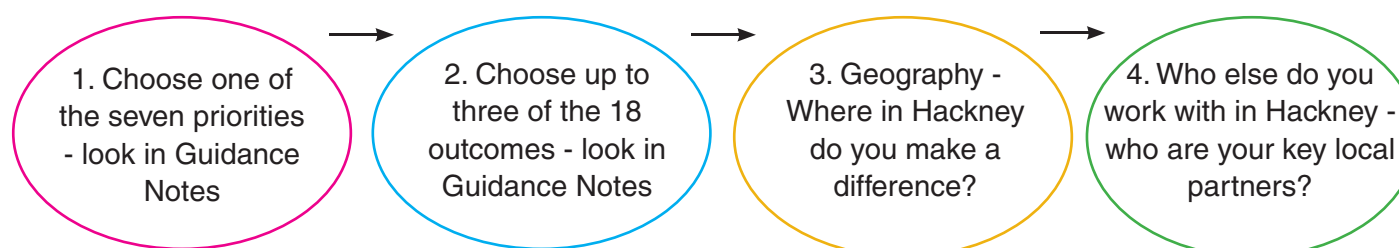
**Hackney Council** ☎ : 020 8356 4066 or visit

🌐: [www.hackney.gov.uk](http://www.hackney.gov.uk) and type in Community Grants in the search box

### HCVS's role in helping you apply:

- How to apply workshops - see back page.
- One-to-one surgeries
- Weekly Action Learning Sets
- Online documents to help you at [www.hcvs.org.uk](http://www.hcvs.org.uk) and click on Capacity Building Downloads
- Grant application review or edits
- Financial support with our partner, Community Accountancy Project.

### PICK n MIX: How to start your Hackney Funding Programme application



20 - SPARK

Produced by HCVS - [www.hcvs.org.uk](http://www.hcvs.org.uk)

SPRING 2010



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## HCVS: A BASE FOR YOUR COMMUNITY GROUP

Hospital and Prison Action Network



**N**athaniel Oyinloye, above, has been on the HCVS information mailing list for seven years but only became a paid member and started renting desk space at HCVS last year.

Nathaniel's organisation is Hospital and Prison Action Network (HPAN). HPAN started in 2003 and worked hard to define its objectives before registering with the charity commission in April 2005.

Nathaniel says the desk space has been useful for meeting other organisations like Development Impact For Nigeria, Hackney Refugee Form, and the Somali Women's Network. HCVS staff are helpful and it is cheaper than an office. "It's easier to maintain

than my own office because of the cleaners, it's more sociable and we also benefit from laminating, photocopying and printing facilities'.

Nathaniel aims to reduce young people reoffending through early intervention, and finding out what young offenders really want to do. Using Awards for All funding, HPAN visit various hospitals and prisons across UK, at family member's requests. They have five part time volunteer outreach workers.

'Every day I try to reply to emails and see if there are any appointments for our volunteers to make visits. I come to HCVS from Monday to Friday; I'm a full time volunteer. I pay for desk space at HCVS one day a week, on the other days I use the HCVS communal area'. ♦ KP

① **Nathaniel Oyinloye**

✉: hospitalandprisonaction@yahoo.com

## HCVS: FREE MEETING SPACE WHEN YOU JOIN HCVS

London Gypsy Orchestra

**O**ne of the benefits of HCVS membership is free use of our reception meeting room, pictured opposite.

HCVS member, The London Gypsy Orchestra recently conducted interviews at the HCVS for work placements.

One of the interviewees was Franziska Wilke from Germany, who is nearly blind. Franziska was joined by her daughter Lucy, who also lives with disabilities and is in London for work experience. With film students



Making the most of HCVS member benefits

recording the action, together Franziska and Lucy demonstrated Gypsy and Flamenco songs from their repertoire, inspiring everyone to sing along. ♦ EB

① **London Gypsy Orchestra**

🌐: www.londongypsyorchestra.co.uk

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

SUMMER 2010

Produced by HCVS - 020 792

## HCVS: Changing Lives @ City Hall



**O**ur photo-exhibition, **Changing Lives: Celebrating the voluntary and community sector spent July at City Hall**. Over 12,000 people have now seen it at eight venues around Hackney, as well as 155 Bishopsgate in the City and City Hall. Eight of Hackney's voluntary and community sector organisations have given us their photos and joined the tour. One of those groups, **Sev Necati Training** is featured below.

Look out for the exhibition at Hackney Service Centre, from 31 August to 10 September and Chat's Palace from 16 September to 4 October. ♦

① **Katy Palmer** ☎: 020 7923 1962

✉: kathy@hcv.org.uk



Sev Necati Training in action

**D**id you know that it can cost up to £80,000 for a perpetrator of a crime to be put through the 'system', says Sev Necati, who set up Sev Necati Training.

Sev helps people who have experienced some form of violence and abuse. Her work aims to prevent a crime from taking place by giving practical techniques, such as staying safe and avoiding conflict. Sev's work has a strong impact on communities. Many people said they have gained confidence since attending Sev's courses. Goals for her organisation's future include improving funding, so Sev can train and employ others to do the work she does. ♦ EB

① **Sev Necati Training**

✉: womensselfprotection@yahoo.co.uk

## Pat Macantsionnaigh

Evergreen Play Association



**SPARK spoke to Pat Macantsionnaigh from Evergreen Play Association, an adventure playground in Dalston, about working in the Play sector and being an inclusion worker.**

**I've been at Evergreen since 2003.**

I started as a support worker, I did Saturdays and holidays and then took up the Inclusion Project Playleader post in 2006 after finishing a degree in Biomedical Science. The biomedical science is surprisingly useful as it helps me to understand some of the more complex disabilities. Inclusive play means that children with disabilities are integrated into mainstream play sites. So as an inclusion playleader I act as first point of contact, making sure specialist support is in place through play to promote the child's social and physical needs whilst they play.

**The challenge is always keeping the funding going and filling gaps.**

Lots of playgrounds just rely on one funding programme, but at Evergreen, we have lots of different pots of funding for different activities. I put in about nine applications for funding over the past two months; we apply for the Hackney funding programme yearly, and all our

**“Lots of the children come from segregated schools where they might not be given the opportunity to play with children from different backgrounds with different abilities. Evergreen is great for providing this inclusive community.”**

support workers come through fundraising from BBC Children in Need, The Sobell Foundation and The Learning Trust.

I think it's important for the playground to continue to diversify its funding streams and stay linked up with the other playgrounds in Hackney, who we share a minibus with. We can also keep working alongside other playgrounds to improve our training.

We get corporate volunteers every six to eight weeks or so and that helps, as there's always something to be done like repairing fences or general maintenance.

**At Evergreen, we welcome deaf children to the playground and I have a British Sign Language (BSL) qualification Level 2.**

We always make sure there's

a staff member who can use BSL on site. Lots of hearing children are using sign language to communicate with other deaf children, and if there are enough children who are interested we run sessions in BSL, starting with the alphabet and then and simple conversation.

The children pick it up very quickly and it's a great skill for them to learn when they're young as it stays with you. In the same way, the children are very accepting of children with autism or Down's Syndrome, and play alongside each other. They can take this understanding into other walks of life.

**We recently ran a one day course, inviting playworkers from across the borough to take part in Makaton training to raise awareness about autistic needs.**

Lots of the children come from segregated schools where they might not be given the opportunity to play with children from different backgrounds with different abilities. Evergreen is great for providing this inclusive community. ♦ KP

① **Evergreen Play Association, Beehive Close (off Richmond Road) London E8 3JT**

☎: 020 7275 9004

✉: evergreenplay@yahoo.co.uk



In brief

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



Staff and supporters of local charity **Social Action for Health (SAfH)** celebrated reaching their target of 1,000,000 steps during a sponsored walk in aid of the charity at Millfields Park. In total, everyone raised £826.70. “This was our first fundraising event for SAfH so we’re really pleased that we achieved our target,”

said Executive Director Elizabeth Bayliss. “We’d like to thank everyone for the fantastic support they’ve given us. The money we’ve raised will help us to carry on our important work with local people in Hackney, and we hope to do many more similar events in future.” ♦  
① **Social Action for Health** ☎ :020 8510 1970



The over 50s craft group at **The Sharp End** have been inspired by a recycling project delivered by **Songololo Feet**. The project was funded by Team Hackney. The women used essentially South African techniques of printing textiles and the spirit of recycling, which is most prevalent in Africa to produce amazing, colourful bags, hats and household linens. They used

plastic bags collected from the local Sainsbury, Tesco and Lidl shops and used crochet to make vibrant and trendy products. The household linens, such as pillow cases, bags and tablecloths were made from recycled fabrics. The women showed they can take age-old skills and bring them into the modern day arena. ♦  
① **The Sharp End** ☎ : 020 7923 8691  
**Songololo Feet** ☎ : 020 7241 5535



**Gems FC** mark their return to Camden & Islington league by winning the Under-16s cup. Funded by Hackney Youth Opportunity Fund, the Hoxton and Haggerston- based team are pictured above. Pictured front left to back right (anti-clockwise) are: Jason Gardner, Jamie Gardner (Coach), Tuncay Cager, Mehmet Ali (Goalkeeper), Adjanni Mayisa, Tom Rothon, Connor Brown, Erdi Koc and Jack Purkiss. Players not pictured are: Riano Ali, Ryan Thompson and Harry Barlow. ♦  
① **Gems FC** ☎ : 07521 712750

In June, **Hothouse** opened its doors to an exhibition from two of **Hands Inc**’s Art therapy programmes, Art Voices and Drawing Journeys. At the opening night were visitors aged between five and 80 years of age and included police officers, council workers and journalists. SUMMER 2010

Through Drawing Journeys, the public was invited to view first-hand the transitions of Hackney youth into adolescence, and through Art Voices young people expressed their views on street crime, gangs and community cohesion. ♦  
① **Hands Inc** ☎ : 020 3051 8626



## I Autumn 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

### September 2010

**Wed, 1:** 9.45 – 4pm  
**HCVS: Marketing with a community focus** @ HCVS, 84 Springfield House, 5 Tyssen Street London E8 2LY ☎: 020 7923 1962 ✉: info@hcv.org.uk

**Thu, 2:** 2 - 4pm **CEN: HSCF Mental Health Special Interest Group**  
@ To be confirmed ✉: hscf@hcv.org.uk ☎: 0207 923 8361

**Mon, 6:** 9.45 – 4pm  
**HCVS: Finance for non-financial managers** As HCVS above

**Tue, 7:** 10am - 5pm  
**HCVS: Your Future, Our Focus** @ As HCVS above

**Tue, 14:** 1 - 7pm **HCVS: Hackney Funding Programme workshop**  
@ As HCVS above

**Wed, 15:** 9.45am - 4pm  
**HCVS: How to write a tender** @ As HCVS above

**Thu, 16:** 10 - 1pm **CEN: Safer Young Hackney meeting** Contact and venue as HCVS above

**Thu, 16:** 2 - 4pm **CEN: Health & Social Care Forum (HSCF) meeting**  
@ To be confirmed - Contact as HSCF above

**Thu, 23:** 2 - 4pm  
**CEN: HSCF Learning Disabilities Special Interest Group** @ HILT 65 Dalston Lane, E8 - Contact as HSCF above

**Wed, 29:** 12 - 2pm **CEN: EDN & CYPFF Working lunch on tackling worklessness in disadvantaged families**  
As HCVS above

**Thu, 30:** 9.45 – 4pm  
**HCVS: Marketing with a community focus** As HCVS above

### October 2010

**Tue, 5:** 1 - 3pm **CEN: CYPFF Meet Cllr Rita Krishna and share your views on child poverty**  
As HCVS above

**Wed, 6:** 9.45 – 4pm  
**HCVS: Contract negotiation skills** As HCVS above

**Wed, 13 - Fri, 15:** 9.45 – 4pm  
**HCVS: Consortia tendering skills** As HCVS above

**Mon, 18:** 2 - 4pm **CEN: HSCF Older People's Special Interest Group**  
@ To be confirmed - Contact as HSCF above

**Wed, 20:** 2 - 3.30pm  
**CEN: HSCF Drug & Alcohol Network** @ To be confirmed - Contact as HSCF above

**Are you new to the voluntary and community sector in Hackney - Do you need help setting up your community organisation?**

Each month we run specialist training for people who are starting up community groups or who are new members of existing organisations.

To book your place, call 020 7923 1962

**Free training for voluntary or community organisations who work with adults with:**

- mental health problems
- physical, learning disabilities or sensory impairment
- age related needs (older people)
- a limiting Chronic illness
- drug and alcohol issues
- specific cultural / language needs?

Sign up to develop your skills and organisations for the provision of personalised services in Hackney

To book your place, call 020 7923 1962

## Your Future, Our Focus Hackney Futures Fair

Tuesday 7 September  
10am - 5pm

At Springfield House  
5 Tyssen Street  
Hackney  
E8 2LY

**To book:**  
Call 020 7923 1962  
Email info@hcv.org.uk

**Book your place today for** Meet the funders sessions, micro seminars, food, networking, Adiaha Antigha award winners and to find out about Hackney's VCS strategy.

### 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:





